



SHERIFF
TED PAXTON

Forsyth County Sheriff's Office

CHIEF DEPUTY
J. ROBERT HAMRICK



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INFORMATION

To: All Neighborhood Watch Participants
From: Deputy Mike Garrison
Subject: Safety Tips for Shopping for the Holidays!!
Date: 11/26/08



With the traditional holiday shopping season officially starting up the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office wishes all of you an enjoyable and safe shopping experience this year. To deter from becoming a victim of crime while being out and about this year please review the following safety tips. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

- **Safe shopping starts before you leave home. When you head out to go shopping make sure your home is secure and some lights are left on. Make sure all windows and doors are locked. Let the neighbors you trust know that you will be out shopping and ask that they keep an eye on your house for you.**
- **Try to do your shopping during daylight hours, and have a friend or family member with you (Remember the perfect victim is one that is by themselves in an isolated location)**
- **Park your car in a well-lit area, as close to the store entrances as possible. Don't park where your vehicle's visibility is blocked by large trucks or other obstructions, such as dumpsters.**
- **Before you leave your car, look around for anything that appears suspicious or out of order. If your intuition alarm goes off, call 911 or store security and find another parking spot.**
- **Always lock your car and never leave it running curbside to run into a store to retrieve a package.**
- **Always walk in a brisk, confident manner and be aware of your surroundings.**
- **Don't get separated from your children. Know where they are at all times and tell them what to do in the event you do get separated.**
- **Don't leave valuables or packages visible inside your car. Shop in stages and store your packages out of sight, preferably in the trunk of your car.**
- **When paying for items, don't flash large amounts of cash. Don't wear expensive jewelry or watches and make sure that prying eyes don't see your credit cards when you use them.**
- **Always obtain receipts and secure them in your pocket or purse.**
- **Ladies, keep your purse with you at all times and never leave it unattended in your shopping cart. Keep your purse closed and latched at all times.**
- **Men, keep your wallet in your front pants pocket. This practice deters pickpockets.**
- **When returning to your car, don't be overloaded with packages. Make multiple trips to your car and always have your keys in your hand when you approach your car. Don't wait until you get to your car then fumble for your keys. This gives a thief time to approach you.**