

# CORNER



## In this issue-

- Holiday Shopping Safety
- Citizens' Academy Registration

### Holiday Shopping Safety

The holiday shopping season is here, and millions of people will be heading to the shopping mall, hoping to find the perfect gifts for friends and family. Despite the joys and frustrations of holiday shopping, remember that crime doesn't take a holiday! The following tips will help make your trip to the shopping mall safer for you and your family this holiday season:

- Choose to do your holiday shopping at malls and shopping centers that take security seriously. Regular mall security patrols and visible surveillance cameras provide an added layer of security, and act as a deterrent to criminals
- Stay alert and aware of what's going on around you
- Never leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchases
- Never carry large amounts of cash. Whenever possible, use credit cards or checks
- Keep your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps, and if you have a wallet, put it in an inside coat or front pants pocket
- Try to shop with friends and relatives – there is safety in numbers!

You also need to think about parking lot safety while you are shopping. Cars can be an easy target for criminals, so keep these suggestions in mind:

- Park in a well-lighted space and be sure to lock your car
- When returning to your car, have your keys in hand, ready to open the door
- Make sure there is no visible property in your vehicle. While you are shopping, make sure you store your packages in the trunk. If you take packages to the car but plan to return to the store or mall, drive your car to a new location within the parking lot. Criminals can be on the lookout for unsuspecting shoppers who simply drop their purchases into the trunk and then return to keep shopping



# KELLY'S CRIME CORNER

## Citizens' Academy Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for our next Citizens' Academy class! The class meets on Thursday nights, begins on February 19, 2015 and ends on April 30, 2015.

The academy is designed to provide citizens with an understanding of the police department's operations. Participants will hear from police department personnel who are experts in the areas of S.W.A.T., narcotics and gang details, major crimes, patrol operations, traffic laws, crime scene investigation, and other related fields. Participants also get to go on a ride along!

The instructors that teach during the class come from all areas of the department. Participants will meet the command staff, patrol officers, detectives, dispatchers, and other department support staff. Participants are encouraged to ask questions and express their concerns about pertinent issues. A major goal of the Citizens' Police Academy is to increase understanding between the citizens and their police Department, and to build a strong relationship for the future good of the community.

For further information, contact Kelly Vucinic, Crime Prevention Specialist, at 714-754-4876, or by e-mail at [kvucinic@costamesaca.gov](mailto:kvucinic@costamesaca.gov).

**CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2015 - APRIL 30, 2015**  
Thursday nights from 6:30 - 9:30 pm

**The Costa Mesa Police Department  
Citizens' Police Academy**

The academy is designed to provide citizens with an understanding of the police department's operations. Students will learn from police department personnel who are experts in the areas of S.W.A.T., narcotics, major crimes, patrol operations, traffic laws, criminal law, crime scene investigation, and other related fields. Students will also be scheduled for a ride-along during the academy. Students will gain an overall knowledge of the Costa Mesa Police Department, how it's organized, how it serves the community, and who the people are who respond when citizens call.

Instructors are drawn from all levels of the department. Students will meet the chief of police, patrol captain, area lieutenants, patrol officers, detectives, dispatchers, and other department staff. Students are encouraged to ask questions and express their concerns about pertinent issues. A major goal of the Citizens' Police Academy is to increase understanding between citizens and their police department, and to build a strong relationship for the future good of the community.

**Requirement**

- 21 or older
- No outstanding warrants and no pending criminal cases
- No prior felony convictions
- No misdemeanor arrests within three years of application

**TOPICS INCLUDE:**

- Patrol Operations
- CSI
- Detective Bureau
- Jail
- Communications
- SWAT
- Range
- Animal Control
- Traffic

Visit us at [www.costamesapd.org](http://www.costamesapd.org)