

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 18 Issue 5

September - October 2010

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Chief J. Mitchell
Waller

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The new police facility is approximately 75% complete, on schedule and under budget, with a targeted completion date of March 2011. This new facility is critical to the efficient delivery of public safety services to our community.

We too have felt the sting of these recessionary times and have implemented significant budget cuts to meet the needs of the City. Specifically, the Department has reduced staffing in management, supervision and line-level positions over the past year. Though we are now at late 1980 staffing levels, we have maintained the same number of police officers in the street.

Through interaction with the community, input from business groups and the Chief's Advisory Board, we have focused on core functions and implemented a complete reorganization of the Department.

Having operated on the same deployment plan for nearly 50 years, the Westminster Police Department is transitioning to a contemporary Area Command system. Area Command is both an operational and a management philosophy. To achieve our core mission it is necessary to effectively deploy resources, identify priorities, solve problems, maintain order, reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life of our citizens.

In its simplest form, Area Command consists of dividing the City into specific geographical areas and assigning 24/7 responsibility to a police manager. This new practice establishes specific accountability and responsibility for developing response strategies. To implement the Area Command structure, the Department will use a variety of traditional and community based policing practices to address crime and quality of life issues. The successful implementation of this plan will help the Department achieve its vision of being a "World Class Police Department." 

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683
Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:
714-898-3315

Dispatch Ext: 3212
Traffic Division Ext. 3220
Records Bureau Ext. 3218

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

www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police



The new Police facility is funded by the redevelopment agency and not general fund dollars, or new taxes. The new facility consists of a 90,000 square foot, three story police building and an adjacent 650 stall parking structure to be shared between the Police Department and the City. The project is designed as a 50 year Essential Facility.

“BUT I LOCKED MY CAR...”

Everyday numerous vehicle burglary reports are taken. Think about what you have in your car. What types of property or significant information could you be supplying to thieves?



- Do not leave any valuables in your vehicle.
- Remove gym bags, purses, briefcases, laptop carriers, backpacks, etc. from view if you decide to leave them in the car.
- Do not leave GPS, cell phones, laptops, MP3 players, etc. in plain sight and remove their chargers from the outlet.
- Do not leave mail containing your name, address, checking and/or credit card account numbers.
- If your garage door opener is stored in your vehicle, do not leave it in plain sight. If stolen, it provides easy access to your home. Even if it is not stolen, coding information can be copied for future use.
- Lock your doors and close your windows completely. Opportunist will walk around lifting door handles to see who left their vehicle unlocked.

Don't be a victim...protect yourself and your property.

If you notice suspicious activity, report it immediately to the Westminster Police Department at 714-898-3315. **For crimes in progress, call 9-1-1.** 🐞

CLOSE THE DOOR!

The next time you drive down your street, take note of how many of the garage doors are open. Maybe the homeowner just got home and is unloading groceries from the car. Maybe they got home a couple of hours ago and simply forgot to close the door. Or, they are dropping off the kids at an activity and will be gone for “just a few minutes”.

The bad news here is that this is all the time it takes someone to walk into your garage and take whatever might appeal to them. Remember also that by leaving the garage door open you may be providing direct access to your home. So, please pay attention to your garage door and close it when you leave. 🐞

COYOTES IN WESTMINSTER

Coyotes are wild animals and can be dangerous. Do not encourage them to approach. They are smart, fast & will take what they can get.



**KEEP THEM AT A DISTANCE!
...NEVER FEED COYOTES!**

Many residents of Orange County are expressing concerns about coyote sightings and the consequences of predator animals within the urban environment. **Several residents in Westminster have lost their pets** to these skilled hunters because many are not aware of recent coyote activity in the area.

If you do encounter a coyote that behaves aggressively, you have probably gotten too close to its prey or its family. Increase the “comfort zone” between you and the coyote. A coyote behaves in a similar way as domestic dogs that are defending their territory and family. All children should be taught from a very early age that they should avoid strange animals, whether domestic or non-domestic. They should never attempt to feed a wild animal.

Though these animals are far from domesticated, they are very comfortable living in close proximity to human beings. They have little fear of man and are frequently seen trotting along within a few feet of joggers and bikers. While not normally a danger to human beings, coyotes will display defensive behaviors if threatened or cornered, therefore, it is important to leave a comfortable distance between you and a coyote.

It is highly recommended that small pets always be accompanied by their owners. Though coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can be observed at all hours of the day and will not pass up the opportunity for an easy meal.

Be sure to bring your cats and small dogs inside at night and secure your pets against coyotes. Westminster Animal Control emphasizes peaceful coexistence with our indigenous wildlife. If you have any questions regarding how to cope with our wildlife, contact Westminster Animal Control at 714-548-3201 or visit the California Fish & Game website at www.keepmewild.org. 🐞

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

September 2010 is the seventh annual National Preparedness Month. This year will focus on encouraging Americans to work together to take concrete actions toward emergency preparedness. The Campaign's Web sites www.ready.gov and www.listo.gov and toll-free numbers (1-800-BE-READY and 1-888-SE-LISTO) provide Americans with free emergency preparedness information.

The campaign is very simple.
Get a kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed and Get Involved. 

