

November 4, 2009

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Not only can you do all of your Christmas shopping in Burleson, but you can do it safely thanks to the Burleson Police Department.

The department's sworn bicycle officer unit, the police traffic unit, and members of the Citizens On Patrol will be out in force the day after Thanksgiving - Friday, Nov. 27 - the busiest shopping day of the year.

The focus will be on the major shopping areas. The traffic unit (motorcycles and slick-top Dodge Chargers) will be on the lookout for unsafe driving in an attempt to prevent some crashes. That enforcement includes drivers who fail to yield right-of-way to drivers exiting the highway. If you are driving a vehicle on a road that parallels a highway, you must yield right-of-way to a vehicle exiting the highway or a vehicle entering the highway.

The sworn bicycle officer unit and teams of Citizens on Patrol members will be watching retail parking lots.

The COPs will be easy to identify. Team members wear light blue uniform shirts with light blue COP jackets and ball caps that are marked Citizens On Patrol. Team members in vehicles will be identified with magnetic signs that say Burleson Citizens On Patrol. Some COPs members may be on bicycles.

The sworn officer bicycle unit will be in the standard dark blue uniforms.

What can you do to make your vehicle less enticing to thieves and burglars? Keep your valuables out of sight! CD players, car stereos, GPS navigation systems, purses, wallets, cellular telephones, loose change and tools are the top items recently stolen from vehicles in Burleson. Other prime targets are iPods, CDs, radar detectors, briefcases/work bags, computers, jewelry, guns and garage door openers. If you leave your vehicle unlocked, or you leave valuables in plain sight, it's an open, and easy, invitation for a criminal.

What else can you do? Park your vehicle in busy, well-lighted and well-traveled areas. If your vehicle has an alarm or anti-theft device, use it. And, report people who look suspicious. Have a good description of what the person looks like, what they are driving, and their location, when you call 911.

For more information about this release, call the public information office at 817-426-9622.