



The City of Lafayette Police Department HOA Crime Report

July 2015

This report is prepared by the Chief of Police for use by the various Homeowners Associations, Business and Neighborhood Groups within the City of Lafayette. The purpose of the report is to inform residents on the criminal activity in the City.

Going Back to School

Although it seems like the summer just started, Labor Day is quickly approaching. That means it's time to go back to school for the kids. For many of us, our schedules become even more chaotic with this change. From a law enforcement perspective, back to school time brings some issues we all need to be aware of. By being aware and prepared, we can all make sure we do our part to make sure our kids and community are as safe as can be.

Will my child be safe going to school ?

This is probably the most common question we get from parents regarding their children. No doubt about it, parents hear a lot of scary stories - also no doubt that our children are the most precious things we have. By taking simple precautions, we can make sure our children experience the adventures of youth, while at the same time making sure our most precious investment is safe. It's a balance we all have to make. There are some simple things that we can do to make this the safest school year we can for our children.

If your child walks or rides their bicycle to school.

Take a few moments to review the route they are to take each day with them. It's best to actually walk or ride the route with them, to make sure they know the rules of getting to school. By having an established route, you know they are getting to school along the safest route. Make sure your child knows you depend on them to stick to the route and to not go off track unless they tell you. Each year, the paths of anxious parents and distracted children meet - resulting in an accident. Fortunately, none of our most recent accidents have resulted in any serious injury. Most of our collisions occur at locations where roads intersect. Fortunately cars are typically moving at slower speeds through these areas.



Develop a group of kids to walk or ride to school with.

There is safety and visibility when kids are in a group walking or riding to school. We all remember the experiences we all had growing up while riding or walking to school. We made friends, got some healthy exercise, and we experienced a little bit of responsibility. All those things are good things. As parents, we worry about everything - he'll get hit by a car, she'll get kidnapped by a stranger. In a group there is safety and common sense.



Parents are encouraged to subscribe to the Nixle Alerting System. If there is a serious event that occurs in the city, you'll be notified through Nixle. Just visit their website www.Nixle.com - it's FREE !

Community Safety Fair

The noise you hear on Sunday will actually be the sound of helicopters, horses, and police canines. Please take a few minutes out of your busy day to stop by Stanley Middle School this Sunday. Between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., you'll find many of your favorite first responders - there to answer your questions or just let you climb all over a fire truck, police car, or police boat. There will be a bike rodeo for the kids, a fire pan where you can learn to use a fire extinguisher, and you'll even have the opportunity to learn how to do CPR after only a couple of minutes of instruction. There will be stickers, pamphlets, and other information to make us all better prepared for disaster as well. Please just take a few moments on the way to the grocery store to stop on by and let the kids (no matter their age) go wild.



**Stanley Middle School
3455 School Street
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Police - Fire - EMS - East Bay Parks - CERT
Bring your bike for the Bike Rodeo !**

We need you !!!

The police department will be hosting our next Citizen's Police Academy beginning Wednesday, September 9th. The program is presented every Wednesday night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. for six weeks. The program allows our residents to see the behind-the-scene activity of law enforcement. Three of the meetings include tours of the jail, our crime lab, and our training center. Participants will learn how to perform a traffic stop, get to drive a police car, collect fingerprints, and process a crime scene. It's a great opportunity for residents to see what really goes on and meet some of our police officers. This is a not a physically strenuous class and everyone is encouraged to participate. Please give us a call at the office to enroll (925) 283-3680.



Back to School (Continued)

Remind kids to keep their head up and their phone down while walking. For many of our kids, a cell phone is a device that we use as parents to keep them safe. However, even these devices have some safety concerns. Remind them to pay attention to their surroundings, not their phone. We have all been at the intersection when you see the person staring at their phone and walk into traffic. Teach your kids to pay attention while walking or riding home from school. Check the device once in a while to make sure they are fulfilling their part of the bargain. Remind kids:

- Never walk while texting or talking on the telephone.
- Never cross the street while using an electronic device.
- Be aware of your surroundings

Is it lawful to ride your bicycle in a crosswalk ? Yes, but this is the most common place where most kids get hit. When you look at bikes vs. cars, it's the intersections and the crosswalks that are the most dangerous. Think about it - How often do you see collisions at points where roadways intersect ? That's where most occur. Here in Lafayette it's the most common location for an accident. It's no different when you involve a bicycle (which is considered a vehicle by the California Vehicle Code). Just breaks your heart when you meet with parents about a collision and you have to tell them their child was found to be at fault - especially when the child does not even have their Autopia license yet.

Here's our most common scenario: Driver approaches the intersection and stops at the stop sign. They look left, they look right, then left again as they pull forward. Moments later, **BAM !**, the driver instinctively hits the brakes after the impact. Although the driver was scanning for close threats, they did not see the bicyclist approaching on the sidewalk - going against traffic. Without stopping, the child leaves the sidewalk and enters the crosswalk - running into the car. Determining fault is pretty easy, the bicycle is a vehicle. At the time of the collision, the vehicle was on the wrong side of the road and proceeding when it was not safe. **Teach your child to dismount and walk their bike through crosswalks.**



Every Drivers Nightmare. Riding a bicycle through a crosswalk is very dangerous. Teach kids to dismount and gain eye contact with the stopped driver. Drivers are distracted and may not see a bicyclist approaching from the wrong direction.

Walking to School Safety Tips

- Walk on the sidewalk when there is one available. When on a street with no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Before you cross the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming.
- Never dart out from in front of a parked car.
- Always use a crosswalk to cross a busy street.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Be aware of cars that are turning or are backing up.

