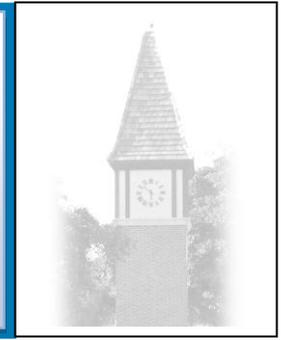


# Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 16 Issue 3

May - June 2008

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## Theft Deterrence

Burglary is the one of the most commonly committed crime in the United States. Are you concerned that one day you may be a victim of a burglary, or perhaps you have already faced that? If so, we encourage you to mark your property with an identifying number, usually a driver's license or identification card number, as a means of discouraging burglary and theft.

If you choose not to engrave, you can use a permanent marker (i.e., Sharpie brand) and write the information on your property. (For example, write your driver's license number on the back of your television set.) No one will be able to see the engraving or the written information, but if your property is stolen and the thief attempts to pawn the items, or the police find stolen property, there is a greater likelihood your items will be returned to you. Marked property is difficult for a burglar to dispose of or resell, as it can be traced back to the owner with relative ease. If a burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

If you have items that cannot be engraved, such as jewelry, take pictures of those items so you can identify them as yours if recovered after a burglary. After marking your property, you should make a list of your valuables, including serial numbers, and keep it in a safe place. If you should become a burglary victim, you will be able to quickly describe the stolen property from your list. 🐞

### Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.  
Westminster, CA 92683  
Emergencies Call 911

Business Line: 714-898-3315  
Dispatch Ext: 326  
Traffic Division Ext. 339  
Records Bureau Ext. 371

Business Hours:  
Sunday- Saturday  
7:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.

Website:

[www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

## “Pre-Approved” Credit Offers

Do you receive stacks of offers for "pre-approved" credit cards from financial institutions you have not heard of or done business with and wonder how they got your address? Credit bureaus can release your information only to people with a legitimate business need. In addition, lenders and insurers may use your credit file as a basis for sending you unsolicited offers.

As a result of changes in the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, you have the right to "opt-out" of receiving these offers. The credit bureaus offer a toll-free number that enables you to "**opt-out**" of having pre-approved credit offers sent to you for two years. Opt out of these offers at [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com) or by calling 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) for more information. This line is for "prescreened" or "pre-approved" credit card offers only. When you call, you will

Please see *Credit Offers* on page 2

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*Credit Offers* from page 1

need to confirm your identity. A recording will ask for personal information, including your Social Security Number (which they already have).

In addition, you can advise the three major credit bureaus that you do not want personal information about you shared for promotional purposes -- an important step toward eliminating unsolicited mail. Simply write a letter to limit the amount of information the credit bureaus will share about you. Send your letter to each of the three major credit bureaus:

**Equifax**, Inc., Options, PO Box 740123, Atlanta, GA 30374-0123

**Experian**, Consumer Opt-Out, 701 Experian Parkway, Allen, TX 75012

**Trans Union**, Marketing List Opt-Out, PO Box, 97328, Jackson, MS 39288-74328

This is more than an annoyance - it's an Identity Theft Risk. The more paper circulating around with your name on it, the more vulnerable you are. 🐞

## Wireless Telephone Laws Effective 7/1/08

*Information Courtesy of California Department of Motor Vehicles and California Highway Patrol*

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### About Wireless Telephone Laws

Will passengers be affected by this law?

NO. The law only applies to the person driving a motor vehicle.

What are the fines if convicted?

The base fine for the FIRST offense is \$20 and \$50 for subsequent convictions. (According to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule, with the addition of penalty assessments, a first offense is \$76 and a second offense is \$190.) 🐞

*Two new laws dealing with the use of wireless telephones while driving go into effect July 1, 2008.*

### The Difference between the Two Laws

The first prohibits all drivers from using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle (Vehicle Code (VC) §23123). Motorist 18 and over may use a hands-free device. Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone, including a hands-free device, and/or a mobile service device (pagers, texting devices, laptops, etc.)(Vehicle Code (VC)§23124).

### Telephone Use during an Emergency

The law allows a driver to use a wireless telephone to make emergency calls to a law enforcement agency, a medical provider, the fire department or other emergency services agency.

### The Affect on Driving Records

The violation is a reportable offense; however, DMV will not assign a violation point. Convictions will appear on driving records, but the violation point will not be added. 🐞

## City of Westminster Department Directory

<b>City Hall:</b> 714-898-3311	<b>Chamber of Commerce:</b> 714-898-9648	<b>West Justice Center:</b> 714-896-7111
<b>Family Resource Center:</b> 714-903-1331	<b>Consumer Affairs:</b> 714-952-5210	<b>Fair Housing Department:</b> 714-569-0823
<b>Code Enforcement:</b> 714-893-3311	<b>Health Department:</b> 714-677-3600	<b>Senior Center:</b> 714-895-2878
<b>Graffiti Hotline:</b> 714-895-2876	<b>Animal Control:</b> 714-898-3315 Ext. 365	<b>Vector Control:</b> 714-971-2421

## Social Networking Cyber Safety Information

The internet has opened up a world of information for anyone with a computer and a connection. Parents and guardians should be aware of the nature of the conversations children are having and what type of people they are communicating with. Examine your child's buddy list occasionally and make sure that the only people on the list are those that you and your children know and trust in real life.

