



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

## & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NEWS

**BUILDING A STRONGER & SAFER LA MIRADA**

**NOVEMBER 2008**

### **DECORATE YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

Get out your decorations and start planning. La Mirada's Neighborhood Watch is holding its annual Holiday Home Decorating Program.

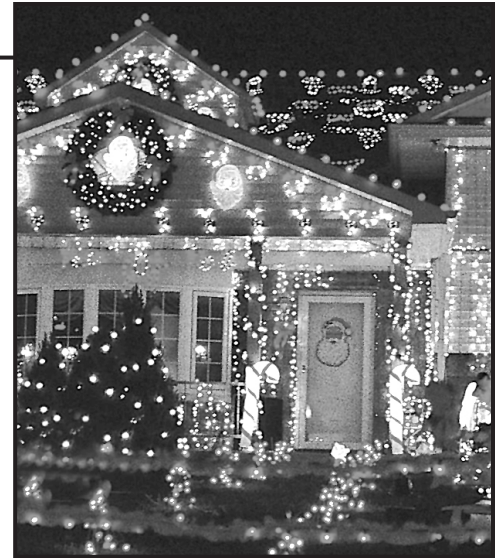
"La Mirada residents are encouraged to decorate their homes and help spread the holiday cheer," says Administrative Aide Danielle Hefte.

No application is needed. Every decorated house in La Mirada will be automatically considered for the program.

Judging for the Holiday Home Deco-

rating Program will take place the day after Thanksgiving, Nov. 28 and end Dec. 5. Judges will select winners from ten areas of La Mirada in the following three categories: Most Original, Best Use of Lights, and Best Holiday Scene. Winners will be announced at the Chili Holiday Concert on Dec. 11.

For more information, contact Administrative Aide Danielle Hefte at (562) 902-2987.



### **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: A CHECKLIST**

The first 72 hours after a major emergency or disaster are critical. Electricity, gas, water, and telephones may not be working. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least two weeks. The following are a few tips that can be followed to help prepare for a disaster.

- Assemble an emergency preparedness kit for your home that contains the following supplies:

- Water (one gallon per person per day).

- Food that will not spoil and requires no cooking.

- First-aid kit and extra medication.

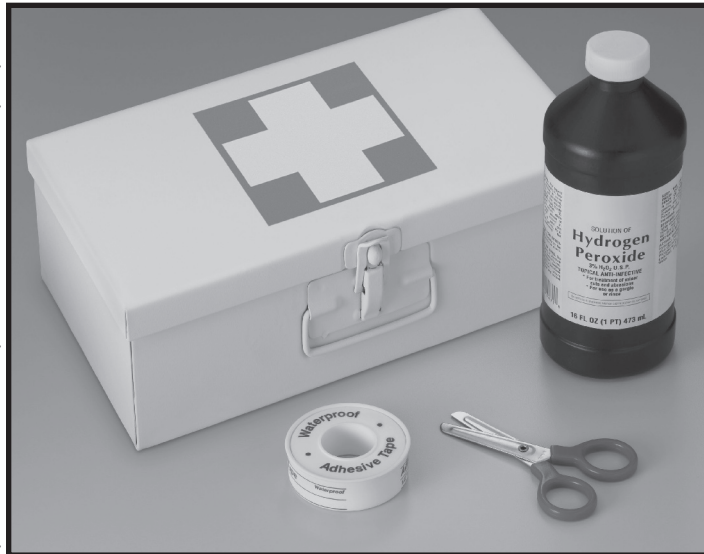
- Emergency tools, such as a battery-powered radio, cell phone, flashlight.

- Money that is in small bills.

- Personal items like toiletries and plastic garbage bags.

- Clothing and blankets for each person.

- Portable generator if possible.



- Make a list of important phone numbers, such as non-emergency numbers for the City, Sheriff and Fire Departments.

- Develop a communications plan for your family. Choose someone who does not live with you (preferably out-of-state) so you or other family members can contact to check on each other in the event that you are separated during a disaster.

- Develop and practice your evacua-

tion plan. It should include a floor plan of your home and mark two escape routes from each room.

- Learn how to turn off water, gas, and electricity at main switches.

- Establish a meeting place for family members if home or neighborhood evacuation is necessary. Pick one place near your home and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return after a disaster.

- Take a basic course in CPR and first-aid. Also consider taking the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training offered by the City.

- Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.

Should you have any questions regarding Emergency Preparedness or to sign up for CERT training, contact the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.



## LA MIRADA CRACKING DOWN ON BUCKLING UP



The La Mirada Public Safety Team will be aggressively enforcing the state's seatbelt laws as part of California's Click it or Ticket mobilization, taking place Nov. 17 through Nov. 30.

This campaign relies on heavy enforcement and public education as a means to help California achieve the highest seat belt use rate in the nation. California currently has the nation's fourth highest seat belt use rate

at 95.7% an increase from last years 94.6%.

"We want to make sure that all drivers and passengers buckle up on every ride, day and night," says La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station Lieutenant Pat Valdez.