Enforce the rules about helmets - it's your future. The law is pretty clear about who needs to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle (Anyone under the age of 18, CVC 21212(a)). But whose task is it really to enforce it? Both the police department and parents share this responsibility. Last school year we had a collision at the intersection of Olympic and Pleasant Hill between a middle school student on a bike and a car. The bicyclist was on the wrong side of the road, riding their bicycle through the crosswalk at full speed - oblivious to the car coming across the intersection directly at them. When the two vehicles met, they were both traveling at nearly the same speed. The bicyclist was struck broadside and knocked to the ground with significant force. No doubt in the minds of any of the officers at the scene that the helmet prevented a serious injury from occurring. Parents have to inspect the helmet routinely to make sure it still fits and it is not cracked inside. Like any insurance policy, you get what you pay for. That helmet is going to be expected to protect your child's brain. **If you want a professional to inspect the helmet and assess its quality - just visit one of our local bike shops.**

The gouge marks in the roadway were caused by the bicycle being hit by the car. The red marks indicate where the car was found by officers. The bike and bicyclist were dragged for several feet. **Helmets save lives.**



Make sure they have a bike lock and they use it.

It's amazing how many bicycles are reported stolen within the city. The most common theft story goes something like this "My son rode his bicycle to school on Monday of last week. He put the bike in the bicycle parking area at the school. I had to pick him up that day for an appointment, so we left the bike there, unlocked in the rack. When I came back today, the bicycle was gone. Are you going to be able to find it?" You don't have to be a locksmith to defeat a simple 4 digit cable or chain lock. Invest in a good cable lock that will slow the crook down. It's very odd to have a bicycle taken from one of our schools during the school day - let's keep it that way!!



If your bicycle is stolen, the only way your bicycle will be returned is if we have the serial number for it. You should write the number down and consider using a bicycle registry to store your serial number.

Back to School (Continued)

Have the "stranger" talk with your child.

Make sure you talk to your child about talking with people in cars. You always hear about the creep who drives around looking for children playing in their yards and offers to show them puppies in their car. While extremely rare, every community has had the "strange car" that appears to be following a child. Tell your kids that if they see a car following them, they should run to a known adult to report it. At the police department we want to know about all of these incidents as soon as they occur. We want to locate the car and identify the creep. They may or may not be up to no good - but let us figure that one out. When we contact them, they know the community is alert and observant - exactly the reputation we want.



Trust but verify...

We have some of the best schools in the country without a doubt. However, when you send your child off to school, you have little clue as to who they are spending their time with. Without a doubt, the most effective police officers in the community are mothers. Mom needs no search warrant, intuition is her probable cause. We all know both drugs and alcohol that are readily available in our community. A recent student survey showed that nearly 6% of our elementary school students have consumed alcohol with their friends. Some of these same elementary school children identified they have participated in binge drinking sessions over the last year. The percentage of those who had tried marijuana while in elementary school were similar to those of alcohol.

When you talk to parents of kids who have had problems, they will tell you no family or individual is immune. Make sure you set rules and expectations with your children. Talk with them about their individual experiences and the use of alcohol/drugs in the community. If you smell marijuana in their clothing and hair, that's your call to action. You need to do something about it. Know who their friends are, where they are hanging out at, and what they are up to. Never assume that other parents are as responsible as you are. A few months ago, a drunken and suicidal teen drove her car into a tree with six other kids in the car. None of the parents knew where their children were or what they were doing. If you have concerns, come on down to the police department and speak with our Youth Services Officer. You can email Officer Seliga at Lseli@so.cccounty.us. **He's here as a resource to help the families of our community.**

Is it unlawful for me to host a juvenile party where alcohol is available to juveniles? Believe it or not, some of the parents within in our community are not as responsible as you may be. Within Lafayette, we charge these adults with a misdemeanor crime - which may result in a trip to the jail. **It's not cool, it's irresponsible.**

Penal Code Section 272(a)(1) - Contributing to delinquency of a minor. Commit any act or omit a duty, cause, tend to cause, or encourage a person under the age of 18 to come within W&I 300, 601, or 602, or contribute thereto, or by an act or omission, or threat, command, or persuasion, cause or try to cause the minor or ward or juvenile court dependent to fail or refuse to conform to a lawful juvenile court order, or do any act or behave or so live to cause or tend to cause the person to fail or remain within the above listed laws.

Recognizing drugs and drug paraphernalia



Marijuana



Heroin is making a dramatic comeback in the bedroom communities of the East Bay. Heroin is readily available and is much cheaper than other drugs. Tools of the Heroin trade include burnt spoons, syringes and burnt foil.



Trust your nose - Both marijuana and heroin have distinctive odors to them. If you think something is up, it probably is. Don't ignore it.

Prescription Drugs

Certainly one of the most significant issues that we have in our community is the abuse of prescription medications. Some medications sell for \$30 to \$100 dollars a pill - making them targets for theft from family medicine cabinets. **If you have any unwanted prescription medications, you can bring them to the police department and we will have them properly disposed of. Syringes can be dropped off at the fire station.**

National Drug Take-Back Initiative

It's time for the DEA's Annual National Drug Take-Back Initiative. Each year, the police department participates by establishing a curbside drop off location at the police department. If you have medications that you want to drop off, just come on down **September 26, 2015 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. CLEAN OUT THAT MEDICINE CABINET !**



Back to School (Continued)

Give yourself enough time when dropping off or picking up.

