

Neighborhood News

EL PASO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE | June 2020

Quick Tip:

To report Non-Emergency events, 390-5555 is the non-emergency reporting number for the Sheriff's Office. To report Emergency or in-progress events to the Sheriff's Office, 911 is the reporting number. When reporting you will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number and what you wish to report. Explain your suspicion or circumstance to the emergency dispatcher with as much useful information you can provide at the time. Note details such as license plate numbers, vehicle or personal descriptions (colors, hair styles, glasses, tattoos, distinguishable clothing, etc.).

Remember, if you don't tell us about an issue, we can't impact the problem.



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A Personal Thank You

I want to personally thank all the communities and neighborhoods that I have had the opportunity to meet and work with throughout this year. As we all know, 2020 has presented numerous challenges, most notably the current pandemic of the Corona Virus. During this time, many units and personnel within the Sheriff's Office have had to learn to work from home, which is a tremendous challenge in our profession, along with many other professions. There have been multiple services, ie: The Neighborhood Newsletter, that have lagged during this time for obvious reasons. I pride myself in presenting an accurate and professional newsletter to each of the groups I represent and during the past few months it has been quite chaotic and difficult in terms of receiving accurate information from my home setting. So, thank you for bearing with me and the Sheriff's Office as we learn to operate within these new settings.

As compared to 2019, the Neighborhood Watch group program has somewhat slowed due to the COVID pandemic and not being able to meet in a social environment as we are accustomed to in this program. There are currently 117 active groups participating in the Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch program and it is my commitment to continue growing the program to help your deputies on patrol impact the issues that are affecting your neighborhoods and communities. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the program.

I plan to keep posting a quarterly newsletter throughout 2020, as opposed to monthly, which will continue to reflect tips, a main article containing what I believe will benefit your communities, and monthly crime statistics at the end of each newsletter. I will also continue to publish the upcoming events the Sheriff's Office will be hosting such as Coffee with a Cop events, National Night Out, and other happenings in the newsletter. I will send the newsletter to the block captains so they can send them out to all your community members. I hope this format works as I do not want to inundate your emails with too much information. Also, if you could please send me an email with the current block captains for each of your communities, that is extremely helpful in keeping my database current. Lastly, in the upcoming year I will be partnering with our media section along with our Public Information Officer to post crime prevention and safety tips on Twitter and Facebook so please look for those postings.

Thank you once again for all your continued support and participation in the Neighborhood Watch program. You have heard me mention on numerous occasions that your communities and neighborhoods are the "eyes and ears" of the county. This partnership and reporting of incidents is crucial to helping slow crime growth in El Paso County and the Neighborhood Watch program is a critical piece of the puzzle in this process.

El Paso County Jail: COVID-19 Projects

The El Paso County Jail will be upgrading many areas and equipment to ensure the health and safety of staff and the incarcerated population. These upgrades are intended to reduce the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 and increase overall safety and security of the jail.

The following projects are in the planning phase and each are lead by a project coordinator:

Replace Property Conveyor in the El Paso County Jail	\$600,000.00
Jail Security Cameras and Door Control	\$4,686,440.00
Jail Facility Door Lock Replacement	\$1,850,000.00
Jail Lobby / Lockers	\$2,200,000.00
Sheriff's Training Facility / Remodel	\$950,000.00
Upgrade Equipment for Sanitation / Hygiene	\$300,000.00
Tele-Medicine Equipment	\$250,000.00
Visitation Booth Remodel for Privacy and Security of Professional Visits	\$250,000.00
Hazardous Duty Pay	\$1,161,000.00
Office Cubicle Update & Safety Improvements	\$500,000.00
Overtime to Establish Services Back to Expected Level	\$200,000.00
Re-Deployment of School Resource Officers	\$125,000.00
Re-Deployment of Work Release Deputies	\$487,500.00
Video Court	\$26,000.00
Total	\$13,585,940.00

We will communicate all potential impacts to daily operations involving the public through press release and/or through our social media channels. Due to guidelines through the CARES Act we are required to complete all projects by the end of 2020. These projects will assist with meeting recommendations regarding movement of inmates between facilities, physical distancing measures for staff, inmates and contractors, and overall improvements in allowing a more safe environment.



