

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 19 Issue 1

January – February 2011

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Make the New Year Safer
- 2 Crime Prevention
- 3 False Alarm Reduction
- 4 Residential Burglary Stats

How Can You Make the New Year Safer?

As each New Year rolls around, we are inclined to make a “New Year’s resolution,” and decide that this is the year that we will actually stick with it. Resolutions normally consist of weight loss goals, exercising, eating healthier, or quitting bad habits such as smoking or drinking. While these resolutions are certainly important, why not make a second resolution, one that not only impacts you, but your family, work place and community? This year, do something different. Make a resolution not only with yourself, but with others to practice crime prevention and personal safety in your community.

Making a safety resolution is not only a great way to get yourself in the habit of practicing crime prevention, but also a way to make others aware of it as well. Whether you decide to practice safety at home, on the computer, or in your community, incorporating safety tips into your everyday routines will help to make crime prevention a regular part of your daily life.

So how will you decide to stick to your New Year’s safety resolution? Here are a few ideas to get your started:

Home and Personal Safety

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Always make sure all doors and windows are locked in your house and car.
- Try to park in well-lighted areas with good visibility close to walkways, stores, and people.
- Consider an alarm system; some alarms may be purchased for as little as \$100.

Cyber Safety

- Always keep your passwords private.
- Avoid giving out your personal information.
- Only order things online from websites you know and trust.
- Avoid opening emails or visiting websites that don’t seem trustworthy, they could contain a virus that may harm your computer.

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

Neighborhood Safety

- Start or join a neighborhood watch group in your area.
- Organize neighborhood clean-up days to pick up litter, paint over graffiti, plant flowers or repair broken equipment in playgrounds.
- Always ensure walkway and streets are well-lit.
- Get to know your neighbors-work together to keep your neighborhood safe.

Information courtesy of Kelsey Tokar at Prevention Works

LET'S TALK ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION

Do you know what prevention means? It means making it harder for something harmful to happen.

Crime prevention means reducing the chances for criminals to victimize you, your family, and neighbors. It means protecting property and teaching kids and adults to be alert and aware. It means doing things that build communities up, and stopping things that tear communities down.

You need to go beyond watching out. You need to help out, too. When all is said and done, your safety, health, and satisfaction depend on the well-being of others. That's why partnerships are such a key part of successful crime prevention. It takes everyone working together. Whether you're 8 or 80, the best weapons against street crime are alertness and common sense. Let's actively practice crime prevention and helping out to make ourselves, our children, and our communities safer, healthier places to live.

THE BIG THREE

1. Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, wherever you are.
2. Stand tall and walk confidently.

3. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a place or situation, leave quickly.

TIPS FOR WALKERS

- Choose busy streets and avoid passing vacant lots, alleys, or deserted construction sites.
- At night stick to well-lighted areas.
- Don't walk or jog alone. Take a friend or neighbor along if possible.
- Get to know the neighborhoods where you live and work.
- Find out what stores and restaurants are open late and where the police and fire stations are located.
- Carry your purse close to your body, and keep a firm grip on it.
- Carry a wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.
- When shopping, don't overload yourself with packages, and avoid wearing shoes or clothing that restricts your movements.
- Carry a whistle or other sound device in case of an emergency.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Always lock your car and take the keys, even if you'll only be gone a short time.
- Keep your car in good running condition to avoid breakdowns.
- If your car does break down, raise the hood or tie a white cloth to the street-side door handle.
- Stay in the locked car.
- If someone stops to help, ask him or her to phone for assistance.
- Park in a well-lit area, be sure that it will still be well lit when you return.
- Be alert when using enclosed parking garages.
- Never pick up hitchhikers. Never.
- Before getting into your car, look underneath and inside it.

False Alarm Prevention Tips



The City of Westminster Alarm Ordinance defines a False Alarm as: "an activation or transmission of any alarm signal causing a police response where an emergency situation does not exist. This includes mechanical failure, accidental tripping, mis-operation, malfunction, misuse or neglect of the alarm system by the owner or lessee of the alarm system or by his employees or agents.

Three main causes of false alarms are:

- 1) User error 2) Installation/service errors 3) Equipment failure
- More than 80 percent of all false alarms are caused by user error
- False alarms present a serious threat to the effectiveness of our local police, fire and EMS departments, as well as to the safety of our citizens
- False alarms are costly and dangerous because they divert police officers from proactive crime prevention efforts and can deny or delay responses to actual emergency calls

Recommendations:

- Have a maintenance contract with a licensed alarm company and have your alarm system checked every year.
- If you are apprehensive about using your system, call your alarm company TODAY!
- Always keep doors and windows locked when the alarm is in an "ON" mode to reduce the chance that friends, neighbors or customers enter and cause the alarm to activate.
- Know and rehearse the process to cancel an accidental alarm. Anyone with your key should know this process.
- DO NOT call 911 to cancel alarm activations--you must call your monitoring station.

