



## Newsletter

Greetings SAFE Friends & Supporters!

July 2007

### **Safety During the 4th of July and Upcoming Summer Months**

#### Independence Day Safety

Fireworks are illegal, and often dangerous. Please enjoy any 4th of July festivities in a safe area where there are managed firework shows put on by the City and County of San Francisco - or explore nearby cities in the Bay Area for equally fantastic firework displays. If you see people lighting fireworks, please call the police immediately.

If you have plans to barbeque on the 4th of July, watch the grill at all times. Do not let children be the cook - or be near the barbeque. Keep an eye on your children at all times, whether you are at the park, the beach, the pool, or watching a fireworks show.

#### Pedestrian Safety

The days are longer and lighter, and many outdoor activities are taking place throughout the City. Please be aware of pedestrians while you are driving; or if you are the pedestrian, be aware of automobiles, buses and bicyclists. Here are some safety tips:

- **Limit cell phone use while driving or walking;** Cell phones distract you from paying attention to your surroundings.
- **Be watchful at all times.** Expect the unexpected. Pedestrians can suddenly appear from between parked cars, especially children and elderly.
- **Remember that a red arrow prohibits all movement, even turning movements.**
- **Yield to pedestrians.** It is lawful for pedestrians to cross mid-block if traffic signal lights do not control the intersections.
- **Not all crosswalks are designated with painted lines.** A pedestrian is considered in a crosswalk at all corners whether or not lines are painted on the street.

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#### **One City, Many SAFE Neighborhoods!**

Get Ready to Recognize & Celebrate all the Neighborhood Watch groups that help make our city a safer place to live, work and play.

#### **SAVE the DATE!**

October 11, 2007

War Memorial Opera House,  
Green Room

Submit your success stories to [highlights@sfsafe.org](mailto:highlights@sfsafe.org) and your SAFE group could be honored at our annual fundraiser!

#### **Sponsor SAFE!**

SAFE is seeking sponsorships for our Annual Event:

**One City, Many SAFE Neighborhoods.**

### Safety Tips for Visitors and Tourists

Do you have friends coming in to the City for the July 4th Holiday? Even in times of celebration and festivities, ensure your guests practice proper safety techniques:

- **Do not leave valuables or anything visible** inside your vehicle; always keep doors and trunk locked.
- **Walk in well-lit and well-populated areas**, preferably with another person; do not take short-cuts through dark alleyways.
- **Limit your valuables** (ID and money) by carrying only what you need for the day.
- **If taking public transportation**, have your money or Fast Pass ready. Do not fumble with your wallet; you might draw attention to a pickpocket.
- **Keep your cell phone charged**; and in case of an emergency dial 9-1-1.

[Visit SAFE's website for more Safety Tips](#)

### **Neighborhood Watch Benefits**

IN THE INGLESIDE, A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONTINUES TO BE A  
"GOOD NEIGHBOR" TO ADJACENT BLOCKS.

*By Jon Shepherd, SAFE Crime Prevention Specialist*

*Ongoing Collaborative Outreach by 400 block Arlington Street SAFE Neighborhood Watch Establishing Connections among Neighboring Blocks.*

The SAFE Neighborhood Watch group on the 400 Block of Arlington Street held its annual sidewalk sale, which attracted residents from the 500 block of Arlington, yet to form their own Neighborhood Watch. Success stories of eliminating violent criminal activities on the 300 and 400 blocks encouraged some residents of 500 block to get involved and form their own Watch group.

All three blocks now share information with each other and with the police. They continue to implement new ways to collaborate on crime prevention activities, social gatherings, and otherwise. Congratulations to the 400 block and their friends on either side, the 300's and the 500's. This is a great example of Community Policing, as it continues to grow into a "Community Watch" and builds a stronger partnership with each new nearby Neighborhood Watch group, including San Jose Avenue and the Mission Street Corridor in the Ingleside Police District.

### **COMPLEMENTING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WITH RESIDENTIAL SECURITY ASSESSMENTS**

*By Rob Mackenzie, SAFE Residential Security Specialist*

Residents want a reasonable sense of security about their home. We want confidence that our home is secure as we leave it for an errand, work or leisure; and also when we go to sleep there. We also want to know that our neighborhood is safe. Often a resident will call SAFE for a Residential Security Assessment on referral from their Neighborhood Watch Group or the San Francisco Police Department

Be a part of the excitement as SAFE celebrates the Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch groups that make the City a safer place to live, work and play.

Sponsorship benefits vary depending on level of support.

Contact Cindy Brandon for more information at [cindy@sfsafe.org](mailto:cindy@sfsafe.org).

### **Public Safety Meeting**

*Join Supervisor Bevan Dufty, SFPD Mission Station, the Recreation & Parks Department, and San Francisco SAFE at a Mission Pool & Playground Public Safety Meeting.*

- Thursday, July 5th, 6:30 p.m.
- Mission Playground Clubhouse, 19th Street @ Linda Street
- Contact Rachell at Supervisor Dufty's Office: [rachelle.mcmanus@sfgov.org](mailto:rachelle.mcmanus@sfgov.org) for more information.

### **Discussion will include:**

- Report on Shooting Incident and Police Response (SFPD Mission Station, SFPD Gang Task Force)
- Park Facility's Response to Shooting Incident and Security Update (Recreation & Parks)
- Safety Resources Available to the Community (SFPD, SF SAFE)
- And other City and community efforts.
- Please attend and learn more!

and ask what they can do to protect themselves and their property because some crime has occurred on their block.