California has a primary seat belt law which requires that every passenger in the car, including the driver, is required to wear a seat belt at all times. Tickets for the first seat belt violation range from \$80 to \$91 for adults and \$330 to \$401 for children under age 16.

"Our Deputies will be on the lookout for those who are not buckled up and for teens and children not riding properly restrained," says Lieutenant Valdez. "We will not accept excuses. It's Click it or Ticket."

For more information on the mobilization, contact the La Mirada Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

## Holiday Toy & Food Drive

A Holiday Toy and Food Drive will begin on Nov. 3 and run through Dec. 15 in La Mirada. New and unwrapped toys and nonperishable food items will be accepted for distribution to local children and families. All food donations collected will help to prepare holiday food boxes that many families depend on for a wonderful holiday dinner.

Donated items will be collected at City facilities including Splash! La Mirada Regional Aquatics Center, La Mirada Resource Center, La Mirada Activity Center, the Community Gymnasium and the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station. To obtain additional information, call the La Mirada Activity Center at (562) 902-3160.

## HAVE A TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERN?

Do you think there needs to be a turn signal at a busy intersection you drive through everyday or a crosswalk painted for children to use while they are walking to school? If so, you can have your traffic concerns heard by the City of La Mirada's Public Safety Commission.

All you have to do is write a letter explaining your traffic concern and address it to the Public Safety Commission, 13700 La Mirada Boulevard. Make sure to include your phone number so City staff can contact you if they need more information about your concern. The Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall, where they will hear your concern. They will then assign the City's Traffic Engineer to study your request and prepare recommendations.

For more information about the Public Safety Commission, contact Department Secretary Emily Kuns at (562) 902-2966.

## REPORT TRASH SCAVENGING

In light of current economic conditions, there has been an increase in calls to the Community Sheriff's Station regarding individuals scavenging through trash and recyclables during trash collection days.

Section 6.08.320 of the La Mirada Municipal Code prohibits any person besides the City designated trash collector or the resident that owns the trash bin, from removing any waste or recyclables from a trash bin.

"If you witness someone scavenging through trash bins, do not make contact

with them," says Public Safety Assistant Cathy Moreno. "Instead, be a good witness and get a description of the person including the color and type of clothing the person is wearing."

If the person is in a vehicle, try to get the color and type of vehicle they are in and if possible the license plate number. If the person leaves the area let the call taker know the direction they left.

For more information or to report an incident, call the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

## TAKE CARE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

The La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station has recently received inquiries about the rules and regulations regarding abandoned vehicles on private and public property. Abandoned vehicles include cars, boats, trailers, and recreational vehicles. Regulations for these items are outlined in Chapter 10.08 of the City's Municipal Code.

An "inoperable" vehicle is described as a vehicle that is being repaired, dismantled, wrecked or incapable of being operated, and must be kept out of public view and stored in a garage when possible. This becomes a violation of the La Mirada Municipal Code when the vehicle or its parts are a hazard to the public health and safety.

Los Angeles County Code states that working vehicles should be parked in a garage or driveway, and no vehicle should be parked on the grass parkway between the street and the sidewalk.

The Municipal Code also states vehicles should not be parked on a public street for longer than 72 hours. There is no code that directly prohibits recreational vehicles (RVs) from parking on streets as long as they move every 72 hours and are not over 6,000 pounds and seven feet in width.

To report abandoned or inoperable vehicles parked on private property, call the Code Enforcement Department at (562) 943-0131. Report abandoned or inoperable vehicles on public property to the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Veterans' Day	November 11		
Council Meeting	November 11,25	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
Public Safety Commission	November 20	6:30 p.m.	City Hall
Thanksgiving Day City Hall Closed	November 27,28		
Holiday Home Decorating Contest	November 28-December 5		
Chili Holiday Concert	December 11	6-8 p.m.	Civic Center Plaza



## MONTHLY CRIME ANALYSIS

La Mirada's recent crime analysis indicates the total number of incidents increased from 352 in September to 358 in October.

Grand theft incidents decreased from 20 in September to seven in October. Forgery incidents increased from three in September to ten in October. With the current condition of our economy, these types of crimes are on the increase. Residents are reminded to shred mail that contains personal information, especially credit card applications.

Vandalism incidents decreased from 26 in September to 19 in October. Narcotic incidents increased from 16

in September to 25 in October. Drunk driving incidents also increased from six in September to ten in October.

