

## CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### MAJOR ACTIVITY

OFFENSES–NOVEMBER 2009	NUMBER
Burglary of a Residence	1
Burglary of a Business or Building	1
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1
Theft / Other	4
Theft of a Motor Vehicle	0
Juvenile Offenses	2
Assault	1
Aggravated Robbery	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>1252</b>

During these days leading up to Christmas, we should all exercise caution and be aware of our surroundings as we walk to and from our vehicles in shopping center parking lots as well as during our drives to and from these locations. Here are some “Shoppers’ Safety Tips” to keep in mind.

- Never leave packages, bags, cell phones, purses or other valuable items inside of your car where they can be seen from the outside.
- Never fight over parking spaces. It is not worth pushing the wrong person to become violent. Your car could also be vandalized as a result.
- Always park in a well-lighted area and with other people around if possible. Look for landmarks and remember where you parked so you don't roam the parking lot looking for your car after shopping.
- When shopping, always try to walk with someone else. Robbers seldom confront multiple victims. Carry your purse on the opposite side of traffic when walking through a parking lot. Plan to obtain cash during the day and avoid using an ATM at night.
- Stay alert and be aware of the people around you.
- As you approach your car, have your keys in your hand so you can enter your vehicle and close and lock the door quickly behind you.
- When loading packages or children into your car, keep an eye on purses, other bags and packages. Put your purse in the car first, then unload your bags.

- Never buy items such as computers, jewelry, stereos or anything from a "guy in the parking lot." These items are often stolen, sub-standard or fake.
- Keep your purse zipped or buttoned up. Make sure that your wallet pocket is closed. Don't hang your purse on a fitting room hook. Place it on the bench where you can see it.
- Never store a purse in the child's seat of a shopping cart. Place it in the cart and keep it closed to protect your wallet.
- If you observe anyone you believe is following you home, drive to a public, well-lighted area such as your local police station.
- Program the police department's 10-digit phone number into your cell phone, and never hesitate to call your police department to report suspicious activity.

Happy Holidays !!

Gary Finkelman

Chief of Police