

# The Palm Valley Review

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## Halloween Safety Tips For Parents & Kids

As everyone knows, Palm Valley is a hot spot for trick-or-treaters! Let's work together as a community to keep everyone safe this Halloween! *FYI - The entrance to Bellino from Dilworth will be closed during peak hours.*



### Top Safety Tips For Drivers:

- **Slow down** in the community. Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- **Be especially alert** and take extra time to look out for kids. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- **Reduce any distractions** inside your car, such as talking on your cell phone or eating.

### Top Safety Tips For Kids:

- **Costumes can be both creative and safe.** Make sure your kid's costumes can be seen by drivers. Use reflective tape and try to choose light colors. Masks can obstruct your vision. Carry glow sticks or flashlights so you can see better, as well as be seen by drivers.
- **Cross the street safely.** Look left, right and left again and keep looking as you cross.
- **Put electronic devices down**, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- **Walk facing traffic** as far to the left as possible.
- **Slow down & stay alert** - Watch out for cars. Don't dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
- **Make eye contact.** Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers.
- **Check treats before eating.**

### Top Safety Tips For Homeowners:

- **Pick up objects** in yard, sidewalk or driveway that could create safety issues.
- **Think "trick or treat safety" when decorating.** Real candles can be a fire hazard.
- **Keep your house & walkways well-lit and inviting.** If participating in the festivities, be sure kids can see clearly on the way to your front door.
- **Secure your pets!** Pets can become frightened or territorial and aggressive.
- **Kindly remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters** and kids to watch for vehicles.

To ensure a safe night for everyone, there will be eight officers working the night of Halloween. We ask residents who will be participating in the festivities to contact the PD at 873-1500 regarding any issues they may encounter that night. We will do our best to keep traffic flowing and we would like to offer the following suggestions:

- If you are NOT going to be giving out candy, leave your porch lights OFF
- If you are handing out candy, once you run out, turn OFF your porch lights
- Some residents residing on cul-de-sacs have opted to join forces and set-up tables at the entrance of the cul-de-sac off Palm Valley Drive. This helps greatly because vehicles do not have to travel down the cul-de-sac and traffic does not have to become congested due to vehicles trying to turn around.

**Beautification Committee of Palm Valley ~ Keith Fox & Tom Mason**  
chose October's Yard of the Month winners. Take a drive around the circle to 301 Palm Valley Drive East where Toni & Phil Lindsay live. They have a very large lot with a variety of fruit trees ad native plants. The Lindsay's will be choosing November's winner so be on the lookout as it could be your yard!



This month, the Beautification Committee chose an additional yard for Best Halloween Décor. This was awarded to Espie & James Whitis who live at 5522 Brazos Circle. The Whitis' started decorating 10 years ago. They have always enjoyed decorating for the holidays. Congrats!

### **FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

In September, the City Council approved a volunteer reserve police officer program. We currently have three reserve police officers added to the force. The addition will assist with nightly patrols.

The simplest of preventative measures have been found to have the most effect in reducing crime. Though some still question this, it is a fact. Ensuring your vehicles are locked, hiding your valuable items, ensuring your driveways and yards are well lit, etc. are all effective ways to reduce your chance of being a victim.

There was mention on "Next Door" about the CPTED concept. CPTED stands for "Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design". As your police chief, I became certified in the CPTED philosophy in 2012 and will be attending the Advanced CPTED course next week. Since 2012, we as a department and the City as a whole have attempted to make needed changes and improvements which could potentially lead to a reduction in crime by utilizing the CPTED concept.

One example was the police department's suggestion that the entire east and south sides of Palm Valley be fenced. At an expense to the City, we identified those areas where fencing was needed and had fencing installed, thus closing off easy access to those wanting to enter for illegal means.

We also identified a lack of lighting on Dilworth Road which was aiding the criminal element. We proceeded to work with AEP and installed many additional lights along our jurisdictional boundary on Dilworth, ensuring this area is well-lighted in the nighttime hours.

Another project has been the street lighting project within the City. We identified the "darker" areas within the City and have a strategic plan to install more street lights over the next few years. Eight new street lights have been installed so far this year with two pending. Five to ten additional lights will be installed every year over the next few years.

The next step is to have residents help with their properties. CPTED at your residence involves adequate and proper lighting; the layout, type, and dimensions of vegetation surrounding your homes, and other inexpensive protective measures everyone can benefit from.

As a service to the community, I can come to your residence and assess/evaluate your property under the CTPED concept and provide you with recommendations on issues of lighting, vegetation, etc. These recommendations would be easy and inexpensive ways to safeguard your properties and help in the "target hardening" of areas that can be victimized.

Respectfully - **Alvaro Garcia - Police Chief**

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH** – The first meeting at City Hall was held Thursday, October 21st. There were 17 citizens in attendance which included the Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, councilmembers and resident law enforcement agents. The idea is to set up “quadrants” in Palm Valley where Neighborhood Watch



groups would be established. Great ideas were presented by Chief Garcia who ran the meeting and gave out very informative handouts. Many residents had great suggestions and most were more than willing to “step-up” and contribute. Mr. Geane Gill, who has been a resident in Palm Valley for over 30 years, mentioned a time way back when crime here was a weekly occurrence. He further commented that “this is the best Police Department we’ve ever had.” With that being said, as residents of Palm Valley, we all need to work together as a community. *Do you know your neighbor?* If not, take the time and introduce yourself to those who live around you. There is tremendous strength in unity! The Faxon’s have graciously volunteered to head up this program on behalf of the citizens. You can contact Cheryl & Dick on NextDoor or give them a call (956)244-2862. We ask all concerned residents who want to make a positive difference to attend the informational meeting which is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm at HCC. Program details will be explained.

