

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Good neighbors are the primary reason that neighborhood watch programs work!

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 4

JULY / AUGUST 2007

Summer Safety

All year we dream about sunny days at the beach or the mountains, or even a relaxing week by the pool. And now that vacation time is here, you can keep it fun-filled and relaxed with a little forethought to safety. By thinking ahead, you can avoid potential minor emergencies.

To have a safe and fun summer vacation whether at home or on the road, consider the following tips:

- Emphasize safety when lighting the home grill, and be prepared for minor fires or burns.
- Sleepy drivers cause at least 100,000 car accidents and more than 1,500 fatal crashes each year. Ask someone else to drive or pull over and take a break. Exercise good judgment.
- **ALWAYS buckle up** (yourself and your passengers).
- **Don't drink and drive.**
- Observe pool safety: no running, no glass containers, no diving in shallow areas, no swimming alone and wear sunscreen.
- Be prepared to treat insect bites and stings, sunburns and other minor cuts and scrapes.



- Drink plenty of water and avoid dehydration. Avoid physical activity and yard work during the hotter hours of the day - (2 to 4 p.m.). Wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
- Observe boat and water safety. Always wear a life jacket.
- If biking, in-line skating or riding a motorized bike, wear a helmet, protective eyewear and other appropriate protective equipment.
- Make sure your home playgrounds are safe. The main cause of playground injuries are falls, so having a safe surface is critical. Wood chips or mulch are recommended for surfaces rather than concrete or packed dirt.
- **Never leave children in hot cars!** Temperatures inside cars can increase considerably, causing heat stroke—or even death—within a very short time.
- Spend some time explaining your expectations for any time that your children are unsupervised. Establish a regular schedule of "check-in calls" in which your child calls you to let you know how and what he/she is doing.

Just a few summer safety guidelines to keep your precious vacation days safe and carefree!

**ANDREW HALL, CHIEF OF POLICE
CITY OF WESTMINSTER
SERVICE WITH INTEGRITY**



Closing the Door on Crime—Tips for Protecting Your Home



Your home is your castle - - don't let it be a target for criminals. Remember that:

- **Most intruders seek easy targets.** They want to get in quickly and unseen. The harder you make it for them, the lower your risk of break-in.

Home security starts at the door.

- **Install sturdy doors, door frames and hardware.** Solid wood or steel-reinforced doors offer much more protection than hollow-core wooden doors. Frames and hardware must be strong, too.
- **Use deadbolt locks.** They can't be "popped" the way spring-latch locks can. Don't use chain locks. They offer little protection and can give you a false sense of security.
- **Install a peephole.** ALWAYS know who's on the other side of your door before you open it. Don't rely on a chain.
- **Secure sliding glass doors.** Place a steel rod in the track. You can also drill a hole through the upper part of the slider and track. Then, insert a sturdy nail, bolt or screw. (Be sure you can remove it easily.)

Always keep your doors locked—even when you're home.

Westminster Police Department
8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683
Emergencies Call 911
Business Hours: Sunday- Saturday 7:00a.m. – 7:00p.m.
Website: www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police

Don't give criminals a "window of opportunity."

- **Install key locks** on the window sashes. (Make sure everyone can get to the keys in case of an emergency.) Make sure standard window locks close properly and are firmly attached to the window frame.
- **Consider window pegs** if you don't use key locks. Drill a hole at a downward angle where the sashes overlap. Insert a nail or peg. (Be sure you can remove the peg easily.)

Use lighting and landscaping to make your home's surroundings unattractive to burglars, vandals, and other criminals.

- **Position outdoor lights carefully.** Position them out of reach so bulbs can't be easily broken or unscrewed. Aim lights at garage and shed doors, entryways and ground-level windows.
- **Consider different types of lights.**
For example:
 - Motion sensor floodlights turn on when a person or object moves past them.
 - Photoelectric lights automatically turn on at dusk and off at dawn.
- **Keep plants trimmed.** Overgrown bushes can cover windows and doorways, giving burglars a hiding place. Prune trees with limbs that could provide easy access to upper floors.
- **Plant thorny bushes under windows.** They can help keep intruders away.
- **Consider an alarm system.** It can offer extra protection, especially for people who live alone, are away often or have lots of valuables.

There's a lot you can do to protect your home from crime—and give yourself some peace of mind!

Police Line: 714-898-3315
Traffic Division Ext. 339
Records Bureau Ext. 371
Neighborhood Watch Ext. 590
Code Enforcement 714-893-3311
Graffiti Removal 714-895-2876



Curfew for Minors

Most children probably have heard the word “curfew” before. Perhaps you have instituted a curfew in your home. Did you know that the government can also enforce a curfew for young people? Curfews help keep kids safe and protected.

The City of Westminster has the following Curfew Ordinance (9.70.010 W.M.C.):

It is unlawful for any minor under the age of eighteen years to loiter, idle, wander, stroll or play in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alley, parks, playgrounds or other public buildings, places of amusement and entertainment, vacant lot or other unsupervised places, or trespass on private property between the hours of ten o'clock p.m. (10:00 p.m.) and six o'clock a.m. (6:00 a.m.) of the following day; provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to a minor accompanied by an adult person having the lawful care and custody of the minor or when the minor is on legitimate business directed by the person having the minor's lawful care and custody.

If you have questions about the ordinance feel free to contact the Police Department for details.