Each campus has its oddities within the city. All of the campuses were designed for an age where kids walked or biked to school. They were not designed to handle the number or types of cars that now descend upon the campuses two times each day. Combine that with a parent who is either impatient or late for work, dance class, or swim team, it spells trouble. Whether its parents driving down the sidewalk (Lafayette Elementary) or parking in the middle of the street (Happy Valley) we get to hear about it. One of our older officers always counsels the new officers on what to expect. "You'll find them with two wheels in the gutter and two on the sidewalk driving down Moraga Road - because they have to get through" he recounts. "They'll be screaming at you to go and stop the "real" criminals - who are harder to find because they don't normally drive on the sidewalk." **What's the normal excuse parents give?** "The principal told me it was OK". Seems our traffic commissioner and the principal may not be on the same sheet of music if that's the case. Drivers should never:



- Drop children off while their car is in the middle of the street, especially when on the opposite side of the road from the school. It's never safe to have your children exit into oncoming traffic. Pull to the shoulder, have them get out on the passenger-side and cross the street carefully.
- Cross a double-yellow line near a school. Be patient and allow traffic to clear. We've had pedestrians hit by cars that make these sudden types of maneuvers.
- Stop in the middle of a roadway to wait to turn into a driveway when cars are behind you. Our roadways have been marked with no stopping or standing signs to keep traffic moving.
- Arrive at school with your child undressed. Nothing better than having a parent stop in the drop-off zone to dress their child. It has a tendency to slow down the other parents.

Drive like it's your neighborhood.

We've all seen the signs and the little plastic people with the red flags. However, for the neighborhoods near our schools it sometimes feels like the Indy 500 in front of their homes. During the summer, we take traffic surveys to determine the "normal" traffic patterns for the neighborhood. When school begins, we perform a second survey to determine the impact of the school traffic. Sure enough, once school opens up the average speeds of vehicles significantly increases. When stopped, often times the driver cannot even identify how fast they were going - but they needed to get to the school.



When you leave the house, lock the doors and set the alarm.

The crooks know when school is in session. They know you are going to be in a rush when it's time for morning drop off. They know the closer you live to the school, the less likely you are to lock the doors and set the alarm. They sit out front and watch you leave the house knowing they will only have several uninterrupted minutes in the house. Once you are out of sight, they hit the door, hit the bedroom and then hit the road with your valuables. **ALWAYS** lock your windows and doors when you leave your home, no matter how short of a trip you plan to take.



If you see something suspicious, give us a call.

All of us have that inner voice that tells us when there is something out of place or when you perceive danger. When you think crime is afoot, give us a call so we can make sure that everything is ok. Not odd for a victim to report something out of the ordinary to a friend or relative, but fail to call the police.



Biking to School Safety Tips

- When passing a bicyclist, pass in the same direction, slowly and leave 3 feet between your vehicle and the bicyclist.
- When turning left and a bicyclist is approaching from the opposite direction, wait until the rider passes.
- If you are turning right, allow the bicyclist to pass through the intersection in front of you. Always use your turn signal to tell others of your intent to turn
- Watch for bike riders to turn in front of you without looking or signaling.
- Be vigilant in school zones.
- Watch for bikes coming from driveways or behind parked cars.
- Check your side mirrors before opening your door.

Host a Neighborhood Meeting

One of the most important things we can do is gather with our neighbors to discuss crime, Neighborhood Watch is the title that we use, but the purpose is to get everyone together to talk crime prevention. Having your neighbors together allows everyone to meet each other, exchange contact information and improve the security of our neighborhoods. **Contact our office (925) 283-3680 to schedule officers to attend your meeting.**



CONTACT US

By Phone: **Emergency: 911**
 Dispatch: (925) 284-5010
 Office: (925) 283-3680

By E-Mail:
 94549Tip@gmail.com
 94549Tip@so.cccounty.us

You've likely seen these signs and posters throughout various areas of the community. The signs were designed by students from Acalanes High School prior to the end of the school year. Gentle reminders about the need for all of us to watch what we leave behind in our cars.



Residential Burglaries

During the month of July, there were five residential burglaries reported to the police department. For 2015, we have had a total of seventeen residential burglaries so far. That is a significant drop - which is due to the involvement of our neighbors. Of the five burglaries this month, three have been solved so far.

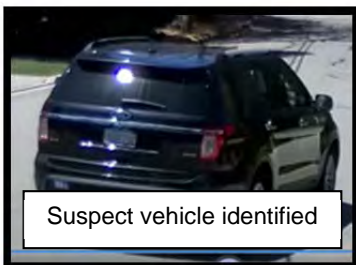
July 2015

Date	Report #	Entry	Property Taken
7/1/15	15-10829	Open Garage	Bicycles
7/21/15	15-11974	Door Pry	Jewelry
7/24/15	15-12152	Window Smash	Jewelry, Electronics
7/28/15	15-12390	Unlocked Window	Jewelry
7/29/15	15-12424	Garage Door	Electronics

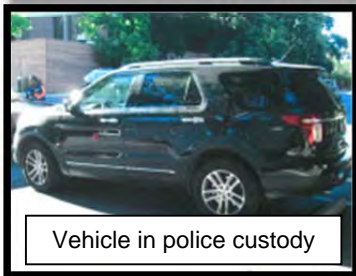
DR # 15-10829 - 600 Block of Burton Drive - MON 0800 - 1400
 - Resident leaves their home for errands and leaves their garage door open, purposefully. When the resident returns, they find a strange bike on the floor of their garage. It appears the suspect rode in on one bicycle and exchanged the bicycle for one of the bikes in the garage. **Investigators have submitted latent prints from the bicycle to the crime lab for processing.**

