



# COBBLESTONE WATCHWORD

SPRING 2007

## THE EYES HAVE IT

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Though not heavily advertised, more than a year ago Cobblestone Village implemented a Neighborhood Watch (NW) program. Our NW program works to reduce crime in Cobblestone Village. Members from your community meet regularly to discuss various issues that have occurred in and around the complex, as well as respond to complaints and safety concerns. With your help, an active NW program can effectively reduce crime to your homes and improve safety in the area.

### Neighborhood crime facts:

- Burglary, auto theft, domestic violence, theft, and graffiti are the most prevalent neighborhood crimes.
- Household burglary is a crime of opportunity, the easiest to prevent but the hardest to solve.
- Residential burglary is one of the most increasing crimes in the nation.
- Most burglars are either juveniles or young adults who need to support a drug habit.
- Half of all home burglaries occur during the day.

- A majority of residential burglaries occur because someone has left a door or window unlocked.
- People who interrupt a burglar are apt to be seriously injured and risk death.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Get acquainted with your community Neighborhood Watch
- See How Westminster's Crime Stats Rank Against the Nation
- Tips for a GREAT Spring

## POOL PATROL











by Marcos and Briana Pantalion

Last Summer, the pool didn't get messed up. Most of the people obeyed the rules and that made the pool a fun place to be. The kids and adults had fun. The only problems we had were kids throwing rocks and jumping over the fence.

This year everyone will have a tag to show they live in the community so be sure to bring your tag with your key to

the pool. If you lose your key, you have to pay \$25 to get a new one; if you lose your tag you can get a replacement. It will be a different color. If you find your tag or your key turn it in to the management company and you will get your money back. We will have a good season this year. If the pool doesn't get messed up you won't have to pay more HOA dues.

Westminster CO Crime Statistics (2005 Crime Data)



Crime Type		2004 Total	Per 100,000 People	National per 100,000 People
<b>Overall Westminster Crime Index</b>		5427	5109.6	4627.9
<b>Westminster Violent Crimes</b>		318	299.4	554.4
Westminster Murders		2	1.9	6.9
Westminster Rapes		25	23.5	34.6
Westminster Robberies		72	67.8	195.4
Westminster Aggravated Assaults		219	206.2	340.1
<b>Westminster Property Crimes</b>		5109	4810.2	4073.5
Westminster Burglaries		701	660	814.5
Westminster Larceny/Thefts		3453	3251.1	2734.7
Westminster Motor Vehicle Thefts		955	899.2	526.5
Westminster Arsons <sup>1</sup>		12	11.3	N/A

1 - National arson data is not available. Therefore, arson data is not used in a comparative manner, and arson data is excluded from property crimes total.

Notes:

- Based on the final 2005 FBI Crime Reports.
- Results are tabulated using the Westminster crime collection area population of 106,211.
- Westminster crime collection population may not match US Census data. Population is based on the agencies participating in the reporting.

2006 Westminster crime stats will be available October 2007.

Westminster Population: 100940		Indicates Westminster Crime Level is BETTER than national average.
Male Population: 50509		
Female Population: 50431		
Households: 38343		Indicates Westminster Crime Level is WORSE than national average.
Median Age: 33		
Average Household Size: 2.62		

**UNDER SURVEILLANCE**

The NW Committee Members met in March to discuss the following issues:

**COMPLAINTS:**

- A bloody, incoherent man was seen going through trash at the west mailbox. Police were contacted, who apparently knew the suspect and considered him harmless.
- Kids have been seen in the greenbelt with bottle rockets.
- Graffiti has defaced various surfaces around the community, including the call boxes on 81st Avenue.

- Snow storm cleanup was inferior.
- Roofing – nails still falling from roofs.
- Leaves and seeds from trees leave stains on new decks—sealant that was used seems to be poor quality.
- Some gutters are disconnected.
- Woodpeckers are bothersome.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- Gate at end of '91's (near Rosita's) should be permanently sealed shut.
- Quality Control should be improved.