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

September 19-25, 2010



NATIONAL SEAT CHECK SATURDAY

September 25, 2010

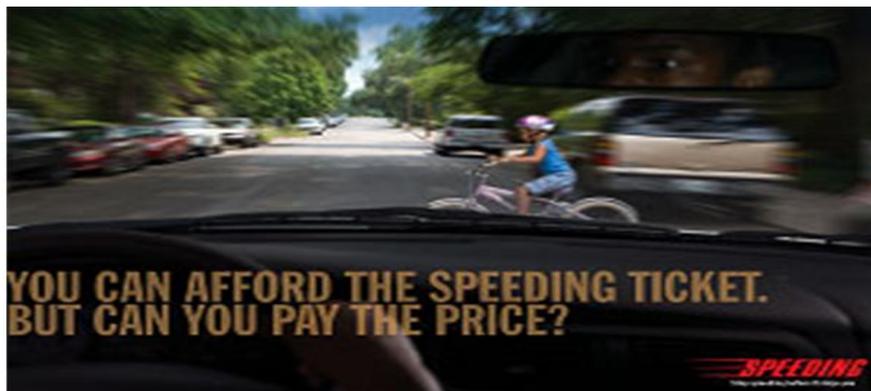
Get a free child seat inspection.

While installing and using child safety seats may appear to be easy enough, the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](http://www.nhtsa.gov) has estimated that close to 3 out of 4 parents do not properly use child restraints ... and if you are one of them, that child safety seat may not protect your child the way it should.

Inspection Station:
California Highway Patrol- Westminster, 13200 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683
Call for an appointment 714-892-4426. 

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVITIES**

Westminster's annual Founder's Day Festival has been scheduled for **October 22-24, 2010**. The Parade will begin at 9:30 am on Saturday, October 23. For additional information, Sponsorship or booth availability, contact Community Services and Recreation Department at 714.895.2860. 



DID YOU KNOW THAT WESTMINSTER PD IS ON:



**City of
Westminster
Department
Directory**

Animal Control:
714-548-3201

Chamber of
Commerce:
714-898-9648

City Hall:
714-548-4000

Code Enforcement:
714-548-3246

Fair Housing
Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource
Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-548-3253

Midway City Sanitary
District
714-893-3553

Health Department:
714-677-3600

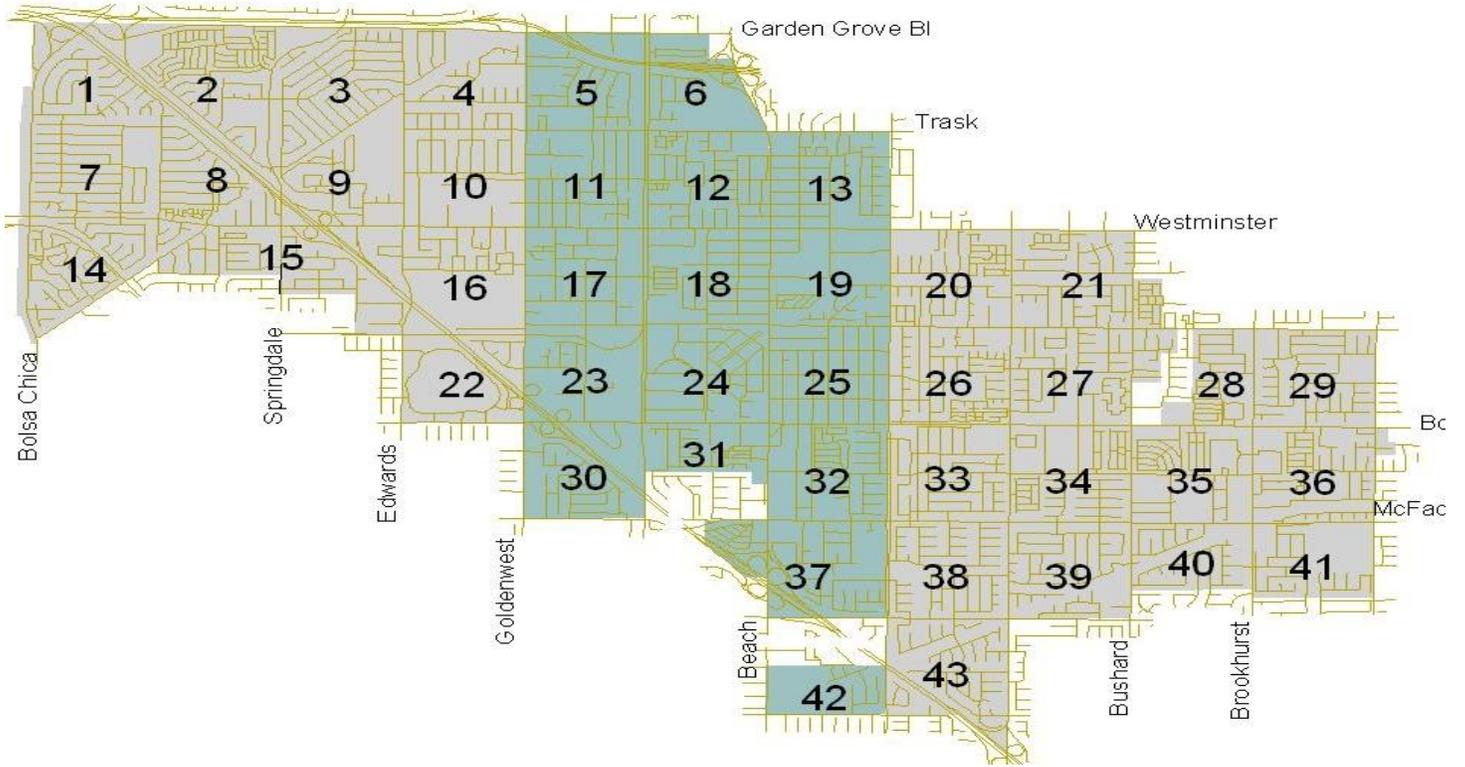
West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-548-3202

Westminster Senior
Center:
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

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

	JULY	AUG	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	29	22	180

This newsletter is published bimonthly. It is compiled and edited by Ja'Nelle Belton, WPD Police Service Officer- Community Relations.