DR # 15-11974 - 1300 Block of Sunset Loop - FRI - SUN -
 Residents leaves the home for a weekend away. They ask a neighbor to watch the home, but no one is asked to physically check the home. When the residents come back home, they find the rear door of the home has been forced open. The interior of the home has been ransacked. Items of jewelry and other electronics were removed from the home. An LPD Bulletin was issued and no additional leads or clues were developed. **Evidence from the home has been submitted for analysis to the crime lab.**

DR # 15-12152 - 600 Block of Sky Hy Circle - FRI 0845 - 1520 -
 Resident leaves their home in a gated community. The home is locked, but the alarm is not set. A neighbor reports when they were exiting through the gate, they saw an SUV waiting at the gate. As the resident pulls through the gate, the SUV drives through the open gate. When the resident returns home, they find the glass from the rear slider strewn on the floor. The interior of the home has been ransacked. Jewelry and electronics were removed from the home. The video security system for the community was inoperable following maintenance on the gate that occurred several weeks prior.



Suspect vehicle identified



Vehicle in police custody

A bulletin was issued to the community identifying the crime and requesting assistance in identifying the suspects of the crime. The day following the release of the bulletin, two neighbors reported strange occurrences at their homes. Both reported a female subject had come to the home and when the door was answered, asked for directions to the freeway. The female then returned to a dark-colored SUV and left the area. Officers checked the area and located a residence with a security system

that monitored the street in front of the home. Because of the image quality, officers were able to view the area and read the license plate numbers of the vehicles leaving the neighborhood.

A review of the video image identifies the suspect vehicle as it enters the neighborhood. The vehicle then begins to depart the neighborhood, but the vehicle shifts into reverse and backs down the street. The vehicle stops at the curb of a neighbors' home. The female suspect exits the vehicle and walks to the front door of the home (there was no one home at the time). The female returns to the home and then backs the vehicle into the driveway of the home. The vehicle then drives out of the driveway and leaves the neighborhood.

The suspect leaves their vehicle to ring the doorbell to see if anyone is at home.



When no one answers, the suspect backs her vehicle into the driveway. In the rear of the vehicle are two additional suspects.

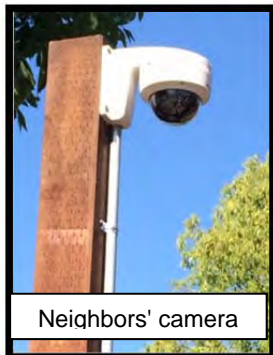
Investigators identified the registered owner of the vehicle and a short time later identified the driver of the vehicle. Investigators obtained a search warrant for the vehicle and the vehicle was located by San Francisco Police Officers. The vehicle was towed back to Lafayette where it was processed by our CSI personnel. The female subject was then interviewed by investigators. From that interview, investigators learned the group visited between ten and twenty Lamorinda homes. The suspect was unable to identify the exact number of homes the group burglarized, but did identify being at the Sky Hy home and a home in Moraga (that home was also burglarized).

When asked why the group did not burglarize the home they backed into, the suspect identified the suspects who had been hiding in the rear of the SUV had seen the video camera at the neighbors' home. After seeing the camera system, the suspects directed the driver to leave the neighborhood. **Investigators are now working to identify the remaining two suspects involved in the burglaries. Investigators are using evidence collected from the scene and other resources to identify the remaining suspects. Our investigators are confident they will be able to arrest these offenders.**

In this case, the video images from a neighbor's security camera system helped solve two residential burglaries and prevent another. The mere presence of the camera scared the crooks who intended to burglarize the neighbor's home. All three suspects will be charged with attempted burglary of the neighbor's home based upon the surveillance images.



DR # 15-12390 - 1100 Block of Perales Street - TUE 0900 - 1600 - Resident leaves their home for work. When they leave the home, they lock all the windows and doors except a bathroom window. When the resident returns home, they find the interior of the home ransacked and property missing. Officers and CSI personnel respond to the scene and identify the suspects entered the home through the unlocked bathroom window. An officer identifies a home security camera on the property of a neighbor that may have captured the front of the home. Investigators begin to review images from a neighborhood camera system that covers the area.



Neighbors' camera



Suspect Vehicle

Investigators then obtained the video images from the surveillance system. Investigators watch as a suspect vehicle passes the home three times. After the third pass, two subjects approach the front door of the home. After spending several moments at the front door, the two suspects walk to the side gate and disappear from view. Several minutes later, the suspects exit the side gate of the home and walk out of view of the camera. One of the suspects is wearing a backpack. Investigators are able to match the video from the surveillance camera with images from the neighborhood camera system. Investigators identify the suspect vehicle and obtain a search warrant for the vehicle.

The vehicle is entered into the law enforcement database as a wanted vehicle. Two days later the vehicle is stopped in the City of Antioch by a CHP Officer. LPD Investigators respond to the scene and identify a male and female subject who were in the vehicle when it was stopped by the officer. The individuals are interviewed and the vehicle is brought back to Lafayette for processing by our CSI personnel.

