



Colonel Tim Fitch  
Chief of Police

## **“Roll Call”**

### **The St Louis County Police Departments West County Precinct’s Neighborhood Watch Newsletter**

**West County Precinct**  
232 Vance Road  
St Louis, MO 63088  
314-615-0700

*May 2010*

#### **Your Neighborhood**

##### **Policing Staff**

Captain Steve Sack  
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314-615-0700



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314-615-0727



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Officer Kevin Templeton  
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#### **Important Numbers**

Crime Tip/Traffic Violation

Hotline-314-615-0727

Safe Schools Hotline

314-889-SAFE (7233)

## **Captain’s Corner**

Summer time is here. As we take the time to enjoy summer fun, please take a moment to remind your children how important it is to take precautions while swimming, riding bikes, hiking and so forth. Officers from this Precinct will be keeping an eye out for children 16 and under who are not wearing safety helmets. It is our goal to provide a safe environment for the community and we encourage everyone to call the police to report any suspicious activity. I would like to ask that everyone keep their garage doors closed even if you are only going to be out back of your residence. It only takes a moment for would be thieves to enter your garage and take items. Please remember to secure your vehicles when you are away from them. Enjoy your summer!

## **“Citizen of the Month”**

The citizens of the month for May are those members of the Citizen’s Alumni who have graciously given up their time and effort to help train the West County Explorer Post. Though you may not know it, your assistance in roll playing provides an invaluable experience for the explorers. You have provided an opportunity for the explorers to experience realistic calls for police service. Thank you. We look forward to working with you in the future!

## **Neighborhood Watch Meeting**

Our Neighborhood Watch BBQ was held on May 19, 2010, in the City of Winchester’s Reber Park. We discussed crime trends, law enforcement activities keeping an active neighborhood watch program, in addition to enjoying some great food. Our next meeting will be held at our new facility located at 232 Vance on July 21, 2010. Please read future issues on the beginning time and where to enter the station. We look forward to seeing you there.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS**

The West County Precinct sponsors neighborhood watch meetings focusing on crime prevention and other matters that affect the quality of life in our community. The meetings are open to everyone, not just those directly involved in the Neighborhood Watch Program. Most of the meetings will have guest speakers from specialized units within the St. Louis County Police Department or St. Louis County Government. At the end of each meeting, there will be an opportunity to discuss any specific issues with a Neighborhood Policing Officer. Please refer to future newsletters for information on upcoming Neighborhood Watch meetings.

### **ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE K-9 DEMONSTRATION**

The St. Louis County Police K-9 Unit held a special exhibit and demonstration at 2:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at The American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog located at 1721 South Mason Road in Queeny Park. The activities lasted from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. For more information, please call 314-821-3647 or please visit the web site at [www.museumofthedog.org](http://www.museumofthedog.org) for additional programs.

### **TWIN OAKS SUBDIVISION CLEANUP JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> VOLUNTEERS & TRUCKS NEEDED**

It's cleanup time in Twin Oaks subdivisions. Volunteers from your community in conjunction with St. Louis County Police and St. Louis County Public Works Problem Properties Unit are having a free, one-time special bulk waste pick up on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M. We are still in need of volunteers and trucks to make this a success. If you or your civic organization would like to volunteer, or if you need more information, please contact Either Kathy Yahl, Village Administrator, Village of Twin Oaks at 636-225-7873 or Officer Lou Major at 314-615-0707 or email [lmajor@stlouisco.com](mailto:lmajor@stlouisco.com)

### **PREVENTING BURGLARIES ON YOUR ESTATE**

Burglaries or Break-ins have happened increasingly more often throughout the last few years. Most of us think we will never experience a break-in. According to the FBI, there is a burglary somewhere in the US about every 15 seconds. If you are one of those that keep a baseball bat by the door, you've just supplied a weapon to your unwanted intruder. If you are one of those that think your dog will stop the burglar, you have just supplied your unwanted intruder with man's best friend. Burglars are getting smarter and smarter. Break-ins are not always planned and are often crimes of opportunity, but they can be prevented. Here are 4 tips that will help you to protect your valuables and loved ones:

#### **1) Get an Alarm System**

Not only will an alarm system protect your valuables and loved ones, but it will also raise your estate's value and lower your homeowner's insurance premiums. Make sure your alarm company provides you with a sign and stickers for your windows. This will deter most burglars 90% of the time.

#### **2) Install/Inspect Deadbolt Door Locks**

Deadbolt locks have become increasingly more popular compared to your average locks. They are more stable in the long run, and are more difficult for any burglar to bypass. I would suggest deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Inspect your deadbolt locks about every 6 months for cracks and weathering. DO NOT hide a spare key around your estate. Instead, leave a spare key with a trusted neighbor or a nearby family member.

#### **3) Establish Motion Sensor Lighting Around Your Estate**

Motion Sensor Lighting systems can easily be installed around your home by you or you can contract with a company to install them. I would recommend wireless motion sensor lights that operate on lithium batteries. Motion sensor lights should be installed on all sides of your home. Test your motion sensor lights weekly.

#### **4) Know Your Neighbors and Set Up A Neighborhood Watch**

Today we see fewer and fewer neighborhood watch programs in our communities. The St. Louis County Police department will assist you in setting this program up in your community. Choose someone in your neighborhood to be in charge of this program for your area and know your neighbors schedules. Notify the West County Precinct when you will be out of town and when you are expected to return. Also choose a trusted neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers. Contract out yard maintenance while you are gone (Shoveling snow and having your grass cut regularly). You don't want any signs of absence. This also goes for your voicemails; do not state that you're out of town on any of your message leaving devices. Post neighborhood watch signs throughout your neighborhood. Know your neighborhood's crime statistics and always notify the police of any suspicious activity.

