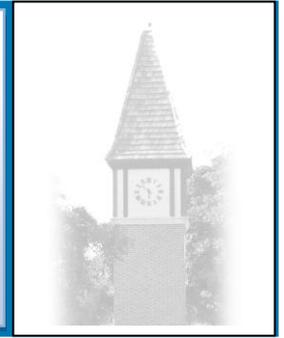


Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 16 Issue 6

November – December 2008

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Shopping Tips for the Holiday Season



When going shopping this holiday season, there are certain things you must think about before you leave your home that will help you with your personal safety and the safety of your personal property. You should always think about shopping with a friend or group. This will allow you to watch out for each other and perpetrators are less likely to commit crimes against a small group. When arriving at your desired shopping destination, try to park your vehicles in well lit areas that are close to the actual building. This will prevent you from having to walk a great distance back to your vehicle with all your belongings and thieves are less likely to burglarize vehicles that can be seen by everyone else as well.

Before walking into any mall or shopping center, make sure all your vehicle doors are locked and make sure there is nothing in plain view they may be of value such as shopping bags, purses, wallets, backpacks, portable GPS devices, MP3 players, and cell phones. We also suggest you not place your shopping bags inside of your trunk because you never know who is watching you in the parking lot. Be aware of your surroundings because thieves usually work together in groups of 3 or more.

While conducting your shopping, it's important to know where your purse, wallet, and shopping bags are at all times. Never leave any of these items unattended when you are walking around any store or trying on items because it takes about a second for someone to pick these items up and leave the area with them. I would suggest you not carry large amounts of cash with you in the event your purse or wallet does get taken because cash in most cases is hard to recover and trace.

Lastly, you should have the phone numbers of all your banks and credit card companies with you just in case your credit card or ATM cards do get stolen while you are shopping. Many thieves will attempt to use these credit cards and ATM cards right away, so this will allow you to call your financial institutions and stop any transactions these thieves are attempting to make. Never be afraid to call the police to report anyone who may be acting suspicious. Have a wonderful holiday season and stay safe! 🕵️

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

City of Westminster Department Directory

Animal Control:
714-898-3315 Ext. 365

**Chamber of
Commerce:**
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-898-3311

Code Enforcement:
714-893-3311

Consumer Affairs:
714-952-5210

Fair Housing
Department:
714-569-0823

**Family Resource
Center:**
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-895-2876

Health Department:
714-677-3600

West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-898-3315 Ext. 395

Westminster Senior
Center:
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

Holiday Safety Tips for Home

This holiday season don't let the spirit of giving; lull you into giving burglars, muggers or pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Criminals love the holidays as much as everyone else, but mainly because it is an opportune time for crime-homes jam packed with gifts. Stores, malls, and streets will be teeming with unsuspecting shoppers. People will be rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last minute gifts, and trying to get everything done. This is enough to make a criminal giddy with joy. The following are tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season.

IF YOU'RE TRAVELING

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped until you return home.

IF YOU'RE OUT FOR THE EVENING

- Turn on lights and a radio or television so that it looks like someone is home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside. 🚗

CONSUMER ALERT FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS

If someone who is not your mortgage lender promises to save your home and asks for you to pay money up front, **WATCH OUT**. Fraudulent foreclosure consultants target homeowners who are behind on their mortgage payments.

IF YOU TRANSFERRED YOUR PROPERTY OR PAID SOMEONE TO "RESCUE" YOU FROM FORECLOSURE, YOU MAY BE A VICTIM OF A CRIME. Please file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office at the following address: Office of the Attorney General - Public Inquiry Unit, P.O. Box 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244, or online at www.ag.ca.gov/consumers 🚗

Crime Alert: **ATM SKIMMERS**

A group of three men and one woman are suspected of illegally obtaining ATM card numbers by using card skimmer devices. The devices were attached to approximately 10 machines at Bank of America branches in Fullerton and Huntington Beach. The devices are slipped into an ATM machine's card slot which enables the suspects to obtain card numbers as customers are using the machine. ATM skimmers have taken more than 100 people out of thousands of dollars. 🚗



The Westminister Senior Center

The purpose of the Senior Center is to promote the physical and emotional well-being of older adults by providing diverse programs. The goal is to promote a spirit of dignity and limitless potential for later life enrichment. Aside from the fitness, recreation, and education programs, there are also human services programs:

WOW (Westminister on Wheels) Senior Transportation Program

The City of Westminister has partnered with OCTA to provide transportation services to seniors, 62 years and older, residing in Westminister. The goal of the WOW (Westminister on Wheels) Program is to assist seniors in remaining independent. The program operates Monday through Friday and reservations are required. For detailed information, please contact the center at (714)895-2878.

The Nutrition Van Program is for Westminister Seniors who need a ride to the Senior Center for the lunch program. This is a curb-to-curb service. Once seniors are at the Senior Center they can take the Shuttle if they need to run errands. The Shuttle Program is a circular transportation program that travels to various locations throughout the city. The Shuttle stops at Albertson's, Stater Brothers, Vons Pavilions, Wal-Mart, Westminister Center, Westminister Mall, 99 Cent Store and Target.