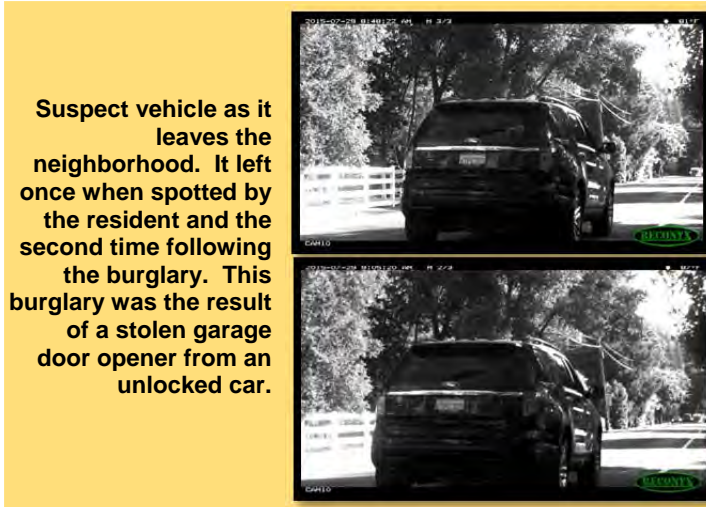
A search of the vehicle located the backpack seen within the video. Inside the backpack, investigators located documents and jewelry from the burglary. Investigators then compared the individual to the images of the burglars from the video. The subject who was found driving the car was the subject in the video. An arrest warrant was obtained for the subject.

The suspect has since been arrested and charged by the District Attorney's Office. This suspect has been convicted and sentenced for residential burglary on two prior occasions. For this burglary, the suspect has been charged under the guidelines of three-strikes. He remains in custody with a \$ 375,000 bail. Investigators are still working to identify the second suspect.



Image from neighbor's camera system of suspects leaving the home.

DR # 15-12424 - Almaden Court - WED - 0851 - 1145 - Resident is loading the car for a short trip to the store. While loading the vehicle, the resident notices a strange car parked in front of the home. The resident sees a second vehicle pull into the court, which is driven by a female subject. As the resident backs out of their driveway, the two vehicles leave the court. When the resident returns to the home, they find the interior of their home ransacked and notify the police.



Suspect vehicle as it leaves the neighborhood. It left once when spotted by the resident and the second time following the burglary. This burglary was the result of a stolen garage door opener from an unlocked car.

Officers respond to the home and find the suspect entered the home and removed electronics from the family room. The resident identifies they believe the entry to the home was made through the garage door. The resident reports their garage door opener was taken from their unlocked vehicle several nights prior.

Investigators review the images from a nearby neighborhood camera system. Investigators identify a vehicle that leaves the area at the time identified by the resident as when she left. The vehicle then returns to the neighborhood and then leaves several minutes later. The second vehicle identified by the resident also returns to the neighborhood and then leaves. The vehicle is owned by a subject with prior police contacts. A review of the neighborhood camera system locates the vehicle entering the neighborhood three days prior and then leaving the neighborhood a short time later (likely when the garage door was stolen).

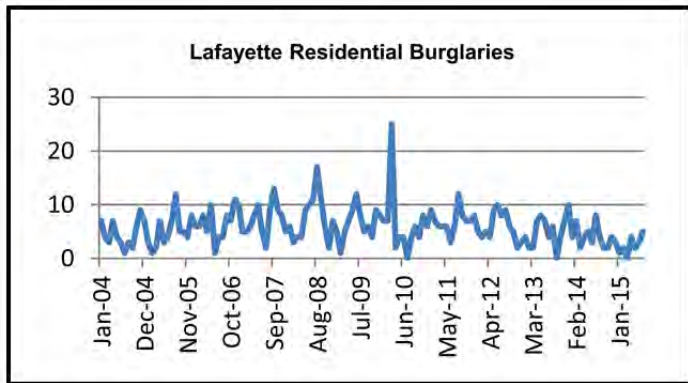
Several days later, the suspect is arrested in a neighboring city. Our investigators obtain a search warrant for the vehicle and the vehicle is processed by our CSI personnel. Investigators perform a search of the suspect's residence and locate property that was taken during the burglary.

The suspect was interviewed in the jail and admitted to his involvement in the crime. He admitted to coming to the neighborhood to rummage through unlocked cars. While in the neighborhood, he located the garage door opener and left the neighborhood. The suspect returned to the neighborhood to use the garage door opener to get items to steal. He saw the resident and left the neighborhood until the resident left. Once the owner was gone, the two vehicles returned to the home. The female backed her vehicle into the driveway while he entered the home through the open garage door. He loaded the property from the home into the rear of the female's vehicle. Both then left the neighborhood. The pair later met and split the property that was stolen from the home. When asked about where the remaining items of property were at, the suspect realized the female had switched the TV they had stolen with a computer monitor - tricking him out of a portion of his share.

Investigators have identified the female suspect and are working to locate her.

Investigation. When looking at the cases that we have been able to solve so far, two things are present in each case. First, neighbors were involved in solving all three of the cases. When asked for help, neighbors responded with additional leads that identified the suspect vehicle. Second, video images from neighbors played significant roles. These cases were solved because of this. When provided with a date/time of the crime, the probability of our investigators being able to solve the crime increases significantly. Good neighbors and cameras are making our community a much safer place.

Prevention. Locking your doors and windows is very important to deter criminals from making entry to your home. A garage door that is left open while you are away from the home is an open invitation for criminals to enter. Locked windows and doors prevent crime. While a suspect may break a window to make entry, doing so leaves pieces of evidence for us to collect. Serial numbers from electronic devices should be recorded and saved in a place where they can quickly be retrieved. Same with bicycles, without a serial number it is unlikely that you will ever get your bicycle back. In one of these cases, the presence of a camera system scared the burglars away. In another case, the system allowed us to identify who did the crime and will likely result in the suspect being convicted of the crime. If you have a camera system you need to make sure it is working. A camera system that is not working creates frustration on the part of residents and officers.