- Monthly Board meetings would be better attended by Cobblestone homeowners if they were held at a location closer to the community.
- A Spring Clean-up Day would aid in improving community appearance.

If you have complaints or suggestions you'd like to mention to the NW Committee, please forward them to your Block Captain, or send them to [CVHNeighborhood-Watch@yahoo.com](mailto:CVHNeighborhood-Watch@yahoo.com).

*Help your NW Committee! Let them know your complaints and/or suggestions—  
Make Cobblestone a better community!*

**LINE UP**

**FIRST**

Subject: Emergency  
The Emergency Number worldwide for Mobile is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you, and interestingly this number 112 can be dialed even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

**SECOND**

Subject: Have you locked your keys in the car? Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy someday. Good reason to own a cell phone: If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their cell phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button, holding it near the mobile phone on their end.

Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away, and if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors (or the trunk).

**THIRD**

Hidden Battery Power  
Imagine your cell battery is very low. To activate, press the keys \*3370# Your cell will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery.

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## LAYING DOWN THE LAW

### Code Enforcement

Numerous changes to the Westminster Municipal Code will have an impact on how Code Enforcement now responds to various violations in our community. In this and following issues we will point out some of the more basic codes enforced by Code Enforcement with information on the newly adopted changes.

### Graffiti

Graffiti is defined as a message, symbol, inscription or drawing painted, scratched or written on any surface. It shall be unlawful for any person to fail to remove or eradicate graffiti from a premise within seven (7) days of defacement. The term "graffiti" does not apply to legally permitted signage.

### Parking on public property

Vehicles parked on any public street must display current li-

cense plates, be operable and must be moved/used every 15 days. Vehicles not registered to a nearby address can be considered abandoned if they are not moved/used every 48 hours. Other regulations for vehicles on public property can be found in sections 8-1-12 and 10-1-12(B) of the Westminster Municipal Code.

As always, you can contact Code Enforcement at the numbers below with any questions or to report a violation.

- Office: 303-430-2400, ext. 4432
- Fax: 303-706-3909
- Email: [codeenfo@ci.westminster.co.us](mailto:codeenfo@ci.westminster.co.us)
- File a complaint on-line at <http://www.ci.westminster.co.us/res/ps/pd/codeform.asp>

### Wise Website:

<http://www.crimesceneblog.com>

Crime happens; this site blogs it.



## MODUS OPERANDI



With warmer weather and longer days approaching, people in Westminster are emerging from their winter cocoons to focus on long-neglected projects like spring-cleaning, home repairs, and gardening. Many are also lacing up their shoes for their first outdoor walk or jog of the season. These

activities can be extremely beneficial, but they also involve a variety of health and safety haz-

ards that can be avoided with the proper precautions. To help ensure everyone in our community stays safe this season, we offer some safety tips and suggest you copy and post them where they can be seen by your family members.

It's also a great time to replace your smoke detector batteries, make sure your fire extinguishers are placed in proper locations around your home, and ensure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for spring storms. By taking the right precautions when

Spring is a  
great time to  
replace  
smoke  
detector  
batteries

**PIPELINE—CHECK FOR LEAKS**



A dripping leak consumes:  
15 gal. per day  
450 gal. per month



A 1/8 in. leak consumes:  
3,806 gal. per day  
114,200 gal. per month

Are water leaks costing you money? Periodically you should:

- Check all faucets for drips. Replace worn and leaking washers, gaskets, pipes or defective fixtures.
- Check for leaks on outside faucets, and make sure the valve closes properly. Check toilets for leaks—they are the most common cause of high bills! Check the overflow of the tank to make sure no water is running over



A 1/32 in. leak consumes:  
264 gal. per day  
7,920 gal. per month



A 1/4 in. leak consumes:  
15,226 gal. per day  
456,800 gal. per month



A 1/16 in. leak consumes:  
943 gal. per day  
28,300 gal. per month



A 1/2 in. leak consumes:  
60,900 gal. per day  
1,827,000 gal. per month

**MODUS OPERANDI (CONT)**

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warmer weather beckons, you and those around you can enjoy a safer, healthier spring.