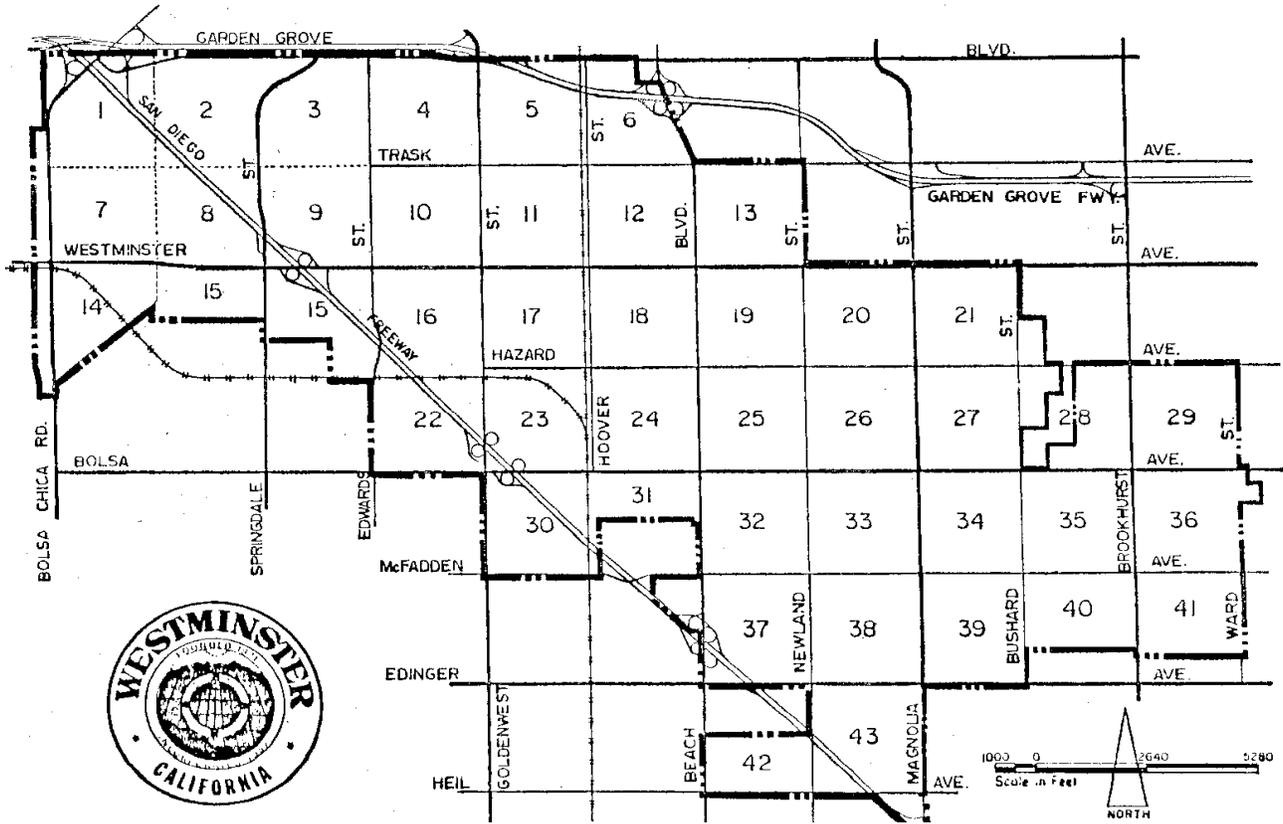
Protecting and Improving Your Neighborhood

Today's demanding lifestyles don't always make it easy to be a good neighbor. In actuality it simply takes a little time and attention. Concerned neighbors who watch out for and care more about each other are on the front-line defenses against crime. Do think your neighborhood can come together to prevent crime? Below is a listing of things you can do to get started.

- Get to know your neighbors and discuss your concerns about the neighborhood and community. Share information!
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor or nearby friend, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in the mailbox.
- Ask people who seldom leave their homes to be “window watchers,” looking out for children and reporting any unusual activities in the neighborhood.
- Be alert to things that say “we don't care” and invite crime like poor street lighting, boarded-up buildings, a lack of recreational activities or jobs for teens, vacant lots littered with debris, and inadequate day care and after-school programs. Work with law enforcement, civic groups, schools, local businesses, community agencies, churches and service clubs to solve the problems.
- Organize neighborhood cleanup days to send the message that your community is closed to thieves, vandals, and loiterers.
- Help local government do its job. Alert law enforcement to suspicious activities and any crimes. Report non-working street lights, missing street signs, abandoned cars and other problems to the agencies responsible. *How can the local government help if not made aware that there's a problem?*

The Neighborhood Watch program is designed to keep people involved in their neighborhoods, consequently becoming the “eyes and ears” of the community. The hope is that by being involved and aware of your neighborhood, you will know when something is wrong. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Neighborhood Watch program, please contact (714) 898-3315 Ext 590.





RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD
1	3	0	4	16	0	1	2	31	0	0	0
2	1	0	4	17	0	0	0	32	0	0	1
3	1	0	1	18	0	1	4	33	1	0	6
4	1	0	7	19	1	1	3	34	0	1	4
5	1	1	5	20	0	2	9	35	1	0	5
6	0	1	2	21	2	2	6	36	0	0	5
7	0	0	1	22	0	1	1	37	0	2	3
8	0	0	3	23	0	0	0	38	0	4	5
9	2	1	4	24	0	0	0	39	1	0	3
10	0	0	3	25	0	0	0	40	1	1	4
11	3	1	4	26	1	0	5	41	0	1	2
12	2	3	9	27	2	0	6	42	1	0	2
13	2	1	6	28	0	1	2	43	1	1	3
14	0	1	1	29	1	2	7				
15	1	0	3	30	2	0	4				

	MAY	JUNE	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	32	30	147

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Administrative Services Bureau

