

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 18 Issue 6

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2010

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Protect Your Vehicle

During the month of October, Westminster Police Department received a slightly higher number of calls reporting auto burglaries. The one common denominator in almost all of these incidents was these vehicles were left **unlocked** with valuable property in plain sight.

Auto Burglary Prevention, like all crime prevention, is the act of taking away the criminals ability and/or opportunity to commit a crime. With a little time and diligence, you can make a difference in your susceptibility to Auto Burglary!

Prevention Tips

- Close your windows & lock you doors (the simplest & easiest prevention technique).
- Remove valuables or place them in the trunk of your automobile.
- Remove 'pull-out' style radio face plates (if equipped).
- Park in well lit areas when possible.
- Park where your car will be easily & frequently viewed (natural surveillance)
- Park in your garage if you have one.
- If your vehicle is equipped with an alarm, use it. It will alert anyone nearby.



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

Know Your Neighbors

Do you know your neighbor? If not, take some time this month to introduce yourself and begin the process of determining who you feel comfortable with and who you trust. When you do have a solid, trusting neighborly relationship, share with them some important information to help keep your home safe.

First, let them know what to expect from you and your family such as the hours you are normally at work, who routinely comes to the house when you are not home (such as a house cleaning service) and what to look out for. Provide them with emergency telephone numbers of where you can be reached when not at home. If you have motion detection lighting, explain to your neighbors when they can expect it to go on and when they should be concerned.

For those neighbors that you have great trust in, ask them to pick up your mail and newspaper when you are gone on vacation or for an extended period. Invite them to park in your driveway during those absences to make it appear someone is home. Don't forget the garbage cans; ask your neighbor to bring them in after they have been dumped.

Give Criminals A Break...

An unreported crime is nothing.

- It didn't happen.
- No one can get arrested for possession of stolen property.
- No one can be prosecuted for the crime itself.
- No property can be returned to the owner.

Unfortunately, many people do not report "small crimes." Your small piece of a bigger puzzle is lost and another crime may go unsolved based on your failure to report.

Other victims will not know that there was a history or recent criminal activity on their street. Additionally, the other victims may also fail to report the crime.

When crime goes unreported:

- Crime prevention does not come into play
- No questions were asked
- Nothing new is learned
- There is no change in individual behavior
- You may start to believe that reporting crime does not matter.
- You become a silent victim.
- You become angry and nothing is changed.

You've unknowingly sent an alert to bad guys:

Go ahead. Commit another crime. No one bothered to report the first one.

When you don't report a crime, it can't be fixed.

Do you really want to give criminals a break? 🗣️

What Information Are You Sharing?



Are you aware of the information you may be sharing with strangers while talking on your cell phone in public? Do you try to accomplish several tasks at once, giving someone directions to your

home over your cell phone while standing in line or ordering and paying for something over the phone by giving out your credit card number?

When you talk on your cell phone in public places, it is important to be aware of who can hear you and what they might hear. It is easy to become involved in your conversation with a friend or family member without realizing who may be listening. The following are important tips to keep in mind:

- Never order anything over a cell phone that requires you to give your address, credit card number or phone number.
- Never give directions to your home. You may be giving a thief directions too.
- Never verbally give any private information to a cashier, clerk or receptionist. *This is especially important in regards to your social security number.*

This is often requested when you check in at a doctor or dental office to verify your appointment.

• Be careful of discussing social and vacation plans. Be particularly cautious of casual remarks regarding time and dates you are going to be away from home. 🗣️

Is Your Answering Machine Telling Secrets?



Almost everyone has an answering machine. But not every machine is "crime prevention smart"!! Please don't say: "Hi, we're not home." or "We're away for the weekend" or anything else along these lines. **Instead**, do say: "I'm not available right now, but will return your call as soon as possible." or "I'm glad you called. Please leave your name and number." Phrase it any way you want, so long as you're not giving hints that you really are *not* at home—make the caller wonder. 🗣️



HOME SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Deck The House

Every year millions of people put up decorations all over their homes. The end result should be festive and light, but without taking a few important precautions, it can become a nightmare.

Strings of holiday lights are put up both inside and outside to brighten up any dwelling. Unfortunately, these same lights cause a large number of fires each year. Before putting them up, you should always check on the condition of the lights. Make sure the wiring is not frayed or damaged in any way, and that none of the bulbs are broken. A set of lights that is in bad shape can be very likely to short out and start a fire. The wires that cover every string of lights provide insulation and prohibit the electrical current from getting out. When the wires are not in prime condition, it's time to dispose of that set for another. Even a newer set of lights can be a hazard, so it is never a good idea to leave them unattended. When you go out for the night or go to sleep, make sure to turn them off.

A tree makes a magnificent centerpiece for holiday decorations, but it can also be a major hazard. Every year hundreds of fires begin in festively decorated trees. There are a few things you can do to make the tree as safe as possible. First off, mount the tree securely so it cannot tip over or be easily knocked down. A falling tree can land on someone or damage property. A dry tree can ignite far too easily. It is essential to keep live trees well watered the entire time they are in your home - especially if you plan to place candles on or near it. Place the tree far away from the fireplace if you intend to use it, and the same goes for wrapping paper, gifts or any other holiday items that may be flammable.

