

The Ventura County Sheriff's Department would like to thank the beach residents for their continued support and efforts to help fight crime. We now have over two hundred and thirty five residents and business owners enrolled in this program.

There has been a recent increase of reported thefts and burglaries from vehicles and residences in Hollywood Beach and Silverstrand. In the past few weeks, unlocked vehicles and residences in Hollywood Beach have been burglarized during the early morning hours.

The following are a few steps that every person can take to avoid becoming a victim; first, always lock and secure your vehicles and residences. It only takes a minute or two for a thief to enter and remove property.

Second, don't leave valuables (purses, wallets, laptops, GPS systems, gift-shopping bags, briefcases-to name a few) in your vehicles, especially in plain view from outside the vehicle. Thieves are opportunistic and will victimize you if you give them the chance.

If you do become a victim of theft, you can be further victimized through identity theft, which can be a nightmare to reverse. A suggestion to assist you if you do become an identity theft victim is to have the account numbers of all your credit cards and financial accounts in a safe location. Also, have the phone numbers for your financial account fraud department available to call as soon as possible after a theft.

Typically thieves who steal credit / debit cards will use those within minutes or hours of the theft. The card is no use to them once you discover and report the crime. When you make contact with your financial institution about the theft, we recommend you ask several crucial questions; Where was the card used (including store name, or store number for large chains or gas stations), the amount charged, date of charge, time of charge, transaction number associated, and any other information. Be persistent as YOU are the cardholder and entitled to this information.

If possible, supply any information to a responding patrol deputy when you file a police report. This information is time sensitive for detectives to follow up and contact businesses for video surveillance and other evidence. Any online account statements documenting the fraudulent purchases are also useful.

As always, do not hesitate to report all suspicious people and vehicles to the Sheriff's Department as soon as possible. If you wish to speak

with a deputy, report a crime, or report suspicious activity, please telephone the Sheriff's Department at 805-654-9511. If you have an emergency, call 911.

If you know of residents or associates in your community who would like to sign up for SCAN, please forward this email with the link to our address.

To sign up, send an email to our address;
venturasheriff.beaches@ventura.org

In the subject line, please type "SIGN ME UP." You will then be automatically enrolled in the program.

Thank you for your interest and partnership in helping to keep your community safe and free of crime.

Ventura County Sheriff's Department
Headquarters Station