Vehicle Theft

In July, there were five vehicles stolen from various locations within the city. So far this year, there have been 20 vehicles that have been reported stolen from Lafayette. The vehicles that are taken continue to be recovered a short time later, but the theft of a vehicle significantly affects the victim.

Report #	Date	Car
15-11074	7/5/15	1995 Nissan Maxima
15-11276	7/8/15	1997 Toyota Camry
15-11810	7/18/15	1997 Acura Integra
15-12292	7/27/15	2004 Cadillac Escalade
15-12360	7/28/15	1997 Honda Accord

DR # 15-11074 - Victim leaves their car in the parking lot of the High School. When the victim returns, the vehicle is missing. The vehicle was recovered by the Antioch Police Department five days after the initial theft. The vehicle was not significantly damaged. when searched, the vehicle had property belonging to several other individuals. **Investigators are following up leads on the case.**

DR # 15-11276 - The vehicle was parked in front of the home of the owner. The suspect broke into the home and located the keys for the vehicle. The suspect stole the vehicle and drove from the home. The following day, the suspect returned to the neighborhood of the original theft to remove additional property from the home. Investigators were waiting at the home for the vehicle and the suspect to return. The suspect vehicle returned to the neighborhood and pursuit of the vehicle was initiated. The suspect abandoned the vehicle and escaped on foot. The vehicle was recovered undamaged. **A suspect has since been arrested and charged in this case.**

The stolen vehicle leaves the neighborhood.



DR # 15-11810 - Owner parks their car in the car port of their apartment complex. At two in the morning the next day, they are called and asked why their car is in the driveway of a home in Berkeley. The vehicle is searched by officers who locate various items of property and mail belonging to residents in Lafayette and Orinda. CSI personnel recover a tissue that is soaked with blood, believed to be that of the suspect. **The bloody tissue has been submitted for DNA analysis.**

DR # 15-12292 - Victim parks their vehicle in the parking stall of their apartment complex when they return home at 5 p.m. The next morning when the owner returns to their vehicle, they find the vehicle missing. The vehicle was recovered two days later in Martinez. **Investigators are trying to associate this vehicle theft with the previous suspect that was arrested for vehicle theft (DR # 15-11504).**

DR # 15-12360 - Victim leaves their vehicle in front of their home overnight. When they exit their home the following day, the vehicle is gone from the driveway. The vehicle is recovered in San Francisco several days later. When located, the vehicle had suffered damage by the suspects and their driving.

Investigation. Our investigators continue to follow leads developed from the recovered vehicles. Most of the vehicles that are stolen from the city are recovered in nearby cities - as the vehicles are only used for short-term transportation. Some of the best clues that we receive from victims are when they go through their car and find items that do not belong to them. These items often lead us to the person who stole the car.

Prevention. Within our community, older model cars continue to lead the parade of vehicles that are stolen. Newer vehicles have security designed into the key and the cars locking devices. Older model vehicle should be protected to make sure they are not stolen. Residents who live in areas near the freeway should especially be careful with their vehicles. The best security device continues to be a steering wheel locking device - they can't steer the car.

CONTACT US

By Phone	By E-Mail:
Emergency: 911	94549Tip@gmail.com
Dispatch: (925) 284-5010	94549Tip@so.cccounty.us
Office: (925) 283-3680	

Recovered Stolen Vehicles

In Lafayette, because of proximity to the freeway, we get our share of stolen vehicles that are dumped in our neighborhoods. The vehicles may have a mechanical problem, or may just be out of gas - requiring the driver to get them off the road. In July, we recovered five vehicles that were reported to be stolen out of other jurisdictions. When we recover a stolen vehicle, our CSI personnel still process the vehicle with the hope of identifying who the suspect(s) are.

Report #	Date	Car
15-10904	7/2/15	2015 Chevy Tahoe
15-11504	7/13/15	2013 Ford C-Max
15-11885	7/19/15	1996 Honda Accord
15-11962	7/21/15	2015 Lexus
15-11941	7/21/15	1999 Honda Civic

DR # 15-10904 - Officers are dispatched to the report of a stolen vehicle at the Park Hotel. A location service identified the vehicle was parked in the lower garage of the hotel. Upon the arrival of officers, they find the stolen vehicle. Further investigation reveals the suspects are still in the hotel. Officers arrest the suspects and find them to be in the possession of credit card manufacturing equipment. The suspects were found with the personal information of more than 500 individuals. Suspects were booked at the jail. **This case will be presented to the US Attorney for filing as a federal case.** These individuals were making more than \$14,000.00 in cash every day through credit card fraud.



DR # 15-11504 - Officers are advised of a suspicious vehicle parked in a neighborhood. Upon arrival, officers find the vehicle is a stolen vehicle out of Martinez. Both the male and female from within the car are detained and later arrested for various charges. The female passenger admits to using heroin prior to being picked up by the male driver. While driving, the female passes out and is unaware of where she is or where the vehicle went during the night. The male driver is a known auto thief out of Martinez. He is found to be in the possession of heroin. **Both were booked at the jail and charges will be filed with the DA's Office.**



DR # 15-11885 - A neighbor reports a suspicious vehicle in their neighborhood. Officers respond to the area and find the vehicle. Officers complete a records check on the vehicle and discover the vehicle was reported stolen out of the City of Richmond the day prior. A review of the neighborhood cameras in the area shows a suspect driving the vehicle into the neighborhood and then leaving in a separate vehicle. **Investigators are doing follow-up to try and identify the**



suspect and the follow-on vehicle.

