

Happy March. Now that the rain is almost finished, we can, once again, enjoy our beautiful weather.

Several of us visited with members of the Riverside County sheriff's department and Peter Castro who is the contact for Public Safety in Indian Wells. Our discussion centered on the break-ins that have occurred in our neighborhood in the past several months. My question to them was how we can work together to protect our residents from such break-ins. I asked if they could assure that, without emergency events, they could patrol our area at least twice during each shift. They agreed that they would make every effort to do so.

Some suggestions were made about how we can protect our homes. These are just a few of the officer's suggestions. I will continue to write about all of them in future notices. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Know your neighbors. Your home will be less attractive to burglars if the people on your street spend time walking, talking and socializing.
2. Set up exterior lighting. Try to keep the outside of your home from becoming a shadowy place where thieves can hide. Solar lighting is easy to install or look to motion-activated solar lights.
3. Be wary during the day. We often think of burglars sneaking around at night, break-ins often happen during the daylight hours when victims are at work or school.
4. Install alarms. Often these will alert the burglars that the alarm company will be informed immediately when the alarm goes off and there is no answer when the property is called and answered with the password. Police and alarm security will arrive at the property within minutes.

The police said that protection is a cooperative thing, and by working together we can help insure our safety and security. The RPPOA is working to help all of us be safe throughout our time living in this beautiful city, but your help is also needed. Remember to lock your doors and windows, set your alarm when you leave and keep an eye on your neighbor's property as well.

Pat Fredericks, President