Common Internet Acronyms all Parents should know:

**121:** One to One **420:** Refers to Marijuana **ADN:** Any Day Now **A/S/L:** Age, Sex, Location **BF:** Boyfriend **CYO:** See You Online **F2F:** Face to Face **G2G:** Got to go **GOL:** Giggling out Loud **IDK:** I Don't Know **ILU:** I love you **IM:** Instant Message **INDB:** It's No Big Deal **IRL:** In Real Life **JIC:** Just In Case **JK:** Just Kidding **KPC:** Keeping Parents Clueless **L8R:** Later **LDR:** Long Distance Relationship **LMIRL:** Let's Meet In Real Life **MUSM:** Miss You So Much **NALOPKT:** Not A Lot Of People Know That **NRN:** No Reply Necessary **OIC:** Oh I See **OLL:** Online Love **OTP:** On the Phone **P911:** Parent Alert **PAW:** Parents Are Watching **PAL:** Parents Are Listening **PDA:** Public Display of Affection **PIR:** Parent In Room **PLZ:** Please **POS:** Parent Over Shoulder **PM:** Private Message **S2R:** Send to Receive **SO:** Significant Other **SOMY:** Sick of Me Yet? **STW:** Search the Web **SWAK:** Sealed with a Kiss **TMI:** Too Much Information **TTYL:** Talk To You Later **WTGP:** Want To Go Private? **WUF:** Where Are You From **YBS:** You'll Be Sorry 🐼

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Every year the City of Westminster celebrates Independence Day with a fireworks display for community members. This year's event will be held in the Civic Center. Fireworks will be launched from the field at the Warner Middle School.

For more information regarding this event contact the City of Westminster's Community Services & Recreation Department at 714-895-2860. 🐼



### Reminder:

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at [www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)



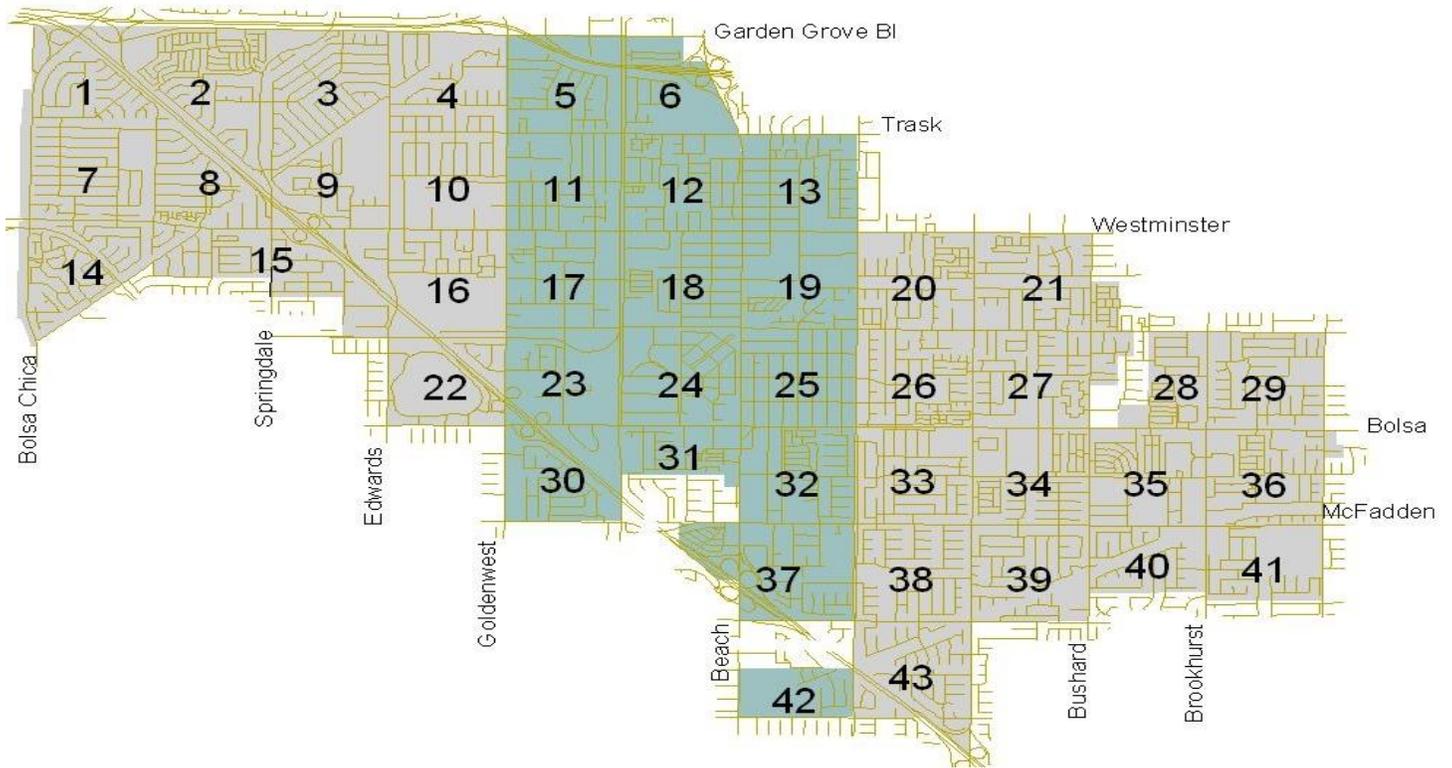
### SIGN UP FOR FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE.

Go to [wirelessamberalerts.org](http://wirelessamberalerts.org). Sign up today. Then when an AMBER Alert is issued in the areas you've chosen, you'll receive a free text message. If you spot the vehicle, the suspect or the child described in the Alert, call 911. If your phone is wireless, you're no longer helpless.



A child is calling for help.

# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



## RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

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

	MAR	APR	YTD
<b>TOTAL BURGLARIES</b>	39	24	118

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