The Security Assessment provides a comprehensive set of cost-effective recommendations for improving security of a particular property. Thus the two crime prevention services, Neighborhood Watch and Security Assessments, complement each other. SAFE, in its fourth decade, helps neighbors address crime issues of burglary, robbery, drug houses, gang problems, and many others in the fashion described above, every day.

You don't have to wait for a serious crime to occur on your block in order to request a Security Assessment. Call us while your need for security is not urgent, and take time to decide exactly how you want to proceed in implementing the recommendations of the Security Assessment.

SAFE also provides Business Security Assessments for all sizes and types of businesses in San Francisco. Call SAFE at (415) 553-1984 for more information, or visit our website at <http://www.sfsafe.org/>.

### **- SEND US YOUR SUCCESS STORIES! -**

SAFE knows the importance of forming a Neighborhood Watch group... but some of our readers may not know all the wonderful successes of our groups... and it's just what they need to get their own groups going. Send us your success story and we will highlight your group in our newsletter - Email [highlights@sfsafe.org](mailto:highlights@sfsafe.org).

### **Don't Ignore Theft of Curbside Recyclables**

Stealing recyclables is a problem throughout San Francisco. Recycling poachers look for items of value such as aluminum cans, bottles and personal information. This crime problem has a far-reaching and negative impact on neighborhood public safety, the environment and consumer recycling efforts. As a direct result, you and your neighbors are exposed to:

- *Increased noise & trespassing on private property*, at all hours;
- *Increased street litter* and contamination of potential compost in another bin;
- *Reduction of recyclables collected* for San Francisco means higher garbage rates for you.

**You and your neighbors can prevent the theft of recyclables by:**

- *Placing your recyclables on the curb by 6 am* the day of pick-up;
- *Shred paper* with personal information;
- *Organize a **SAFE Neighborhood Watch*** on your block and communicate with your neighbors and the police regularly. Call SAFE at (415)553-1984;
- **Never confront or stop poachers!**
- *Observe and report recycling poachers* to the SFPD by calling (415)553-0123. Take detailed notes on the vehicle license number, car description, time of the theft, description of the

- person, direction they were heading;
- Call *Sunset Scavenger* at (415) 330-1300 or Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling at (415) 626-4000 during business hours to report the theft of recyclables.

For a printable version of these Safety Tips:

[Curbside Recyclables Theft Prevention](#)

## **South of Market Has New Neighbors**

*By Oona Gilles-Weil, SAFE Crime Prevention Specialist*



The New Federal Building at 7<sup>th</sup> and Market has opened its doors, consolidating nearly 1600 federal workers from five buildings. This signals a multitude of changes in the area, from environmental alterations to an increase in population. Big transitions can raise fears and stress. In the case of the new Federal building, workers were concerned about their new environment. They felt safe in and around the complex which is Federal Property and actively patrolled by Federal Officers - but on the street and getting to and from work raised some concerns about personal safety.

SAFE put together a series of Personal Safety Presentations for the employees and invited the SFPD to participate. One employee voiced, "It was helpful to hear from the officers how their patrols work and to also be able to direct my concerns to the people who are on the street protecting us."

The momentum produced through the workshop series led to a Safety Fair and has generated interest from other departments. Other department have already begun working with SAFE. It is SAFE's hope to continue to work together to create safer streets and communities in the 7<sup>th</sup> street and Market corridor and throughout the city. The new Federal building serves as a model to other businesses whose employees have concerns about safety.

## **Highlighting Officer Sherry Hicks**

Behind the camera is where we now find Officer Sherry Hicks. She is half of the two-person team in the San Francisco Police Department's Video Unit. There her passion for photography, art



and training come to life. She honed her photography skills while attending San Francisco's School Of The Arts. Shutterbugging did not produce much film for the camera, so she joined the San Francisco Police Department in 1995.

As a beat officer in the Central police district, she was selected to staff the newly formed "Park Unit". She immediately connected with the community on her beat who she continued to serve for six years while she practiced new concepts of Community Policing. She credits the late Sgt. Kenny Sugrue for influencing her to do her best. When her schedule allows, Sherry is a trainer for both new recruits and for SFPD's Citizen's Academy Program & Alumni. Sherry includes SAFE in her Community Policing training curriculum and encourages recruits to utilize SAFE's crime prevention services. Hats off to Officer Sherry Hicks!

### **Other SAFE Stuff**

- **Help keep our City SAFE!** We are recruiting volunteers, interns, service-learning students, and members for our SAFE Board of Directors. Supporting SAFE is a great way to give back to your community and enhance our crime prevention efforts citywide! Email Cindy Brandon at [cindy@sfsafe.org](mailto:cindy@sfsafe.org) for more information.
- **Hear about what is happening in your community!** Each month, every District Station Police Captain holds a community meeting in his or her District to discuss crime concerns. Visit [Neighborhood News](#) for Police District information, sign up for the Captains' emails, or look at the SFPD's CrimeMAPS.
- **Attend a Police Commission Meeting in your community.** Each month, the San Francisco Police Commission holds a meeting in the community, located in one of the 10 police districts. Learn more by visiting their website: [SF Police Commission](#)

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