



NEIGHBORHOOD

WATCH



Andy Hall
Chief of Police

NEWSLETTER

November / December 2004

POLICE BUSINESS 898-3315
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EXT.590

GRAFFITI REMOVAL 898-2876
CODE ENFORCEMENT 898-3311

NEW CHILD SAFETY LAWS

A new child restraint law pertaining to child safety seats passed and will be enforced starting January of 2005. The new law (AB 1697) written by Assemblywoman Fran Pavely is targeted at protecting young children from injuries related to crashes while riding in the front of a motor vehicle, especially those related to the force of front seat activated air bags.

Under existing California law, a parent or legal guardian when present in a motor vehicle, must secure all children who are less than 6 years of age, or weight less than 60 pounds in a child restrain system (child safety seat, booster, car bed, or harness) that meets federal standards. In addition, the new law will require a child or ward under the age of 6 years or who weighs less than 60 pounds to be secured in a child passenger safety restraint system in the **rear seat** of a motor vehicle. **This means that all children, who are both less than 6 years old and less than 60 pounds, must be properly restrained in a child passenger seat in the rear seat of a motor vehicle.** The law does allow for certain exceptions if the vehicle does not have rear seats, the child restraint cannot be properly installed in the rear seat, medical reasons, or if all rear seating positions are in use by children under age 12. A first offense base fine will be \$100, and a second or subsequent offense fine will be \$250. Although the new law will not be enforced until January of 2005, parents and caregivers are encouraged to start placing children under the age of 6 who weigh less than 60 pounds in a child passenger restrain system in the **rear seat** of the motor vehicle.

The new law is meant to help decrease death and injury to children while riding in motor vehicles. Statistically speaking, children are safest when riding in the back seat. AAA, as well as the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, recommends that all children age 12 and under be properly restrained in the back seat. Research shows that placing

children in the back seat reduces the chance of injury or death by as much as 30%, regardless of whether the vehicle has a passenger air bag. When possible, children should be placed in the center of the back seat. This seating position puts children farthest away from a possible side impact crash.

MAKING SCHOOLS SAFER

Things you can do

Help prevent school violence and make your child's school safer with this starter list of ideas.

1. Take an active role in your child's school. Talk regularly with teachers, staff, and other caregivers. Volunteer in the classroom or library, or after-school activities. Work with parent-teacher-student organizations. Getting involved will help you better understand the school's strengths and weaknesses, as well as how you can help change occur.
2. Find out what is already being done at your child's school. Try to learn more about the school's overall approach to safety and security. Does the school address ways to prevent as well as respond to violence and other crimes? How is safety addressed throughout the school – in the cafeteria, hallways, locker rooms, classrooms, etc.?
3. Get organized. Does your child's school already have a safety committee? Is it concerned with preventing as well as responding to crimes? If so, join. If your school doesn't have such a group, ask the principal how you can work together to organize one.
4. Make it clear that you support school policies and rules that help create and sustain a safe place for all students to learn. If your child feels a rule is wrong, discuss his or her reasons and what approach might work better.
5. Listen to and talk with your children regularly. Bullying, fist fights, and shoving are the most common safety and security issues kids face at school; theft is the most common school crime. Ask your child what problems and concerns he or she has. They may bring up small problems that you can help your child solve without involving school officials.
6. Find time for two-way conversations with your children—lots of listening, no lecturing. Try to make this kind of communication a daily habit, not a reaction to crisis. Help your child learn how to identify and solve problems. Kids who know how to approach a problem and resolve it effectively are less likely to be angry, frustrated or violent.
7. Communicate your standards clearly. Explain that you won't tolerate violent behavior. Discuss what violence is and is not. Discourage name-calling and teasing.

These behaviors often escalate into fistfights (or worse). Whether the teaser is violent or not, the victim may see violence as the only way to stop it.

