

Crime Bulletin November 1-15, 2009



November Crime Tips

Happy Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is November 26. Will you be traveling to enjoy the holiday with family and friends? If so, be sure to have your mail and newspapers held (or have a neighbor pick them up) for the days you'll be away. Put lights on timers - both inside and outside - so it looks like someone is home. Take advantage of the **Merriam Police Department's House Check.** You can print out a house check form online and bring it to the station during business hours. Forms are at:

www.merriam.org/MPD/Community-Policing/documents/HouseCheck.pdf

Don't Tell the Whole World Your Travel Plans!

Social networking sites, such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Blogs, and others, are a lot of fun. It's tempting to post news about your upcoming vacations and to put up the latest photos while you're away...but you are potentially targeting your home for a burglary, so just don't do it. Never put your full address on sites such as Facebook. Don't change your voicemail message to reflect your vacation. For work-related absences, phone and email messages can let people know you're "out of the office" but this isn't the same as saying "I'm out of town from November 27 through December 4". Protecting yourself when you travel begins - and ends - at home.

BLACK FRIDAY



Black Friday...that wonderful day after Thanksgiving that kicks off the holiday shopping season! While clipping coupons and searching for ads, share these safe-shopping tips with your family and friends:

- **Don't shop alone.** Be safe: take a friend or two along.
- So you're up at 4am to catch the Early Bird Sales? Only park where it's **well-lit**, park as close as you can to the store, and bring a friend or two with.
- If you have to wait in the car for the store to open, keep your doors locked, don't fall asleep, and don't sit in the car alone.
- **Leave your purse at home**...not in your car trunk or glove box, lying on the seat of your car, or hidden in your car someplace. If you have to bring a purse, keep it light. Put your driver's license and credit card in your front pants pocket. Try not to carry cash. Use a purse with a strap to cross over your body and **never** set it down.
- Ward off being pick-pocketed - don't put things in your back pants pockets.
- **Stay aware** of your surroundings. Keep cell/text use to a minimum while you are out. Don't get distracted.
- Prevent becoming a victim. Sitting in your car to balance your checkbook, count money, chat/text on your phone etc, leaves you an easy target for being robbed or carjacked. Just don't do it.

Source: www.associatedcontent.com/article/1241064/black_friday_shopping_safety_tips_pg2_pg2.html?cat=46



Women's Self-Defense Seminar

"Avoiding & Surviving a Violent Encounter"

Sponsored by the Merriam, Kansas Police Department

This interactive seminar will consist of a one-hour discussion on ways women can

avoid and survive violent encounters, such as being confronted in a parking lot, on a walking trail, etc. A 30 minute light, hands-on instruction/demonstration will follow. The focus will be on basic principles that can be applied during a violent encounter. Attendees should dress in comfortable clothing with little jewelry if they plan on participating in the physical portion of the seminar. Learning self-defense is a powerful tool for all women! Invite your family and friends to this event!

Due to the content of this seminar, the minimum age for attendance is 12 years old.

Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010

Time: 1 - 2:30pm

Place: Merriam Community Center Gym (5701 Kessler)

Cost: None

RSVP: By February 20, 2010 to rondab@merriam.org or 913-322-5560 during the hours of 8:30am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday

For Just a Few Minutes...

Each year, the Merriam Police Department receives several calls about a stolen vehicle.

The Scenario Goes Something Like This:

The weather is cold, snowy, and/or icy. Someone starts up his/her vehicle outside the home and runs back inside for "just a few minutes" to let it warm up. Upon returning, the vehicle is gone!

A few seconds is really all it takes for your auto to be stolen. The good news? This crime is preventable! So, bundle up and wait...inside your car...for the heat to kick in. And if you think you're safe locking the door with the key in the ignition and a spare in your pocket, think again. Breaking a window to get in is something the "bad guys" are good at.



Crime Statistics From November 1-15, 2009

Warrant Arrests: 42

DUI Arrests:

- 58th & NB I-35
- Johnson Drive & I-35
- 61st & NB I-35
- Antioch & NB I-35
- 58th & Antioch
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Antioch

Residential Burglary:

- Antioch & 49th Street

Identity Theft 2

Auto Accidents:

- 76th and I-35
- W. 75th Street and I-35
- 71st and Antioch
- 67th & W. Frontage
- 55th & Antioch
- Shawnee Mssn Pkwy & Robin Hood

Auto Burglary:

- 65th & E. Frontage Road
- 60th & Merriam Drive

Theft: 8

Possession of Controlled Substance: 1



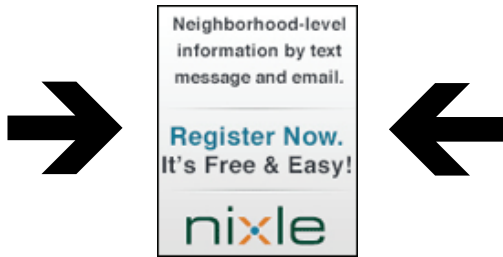
Criminal Posing as IRS Agent

Merriam Police are warning the community of a scam occurring in the Merriam area. Recently, Merriam Police have received two reports of an individual claiming to be from the IRS. In both reports the person calling went by the name of Tom Noland. Noland stated that he was an agent with the IRS and had a check for the individual for a large sum of money for winning a prize. He then told the individual that he needed them to pay the luxury tax on the prize so he could send them the check. The prize winner was supposed to send the luxury tax through Western Union, and then the prize check would arrive in a few days. The check never arrived and the Western Union transfer was picked up thirty minutes after it was sent.

In the second incident, an individual received a phone call stating that they would be receiving a check from UPS that afternoon. The next call was from an agent with the IRS that wanted the individual to pay the luxury tax on the check with their credit card. The individual refused to give the IRS agent their credit card number and the agent hung up on them.

We would like the public to be aware of this scam. They are not affiliated with any organization that gives prizes, or with the IRS. No one should be calling your house or cell phone and asking you to give a credit card number or to send cash for something you have not ordered or already received. Please be aware of this scam and do not send these individuals any money or give them your credit card information.

If you have any information on this scam please contact Det. Jeremiah Waters at 913-322-5580.



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

**Crime affects us all -
 be part of
 the solution!**