



Crime Bulletin October 15-31, 2009

November Crime Tips



Got Leaves ?

Weather permitting, many of us are outside during November raking leaves and getting our yards ready for the chilly months ahead. This means garage doors are left open while we mulch, mow, rake, and take hot chocolate breaks inside the warmth of our homes. Some of us forget to close them at night, or trustingly leave them open to run a "quick errand".

Open garage doors are open invitations for uninvited "visitors". You might come back to find a few tools missing...but the news can be far worse than that. Does your garage lead to your home? It's an increasing problem in Johnson County for the bad guys to commit crimes by accessing homes via open garages. They may or may not think (or care) that you and your loved ones are home. Violence may result, even if the original motive was theft.

Protect yourself by keeping a watchful eye on garage doors (as well as all doors leading to your home). Keep them closed and locked as much as possible. **Keep a vigilant eye** - if you see anything that doesn't seem quite right, please call the police immediately.



Why a Crime Bulletin?

The Merriam Police Department operates under the "Community Policing Philosophy"...

This means we are committed to providing the highest quality of police services by partnering with you - the citizens of our community. Together, we work as a team to maintain a high quality of living in Merriam, keeping it a safe place to be. This crime bulletin lets us share information with you, helping us reach these goals. We hope you forward this to others who will find it interesting and useful!

The Police Department asks you to report any suspicious activity by calling 9-1-1. Go to: <http://www.merriam.org/MPD/Patrol/report-a-crime.htm> for ways to report non-emergency crimes.



Cold Weather, Cold Cars

The weather is getting colder and no one likes getting into a cold car. It sounds like a great idea to start your car and then run back inside, letting it warm up while you finish getting ready...or to leave your car running while you head into the store for "just a second". But those few moments are all it takes for someone to enter your car and drive away.

This scenario happens in Merriam (and other cities) every year. The good news is that this crime is preventable. So, bundle up and wait...inside your car...for the heat to kick in. Never leave the keys in your car - even if it is locked and you have a spare with you. Thieves will gladly smash windows to get in.

November Crime Watch:

Door to Door Solicitors:

As it gets closer to the holidays, there is an increase in door-to-door solicitors. We've probably all encountered the knock at the door that interrupts a nap or family meal. While it's understandable to be kind to children who are legitimately selling things for their clubs and schools, any adult (including young adults soliciting magazine subscriptions) must have a **Merriam Transient Business License** to go door-to-door with their products and services.

Never let solicitors into your home for any reason. Ask to see their business license. Don't let them manipulate or harass you into buying something. Politely say, "no thank you" and close your door. If you feel uncomfortable by the solicitor, call the police immediately.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence) has victims of all ages across America. It turns relationships and homes into places of fear, hopelessness and desperation. Victims can be of any age, sex, race, culture, religious, education, employment or marital status.

Domestic violence is sometimes referred to as partner abuse. People don't have to be married to be victims of it. In America, children, adults (mostly women), and seniors are all victims of this type of violence.

The "**Cycle Of Violence**" is something that we can watch for either in our relationships or those of friends and family around us.

Incident

- Any type of abuse occurs (physical/sexual/emotional)

Tension Building

- Abuser starts to get angry
- Abuse may begin
- There is a breakdown of communication
- Victim feels the need to keep the abuser calm
- Tension becomes too much
- Victim feels like they are "walking on egg shells"

Making-up

- Abuser may apologize for abuse
- Abuser may promise it will never happen again
- Abuser may blame the victim for causing the abuse
- Abuser may deny abuse took place or say it was not as bad as the victim claims

Calm

- Abuser acts like the abuse never happened
- Physical abuse may not be taking place
- Promises made during "making-up" may be met
- Victim may hope that the abuse is over
- Abuser may give gifts to victim

If you or someone you know is a victim of this type of violence, seek help as soon as possible. You can always call the police. Kansas City is fortunate to have a variety of organizations with 24/7 hotlines. These include:

Safehome: 913-262-2868

New House: 816-471-5800

Hope House: 816-461-4673

Rose Brooks: 816-861-6100

KC Anti-Violence Project:
816-561-0550

MOCSA: 913-642-0233

Sources (and for more info.):
www.domesticviolence.org

Crime Statistics

From October 16 - 31, 2009

Warrant Arrests: 48

Auto Thefts: 1 (on 10/20 - left idling outside a Merriam business; was recovered in Missouri on 10/25)

Burglary to Autos:

- 68th & Antioch
- 55th & Merriam Drive
- 61st & Merriam Lane
- 65th & E. Frontage (x2)

Criminal Use/Financial: 4

DUI Arrests:

- 67th & Antioch
- 75th & NB I-35
- 61st & NB I-35
- 75th & Antioch
- 62nd & Antioch
- 61st & NB I-35
- 69th & NB I-35

Suspicious Activity:

- Gunshots heard near Pinegate Apartments (evening of 10/26)

Auto Accidents:

- 53rd & England
- 75th and NB I-35
- 55th & Merriam Drive
- 58th and Antioch
- SM Parkway & Eby
- 73rd & E. Frontage Road (2)
- Mastin & SM Parkway
- Antioch & SM Parkway (2)
- Lowell & SM Parkway
- 67th & I-35
- 69th & Knox
- 55th & Perry
- 53rd & Hayes
- 75th & E. Frontage Road
- SM Pkwy & I-35

Safe Driving Tips:

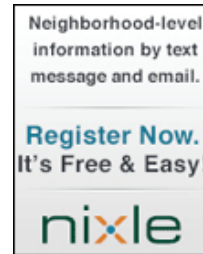
- Use your Headlights during cloudy/stormy weather.

Business Burglary:

- Georgetown Pharmacy (a suspect broke in and stole prescription medication; the suspect was apprehended and was charged in district court).

Theft:

- There have been 2 recent thefts of purses in area businesses. As we head into the busy shopping season, please use extra caution to avoid being a victim. Never leave personal items unattended when you shop, visit the Library, eat out, etc.



The Merriam Police Department is trying to contact you...not because you're in trouble, but because there are times when something important is going on in the Merriam community that you need to know about as soon as possible.

It's free and it's easy to sign up for "**Nixle**", the service that lets you get these important news via text messages & emails. Sign up now at:
<http://local.nixle.com/register/>

Whether you work, live, go to school, hang out with friends, shop, dine, or have family and friends in Merriam...Nixle is for you. **Don't receive today's pressing news tomorrow!**



9010 W. 62nd Street
Merriam, Kansas 66202
Station: 913.322.5560
Dispatch: 913.782.0720
Emergency: 911
police@merriam.org

Station Hours:
Mon. - 8AM to 6PM
Tues. thru Fri. - 7AM to 9PM
Sat. - 10AM to 6PM
Sun. - CLOSED