

The Lakewood Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Spring 2011

Volume 27, Issue 1



Chief Kevin Paletta

Volunteer Coordinator Retires

The Lakewood Police Volunteer Coordinator, Lani Peterson, retired in September 2010. Several projects, including the fall neighborhood watch newsletter, block captain meeting and citizen's police academy, have been on hold until a new volunteer coordinator is selected. It is anticipated a new coordinator will be on board in April 2011.



Upcoming Special Events

- Spring Neighborhood Watch block captain meeting is on hold until the volunteer coordinator position is filled.
- Prescription Drug Take Back Program, to give back unused or expired prescriptions. Saturday April 30, 2011 at 480 South Allison
- Colfax Marathon May 15, 2011. More information at www.runcolfax.org
- Taggin' Waggin' May 15, 2011 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. O'Kane Park
- Shred Day June 4, 2011 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. West parking lot of Jefferson County Stadium
- West Metro Fire Muster June 11, 2011, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Red Rocks Community College. Rain date is June 18, 2011
- National Night Out Tuesday, August 2, 2011

*"We really rely on
our relationship with
the public"*

Did You Know?

- Lakewood Police delivered new toy and clothing items along with food coupons to 252 children, 83 families through the Christmas Cheer for Children program in December 2010. This was only possible because of the generosity of Lakewood citizens, churches, schools and businesses.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
- Police volunteers contributed 13,424 hours of service saving the Department approximately \$281,924 in 2010.
- There is currently a \$115 fine for parking without a valid placard in a space reserved for the disabled in Lakewood. The individual to whom the placard was issued must be able to show registration for the placard. HB 1019 would significantly increase the fees, and also makes it a criminal offense to alter these placards.
- Trash containers must be stored on private property and may be placed curbside no more than 48 hours prior to collection.
- Weeds and grass on residential and commercial properties must not exceed 6 inches in height.
- When leaving for the weekend or vacation, it is a good idea to disable garage door openers.

Preventing Theft of Mail

The U.S. Post Office has advised they may be cutting delivery or changing delivery schedules in the near future. To help prevent theft of mail we make the following recommendations:

1. Never put outgoing mail in your residential mailbox for pickup. Take it to the post office or deposit it in a blue U.S. Postal Service receptacle for pickup.
2. Check with your mail delivery person to determine the approximate time of day your mail will be delivered. If you will not be home or able to retrieve the mail soon after delivery, a locking mail receptacle or mail slot in your front door might provide additional security.
3. Shred unwanted credit card offers as well as any other financial offers. Don't just tear them up and place them in the trash.
4. Arrange to have a trusted neighbor, relative or friend retrieve your mail daily when you go on vacation, or even if out of town just for the weekend. A bulging mailbox is a sure sign no one is home.
5. Consider having regular income checks deposited electronically into your bank account via direct deposit. Most banks offer this service and many offer additional perks for those who use direct deposit.
6. When ordering checks, have them delivered to your bank for pickup. Keep track of when they were ordered and when they are due to be delivered.
7. Promptly report non-receipt of credit cards, checks and other valuable mail to the senders.
8. Remember, community mail box arrays are not immune to theft or vandalism.
9. Be observant of and report any suspicious activities going on in your neighborhood.
10. Remember do not jeopardize your safety, but BE A GOOD WITNESS.

Police Non-Emergency No.

We recommend that you program the non-emergency number into your cell phone so the number will be available when needed. The non-emergency number is **303-987-7111**. Always call **911** to report a crime in progress or if you have an emergency situation.

Crime Prevention Tips

Every year there are hundreds of illegal entries into homes in the metro area. Most illegal entries are crimes of opportunity. Burglars search for a home that can be easily, quickly and silently entered. The following tips may help make your home less attractive to a prospective burglar.

- If doors have dead-bolt locks, use them. If not, home owners are advised to have double cylinder dead-bolt locks installed on exterior doors.
- With the installation of a good dead-bolt lock, consider installation of a reinforced strike plate. Use 2 1/2 or 3 inch hardened steel screws to reach into solid studs behind the door frame.
- When you leave home, even if only for a few minutes, make sure that all doors and windows are locked.
- Sliding doors and windows can be blocked with a break-in bar or lock pin. These devices make it more difficult to slide the door or window open, even if the lock is forced.
- If you have a manual lock garage door, keep the door closed and locked, whether you are at home or not. An open garage door is an invitation to burglars. The installation and use of an electronic garage door opener is also advisable.
- Never leave notes that may inform a burglar that you are not at home or that your home is unoccupied.

Summer Safety

Bicyclists, motorcyclists, skateboarders, skaters, walkers and joggers are everywhere once the weather turns nice. Please exercise extreme caution to help avoid any serious accidents. Bicycles and motorcycles are often not visible when in a vehicle's blind spot.