#### **CRIME PREVENTION TIP**

Most crimes committed are "crimes of opportunity". The criminal did not have a plan to commit the crime. The criminal simply took advantage of the situation. Whether it was an unattended purse in a shopping cart, or a set of unsecured golf clubs in a garage with the overhead door open, the thief saw an easy target and took advantage of the moment. The simplest and most effective crime tip to implement on an everyday basis is to deny the criminal the opportunity to commit the crime. For example, lock your car doors when not paying at the pump prior to going inside the business to pay for your purchase. Do not leave purses, checkbooks, and especially firearms unsecured inside unattended motor vehicles. You should immediately report suspicious persons or vehicles to the police. If something does not look "right" it probably is not.

#### **THE ORDINANCE CORNER**

Now that summer is here, many residents find the need to transport materials such as mulch, soil and rocks in the beds of pickup trucks or in trailers. We want to remind everyone, that whenever a material or load is capable of falling from or blowing out of these trucks or trailers, the load must be properly secured or covered. St. Louis County Ordinance 1218.050 will be enforced when loads are carelessly or not properly loaded.

#### **THIEVES MAKE BAD DECISION/TARGET ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE**

Detective Faasen of the West County Precinct arrested two suspects for stealing over \$1000 worth of brass shell casings from the St. Louis County Police Antire Weapons Training Range. A third suspect has been identified and is being sought at this time. The thieves apparently trespassed onto the property by climbing a fence and stole buckets of spent shell casings. A storage shed was also broken into. Detective Faasen was able to locate and recover the stolen property. Great job Detective Faasen!

#### **CRIME SUMMARY**

##### **NORTH SECTOR**

- On 4/15/10, a victim reported that her credit card was stolen from her car while parked in the vicinity of 700 Ridgeside Drive. The card was used to make purchases at local businesses.
- On 4/17/10, officers were summoned to the common ground area in the 600 block of Waterford Ridge for a peace disturbance violation. A male subject was found to be in possession of alcohol and was issued an Arrest Notification.
- On 4/18/10, Officer Coleman caught a suspect illegally dumping old railroad ties onto a parking area of a business in the 3500 block of Tree Court Industrial Boulevard. A summons was issued.
- On 4/23/10, a homeowner in the 1100 block of Jade Wind Drive reported that his mailbox was damaged.

## **SOUTH SECTOR**

- On 4/8/10, items were stolen from two unlocked vehicles that were parked in an unsecured garage in the 100 block of Maple Drive.
- On 4/10/10, a victim reported that a can of chewing tobacco was stolen from his unlocked vehicle that was parked in the 600 block of Green Forest. Three youths were seen running from the vehicle at the time of theft.
- On 4/18/10, officers investigated a Domestic Assault in the 2300 block of Esquiline Drive. A suspect was arrested.
- On 4/19/10, a homeowner in the 100 block of Nostra Villa reported damage to the home caused by a pellet gun.
- On 4/21/10, a male subject was stopped for speeding on I-44 near Antire Road. About 8 ounces of marijuana was seized from the vehicles.
- On 4/24/10, officers arrested a motorist in the 1700 block of Praise Boulevard for colliding with a house. The suspect was charged with Operating a Motor Vehicle While in a Drugged Condition. A blood sample was obtained.
- On 4/24/10, two suspects were caught burglarizing an apartment in the 400 block of May Valley Drive.

## **CLARKSON VALLEY---VALLEY PARK---WINCHESTER ---TWIN OAKS**

- On 4/1/10, officers discovered three subjects trespassing in an abandoned residence on South Highway Drive. Two adult suspects were issued Arrest Notifications and a juvenile was referred to Family Court.
- On 4/10/10, a kayak was reported stolen from a boat ramp near 100 River Drive. The owner stated the boat was left unattended for 15 minutes when it was stolen.
- On 1/19/10, a suspect in the vicinity of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Blover was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia that had remains of burnt heroin.
- On 4/21/10, an employee of a business in the 1300 block of Big Bend Road was charged with stealing after video showed the suspect taking money from the cash register.
- On 4/19/10, a resident in the 2000 block of Kehrs Mill Road interrupted two suspects attempting to gain entry into the residence. Officer Taylor observed the suspects fleeing the scene in a vehicle and took one of the suspects into custody after the vehicle ran off the road. Burglary detectives are conducting the follow up investigation. Good job Officer Taylor!

## **STATISTICS ANYONE?**

For the month of April 2010, officers of the West County Precinct issued 236 radar citations, 357 citations for various moving violations, 408 citations for non-moving violations and .30 parking tickets. Officers completed 446 reports, arrested 35 subjects for felony crimes and 86 subjects for misdemeanor crimes. Officers arrested 5 intoxicated motorists.

### **POLICE PHONE NUMBERS**

Non-Emergency Dispatch	314-889-2341
West County Precinct	314-615-0700
Crime Tip/Traffic Hotline	314-615-0727
Safe Schools Hotline	314-889-7233
Drug Hotline	314-863-3673
CrimeStoppers	866-371-8477

### **PHONE NUMBERS**

Animal Control	314-726-6655
Child Abuse Hotline	800-392-3738
KUTO Teen Helpline	314-644-5886
Neighborhood Preservation	314-615-4151
Highways and Traffic	314-615-8504