



## Crime Bulletin January 16-31, 2010

### Crime Tips for Seniors

Senior citizens sometimes face a few challenges younger folks may not when it comes to staying safe.

As we age, we might develop health conditions, such as arthritis, a heart condition and/or declining vision that limit or alter our mobility. Decreased hearing and changes in our sense of smell may also put us at safety risk as we age. Our attention span and memory may not be as keen as they once were. We might find ourselves homebound (or at home for longer periods of time). We may lose our ability to drive (or be able to drive under limited conditions).

Perhaps the best piece of “safety advice” for seniors is to **Stay Alert!** If you notice anything that seems suspicious, call 911!!

#### More specifically:

- Don't let anyone into your home you do not know. This includes people trying to sell you things, someone stopping by to use your phone, or someone insisting they have a work order to perform in your home that you have not asked for (or that they cannot show the correct identification for).
- Be sure you have someone checking on you at least once a day (or someone you call at least once a day). That way, if you should need help and be unable to get it (such as if you fall or are too weak to get out of bed), your contact person will realize something is wrong. This advice isn't only for people who live alone, but for elderly couples, etc.
- Walk with confidence when you are out and about...whether in the yard, the grocery store, or at the park. Carry your cell phone with you at all times if you have one.

- Don't carry large sums of money with you. Avoid carrying your wallet in your back pocket.
- Avoid shopping after dark. If you are out and it gets dark, ask a store employee to assist you to your car.
- Always lock your car doors - even when you are at home.
- Never leave a spare key under your doormat, under a rock by the house, etc.
- Secure your home well. Keep lights on inside and outside after dark. Put a radio or TV on. Have a deadbolt installed (not the chain type - these are too easy to break through). If you have sliding doors/windows, place a long wooden dowel in the track to keep them from opening.
- Use your Neighborhood Watch Program to help keep an eye on you (if you don't have one, the Merriam Police Department can give you information about how to start one).
- Vary your daily routine.
- Say no to telephone callers asking you for money. There are many other ways to donate to legitimate/trustworthy causes.
- Ask your bank about direct deposit for monthly checks you may have mailed to you (social security, etc.).
- Store your valuables in a Safe Deposit Box at your bank.
- Plan ahead for inclement weather; stock up on food, prescriptions, and other needed items during stormy seasons. Check into *Meals on Wheels* or other home delivery options to help keep you healthy and connected.

Of course, getting older does not mean you will automatically become the victim of a crime or other mishap...but taking precautions is one key to prevention.

# Crime Statistics

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## From January 1-15, 2010

### Warrant Arrests: 22

#### DUI Arrests:

- 67th & I-35
- 66th Terrace and Mastin
- 67th & I-35
- 63rd & Merriam Drive

#### Traffic Accidents:

- Several along I-35, both north and southbound.

Please exercise caution when using highway ramps; take extra precautions during rush hour traffic no matter where you are driving...and please, stay off your cell phones (and NEVER text while driving). The fewer distractions you have while driving, the safer you'll be.

- Knocked down light pole - 55th & Farley
- 66th & Antioch
- 54th & Antioch
- Johnson & Slater
- 97th & W. 67th Street
- 75th & Kessler
- 54th Terrace & Hadley
- SM Parkway & Robinhood
- 63rd & I-35 (Hit and Run)

#### Residential Burglary:

- 73rd & Brittany (pried entry - flat screen TV, PS3 & Laptop stolen)
- 88th & W. 47th Terrace (stolen Xbox & digital camera)
- 91st & W. 73rd (apartment ransacked; jewelry stolen)

#### Theft (Business):

- Attempted theft from vending machine at Drury Inn (90th & SM Parkway)
- 58th & Antioch (copper cut from business; suspected has been arrested)
- 58th & Antioch (groceries not paid for)
- 60th & Merriam (shingles)
- 54th & Merriam (AC unit)
- Merriam Library - stolen Blackberry
- 42 " Plasma TV (59th & Merriam)

#### Aggravated Robbery:

- 56th & Antioch - Quiznos (\$650 stolen at gunpoint)

#### Theft:

- 10000th & W. 62nd Street (groceries)
- \$20 in parking lot at 68th & Antioch (person approached to trade personal check for cash; cash given but check not received)

#### Battery:

- KC's Bar and Grill

#### Auto Burglary/Damage:

- 99th & Calle Sombrio - Window broken; clothing & CDs stolen
- 58th & Antioch - work tool bag stolen from van
- 88th & SM Parkway - stolen auto tag
- 99th & W. 51st - window shot out
- 62nd & Mastin - 4 wheels & tires taken off a new BMW
- 64th & Hadley - coats and keys stolen from auto
- 90th & W. 62nd - stolen auto tag
- 72nd & W. Frontage Road - GPS, gas card and battery stolen from vehicle
- 57th & Antioch - broken window; stolen tools

#### Auto Theft:

- 2007 Toyota Corolla from 63rd & Lowell (later recovered in Lafayette County; car had been burnt and there was a corpse in the trunk)
- 2003 Honda Civic (10000th & Edelweiss)
- 2000 Toyota Tacoma PU (72nd & Eby)
- 1990 Ford Bronco (72nd & W. Frontage)

#### Identity Theft:

- 58th & Merriam (credit account falsely opened in victim's name)

#### Possession of Controlled Substance:

- 91st Terr. & W. 51st Terr. (marijuana)

#### Possession of Drug Paraphernalia:

- 52nd and Knox



# Women's Self-Defense Seminar

## "Avoiding & Surviving a Violent Encounter"

Sponsored by the Merriam, Kansas Police Department

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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! The seminar will be led by Charles Boyce and Jason Reynolds from the Merriam Police Department.

**Police Officer Charles Boyce** teaches from a "survivor's mindset", meaning that if you are ever in a situation where your safety is being compromised, be willing to do what it takes to survive. Prior to becoming a police officer, he served as one of the department's chaplains. Along with his duties as a patrol officer, Officer Boyce is one of the "use of force" instructors. His specialty is pressure points and control tactics. He holds the rank of fourth degree black belt, and oversees two Karate Dojos.

**Corporal Jason Reynolds** has been with the Merriam, PD since 2000. He is a "use of force" instructor with the Merriam, PD. Jason wrestled in high school and took Tae Kwon Do for several years; he then studied Kung Fu for several years, with an emphasis on realistic empty hand fighting skills. Jason has also been trained in the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR) and ground fighting, as a police officer, and teaches LVNR, handgun retention, Ground Fighting, and General Defensive Tactics to other officers.

**Date: Saturday, February 27, 2010**

**Time: 1 -3pm**

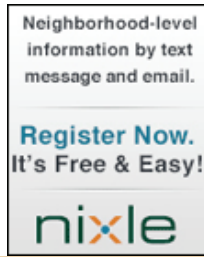
**Place: Merriam Community Center Gym (5701 Kessler)**

**Cost: None**

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

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

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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!**

## 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.

**Crime Tip: If you see suspicious activity...such as someone driving by slowly or parked in a vehicle in an odd location, or footprints in the snow around your home when you haven't been walking around, please call 911 immediately. The police are glad to come and check things out.**



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

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

**Prepared by Suzette Mack**