DR # 15-11962 - A parking officer is alerted to the presence of a stolen vehicle by her ALPR Unit. A nearby officer is alerted and a pursuit of the vehicle was initiated. After a short pursuit, the driver and passenger were both taken into custody. Various items of property were found within the vehicle, which are believed to have been stolen. **The suspect has been charged by the DA's Office for vehicle theft.**



DR # 15-11941 - A local tow company removed an abandoned vehicle from the parking lot of a local business. When the vehicle was brought back to the tow yard, a records check showed the vehicle was a vehicle that had been reported stolen out of the City of Antioch. The ignition of the vehicle had been damaged such that the vehicle could be turned on and off without the use of a key (stick something into the ignition slot). The vehicle was processed by our CSI personnel to attempt to identify a suspect in the theft. **Investigators are waiting for results from the crime lab regarding the case.**

Investigation. In many of these cases the vehicles are recovered in working condition, but have been abandoned by the operators because of the lack of fuel. When the vehicle is found being operated by a suspect, the suspect is arrested and booked at the jail. Vehicle recovery information is forwarded to the police agency that originally handled the report of the vehicle being stolen.

Auto Burglary

We continue to experience an increase in the number of auto burglaries that occur within the city. In the month of July, we had ten of these crimes reported within the city. While there are a number of reasons for the increase, the primary one is the availability of property within our community. With some recent arrests, we have been able to stop two groups who had been preying upon our downtown. The trend now is for these crimes to occur in our residential areas. Residents need to remove property from their vehicles at night.

Date	Day	Property
7/3/15	FRI	Briefcase
7/6/15	MON	Wallet, Credit Cards, \$3k in cash
7/9/15	THU	Dog (Daytime)
7/10/15	FRI	Laptop (2), Briefcase,
7/10/15	FRI	Briefcase, Laptop
7/10/15	FRI	Tools
7/19/15	SUN	Purse, Wallet, Vehicle Keys
7/21/15	TUE	Laptop, Tools
7/28/15	TUE	Purse, Wallet, Cash

DR # 15-11008 - Victim returns to their vehicle finding the rear window of the vehicle broken. A briefcase that had been in the rear seat of the car is now in the street. The victim searches the briefcase and finds nothing missing.

DR # 15-11151 - Victim leaves their vehicle in a parking lot to go into a local restaurant. Victim leaves a briefcase containing their wallet credit cards and three thousand dollars in cash in plain view on the seat. When victim returns, they find the window of their vehicle smashed and their property missing. The suspects

returned to the same business several days later. The suspects' vehicle had been identified using the video system of the local business. When the suspect returned, they were located and arrested by officers. **Case was filed with the DA's Office and the suspects were charged with numerous counts of auto burglary from our community.**

Suspects break a window of the vehicle and remove a laptop computer. This brings crooks back to our community - do your part and hide your valuable.



DR # 15-11393 - Workers at a business notice a vehicle slowly moving through the parking lot of the business. Employees walk the parking lot to inspect vehicles and find one with a purse and laptop in plain sight. Believing the slow moving car intended to burglarize cars, the employees locate the owner of the vehicle and advise her of the vulnerability of the items in her car. She goes to the parking lot and places her purse into the trunk, leaving the laptop in plain sight. She returns to her car a short time later and finds the rear window smashed and her laptop missing. No one had called the police to report the suspicious vehicle.

DR # 15-11321 - Owner parks their vehicle in the parking lot of a local grocery store. The owner leaves their dog in the car, with the windows cracked. A witness watches as a female subject places her arm through the window, unlocks the door and removed the dog. The dog was later located in the City of Concord.



NEVER leave your pet in a car by itself. Pets are often stolen from vehicles in parking lots.

DR # 15-11386 - Witness is driving their car into a parking lot of a local business. As they are driving through the lot, they notice a vehicle backed into a parking stall and two subjects standing near another car. The witness watches as the suspects break the car window and remove property. The witness follows the vehicle and calls police, providing the license plate number and direction of travel. Orinda Officers intercept the vehicle on the freeway and stop the vehicle. **Three suspects from Oakland were arrested. All of the property was returned to the victim.**



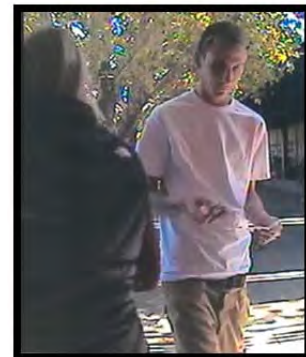
INTERESTED IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ?

Join a local CERT Class. CERTs are residents who have taken training on how to aid us all in disaster. For more information, see their website

www.lamorindacert.org

Grand Theft - ATM Shoulder Surfer

As previously identified within a recent crime bulletin, we have had a number of reports of "shoulder surfers" at our bank branches. In this case, the suspect approached the exterior ATM's from one of our local banks (7:05 a.m.). While a customer was using the ATM, the suspect crowded the victim so he could see the victim entering his PIN number. The suspect then gave space and as the victim was finishing their transaction, crowded the victim a second time. The victim left the ATM prior to clearing the last screen which prompts if you would like to complete another transaction. The suspect used the account to withdraw one thousand dollars in cash. The suspect then fled the area in a newer model black sports car. **Investigators are still working to identify the suspect.**



Understanding Petty Thefts

The crime of petty theft involves someone losing any item with a value of less than \$ 950.00 in a theft. The majority of these crimes occur at night, when suspects go through our neighborhoods checking for unlocked windows and doors on cars. The suspects get into the vehicle and remove items of property that you may or may not remember were in the car.

