

EC SO STAR

Volume 5. Issue 11 December 1, 2016



Neighborhood Watch Academy

Clean Sweep In Mayfair

Citizens Law Enforcement Academy

Holiday Safety Tips

Neighborhood Watch Academy

You are invited to Neighborhood Watch Academy #37 on 1/17/2017. Learn how to be more safe and secure at home and away. We meet at 5 PM for a free meal and then the class continues to 9PM. It's at 1700 West Leonard Street. The main administration building for the Sheriff's Office.

Sign up is easy and online at:

[http://www.escambiaso.com/index.php/crime-prevention/
neighborhood-watch/neighborhood-watch-academy/](http://www.escambiaso.com/index.php/crime-prevention/neighborhood-watch/neighborhood-watch-academy/)

It's free and a great way for anyone to learn how to not be a victim. Just fill out the online form linked above and click subscribe and you are all signed up! Whether or not you want to know how to safely and effectively run a neighborhood watch the seminar is packed with information that can save your life and protect your possessions. Included now: Situational Awareness and Street Survival training.

We hope to see you on the 17th of January, 2017 at the Sheriff's Office. Any questions about this event can be answered by David Craig / Coordinator for EC SO Community Services at 436-9281.



Clean Sweep in Mayfair

The next Operation Clean Sweep will be in the Mayfair area on Thursday, December 15th. If you reside in the area depicted on the map below please have whatever trash or debris you would like picked up placed out at the right of way by 8 o'clock in the morning on that day.

We will meet at 8:00AM at Mayfair Park to launch the operation. Members of the Mayfair Neighborhood Watch are invited to join us.

Part of the operation is a drivers license checkpoint. If you venture forth in a vehicle remember to wear that seatbelt. Of course it always pays to be a safe driver and you should never operate a vehicle without a valid drivers license or current tag and insurance. The focus of "Operation Clean Sweep" is to work with Neighborhood Watch groups, residents, churches and business owners to control and prevent the damaging effects of criminal activity through Eradication, Enforcement and Education. The Operation Task Force works closely with Environmental Law Enforcement, the United States Military, Escambia County Roads and Bridges and Neighborhood Watch groups to clean up neighborhoods and educate citizens on preventive measures that can be implemented to minimize possible crimes. For more information on future clean ups, or to volunteer, contact P.O.C. Commander Tharp (850) 436-9939 or Sgt. Curtis Cephas at 554-1202. For more information on starting a Neighborhood Watch in your community, or to join an existing group, call David Craig (850) 436-9281.

Citizens Law Enforcement Academy #39 now 12 Weeks and starting January 26th

The ECSO is pleased to offer a 12 weeks FREE seminar to adults who are interested in the daily operations of the Sheriff's Office. The Academy is presented twice a year with the next class starting January 26th 2017. Classes meet on Thursdays from 5:00PM to 9:00PM at the administration building located at 1700 West Leonard Street. Included is a variety of information and our instructors are all current professionals in their field of expertise. The schedule includes Patrol, Crime Scene, Major Crimes, Warrants, a K-9 demonstration, the Judicial Process, DUI, Missing Children, the Mounted Unit, SWAT, Narcotics, Gangs, History of the ECSO, Dispatch, Training and more. Week 12 is graduation. The classes fill up quickly. Just click the following link for an easy online signup.

<http://www.escambiaso.com/index.php/community/community-relations/citizens-law-enforcement/>

Holiday Safety Tips

Holiday Safety tips:

- Avoid driving alone or at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Automated Teller Machine (ATM)

- If you must use an ATM, choose one that is located inside a police station, mall, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need.
- Protect your PIN by shielding the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you.
- Do not throw your ATM receipt away at the ATM location.

Shopping

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Always carry your Driver License or Identification Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or a credit card you expect to use.
- Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand things, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Be extra careful if you do carry a wallet or purse. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, bus stops, on buses and other rapid transit.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Children

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

At Home

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.

- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- If you use lights on your Christmas tree ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.
- Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.

Strangers at Your Door

- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.
- It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people during the holiday season by soliciting donations door-to-door for charitable causes although no charity is involved.
- Ask for their identification, and find out how the donated funds will be used. If you are not satisfied, do not donate.
- Donate only to a recognized charitable organization.

Hosting a Party

- Have non-alcoholic beverages available for party guests.
- Find alternative transportation for intoxicated guests.
- Arrange for an official designated driver for your party who will not drink at all.

Attending a Party

- Have something to eat before consuming alcoholic beverages.
- Eat high protein foods that will stay in your stomach longer and slow the absorption of alcohol into your system.
- Remember only time will eliminate the alcohol from your body.
- Know your safe limit.
- Never drink and drive.

**Critical thinking can keep
you out of critical condition.**

You are receiving the ECSO STAR because you are a member of a Neighborhood Watch Group or because you have submitted an application as an ECSO Volunteer or to attend one of our educational Academies. If you would not like to continue receiving this free crime prevention newsletter just reply to win@escambiaso.com with "unsubscribe" in the subject



Escambia County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff David Morgan

Drug Free is the way to be
Get High on Life, not Drugs!

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