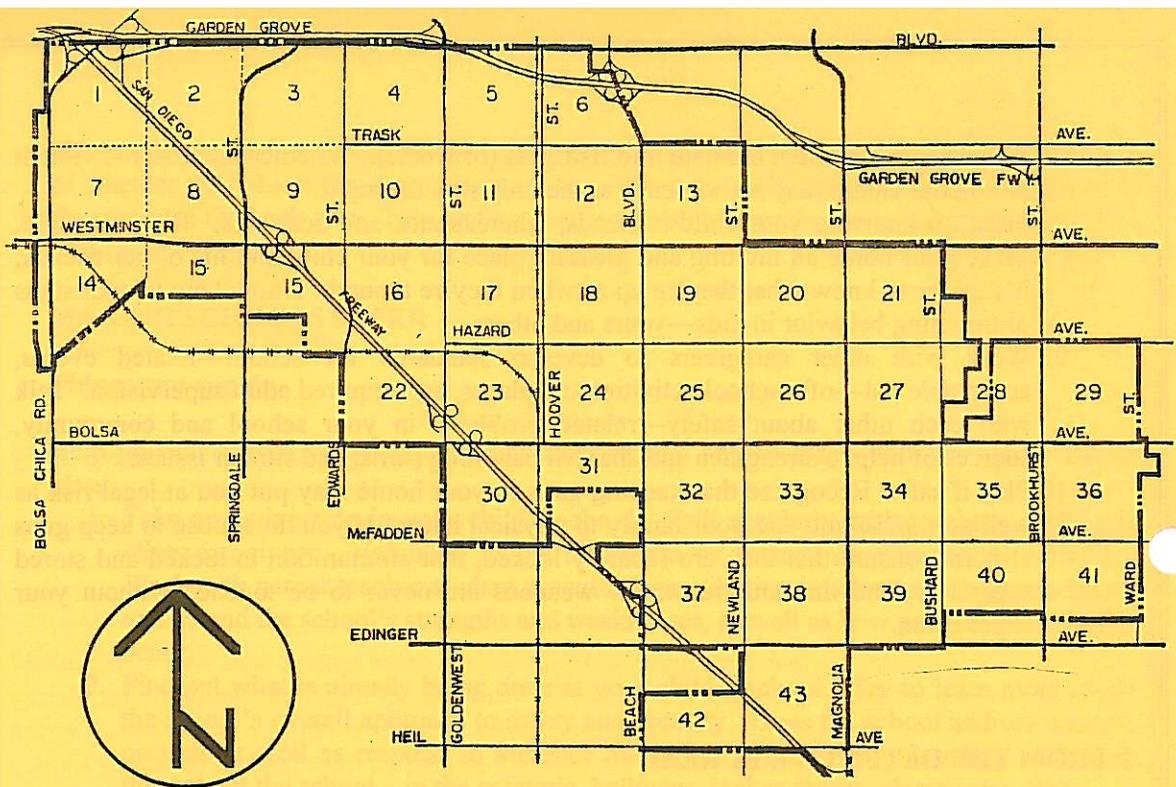
8. Insist on knowing your child's friends, whereabouts, and activities. It's your right. Make your home an inviting and pleasant place for your child and his or her friends; it's easier to know what they're up to when they're around. Know how to spot signs of troubling behavior in kids—yours and others.
9. Work with other caregivers to develop standards for school—related events, acceptable out—of—school activities and places, and required adult supervision. Talk with each other about safety—related problems in your school and community, sources of help to strengthen and sharpen parenting skills, and similar issues.
10. Play it safe. Recognize that keeping guns in your home may put you at legal risk as well as expose you and your family to physical harm. If you do choose to keep guns at home, ensure that they are securely locked, that ammunition is locked and stored separately, and that children know weapons are never to be touched without your supervision.

FROM THE DETECTIVE BUREAU

Hello. My name is Derek Marsh, and I am the Lieutenant in charge of the Detective Bureau at the police department. Attached to this Neighborhood Watch Newsletter is a copy of a flyer developed by the Detective Bureau in order to address general issues of citizen concern when they are victims of crimes. A person's role as a victim is addressed, as well as preventive measures for the future, and a brief overview of how investigations are run. This flyer is one part of a Victim Outreach approach we are developing in the Detective Bureau to ensure victims of crimes in Westminster are consistently contacted and, when appropriate, provided resources to help them deal with the aftermath of a criminal event. The flyer will be translated into Vietnamese and Spanish, once the final draft is complete.

I am asking for your feedback on this flyer, to ensure we are addressing the issues a victim will immediately perceive as important. Your suggestions will be used to create the final flyer, as well as influence how follow-up contacts will be made to victims by detectives. To provide suggestions and feedback in reference to the flyer, you can contact PSO Ken Edwards at 714-898-3315 ext. 590. Thank you very much for your support.

**FROM ALL OF US AT THE WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPT.
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON**



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

| AREA | SEPT. | OCT. | YTD | LAST YEAR | AREA | SEPT | OCT | YTD | LAST YEAR | AREA | SEPT | OCT | YTD | LAST YEAR |
|------|-------|------|-----|-----------|------|------|-----|-----|-----------|------|------|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 6 | 31 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 16 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 33 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 11 |
| 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 34 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 17 |
| 6 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 36 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 7 |
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 21 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 7 | 37 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 8 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| 9 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 39 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| 10 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| 11 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 27 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 12 | 41 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| 12 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 28 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 6 | 42 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 13 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 29 | 3 | 0 | 16 | 7 | 43 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| 14 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 30 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 2 | | | | | |

TOTAL BURGLARIES

TIME OF OCCURRENCE

| | TOTAL | FORCED | NO FORCE | DAYTIME | NIGHTTIME | UNK |
|---------------|-------|--------|----------|---------------|-----------|-----|
| SEPT. | 36 | 11 | 25 | SEPT. | 21 | 8 |
| OCT. | 26 | 13 | 13 | OCT. | 20 | 3 |
| YEAR TO DATE: | 234 | 104 | 140 | YEAR TO DATE: | 159 | 41 |
| | | | | | | 34 |

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