***“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”***

**SPECIAL INVITATION** from a citizen, David Osborne, Sergeant with Harlingen PD and owner of Borderland Security. “I would like to extend a special invitation to the residents of Palm Valley interested in getting their Texas Concealed Handgun License. This course entails 4 hours of required classroom training and approximately 1 hour of range time. The classes are held at the Bass Pro Shops in Uncle Bucks Fish Bowl. The course training fee is typically \$135.00 per student, but for residents of Palm Valley, I will offer a special rate of \$100.00. Once the course is completed, the student must pay the state licensing fee (which varies from 140.00 to free depending on the state fee schedule).

I will offer this special rate for the **November 15th class only**. Residents who decide to take my course can use the coupon code: **PV2014**. This code will automatically reduce the class rate by \$35.00. For those who need to learn how to shoot a handgun, I have added my link below for Handgun 101 training held on November 1, 2014. The fee for the 101 course is also \$100.00.

Choosing the right training provider is important. Bass Pro Shops chose Borderland Security to be their exclusive firearms trainer for the Harlingen store. Their confidence in our company is detailed by the extensive knowledge of firearms and training experience detailed below:

David Osborne – President/Lead Instructor

After service in the US Army as a Reconnaissance Scout, I joined the Harlingen Police Department and currently serve as a Sergeant responsible for Internal Affairs and the Training files of 140 police officers. With over 16 years of law enforcement experience, I have served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Training Coordinator and Public Information Officer, Public Integrity Supervisor, and Internal Affairs Supervisor. My experience as the department Training Coordinator provides me a unique opportunity to train local enforcement officers and civilians alike. My training Credentials Include:

- TCOLE Advanced Instructor
- TCOLE Firearms Instructor
- TEEEX Rifle Instructor
- Texas DPS CHL Instructor
- NRA Handgun/Shotgun Instructor
- TASER Instructor
- Pepper Spray Instructor
- DDACTS Subject Matter Expert

I proudly serve as an active member of the International Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association (IALEFI) and as a Life Member of the National Rifle Association. Currently, I am in the process of being certified as a CPTED adviser from the National Institute of Crime Prevention.

For Concealed Handgun Class information visit our site: <http://borderlandsecurity.com/events/concealed-carry-course-15/>  
To register for our upcoming Handgun 101 course choose this link:<http://borderlandsecurity.com/events/handgun-101-9/>

## MOSQUITO CONTROL

Palm Valley has been spraying in an effort to reduce the mosquito population. With the continued rain, these pesky insects have continued to produce! You can help by emptying standing water, keeping grass cut and brush picked up. Reminder – The City does not offer brush collection services.

**NEW ORDINANCE – Reflective gear required, even for FIDO!** All persons, including pets, exercising in Palm Valley from sunset to sunrise will be required to wear reflective material or display safety lights on their person or bike visible from both the front and back. There will be a 30 day period of time to educate all, including those who do not live in Palm Valley after which, a citation may be assessed as a Class C Misdemeanor as designated by the State of Texas.

## STAY INFORMED! JOIN NEXTDOOR!

It's a free, private neighborhood network. Find out what's happening in Palm Valley's community and Wildwood Subdivision. You will find posts for upcoming events, lost & found items/pets, safety subjects, recommendations, items for sale, etc... Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and sign up! City administration recently joined for the purpose of using Nextdoor as a communication outlet. This will allow the City to relay important information to citizens quickly and effectively. If an issue arises where immediate action is necessary or important information needs to be shared, you must call City Hall or the Police Department.

**AUTOMATIC PAY** is available! We'd like to encourage anyone interested in automatic pay for their water bill to please stop by City Hall and fill out a simple form. This would help reduce disconnect and reconnect fees for some properties. It's easy and will save you time!

**NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS!** The city is now accepting payments via credit card. There is a 4% 'convenience' fee for every transaction. Credit cards are accepted for payment of water bills, traffic citations, garage sale permits, building permits, contractor registrations and other miscellaneous payments to the City. VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and debit cards are accepted. The City continues to encourage its residents to sign up for automatic debit payments from their checking accounts for the payment of water bills. Forms are available at City Hall.

We thank all the concerned citizens who attended our October meeting.  
Again, we invite you to attend all City Council meetings at City Hall. The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for November 18th @ 5:00 pm.

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### THE COUNCIL

Mayor: John Cutney

Mayor Pro-Tem: John Widger

Councilmembers: Joe Jones, Julie C Martin,  
Angela Wolf and Debe Wright

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City Hall / Muni Court 423-8384

Police Dept 873-1500

Water Services 423-4040

City Website: [www.palmvalleytx.com](http://www.palmvalleytx.com)

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Sign up  
now!

### Quote of the month:

Without civic morality communities perish; without personal morality their survival has no value.

~ Bertrand Russell