Congregate Meal Program

The Westminister Senior Center serves delicious, hot meals Monday-Friday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enjoy a great, nutritious meal combined with great service and a social atmosphere. Meals are made fresh and delivered hot daily. Enjoy some specialties including BBQ Beef Sandwich, Roasted Chicken, and Vegetarian Lasagna, to name a few. The cost is: \$2.50 for adults over 60 and \$3.50 for adults under 60.

For more information, or to make a reservation, call the Westminister Senior Center at (714) 895-2878. The meals are provided by **Community SeniorServ (CSS)**:
<http://www.communityseniorserv.com>

Home Delivered Meals Program

The home delivered meals program is for frail homebound seniors in Westminister. Meals are delivered by volunteer drivers to seniors' homes Monday through Thursday. For additional information regarding the program please contact the Westminister Senior Center at (714) 895-2878 or CSS (714) 220-0224 to confirm eligibility requirements. 🗓️

Upcoming Event

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Westminister Police Department is in search of participants for the next Citizens Police Academy. Participants will have the opportunity to gain firsthand knowledge of the problems, policies and laws that officers deal with on a daily basis. There will also be an opportunity to go on a ride along with an on duty officer. The academy meets once weekly for 10-weeks. Meetings are informal lectures, demonstrations, group discussions and hands on activities from actual police training.

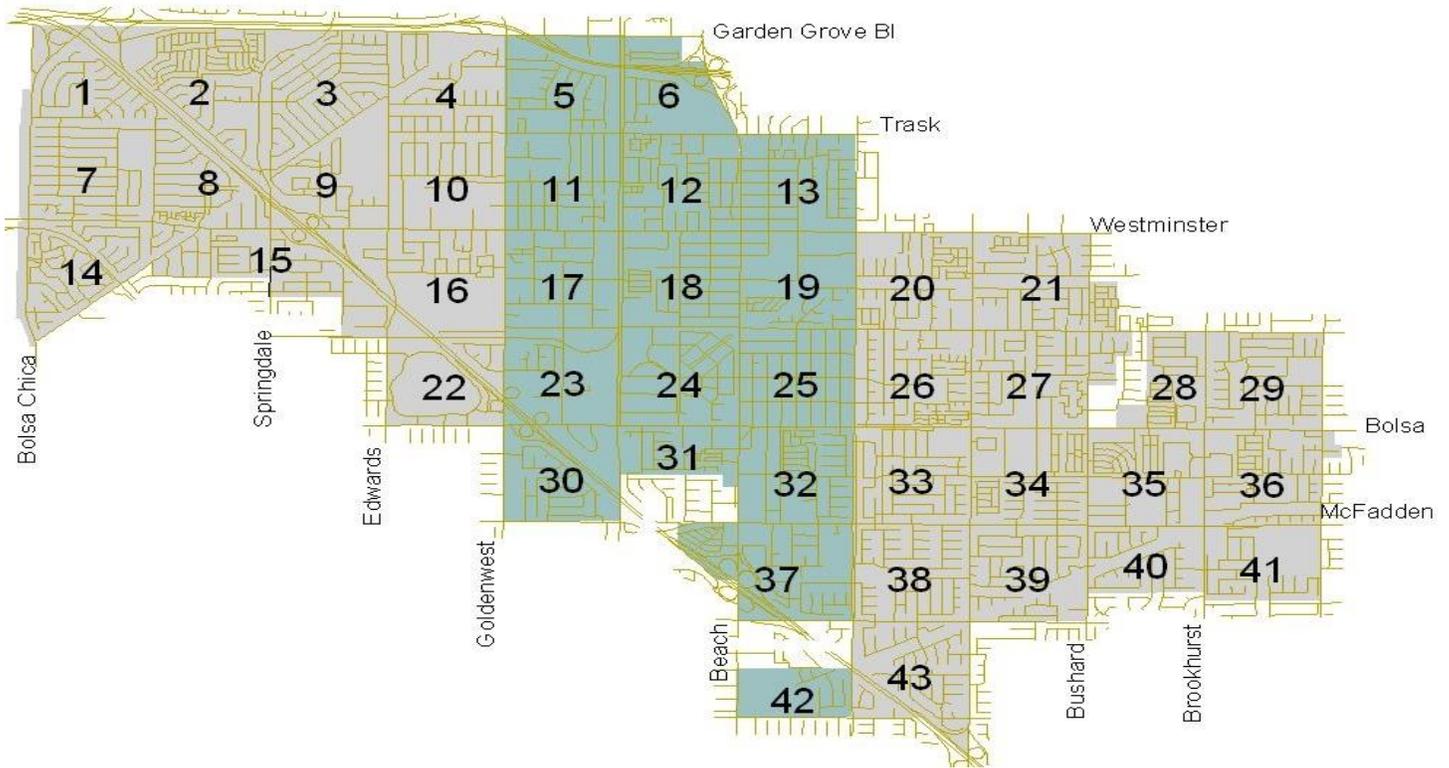
If you are interested in attending the next session starting January 15, 2009, please contact the Administrative Services Bureau at 714-898-3315 ext 590. 🗓️

REMINDER:

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at:

<http://www.westminister-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

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

	SEPT	OCT	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	12	36	255