

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683

Emergencies Call 911

Business Line:

714-898-3315

Extensions:

3212 Dispatch
3220 Traffic Division
3218 Records Bureau

Business Hours:

Sunday-Saturday
7am to 7pm

Website:

www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police

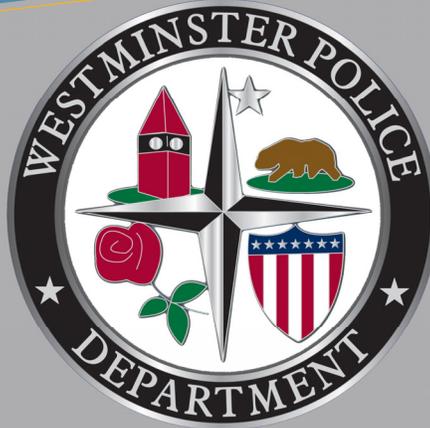
AREA COMMAND:

WEST

Lt. Schoonmaker
714-548-3707

EAST

Lt. Vu
714-548-3725



this issue

Distraction Burglary **P.1**

Holiday Safety Tips **P.2**

WAGS—Adopting a Friend **P.3**

Residential Burglary Stats **P.4**

Distraction Burglary

Career criminals will often burglarize homes while the residents are present and the crime is accomplished by *distraction*. Recently, a few homes on the west side of town were burglarized by a two-man team of thieves. They were clad in bright yellow reflective vests that were similar to those worn by Cal Trans employees. They contacted residents at their homes and stated they were from the “Water Department” and had reports of contaminated water. They told the residents they needed to test the water of their home. One suspect would distract the residents in the back yard as he had them smell the water coming out of their hose for an alleged contamination odor. In the meanwhile, the other suspect would state he was entering the house to turn on the faucets, but he actually would ransacked the residence. Distraction burglaries can happen to anyone but these thieves targeted elderly residents and a Vietnamese family. Anytime someone suddenly arrives at your door step and identifies themselves as a public works employee, be careful. Exercise even more caution when they ask to enter your home or other invasive requests. Call the police for assistance if you become suspicious.

Small Acts of Involvement Thwart Crimes

Often times we see families come and go in our neighborhoods before we get to know them. This coupled with cultural differences can create distance and a lack of communication between neighbors. The consequence is often a lack of unity in looking out for our neighbor's welfare. This was not the case during the distraction burglary mentioned above. An alert neighbor became suspicious and wrote down the license plate of the suspect vehicle which later resulted in 2 suspects being arrested. It was also not the case during a recent robbery of Saigon National Bank on Brookhurst Street. A cab driver picked up the suspect near the bank and became suspicious. He dropped the suspect off in Santa Ana and watched him closely while informing the police what was happening. He was interviewed by detectives and a few hours later arrested. When asked why he became so involved the cab driver said, “Because it is wrong. He scared people in that bank and that's not how you treat people.” These acts of involvement exemplify strong community involvement. Community members are encouraged to appreciate the basic commonalities we share with our neighbors and look out for them as if they were our own family.

TIPS FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY

During the year-end holidays, people are often busy, excited, and sometimes a little careless. The following are a series of holiday crime prevention tips that should be embraced this holiday season.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house or apartment, even for a few minutes.
- Don't display holiday gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway. Store gifts before you go away on a holiday trip.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or television so the house or apartment appears to be occupied.
- If you take a holiday trip away from your home, have some interior lights activated by an automatic timer. Have a neighbor or family member watch your house, pick up the mail and newspaper and park his or her vehicle in your driveway from time to time.
- Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable donations. They may attempt to take advantage of people's generosity during the holidays. Ask for identification, how donated funds are used, if contributions are tax deductible, etc. If you aren't satisfied with the answers, don't give.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with an identification number and record new serial numbers.
- Test your smoke detectors.
- Use only fire resistant ornaments on a holiday tree and make sure electric lights are in good working order. Don't leave the lights on overnight or when you are away from home.
- If you have house guests, advise them of your security precautions and make sure they adhere to them.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases

(especially TVs, DVD players, Computers, etc.) out on the curb for trash pickup.