Crime Prevention Tips

As stated in previous newsletters, please remember to keep your garage doors down when you are away from your residence. Most residential burglaries are opportunistic crime. A criminal doesn't have to use much effort to walk into open garages and possibly into your residence. Lock the man doors that go from garage into your residence during evening hours. Also remember to remove your automatic garage door opener remote, or at minimum, hide the remote somewhere in the vehicle where it cannot be seen from the outside. The best practice is to remove the remote if the vehicle is going to be left outside during odd hours. The Sheriff's Office is still experiencing a large amount of burglaries involving open garage doors, to include occurrences during daylight hours.

If your residence has exterior cameras installed, you can register your cameras with the Sheriff's Office at www.epsheriffsoffice.com under the Citizen Video Program tab. This informational tool provides deputies the opportunity to contact you and review your video footage to help establish suspect/vehicle information in the event there is a crime in your area. The CVP program has proven to be priceless in terms of helping solve crimes within neighborhoods or business districts. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to me, Mr. Brent Ambuehl, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Crime Prevention Coordinator at 719-520-7151 or brentambuehl@elpasoco.com.

Car burglaries (CTA) can be prevented by locking your car doors when you are away from your vehicle. Also, remember to take your valuables out of your car. Before you get to your destination, pull over and put your valuables in the trunk. Don't do this at your destination as criminals will watch for this and enter your vehicle and open the trunk to get those items. Like garage burglaries, the Sheriff's Office is still experiencing an increased number of cases regarding car burglaries with unlocked car doors. The Sheriff's Office is currently experiencing numerous car burglaries at hiking trail locations in District 1 and District 2 (Fox Run, Santa Fe Trail, Black Forest). PLEASE make sure your vehicle is locked and all valuables are removed from inside the vehicle, if possible.

Leave your porch and patio lights on during evening hours. Remember, a criminal doesn't want to get caught. By lighting up your residence and neighborhood, that might deter a burglar from coming to your neighborhood and make him or her choose to go to another neighborhood that is not well lit. The low energy LED exterior lights are great bulbs and last a long time.

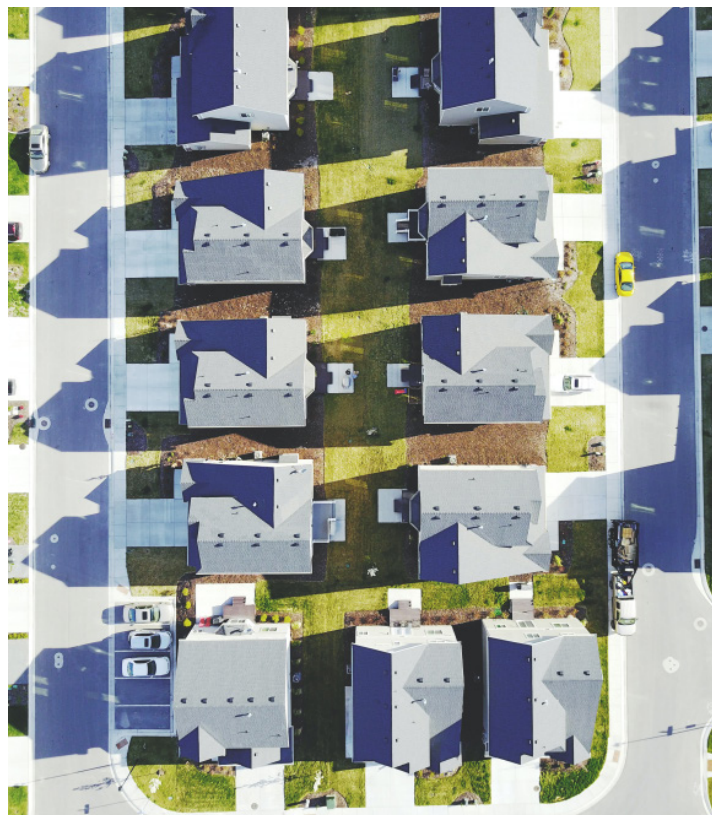
Place a security system sign in your front yard. Make sure it is visible for people to see from the street or as they approach. Have the sign lit with a cheap solar light for evening hours. Also, explore the options for video doorbells and exterior cameras. These technologies are priceless when it comes to

your safety and are extremely beneficial to law enforcement agencies when establishing suspect information or vehicle information involved in criminal activity.

