



City of Palmdale Neighborhood Watch Program

BLOCK CAPTAIN EXCHANGE

Working Together to Keep Our Community a Safe Place to Call Home

Fall 2016

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We Don't Love Trash!



The high desert is a beautiful sight and we DO NOT love it when individuals dump their trash in it! In addition to the illegal dumping we also have very windy conditions that will blow trash throughout our city even when it's not been illegally dumped.

At the October Block Captain Forum, Kristin Holloway from the Public Works department spoke on what the city is doing to fight illegal dumping and what residents can do to maintain the beauty of life in the high desert.

Each week the city's maintenance crew picks up trash that is illegally dumped on city property, sidewalks and streets that creates a hazard for residents. The city has four large roll off containers that are picked up three times a week by Waste Management.

At each pick up by Waste Management these containers are completely full.

The city also holds grant funded community clean-up events. During the most recent clean-up event this year, approximately 300 volunteers removed 340 tons of trash that had been illegally dumped. With the Used Oil Recycling Grant, almost 300 gallons of oil was collected curbside and almost 36,000 gallons was collected at collection centers.

Here are some tips that you can follow to help reduce trash and illegal dumping:

- Download the MyWaste App from your app store. This app will give you trash collection reminders, collection requirements, reduce and reuse tips, emergency notifications and allow you to report illegal dumping, graffiti and other community safety issues.

- Utilize your Waste Management bulky item pick up service. Waste Management provides all single family home customers in the city up to four free bulky item collections along with two free landfill vouchers for the disposal of up to one ton of waste each per year. Contact Waste Management at 661/947-7197 for more information.
- Dispose of hazardous waste and e-waste (electronics such as computers, cell phones, televisions, etc.) for free at The Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (AVECC), located at 1200 W. City Ranch Road in Palmdale. The center is open to the public on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, from 9 am until 3 pm
- If you see illegal dumping in progress, call the Sheriff's station at 661/272-2400.
- To report illegal dumping that has already occurred, please contact the city's Code Enforcement office at 661/267-5234.



Let's work together to keep Palmdale a beautiful place to call home.

Avoid Holiday Horrors!

Happy Hallothanksmas! It's that time of year when the stores can't wait to rush us through the holiday season again. Whether you celebrate some or all of these holidays, we offer you these tips to make your fun a bit safer.

Trick or Treating

- If you are driving, slow down in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Popular trick or treating hours are from 5:30 to 9:30 pm so be especially alert for children during this time.
- Children under 12 should not be out without a parent or responsible adult. If a young person is old enough to be out without an adult, make sure they stick to familiar routes and have a specific time they are supposed to be home.
- Always stay on the sidewalk and use crosswalks to cross the street. Never dart out into the street.
- Stay alert by putting electronic devices away for trick or treating
- Teach children to look both ways before crossing the street and to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them at intersections.
- Choose face paint over masks. Masks can cause vision obstruction making it hard to see cars and tripping hazards.
- Have children carry flash lights to help them see and to be seen.

Shopping

- Always be alert and aware of people around you. Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime.
- Whenever possible, shop with a friend.
- Do not carry cash – it cannot be replaced if lost or stolen.
- Carry only the credit cards you will be using.
- Keep your purse on your person at all times. Do not leave it unsecured in a shopping cart. Men should carry their wallet in a front pocket.
- Do not overload yourself with packages.

- Have your car keys in your hand so you do not have to linger before entering your car.
- Check the backseat before entering your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive or walk to a public place with a lot of people around.
- Put gifts, bags and packages in the trunk and out of sight or cover them with a blanket so they are not visible.
- Move your vehicle to another location in the parking lot after putting packages inside. Anyone that may have been watching will assume you have left the shopping center.
- Use anti-theft devices on your vehicle.
- If someone is threatening you with a weapon, give up your car, purse or other valuables –it's not worth your life.
- Report all suspicious people and activities to the Sheriff's department at 661/272-2400.

Vacation

- Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked periodically.
- Have the drapes periodically opened and closed; and have different lights turned on and off so the house appears occupied.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail or newspaper if you choose not to stop service.
- Leave a car in the driveway, or ask neighbors to park in it.
- Call the Sheriff's station and request a vacation patrol check.