Shopping

- Shop before dark if possible. Possibly coordinate shopping trips with a friend. Never park in an unlit lot or area, no matter how convenient it is.
- Lock your packages and gifts in your vehicle's trunk. Keep your vehicle doors locked and windows closed.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with a check, credit card, or debit card whenever possible.
- Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse under your arm. Keep a wallet in an inside jacket, not a back trouser pocket.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated. They should never go into a parking lot alone.

**Be Aware:
Coyotes in Your Neighborhood**



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

Small pets can easily become prey. Cats and small dogs should not be allowed outside alone, even in a fenced yard. It is highly recommended that small pets always be accompanied by their owner. Though coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise,

(Continued on page 3)

**City of Westminster
Department Directory**

Animal Control:
714-548-3201

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:
714-548-3732

**Westminster
Senior Center:**
714-895-2878

Vector Control:
714-971-2421

(Continued from page 2)

they can be observed at all hours of the day and will not pass up the opportunity for an easy meal. A dog or cat left in a backyard can be taken in a matter of moments.

Many steps can be taken to protect you and your property from nuisance animals like coyotes and other wildlife.

Your trash can, without a secure lid, is especially attractive and a ready source of food. So are your unprotected cats or small dogs.

- Fully fence off animal enclosures, including the top.
- Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult.
- Feed pets indoors.
- Store trash in covered heavy-duty containers.
- Keep yards free from potential shelter such as thick brush and weeds.
- Enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.
- Eliminate potential food and water sources, such as fallen fruit and standing water.
- Put away bird feeders at night to avoid attracting rodents and other coyote prey.
- If possible, install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Be aware that coyotes are more active in the spring, when feeding and protecting their young.

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. Even a fully fenced yard will not keep out a hungry, athletic coyote. These animals are extremely agile and can easily scale any residential fence up to eight feet high. 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.

Practicing these defensive measures will minimize the nuisances and losses caused by urban coyotes.

Be sure to bring your cats and small dogs inside at night time and secure your pets against coyotes. Westminster Animal Control emphasizes peaceful co-existence with our indigenous wildlife. If you have any questions regarding how to cope with our wildlife, contact Westminster Animal Control at (714) 548-3201.



WAGS is an “open-admission” animal rehabilitation and adoption center serving Westminster and Southern California. Located inside the Westminster Veterinary Group Animal Hospital, this facility has become a popular destination for families looking to adopt pets because of their high level of healthcare, multi-dimensional family-to-pet matching, and consistently successful adoptions.

WAGS welcomes volunteers to their volunteer orientation events. These are held every Wednesday and Saturday from 12:00 PM (noon) to 12:45 PM.

Adopting A Friend

All potential adopters must fill out a pre-adoption questionnaire for adoption approval (<http://www.4wags.org/wags-forms>).

- All adopters must provide a government-issued photo ID.
- WAGS coordinators/volunteers will conduct lifestyle screening interviews to ensure that your new pet is right for your lifestyle.
- You must also bring in proof of home ownership or renting.
- Please call the WAGS center coordinator for a schedule of fees.

The WAGS adoption center is open 7 days a week. Call or drop by!