****You can now go to the Community Crime Map which is a Lexis Nexis product to check the crime activity in your neighborhood or community. It will show the same numbers that I present at meetings with some limitations such as names, addresses, etc. for privacy reasons but it is a great snapshot of activity in your areas. You can also utilize the map in your travels if you plan on traveling out of state. This product is an excellent means of showing crime activity across the nation. ****

Schedule the Crime Prevention Coordinator to visit your residence and conduct a CPTED evaluation (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). This evaluation takes about 30 minutes and items evaluated are lights, locks, landscape, and security areas. This evaluation will provide you with "options to consider" to make your residence more secure and there is no charge for the evaluation. A CPTED evaluation is a free service offered to home residents and businesses by the Sheriff's Office.

HELP US HELP YOU BY CHOOSING NOT TO BECOME A VICTIM OF CRIME AND MAKING IT TOUGH FOR CRIMINALS TO COMMIT THEIR CRIMES.



Going on Vacation?

Going on vacation can sometimes be stressful. Let us help you relax a bit. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office provides a service in unincorporated El Paso County when Patrol Deputies or Citizen's Patrol volunteers are available. During these times, they will conduct directed patrol checks at your properties while you are away.

To participate please go to www.epcsheriffsoffice.com and under Services select Vacation Check Request Form.

Interested in learning more about the Sheriff's Office?

Are you interested in learning more about what the Sheriff's Office has to offer residents of Unincorporated El Paso County? Request a representative from one of our numerous units to come and speak with your group.

To participate please go to www.epcsheriffsoffice.com and under **Community** select **Speakers Bureau** and submit the Speaker Request.

Upcoming Events

- A separate email will be sent to all the block captains regarding any upcoming Coffee with a Cop events as numerous events have been cancelled.
- National Night Out has been cancelled for 2020. The Sheriff's Office is excited to support National Night Out in 2021.

Coffee with a Cop
Wednesday, July 8
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
The Pantry, 6980 Lake, Green Mountain Falls

FOR EMERGENCIES: DIAL 9-1-1

El Paso County Sheriff's Office Dispatch (non-emergency crime reporting): **390-5555**

EPSO Telephone Reporting System (for minor crimes without suspect information): **520-7111**

EPSO Traffic Hotline (for reporting problem areas or traffic violations): **520-7192**

EPSO Tip Line (for reporting suspicious activity or the location of wanted persons): **520-7777**

Always remember to report criminal activity or suspicious behavior promptly.

For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Coordinator: **520-7151**

Crimes in Your Neighborhood: Highlights From *March - June*

District 1

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	4
Burglaries	7
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	11
Thefts	45
Criminal Mischief	29

District 2

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	5
Burglaries	5
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	6
Thefts	23
Criminal Mischief	22

District 3

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	34
Burglaries	12
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	61
Thefts	99
Criminal Mischief	70

District 4

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	9
Burglaries	14
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	37
Thefts	84
Criminal Mischief	40

District 5

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	21
Burglaries	16
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	52
Thefts	84
Criminal Mischief	61

District 6

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	9
Burglaries	11
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	22
Thefts	34
Criminal Mischief	32

District 1—Woodmoor/Canterbury, Gleneagle, Kings Deer, Club Villas, Palmer Lake, Monument

District 7

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	15
Burglaries	12
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	11
Thefts	36
Criminal Mischief	27

District 8

Motor Vehicle Thefts (MVT)	3
Burglaries	0
Criminal Trespass Auto (CTA)	3
Thefts	7
Criminal Mischief	3

District 3—Cimarron Hills, Constitution Hills, Claremont Ranch, Park Vista & Siefert