Joggers and walkers often wear headsets which may make them less aware of their surroundings. If bicycling on a bike path, please use caution when approaching joggers or walkers.

Skateboarders and skaters are often very young and do not realize how dangerous it is when they ride down a driveway into a traffic lane. Be aware that children can dart out from between parked cars or roll down a driveway at record speed.

Coyotes have been an on-going safety issue for pets and will continue to be so during the summer months. Feeding your pet outdoors will attract not only coyotes, but also skunks, raccoons, foxes and other wildlife to your yard. Always feed your pet indoors, and never put food items in your garbage that might be attractive to wildlife. Be alert when walking your pet in the parks and open spaces as coyotes are very bold and not afraid of humans.

Swimming pools are a lot of fun for children and a nice way to cool off on a hot summer day, but remember it takes less than one inch of water for a child to drown. A safer way to cool them down and entertain them is the sprinkler system. Kids cool down and you water the lawn at the same time!

Did you know that lightning can strike even when it is not storming? Be aware of this when hiking or enjoying the outdoors, and never seek shelter under a tree during a storm. Baseball fields can also be dangerous because of metal fencing, metal bats and hats that could attract lightning.

If you call 911 mistakenly, please stay on the phone so dispatchers can verify whether or not you have an emergency. Tell the dispatcher you dialed the number by mistake.

National Night Out

Now is the time to start planning to celebrate the Annual National Night Out which is held the first Tuesday of August each year. This year, we encourage you to plan a party with your neighbors for Tuesday, **August 2** and invite the police to join you.

National Night Out is designed to get neighbors together and send a message to criminals that "CRIME IS NOT WELCOME in this neighborhood!" It also provides an excellent opportunity to get to know neighbors better, introduce new neighbors, and help create a sense of community.

If you plan to hold a National Night Out party on August 2, please let us know as soon as possible so we can put you on the list for a visit. This is an ideal opportunity to get to know some of the agents that patrol your area.

Your party can be as simple as an ice cream social or can be a full BBQ dinner with games and entertainment. The possibilities are endless and we would love to hear what you plan.

Some block parties may require a permit from the City Clerk's Office (303-987-7080), so plan early, apply early, and HAVE FUN!

To have a police agent stop by, you may call the Neighborhood Watch & Volunteer Office at 303-987-7105 or contact the Sector Liaison Agent for your sector:

South Sector (south of 6th, Sheridan to Garrison)

Marc Mizanin	303-987-7382
Brian Paisley	303-987-7384

North Sector (north of 6th, Sheridan west to City limits)

Cale Sprister	303-987-7197
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West Sector (south of 6th, west of Garrison)

Chad Smith	303-987-7387
Mark Mansanares	303-987-7385

Can Police and Fire Find You in an Emergency?

Following the simple suggestions listed below will help first responders locate your address quickly in the event of an emergency.

Address numbers are required to be displayed on all residences, offices, and other commercial buildings. Numbers should be between 4 and 12 inches in height, of contrasting color from the background, and clearly visible from public streets, private drives and alleys.

Numbers should be placed so they are visible at night as well as during daylight hours. If you do not use outdoor lighting, there are inexpensive solar house number blocks that will illuminate your address. Be sure to place them high enough that they will not be buried beneath snow in the winter or covered by a bush as they need direct sunlight to recharge daily.

Defacing Property/Graffiti

Municipal Code 9.60.050 Defacing property states:

A. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly deface or cause, aid in, or permit the defacing of public or private property without the prior consent of the owner by painting, drawing, writing, marking, etching, carving, scratching or any other unauthorized marking by use of paint, spray paint, ink, knife or by any other method of defacement.

B. Any person convicted of defacing property shall be ordered by the court to perform community service which shall include personally making repairs to any property damaged or properties similarly damaged. A person who defaces property shall be subject to the maximum penalties established in Section 1.16.020 of the Lakewood Municipal Code. The minimum penalty shall be as follows:

First offense \$250.00;

Second offense \$400.00;