Adoption Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Friday: 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday: 11:00 PM - 4:00 PM

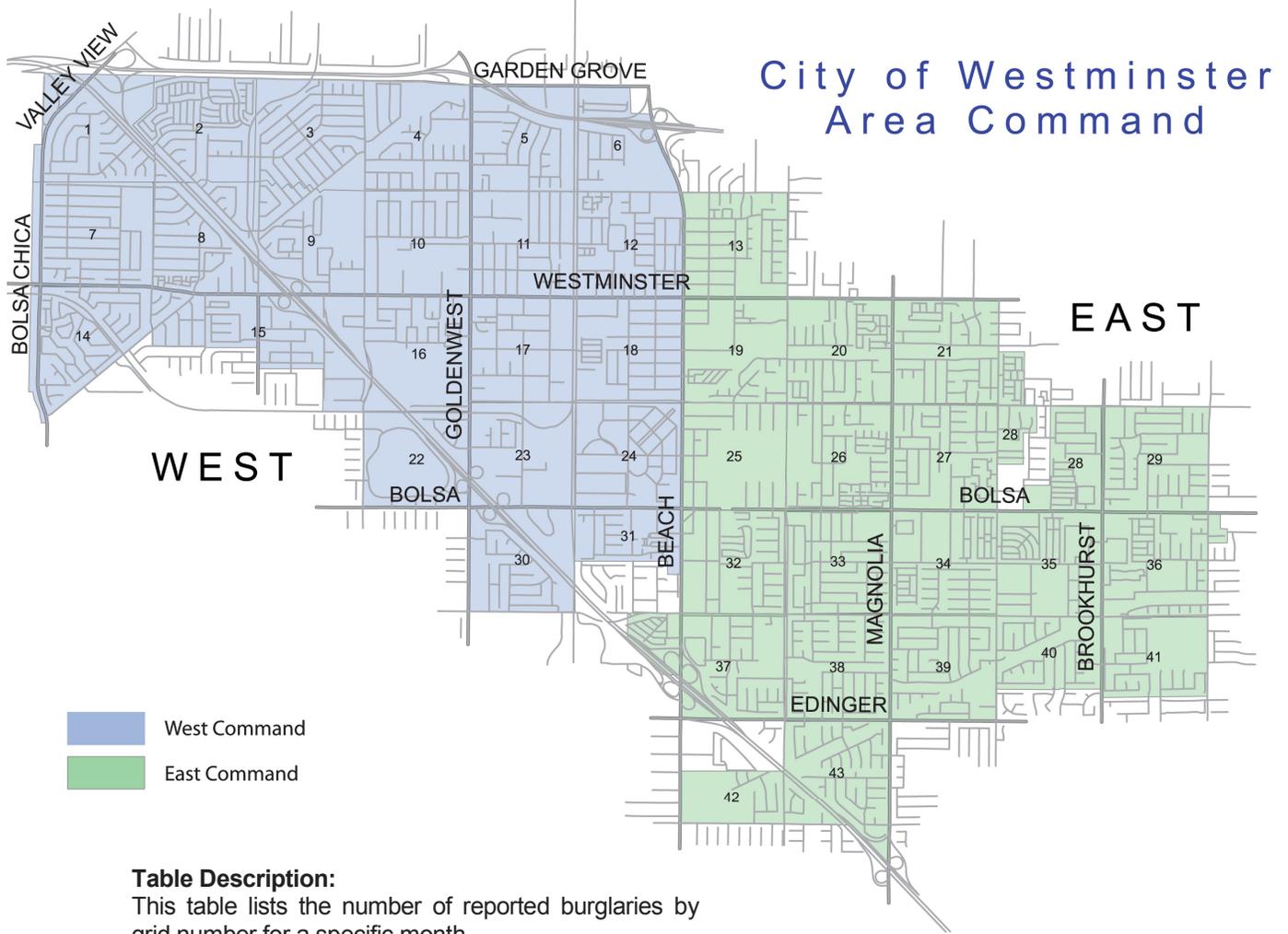
WAGS/Westminster Veterinary Group

6621 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683

NW Newsletter compiled by PSO K. Straziuso and distributed quarterly.

REMINDER

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



West Command
 East Command

Table Description:

This table lists the number of reported burglaries by grid number for a specific month.

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



Raidsonline is a free online service. Anyone can access and review this website to gain knowledge of the type of crime trends occurring in their community. <http://www.raidsonline.com>