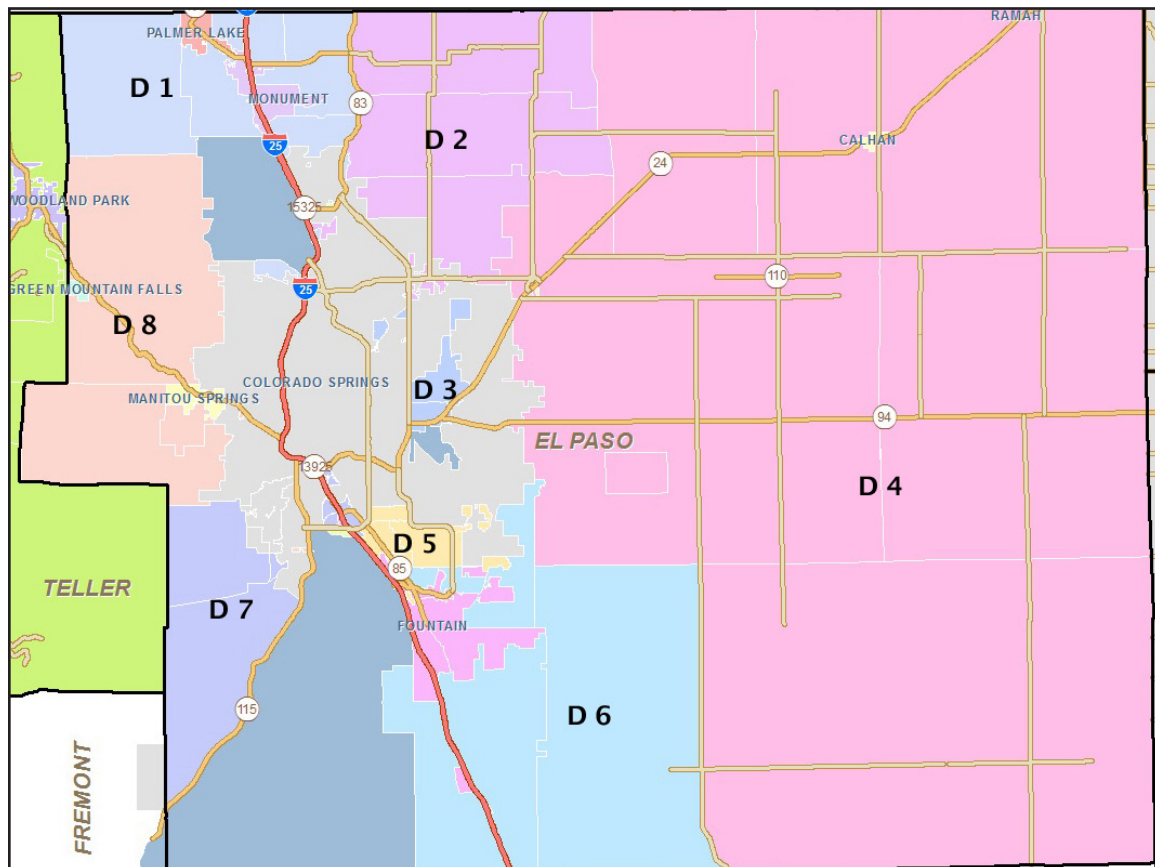
District 4—Woodmen Hills, Falcon, areas east of Meridian Road

District 5—Security, Fountain Valley, Colorado Centre, Clearview Estates, Southmoor

District 6—Widefield and Little Ranches area

District 7—Stratmoor Valley, Stratmoor Hills, B Street, Hwy 115

District 8—West Colorado Avenue, Ute Pass, Green Mountain Falls, Cascade, Rampart Range



****The above statistics reflect the various assigned Sheriff's Office districts and furthermore illustrate a "snapshot" into what the Sheriff's Office is experiencing across El Paso County. If you are interested in individual neighborhoods or areas, please contact Mr. Brent Ambuehl, Criminal Intelligence Unit, Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office at (719) 520-7151 or email at brentambuehl@elpasoco.com for more specific information. You can also utilize the Community Crime Map from Lexis Nexis to provide a snapshot of the criminal activity in your neighborhood or community. The map can be accessed at www.communitycrimemap.com****