



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

June 5, 2019

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Situational Awareness



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Situational awareness is important for recognizing criminal behavior and other dangerous situations. Bad things happen, even here in Maple Valley. It's vital for each of us to take responsibility for our own personal security and watch out for our family and our neighbors. Unfortunately the police cannot be everywhere and stop every criminal action.

For example, in surrounding communities recently, there has been an uptrend on purse snatching. **What are purse thieves looking for?**

A purse or wallet;

- Draped on the back of a chair or on the floor beside you
- Sticking out of a purse
- Sitting in a shopping cart as you turn your back
- You set it down on a table or counter
- Unattended in a dressing room or office space
- In a coat or dangling on a coat rack
- Inside a vehicle, in plain sight! This picture was taken by a MV officer last week. The vehicle was parked at one of our local stores.



Be Aware of Your Surroundings

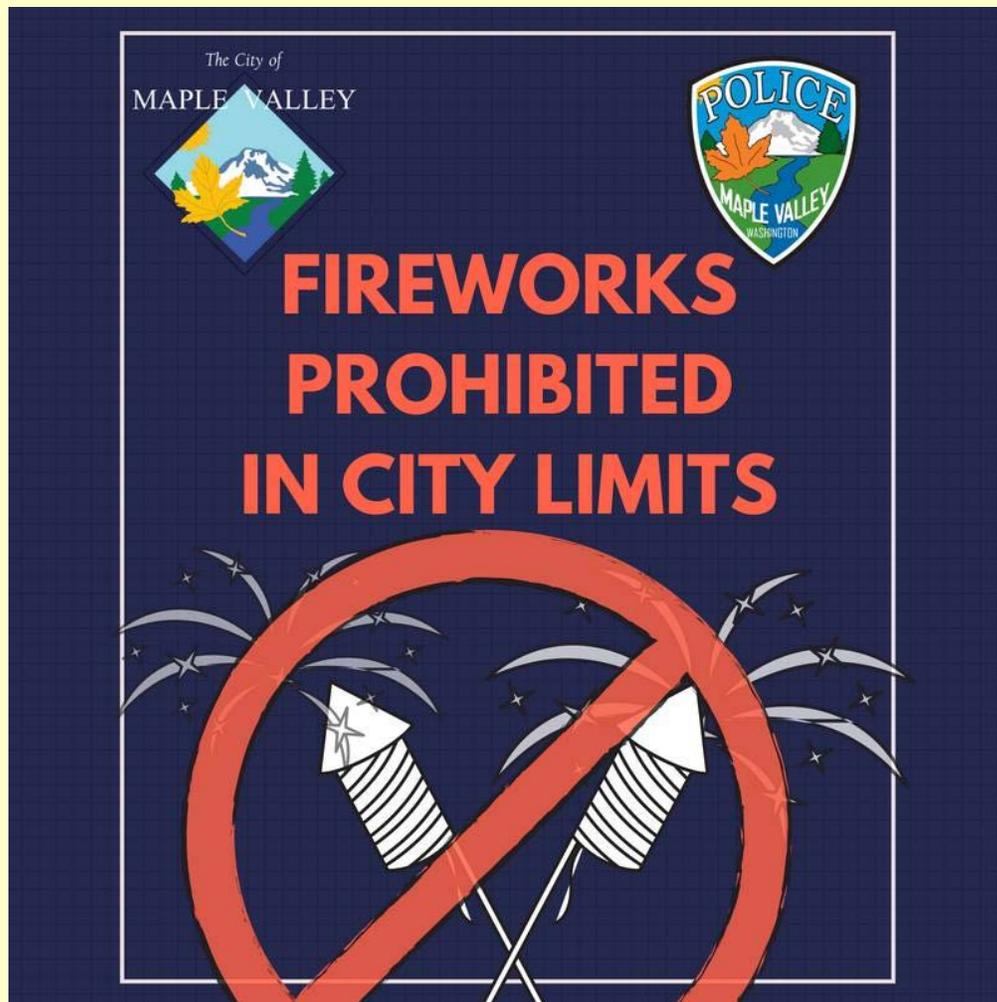
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We're constantly surrounded by distractions in this day and age and for that reason it can be very valuable to focus on the now and the people around you. Whether you're traveling this summer for vacation or walking on Lake Wilderness Trail, an important facet of the mindset of situational awareness is learning to trust your "gut" or intuition. Keep an eye out for odd behavior. Many times a person's subconscious can notice signs of danger that the conscious mind has difficulty quantifying or articulating. The discipline part of practicing situational awareness refers to the conscious effort required to pay attention to gut feelings and to surrounding events even while you are busy and or distracted. "Presence of Mind" means to be present, to be spontaneous, and to be available to what is happening right now. It's similar to defensive driving. You're in a relaxed state but are also watching the other cars on the road and looking for potential hazards.

Please do not hesitate to call 911 or the 24/7 non-emergency number (206-296-3311) to report any suspicious or out-of-the-ordinary activity. Your phone call could potentially prevent a crime or help solve one!

You may be interested in this YouTube video on "How to Develop Situational Awareness"; <https://youtu.be/ihJCfuZfoT8>





Background

In November 2015, the Maple Valley City Council asked its citizens for an advisory vote regarding the banning of fireworks. A majority of voters voted in favor of the ban. The Council followed the voters' direction and passed a City Ordinance making it illegal to sell, possess, purchase or discharge fireworks within the City limits of Maple Valley. By law, the Ordinance took one-year to take effect, which occurred on December 15th, 2016. For more information, please visit;

<https://www.maplevalleywa.gov/home/showdocument?id=14747>

Maple Valley Family 4th

The City of Maple Valley's Community fireworks show at Lake Wilderness Park each 4th of July will continue, and we encourage our citizens, young and old, to come and enjoy this safe, family friendly event.



As a victim of crime your safety is important to us. When you report a crime it could bring the person who committed the crime to justice. It can also help to prevent further crimes and protect others from becoming victims, in addition to possibly help solve your case or another case.

All crimes and anti-social behavior have a negative effect and reporting them can help the problem be addressed. The information we collect also assists us in directing our extra patrols in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for your neighborhood.

You can file your non-emergent police report online

The Maple Valley Police contracts police services with the King County Sheriff's Office and offers the option of filing your non-emergent police report online. This option is available for citizens who live in Unincorporated King County or in any of the participating cities the King County Sheriff's Office provides police services for. When you file your qualifying report using our website, once it has been approved you will be able to print a copy of your report absolutely free!

You May File Online If The Crime:

- Is not an emergency
- Is not in-progress
- Occurred in Unincorporated King County or within city limits of participating agencies
- There are no known suspects
- No evidence was left behind
- This did not occur on a freeway
- Did not occur on Metro or Sound Transit
- You are the victim of the crime
- You have a valid email address

Reports may be filed in English, Cambodian, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Online reporting is available at: www.ReportToSheriff.org

If your crime does not meet the requirements listed above, please call (206) 296-3311 so they may help you with your report.

Stay informed on what is going on in your neighborhood!

[Crime Statistics](#)