Just in case there is a fire, make sure you have a charged extinguisher around the house. Let everyone who lives there know exactly where it is, and show them how to use it. Check the batteries in any smoke alarms you have in your home to be certain they are in good working condition. An alarm will immediately alert you about a dangerous situation, and will let you know to grab the fire extinguisher.

Holiday Gatherings

Having friends and family over for the holidays can be a fun and joyous experience, but you still must be cautious and alert. A dinner party is a great way to entertain your guests, but don't neglect the food you have cooking. Another major household fire hazard is food that is placed on the stove and forgotten about. The table settings at these meals tend to be lavish, but if they include candles you may want to remove them when it's time to eat, especially if there are young children involved. All it takes is a quick bump to knock one over and catch the tablecloth on fire.

Keeping your home safe from fire is only part of the responsibilities home owners face during the holiday season. 🚒

This article is from www.crimepreventiontips.org, 11-25-09.

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

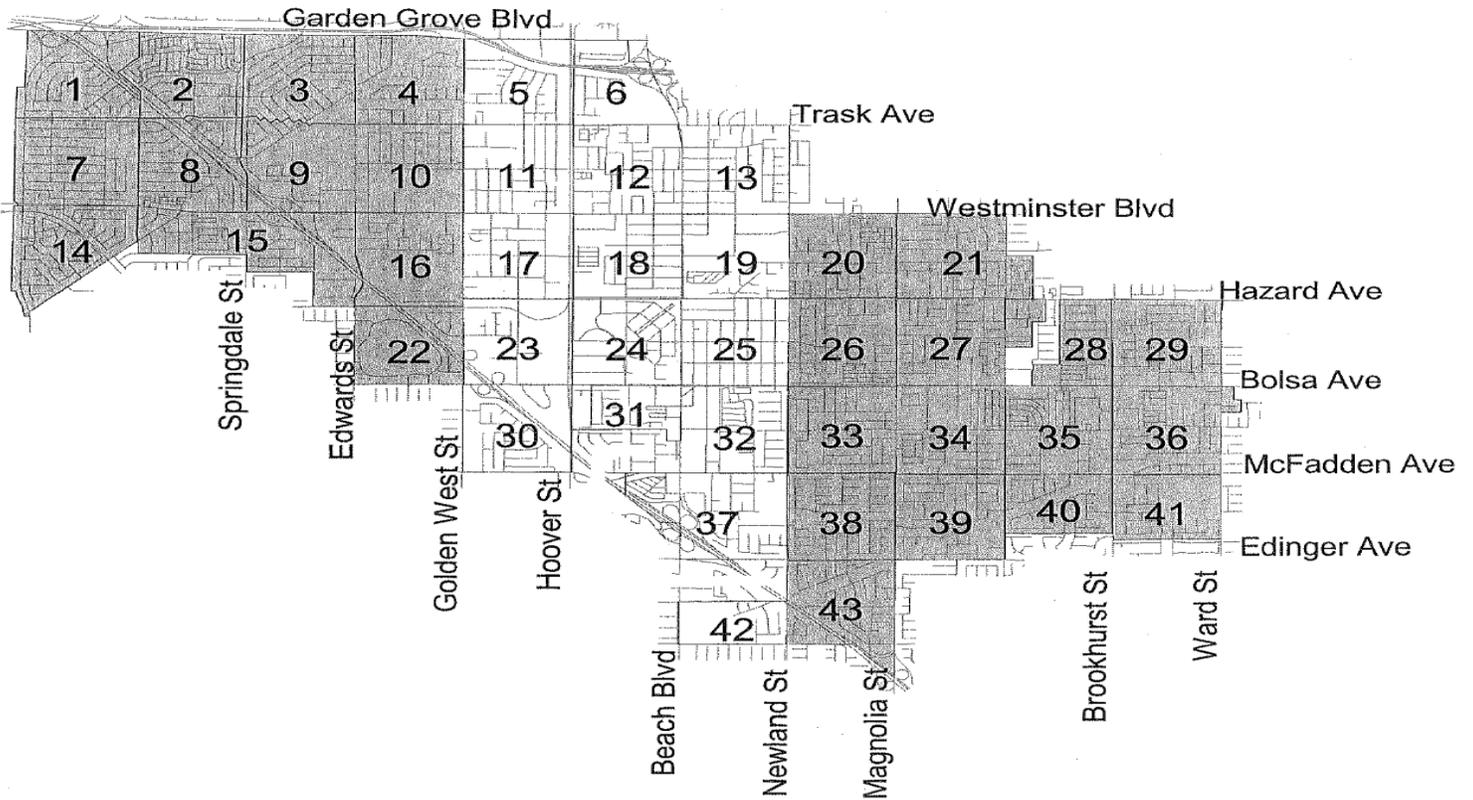
West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-548-3202

Westminster Senior
Center:
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

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

	SEPT	OCT	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	22	17	219

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