

# Neighborhood Watch

October - December 2011

## 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:

Monday-Saturday  
7am to 7pm

### Website:

[www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

### AREA COMMAND:

#### WEST

Lt. Schoonmaker  
714-548-3707

#### EAST

Lt. Vu  
714-548-3725



## this issue

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### Getting the Most Out of Your Neighborhood Watch Group

I will start by saying thank you to all who participate in the Neighborhood Watch (NW) program. There is no question that your continued vigilance will improve the quality of life for you and your neighbors. We are always happy to supply you with up-to-date information on activity in your area and crime prevention tips. In addition, we would be happy to assist your group by attending your Neighborhood Watch meetings or by providing other resources you may need. Remember, your greatest resource is the relationship you have with your neighbors. When you receive the information in these newsletters you should take the time to discuss amongst your group. You will find that these discussions will make this information even more valuable.

The intent of the Neighborhood Watch program is crime prevention and awareness. Please keep your groups positive and focused in the right direction. Your NW group, in partnership with our department, can truly impact crime in your neighborhood.



I wish everyone the best in 2012. Please let us know what we can do to assist you in your efforts.

*-Lt. Dan Schoonmaker*

### Obeying Traffic Laws & Preventing Collisions



Like many cities in the County, traffic safety in our community is a high priority. Our Traffic Bureau and patrol officers are dedicated to actively enforcing the traffic laws to help promote the overall public safety in our community. In 2011, we had a total of 1,499 traffic collisions with 473 traffic collisions involving complaint of pain or injuries. Most of our high incident intersections, where we have the highest frequency of traffic collisions, involve major intersections along Beach Blvd., Bolsa Avenue., and Goldenwest Street. Many of these traffic collisions could be avoided. When officers conduct traffic collision investigations, they look at the primary collision factor(s) to determine which driver is most at fault for the collision. The three most common primary collisions factors are: 1) Unsafe Speed, 2) Use of electronic device while driving (e.g. talking or texting on a cell phone), and 3) Unsafe Turn. Please help us promote public safety by driving at the posted speed limit and obeying all traffic laws. Following this simple advice will greatly reduce the likelihood of you being involved in a traffic collision. Have a safe 2012.

*-Lt. Tim Vu*

**New Child Safety Seat Law**

With the new year upon us the State of California is set to implement new “child safety seat” rules beginning January 1, 2012. The biggest change in the child safety seat law is the age of the child required to be in a booster seat. **Children age 8 or older** may use the vehicle seat belt if it fits properly with the lap belt low on the hips, touching the upper thighs, and the shoulder belt crossing the center of the chest. If children are not tall enough for proper belt fit, they must ride in a booster or car seat.

**Everyone in the car** must be properly buckled up. For each child under 16 who is not properly secured, parents (if in the car) or drivers can be fined more than **\$475** and get a point on their driving records which can increase insurance rates.

**Keep your children safe. It's the law!**

Shoulder belt crosses center of chest



Lap belt stays across hips



**Pedestrian Safety**

Pedestrians—people who travel by foot, wheelchair, stroller, or similar means—are among the most vulnerable users of the road.

In the next 24 hours, on average, 324 people will be treated in an emergency department for pedestrian-related injuries. In the next 2 hours, on average, one pedestrian will die from injuries in a traffic crash.



Whenever you're walking, keep these tips in mind:

**Do's**

- Do use a marked crosswalk or intersection whenever possible.
- Do cross only at intersections in a well-lighted area.
- Do use the pedestrian signals if available.
- Do report to the police department if a signal at a crossing does not work.
- Do stay on the sidewalk until you are ready to cross.
- Do cross only when the signal is green or "WALK." It is illegal to start crossing when the pedestrian signal is flashing.
- Do wear bright clothing if walking at night.

**Don'ts**

- Don't assume the driver sees you. Make sure the driver stops before crossing.
- Don't assume pedestrians always have the right-of-way. Pedestrians have the right-of-way only at crosswalks and intersections.
- Don't start crossing until you have reached the crosswalk.
- Don't cross when the pedestrian signal is 'flashing' "DON'T WALK."

**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

### Current Senior Scams & How to Avoid Becoming a Victim

If you're a senior, you may find yourself bombarded with telephone calls from telemarketers offering you everything from "fantastic investment opportunities" to home repairs (for an unbelievably low price). The callers always seem credible, and their offers can seem irresistible. Well, that's a clue, because if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is: Most of these incredible offers are not on the level. Here are a few of the current wire transfer scams targeting seniors:

- Grandson is in jail and needs bail money wired right away
- Inheritance money for the victim. All you need to do is wire transfer money and it's yours!
- Lotto winner! Again, wire transfer money and it's all yours!

A recent scam was reported where people with time shares were being solicited to sell the properties. They had to wire transfer "escrow" fees to Mexico... Needless to say, the money was gone and nothing happened with the property.



#### How do I avoid being the victim of a scam or identity theft?

There are several things you can do to avoid being the victim of a scam or identity theft.

- Never give anyone your personal information, especially if you don't know who they are. This includes providing or confirming your address, bank account, credit card numbers, or date of birth.
- Don't write account numbers on the outside of payment envelopes. Destroy any records, cancelled checks, receipts, deposit slips, etc. by shredding them. Do not throw them in the trash.
- Anytime you are asked to pay money to get a "free" gift you should refuse to pay the money. It is likely that the offer is fraudulent and even if you were to receive the gift it would likely be an imitation item.