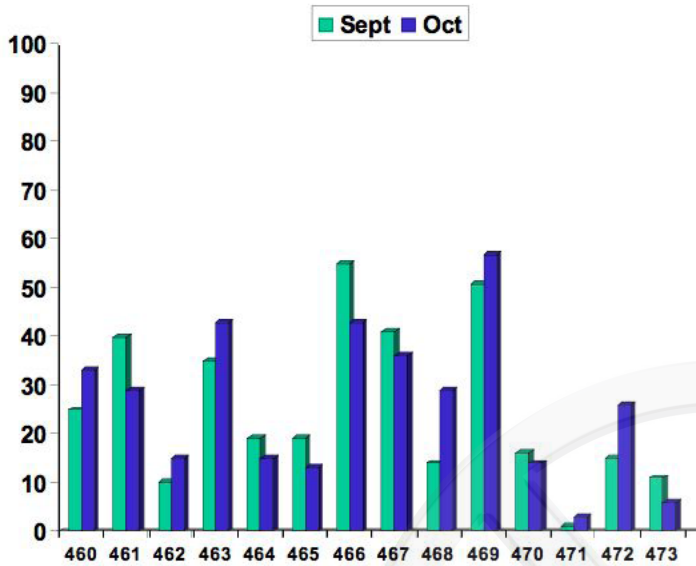
Vehicle burglary incidents increased from ten in September to 18 in October. The Public Safety Team encourages all residents to keep items such as GPS devices, satellite radios, cell phones, and laptops or laptop bags out of view. Either take these items with you inside your house or place them inside the trunk.

For additional information or to report a crime, contact the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station at (562) 902-2960.

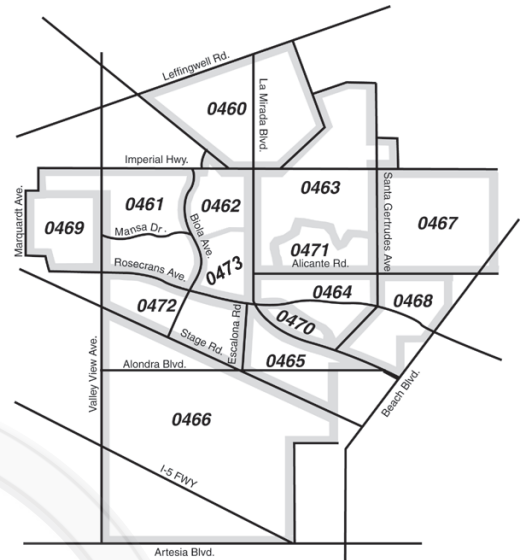


# DISTRICT CRIME TOTALS FOR SEPTEMBER 2008/ OCTOBER 2008

## • Total Crimes



## • Reporting District Map



## • Reporting District Total Crime

District	Sept	Oct	Rape	Robbery, Weapon	Robbery, Strong Arm	Assault, Felony	Burglary, Residence	Burglary, Other Structure	Grand Theft	Grand Theft Vehicle (GTA)	Forgery	Fraud	Assault, Misdemeanor	Weapons Law	Narcotics	Drunk	Liquor Laws	Disorderly Conduct	Drunk Driving	Vehicle and Boating Laws	Vandalism	Arson	Vehicle Burglary	Petty Theft	Felonies, (Misc.)	Misdemeanors, (Misc.)	Persons Missing or Found	Juvenile, Non-Criminal	Non-Criminal	Suicide and Attempt	Traffic Accidents	Persons Dead	Miscellaneous, Reasonable C.	Vehicle, Other Non-Criminal	Total
460	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	4	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	1	2	2	25
460	Oct	Sept	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	1	1	1	6	-	1	2	-	1	-	4	-	4	-	2	1	2	-	3	2	-	3	2	33
461	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	2	-	6	-	3	8	40	
461	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	6	29		
462	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	10	
462	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	5	15		
463	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	1	6	5	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	5	35		
463	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	4	4	3	-	1	1	1	3	1	-	5	-	3	3	43			
464	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	4	4	19		
464	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	3	15		
465	Sept	Oct	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	2	4	19		
465	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	3	13		
466	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	1	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	11	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	3	-	8	-	2	10	55
466	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	15	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	5	43		
467	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	1	2	1	3	1	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	2	5	-	-	3	7	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	6	41			
467	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	2	-	1	3	2	-	1	-	4	-	2	7	36	
468	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	14		
468	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	2	1	1	-	2	-	1	-	5	-	2	8	29		
469	Sept	Oct	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	1	5	-	-	1	14	5	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	51		
469	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	6	1	1	1	2	14	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	2	-	9	8	57		
470	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	1	16		
470	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	14		
471	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
471	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3		
472	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	15		
472	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	2	-	5	3	26		
473	Sept	Oct	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	11		
473	Oct	Sept	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6		
TOTAL	Sept	Oct	2	1	-	4	8	9	20	7	3	14	8	4	16	2	1	2	6	51	26	-	10	14	5	13	5	-	12	-	32	1	22	54	352
TOTAL	Oct	Sept	-	1	-	4	7	9	7	9	10	4	10	1	25	4	2	2	10	49	19	1	18	13	4	10	7	-	18	-	29	-	36	53	358

### SPECIAL APPRECIATION

If you would like to join the Neighborhood Watch Program or PICK UP a Neighborhood Watch newsletter, stop by the La Mirada Community Sheriff's Station, or call (562) 902-2960.

The City of La Mirada would like to thank **Active Printing & Solutions** for assisting with printing costs for this publication.