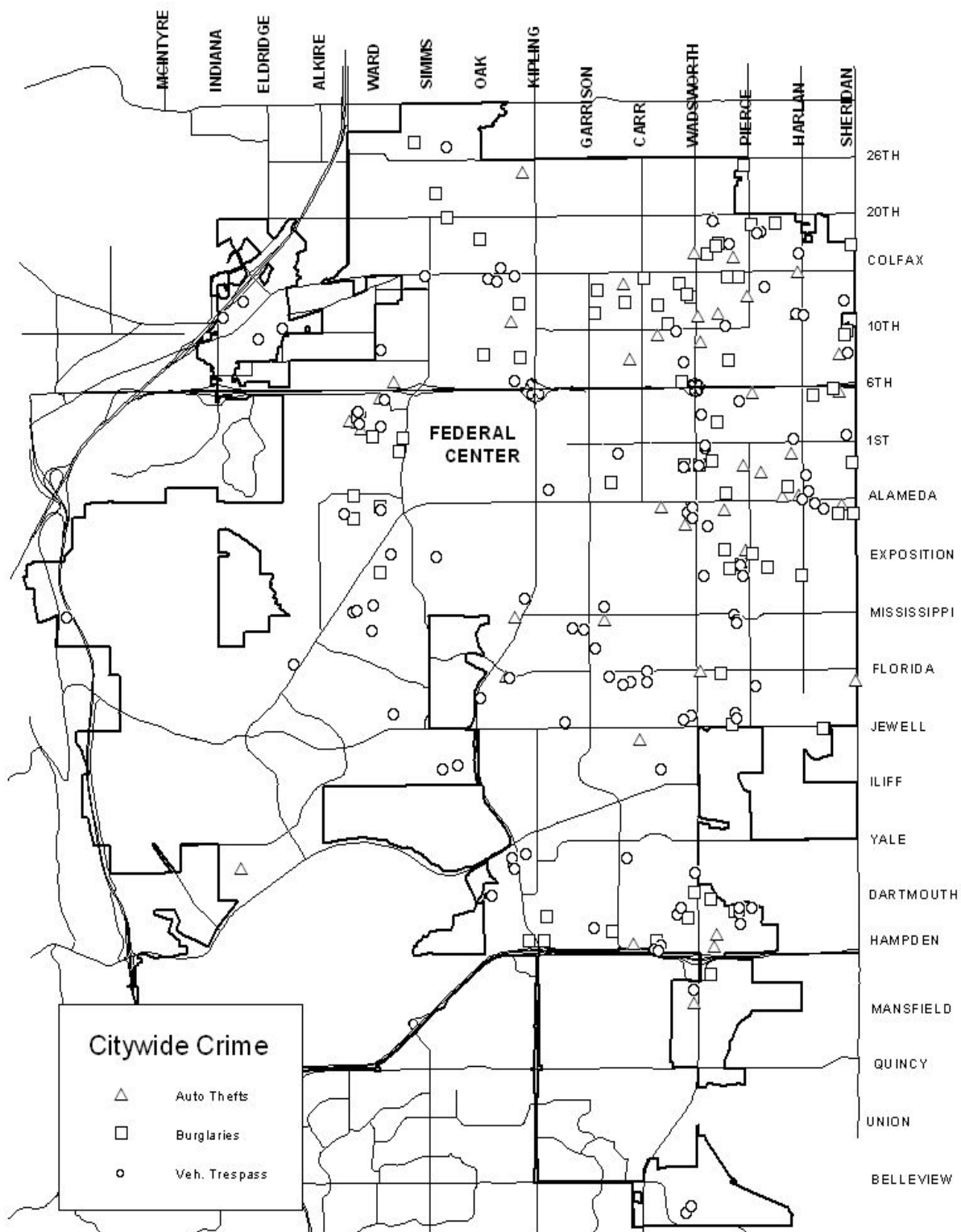
Third or subsequent offense \$650.00

Fines may be set higher or lower at the discretion of a judge, depending on a person's criminal history.

**Lakewood Neighborhood Watch
Burglary, Auto Theft, and Vehicle Trespass Data Summary - 2010**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
BURGLARIES													
Total in City	69	85	77	61	99	96	82	69	85	94	65	74	956
Cases in Watch Area	12	5	5	16	9	9	12	5	10	17	8	11	119
Percentage Occurring In Watch Areas	17%	6%	6%	26%	9%	9%	15%	7%	12%	18%	12%	15%	12%
AUTO THEFTS													
Total in City	43	40	57	41	50	51	48	30	56	49	59	46	570
Cases in Watch Area	3	1	5	2	7	10	6	4	7	5	6	3	59
Percentage Occurring In Watch Areas	7%	3%	9%	5%	14%	20%	13%	13%	13%	10%	10%	7%	10%
VEHICLE TRESPASS													
Total in City	130	112	70	98	102	108	146	110	66	96	73	128	1239
Cases in Watch Area	13	5	10	10	17	23	24	16	14	4	7	19	162
Percentage Occurring In Watch Areas	10%	4%	14%	10%	17%	21%	16%	15%	21%	4%	10%	15%	13%

NOTE: Burglaries include 3rd degree burglaries and possession of burglary tools.



**Lakewood Auto Thefts, Burglaries & Vehicle Trespass
December 2010**