

Shopping

Shopping will be different this year with COVID-19 since some businesses are requiring masks to enter their business. Please be sure to wear your mask to protect you and the other person. COVID-19 is still spreading so be very careful when you are out and about.

Are you going to take advantage of the sales this holiday season? Whether you are committed to Black Friday bargains at midnight, weekday shopping, online purchases or last-minute deals, Safe Streets has a few tips to keep you safe while shopping this holiday season.

- Know your surroundings and put the cell phone away when you're walking in public. Walk confidently, in well-lit areas, paying attention to the people around you.
- Never leave a purse or wallet unattended — especially in a shopping cart, vehicle or restroom stall floor. Ladies, consider wearing a “cross-body” style purse.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash and take only the credit card(s) you need.
- Never leave purchases in plain sight in your vehicle. Store them in your trunk or take them home!
- When you put your purchases in your vehicle and plan to go back to purchase more items, move your car to a different location.
- Be patient with people and with other vehicles!

If ordering online, here are a couple of things you can do to ensure your package is received:

- Request a signature confirmation of delivery
- Ask neighbors to watch for deliveries and agree to secure each other's packages
- Deliver to workplace (if allowed)
- Track packages online
- Sign up for text notifications of delivery status.

Protecting Your Vehicle and Belongings

Nothing is more frustrating than going to get in your car, only to find the window smashed and your belongings gone.

There are steps you can take to reduce the likelihood of this happening to you.

First of all, remove all valuables from sight. A car burglar typically walks through a parking area peering into cars just looking for something of interest to him or her. If you have a removable (pullout) stereo or faceplate, that is ideal! If not, at least remove accessories that may draw attention to the stereo. (CDs, tapes, remotes, etc.) Also, remove cell phones, briefcases, and duffle bags. Do not leave loose change in the cup holder or ash tray - that may attract a thief. Law enforcement reminds us to never leave a gun in your vehicle.

License plates

Next time you go to a hardware store, purchase a couple of “tamper resistant bolts.” Replace the screws that secure your license plate to your car with these. This will slow down anyone trying to steal your plate because they will need a special tool and will likely just move to the next car. In addition, when you put your next registration sticker on your vehicle, remove the old ones layered underneath. If your sticker is securely adhered to the metal plate and someone tries to peel it off it will pull apart and void the sticker. If you have layered the sticker already, you may want to use a razor blade and carve an “X” through the sticker. This will discourage a thief who will see the sticker coming off in four little parts if they try to remove it.

To keep your car from becoming a statistic:

- Always lock all doors.
- Roll windows up tight.
- Park in heavily traveled areas.
- Don't hide spare keys-they can be found.
- Don't think it can't happen to you - act before, not after the crime.

While you've been reading this information, 10 cars were stolen in this country. They were stolen because the opportunity was there. If you have taken these protective measures, you may deter the theft of your car and save yourself a lot of money and inconvenience!

Mail

A neighborhood told me that someone is taking mail out of their mailbox. Just a reminder, it is best to take the mail to the post office because once a person puts mail in the mailbox with the flag up, it is an opportunity for someone to know that a person may be paying a bill or other mail that might have their personal information. If a person is not able to take mail to the post office, it might be good to know about when the mail carrier is in your neighborhood.

Please let me know if I can provide specific information to you. As always, we are here to help make neighborhoods safe.

Thanks
Judy

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