**Guard your social security number. Do not have it imprinted on checks. If it is requested by a business, ask if there is an alternative ID that can be used. If not, ask for an explanation why the number is needed. It should not be used for identification purposes. Do not carry your Social Security card in your purse or wallet.**

### Help Us Go Green!



In the spirit of the city's ongoing efforts to go green, conserve resources, produce less waste and have a gentler impact on the environment, we plan on reducing the number of hard copy newsletters that are published and mailed out or hand delivered.

The newsletter will be e-mailed out to all those who can provide us with their e-mail address. If you are a block captain or the manager of an apartment or mobile home complex and can gather your residents' e-mail addresses, it would be most helpful. Additionally, a link to the newsletter can be found on the city's web site:

<http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police/crimeprevention/neighborhoodwatch.asp>

We understand that there are some citizens who do not have access to a computer, and we will continue to publish a limited number of hard copy newsletters to distribute to those readers. However, we ask that if you do have a computer and can access the internet and/or e-mail, please consider receiving our Neighborhood Watch Newsletter electronically.

Please contact [kstraziuso@westminster-ca.gov](mailto:kstraziuso@westminster-ca.gov) with e-mail addresses and the number of hard copies you will still need to receive. Thank you to those of you who have already provided us with your e-mail address or notified us that you will be accessing the newsletter through the city website. It may take some time to implement the paper to electronic transition. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in our efforts to go green.

### Be Aware of What is Happening in Your Neighborhood

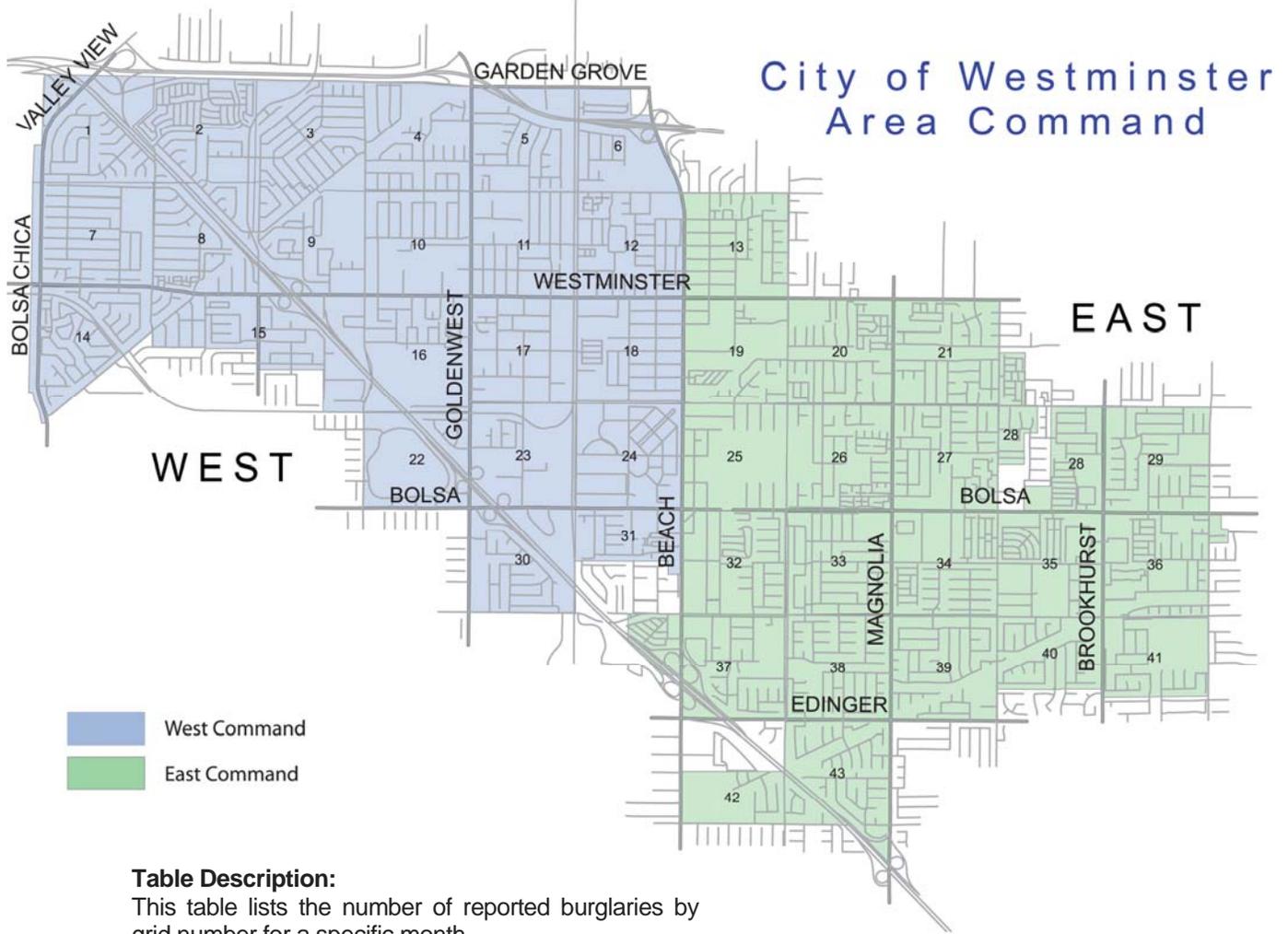


Westminster PD is now in partnership with CrimeReports, a comprehensive crime mapping website. CrimeReports enables us to quickly and easily provide crime and community policing data directly to citizens. It also provides simple analytics that give you an overall snapshot of crime in your area. Graph and pie charts provide a breakdown of recent crime by type and percentage, and the crime trend graph allows for a quick view of crime trends in your neighborhood. Log onto this free website to see up to date information about your area.

<http://www.crimereports.com>

#### REMINDER

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



**Table Description:**

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

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



CrimeReports 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.crimereports.com>