(Continued on page 3)



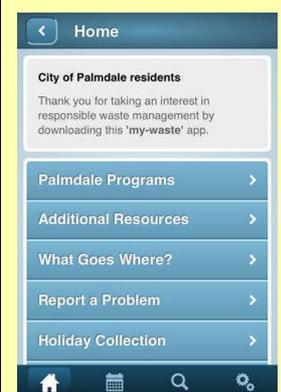
Follow the Ruth and Kery Facebook page at [Facebook.com/ruthandkery](https://www.facebook.com/ruthandkery)



Download the "My Waste" app for iPhone and Android to:

- ⇒ Report problems such as graffiti, illegal dumping and many city maintenance and traffic safety issues
- ⇒ Receive alerts of trash/recycling collection days
- ⇒ Get notifications for street sweeping
- ⇒ Get ideas for increased recycling
- ⇒ Determine what items go in which bin for Waste Management
- ⇒ And, more!

It's FREE!



Stay Connected!

Do you know where to get emergency information in a timely manner? Make sure you and your family are connected with the following resources:

Connect CTY: Get emergency notifications from the city by registering at <http://www.cityofpalmdale.org/Stay-Connected>

Nixle: Sign up for text and/or email alerts from the Sheriff's department and CHP at www.nixle.com

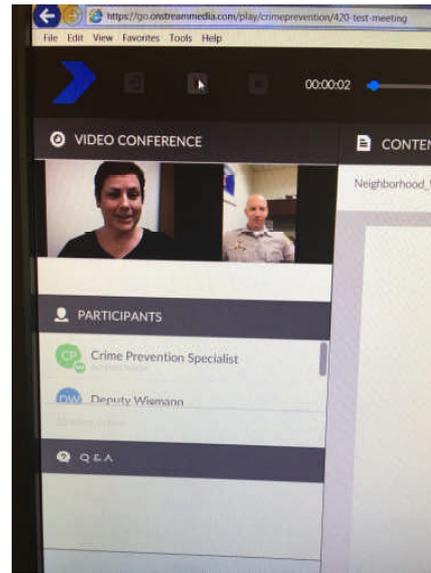
Weather Conditions: Check the National Weather Service for storm advisories at www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox

Red Cross App: Download the Red Cross Earthquake app to receive notification when an earthquake occurs, find help and let others know you're safe even if the power is out.



And, don't forget to give each member of your family a printed copy of important phone numbers to keep in a wallet, purse or backpack. With today's cellphone technology, most of us don't have phone numbers memorized and you might need that list in an emergency.

Online Neighborhood Watch!



Hold your next Neighborhood Watch meeting online! No need to leave the house! You can now literally attend your meeting in your pajamas.

Schedule your meeting as you normally would by contacting your Crime Prevention Specialist at 661/267-5170. Send email invitations or pass out flyers to

your neighbors inviting them to the meeting. Each participant will receive an email link to join the meeting. No cameras or microphones necessary and questions can be submitted ahead of time as well as during the meeting by using the Q & A box onscreen.

Users with mobile devices can download the free Onstream App to participate.

Call today to schedule your online meeting!

Avoid Holiday Horrors (cont'd from page 2)

Cooking

If you plan on deep frying your turkey this year, please remember:

- Set up the fryer more than 10 feet from the house and keep children away.
- Find flat ground; the oil must be even and steady to ensure safety.
- Use a thawed and dry turkey; any water will cause the oil to bubble furiously and spill over.
- Fryer lid and handle can become very hot and cause burns.
- Have a fire extinguisher ready at all times.

And, no matter how you are cooking your food, fats, oils and grease (FOG) should never be poured down the sink. Sink drains and garbage disposals are not designed to properly handle these materials. Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash. For a FREE FOG tote bag and kitchen tools, contact the Crime Prevention Office at 661/267-5170.



Celebrating

- Have a designated driver. It's one of the simplest rules to follow, but also one of the most effective in keeping people safe on the roads.
- Have cab or Uber numbers on hand. If someone should not be driving and they insist on going home, call a cab for them instead of allowing them to take the risk of driving home.
- Offer plenty of non-alcoholic drinks. While many guests may want to enjoy the holidays with an alcoholic drink, offer non-alcoholic drinks as an option.
- Offer food if you're offering alcohol. Drinking on an empty stomach can cause a person to become intoxicated faster. Offering food along with drinks may help prevent guests from over-indulging on alcohol alone.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!