- Household chemicals, paints, and poisons should be properly marked and stored under lock and key, away from children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking, expired, or that look bad.
- When cleaning up hazardous chemicals, wear rubber gloves and follow the safety directions on the packaging.
- Never mix chemicals in the same container. If you don't know how to dispose of them, seek outside advice. Never put them into the trash or pour down the drain.
- Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and stored in a cool, dry place away from the house and out of the reach of children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
- Never use gasoline to clean skin, clothes, auto parts, or floors.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, matches, or other work items away from children's reach.
- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks away from your house and garage.
- Remove all fire hazards, including

stacks of rags, newspapers, and magazines. Pay special attention to the spaces around your furnace, hot water

tank, fireplace, space heaters, and dryer, as well as under the stairs.

**A convicted burglar, accused of breaking into more than 300 apartments, had these tips to hinder burglars:**



- **Get a new dead-bolt, especially Medeco® brand**
- **Invest in a security system.**
- **Reinforce wooden door frames.**
- **Stick a bar in sliding glass doors.**
- **Use bolt latches or drive a nail through both sashes of double-hung windows to lock them shut.**
- **When you're out of town, leave your lights on and have someone pick up your newspaper and mail.**
- **Leave a light on, preferably on each floor, when you go out in the evening.**
- **Buy a big, mean dog.**

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(float level may be set too high) The flapper valve in the bottom of the tank is also a location of a possible leaking toilet. To check for a flapper valve leak, put a small amount of food coloring in the toilet tank after it has filled. Do not flush the toilet for at least an hour, or overnight if possible. If the food coloring shows up in the bowl without flushing, you probably have a leaking flapper or plunger ball valve.



**Did you know?**  
**One foreclosure within 1/8 of a mile of your home brings down the value of your home by 1%...**

**LINE UP (CONT)**



Continued from Page 3

This reserve will get charged when you charge your cell next time.

**FOURTH**

How to disable a STOLEN mobile phone?

To check your Mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: \* # 0 6 #.

A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. When your phone get stolen, you can phone your service provider and give them this code. They will then be able to block your handset so even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless.

You probably won't get your phone back, but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use/sell it either. If everybody does

this, there would be no point in people stealing mobile phones. And Finally....

**FIFTH**

Cell phone companies are charging us \$1.00 to \$1.75 or more for 411 information calls when they don't have to. Most of us do not carry a telephone directory in our vehicle, which makes this situation even more of a problem. When you need to use the 411 information option, simply dial: (800) FREE 411, or (800) 373-3411 without incurring any charge at all. Program this into your cell phone now.

**With warmer weather in the near future, safety precautions don't only apply to household chores...Read on:**

- **Winter's inactive muscles can take only so much strain. Don't overdo it — build up slowly so you don't have strains that can put you out of commission for some time.**



- **It may look appealing, but don't wander on frozen rivers and lakes in the spring. The ice is beginning to thaw, and you never know just how thin the ice really is.**

- **Spring's extra rain and thawing snow can cause normally safe rivers, streams, and creeks to turn treacherous. Even standing on banks can be risky as they can be undercut by rushing water and give in under your weight.**

- **Springtime is also severe weather time. If the skies look threatening, check to see if a storm watch or warning has been issued before you initiate outdoor activities.**
- **If you're already outside and thunderstorms threaten, go immediately into a building or enclosed vehicle. For tornadoes, go to the nearest safe structure, or the basement or interior first-floor room of your home. If there's no time to follow these precautions, take cover in a ditch or depression in the ground.**

**Cobblestone Watchword** is a free quarterly publication available to all residents living in Cobblestone Village. If you have any questions, suggestions for articles, or wish to submit materials, please do so through [CVHNeighborhood-Watch@yahoo.com](mailto:CVHNeighborhood-Watch@yahoo.com) *You will remain anonymous, unless you request us to use your name.*