



# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

March 12, 2020

MAPLE VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
22017 SE WAX RD, PO BOX 320, MAPLE VALLEY, WA 98038  
<http://www.maplevalleywa.gov/departments-services/police-department>  
[policeinfo@maplevalleywa.gov](mailto:policeinfo@maplevalleywa.gov)

## Tips on How to Prevent Vehicle Thefts

Most reports indicate that there are approximately 770,000 vehicles stolen in the United States each year. That's one vehicle every 41 seconds! A majority of thieves use the stolen vehicle to commit other crimes then abandoned them, usually not returned to the owner in the greatest condition. In most cases, your insurance will cover the loss and or damage. With that said, if you are practicing poor habits such as leaving your keys in the car or letting your car "warm-up" in the driveway, some insurance companies won't pay out for the owner's negligence.

More than half of the vehicle thefts are preventable. Please consider these vehicle owner tips;

-  NEVER leave your vehicle with the engine running, even in your very own driveway
-  Never leave the keys in the vehicle, no matter where it's parked.
-  *Whether you leave your car for a moment or for several hours, ALWAYS lock it and take the keys with you*
-  Never hide an extra key inside or outside of your vehicle
-  Consider installing an audible alarm system
-  Consider using a visible device such as a steering-wheel lock
-  Consider installing a GPS or tracking system
-  Keep a copy of your registration filed away

Be sure to contact police immediately to file a stolen vehicle report (206-296-3311). Take a few moments to be sure that your car wasn't towed. Give the dispatcher as much information as you can; the license plate number, color, make, & model of your vehicle, the vehicle identification number (VIN) and any identifying characteristics i.e., stickers, damage, or anything unique that stands out, or if it has a tracking system installed. While you shouldn't be keeping any valuables in your vehicle, be prepared to give detailed information about any items you may have forgotten to take out.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PREVENT VEHICLE  
THEFTS

PLEASE STAY  
HEALTHY

City of Maple Valley  
COVID-19 update



P.O. Box 320 • 22017 SE Wax Road, Suite 200 • Maple Valley, WA 98038

Phone: (425) 413-8800 • Fax: (425) 413-4282

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Contact: Jennifer Cusmir, Communications Specialist  
Phone: 425-413-8800  
Email: [jennifer.cusmir@maplevalleywa.gov](mailto:jennifer.cusmir@maplevalleywa.gov)

#### **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update**

**Maple Valley, Wash. – March 12, 2020** – On March 11, Governor Jay Inslee ordered the prohibition of gatherings of more than 250 people in King County and other western Washington counties. In addition, Dr. Jeff Duchin, Health Officer for Public Health – Seattle & King County, issued a parallel local Health Order for King County to prohibit gatherings of fewer than 250 people unless measures are taken by event organizers to minimize the risk of exposure to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

#### **Why this Health Officer Order was issued**

COVID-19 is spreading in King County, with hundreds of cases having been reported to date. It is expected the case county will double every 5-7 days. The public health approach is focusing on community mitigation to slow the spread of COVID-19. **The City of Maple Valley is taking the following steps, effective immediately through March 31, 2020, to help:**

- Canceling all City Council, Board, Commission, and Committee meetings
- Canceling non-essential meetings hosted at indoor facilities, including, but not limited to, the Community Police Academy, Maple Valley Explorer meetings, project open houses, and construction project meetings
- Closing Lake Wilderness Lodge to the public (City Hall will remain open)
- Implementing social distancing for staff at City Hall and in Public Works and Parks Maintenance (i.e. limiting contact of people within 6 feet from each other for 10 minutes or longer)

#### **Maple Valley Parks & Recreation Status**

- All indoor recreation programs, classes, and rentals are canceled, effective immediately through March 31, 2020.

#### **Lake Wilderness Golf Course Status**

- Will remain open as it is outside and small groups are not in close contact

- The Clubhouse restaurant will remain open and will follow the restaurant guidelines provided by Public Health – Seattle & King County

**Public Health is recommending the following steps:**

People at higher risk of severe illness should stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible, including public places with lots of people and large gatherings where there will be close contact with others. People at higher risk include:

- People 60 and older
- People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
- People who have weakened immune systems
- People who are pregnant

Workplaces should enact measures that allow people who can work from home to do so. Taking these measures can help reduce the number of workers who come into contact with COVID-19 and help minimize absenteeism due to illness

We all have people in our lives who are high-risk. We all are one mishap away from needing access to a functioning hospital. We all have a lot at stake.

Giving up social events will not be easy, and the impacts on businesses and jobs may be significant. But this is our best chance to save lives. It is in support of the most vulnerable in our community, and a protection for everyone.

The more united we can be in preventing the spread – be in this together – the greater the benefit for the whole community.

All people should not go out when they are sick.

Avoid visiting hospitals, long term care facilities, or nursing homes to the extent possible. If you need to go, limit your time there and keep six feet away from patients.

For more information contact Shaunna Lee-Rice, City Clerk/Emergency Management at 425-431-8800 or [Shaunna.leerice@maplevalleywa.gov](mailto:Shaunna.leerice@maplevalleywa.gov).

###