Date	Day	Property
7/6/15	MON	Pack of cigarettes taken from an unlocked car
7/6/15	MON	Folding knife taken from unlocked car
7/6/15	MON	Vehicle registration and proof of insurance from unlocked car
7/6/15	MON	Sunglasses, window punch, change taken from unlocked car.
7/6/15	MON	Loose change taken from an unlocked car
7/6/15	MON	iPad and Nikon Camera taken from unlocked car.
7/6/15	MON	Phone charger taken from unlocked car.
7/6/15	MON	FASTRAK transponder removed from unlocked car
7/10/15	FRI	Mail theft
7/11/15	SAT	Property from a thrift store
7/22/15	WED	Empty purse that was placed out for donation
7/23/15	THU	Backpack that was left on a parked bicycle.
7/26/15	MON	Registration Tabs off the rear of a parked car.
7/26/15	SUN	3 decorative rocks from the front of a home
7/28/15	TUE	FASTRAK and garage door opener from unlocked car.
7/28/15	TUE	Garage door opener removed from an unlocked car.
7/28/15	TUE	Glasses and car registration removed from unlocked car.
7/28/15	TUE	Garage door opener stolen from an unlocked car.

Prevention. When examining this list, there are a number of things that are concerning. The loss of a garage door opener, as we learned this month, could lead to a burglary of the home. The loss of registration papers may cause you to be the victim of identity theft. All of the items that people lost had some type of value - the reason the suspect took the item in the first place. Many of these crimes could have been prevented had the owner just locked their car. Just by locking their car, many of these individuals could have prevented themselves from being victimized. Often times we hear "They'll just break the window to get the stuff" - which is completely incorrect. The criminal who comes through neighborhoods looking for unlocked cars to rummage through is the most common criminal. A locked door will deter them. Lock your car at night to make sure you don't find your things missing in the morning.

Commercial Burglaries

We continue to experience a drop in the number of commercial burglaries that we experience in the city. For the month of July, we had two burglaries of our commercial businesses.

Report #	Date	Property Taken
15-11496	7/13/15	Nothing
15-11612	7/14/15	Cash

15-11496 - Just after midnight, officers are dispatched to a commercial business within the city for the report of an alarm. Upon the arrival of officers, they find the door glass from the business smashed and it appears a subject had entered the business. After clearing the business, officers review the store surveillance system with the manager. A suspect can be seen breaking out the front window of the business and an unknown suspect enters the business. The suspect looks through the store and then leaves without taking any property. ***This case has been referred to investigators for review.***

15-11612 - A local bank calls to report a suspect is inside the bank attempting to cash a counterfeit check. The bank had been contacted by another branch who reported the same individual had attempted to cash a check at their branch, but they had not been able to contact police in time. The suspect arrived in a minivan with several other individuals who flee the area before the arrival of officers. The suspect is confronted inside the bank and found to be in the possession of a counterfeit check. The business whose name and account number appear on the check did not issue the check to this individual. The suspect admits to his involvement in the forgery scheme, but does not identify the other suspects who had fled the scene. ***The suspect was booked at the jail and has been charged by the DA for his involvement.***



PLEASE !!!
LOCK YOUR WINDOWS AND DOORS 

Vandalism

For 2015, we continue to experience an increase in vandalism cases within the city. For the month of July, we experienced six reported incidents.

Date	Day	Damage
7/4/15	SAT	Tire slashed by an unknown device
7/7/15	TUE	BMW emblem removed from car and car "keyed"
7/11/15	MON	Car "keyed" in apartment complex
7/12/15	SUN	Car vandalized, window smashed, body damage
7/16/15	THU	(4) cars egged with damage to the car paint
7/20/15	TUE	Cut lock off of mailbox

BART PD Report

During the month of July the following crimes were reported at the Lafayette BART Station.

Crime	Qty
Property Thefts	4
Vehicle Thefts	1
Battery	1



Emergency Services Report

The drought continues to create a significant fire hazard within the community. We all need to be vigilant when it comes to preventing fires from occurring and if they do, reporting them as quickly as possible. The conditions are certainly extreme and as you've heard in the news, fires are spreading rapidly like never before. Early reporting is the best way to keep them under control.

CONFIRE has dedicated significant resources to preventing fires from occurring and in rapid response to those that do occur. As we saw with their recent arrest of a serial arsonist, even Lafayette is a tempting target for a fire bug. Make sure you have talked about how you would respond as a family to a fire in our community. If you were away, where should the kids go? Where would you meet? How will you communicate with each other? If you could take one item from the home, what would it be?

If you are interested in learning more about how you can prepare for disaster or evacuation, contact our Emergency Preparedness Commission.

Good Neighbor Program

We have expanded our Vacation Home Check Program. If you tell us when you are going to be gone from your home, we will do our best to have a member of our team check your home every day and send you a text or an e-mail to let you know we were there and that everything looks fine. We still want you to have that other good neighbor check on your house as well, but having an officer check your home is a good idea. If you are leaving for a trip, please just give us a call at the office to let us know when you are going to be gone and who will be watching the house while you are away. Even if you are already on vacation and forgot to call before you left, we'd love to check on the house to make sure everything is in order. It's a free service we provide to our residents.