REMEMBER, IF YOU HAVE AN ACTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM IN YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS; BE SURE TO OBTAIN AN ALARM PERMIT. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALARM PERMITS, PLEASE CONTACT 877-263-6029.

DID YOU KNOW THAT WESTMINSTER PD IS ON:



For updates on community events, job postings and much more join us on the above mentioned social networking sites.

REMINDER:

All issues of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter are available online at: <http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/community>

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

Fair Housing
Department:
714-569-0823

Family Resource
Center:
714-903-1331

Graffiti Hotline:
714-895-2876

Midway City Sanitary
District
714-893-3553

Health Department:
714-677-3600

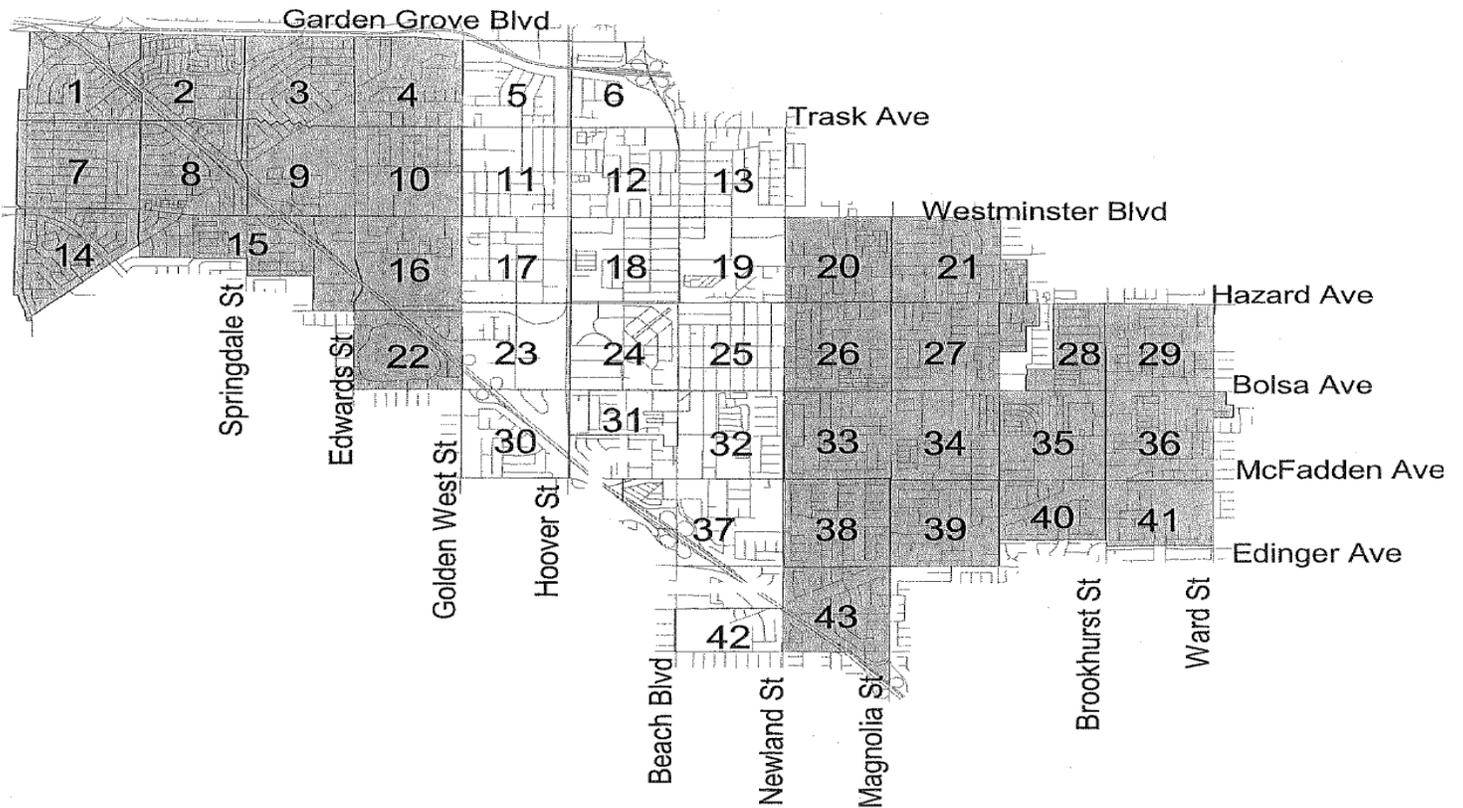
West Justice Center:
714-896-7111

Recruitment:
714-898-3315 Ext. 395

Westminster Senior
Center:
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

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

	NOV	DEC	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	17	12	248

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