

Twin Oaks Neighborhood Watch April 2009

Captain's Corner

Next month, the 2008-2009 academic year will come to a close. The safety and welfare of our children, while they are in attendance at school, is one of our top priorities. I want to thank everyone for his or her cooperation in making this school year a safe and successful effort. With the end of school in sight and everyone preparing for graduation, proms and summer vacations, we want to encourage everyone to continue practicing safety and crime prevention measures. Please talk to your children and remind them of the dangers associated with alcohol consumption and motor vehicle accidents. Make sure they know how, and have the means to contact you, a responsible adult or the police if necessary. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Meeting

Our next Neighborhood Watch Coordinators meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009. This will be our annual appreciation barbeque. The event will be held at Reber Park, which is at the intersection of Lindy and Hillcrest, in Winchester. Dinner will be served between 5pm and 7pm. Stop by for a great dinner. Watch Coordinators; please have a Block Captain attend if you are unable.

Citizen Police Academy

The West County and Fenton Precincts will be hosting a Citizen Police Academy that will begin on September 17, 2009, at the Rockwood Bank Meeting Room located at 1037 Majestic Drive. The academy will run for eight consecutive Thursdays with graduation on November 5th. Classes will be from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. To register for this class or for more information, please contact Officer Lou Major at 636-256-7075, lmajor@stlouisco.com or Officer Aaron Dilks at 636-349-8120, adilks@stlouisco.com

Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association

The Alumni Association will hold a general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Daniel Boone Library located at 300 Clarkson Road. The meeting will start at 7:00 P.M. Membership in the Alumni Association is open to anyone who has graduated from a St. Louis County Police Citizen Police Academy.

West County Precinct Annual BBQ/Appreciation Event

On Wednesday, May 20th, the 7th Precinct will host its annual NWC and Friends of the West County Precinct BBQ. It will start in Reber Park (City of Winchester) at 5:00 P.M. Sergeant Jeff and Officer Lou will be grilling some fine burgers and hot dogs. Lou said he is planning on introducing a special homemade BBQ sauce for testing. We will have plenty of drinks, chips, and potato salad and other goodies. So that we can order the proper quantity of food, we ask that you please RSVP by calling the precinct at 636-256-7075. Please leave a message if no answer. Hope to see you there.

“Word On The Street”

Bridge repair work is scheduled to begin soon on the bridges at Lewis Road over I-44 and I-44 Bridge just west of Lewis Road over the Meramec River. MoDOT recently awarded Concrete Strategies LLC contracts to repair these bridges. Construction will begin on or about May 6th. The Lewis Road bridge project should be completed by July 1, 2010 and the Meramec River Bridge project should be completed by December 1, 2009. Motorists will soon see message boards announcing the construction activity.

Lane restrictions, especially at night, will have an impact on traffic flow in these areas. Travel delays can be expected.

Spring Breaks, Proms, Graduations & Summer Vacations

Alcohol and traffic accidents have taken a large toll on our community. The “Did You Know” section on page 3 brings to attention some of the legal aspects of alcohol use and traffic law that concerns our young adults. Please take time to share these notes with someone you love. Spring breaks and proms are events to remember and cherish, not events to lament.

Good Job Officer Grotha

Officer Grotha responded to a pharmacy in the area of Big Bend and Highway 141 for a report of a subject attempting to purchase a prescription drug with a fraudulent prescription. Officer Grotha was able to contact the suspect who had already made the drug purchase and was about to depart the premises of the business. Officer Grotha detained and questioned the suspect and subsequently seized a large quantity of prescription pills. After verifying that the prescription was bogus, Officer Grotha arrested and booked the suspect at the St. Louis County Jail. A follow up investigation by Officer Grotha resulted in the identification and arrest of a second suspect. This suspect had called the pharmacy pretending to be from a doctor’s office. Officer Grotha interviewed both suspects and this case will be presented to the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office for charges.

Crime Prevention Tips

- Do not give personal information over the phone to solicitors.
- Do not use your curbside mailbox for important outgoing mail.
- Be wary of internet fraud. Get references prior to hiring anyone who solicits business over the web.
- When using full service car wash facilities, please secure valuables, loose change, personal papers and other items that could be compromised.
- When dropping off children at day care centers, parents are reminded to lock car doors. There are criminals who target unattended purses on the lots of these businesses.
- Consider removing GPS devices, laptops, purses and cell phones from unattended vehicles parked anywhere overnight.

The Ordinance Corner

St. Louis County Ordinance 804.040 applies to solicitors who may travel from place to place or be positioned on or near street corners or public places for the purpose of soliciting property or financial assistance, selling any article or taking orders for the sale of goods for future delivery or services to be performed in the future. All solicitors must have a license issued by the St. Louis County Department of Revenue. In the West County Precinct, the intersections of Manchester at Barrett Station Road and I-44 at Highway 141 are designated Schedule 1 Intersections. There is no soliciting at these intersections without an identification card issued by St. Louis County authorizing such solicitation at the specified place and date.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are less than 21 years old, your driver's license may be taken away for 90 days for any of the following:

1. Any alcohol related traffic offense
2. If you possess or use alcohol or drugs while driving a vehicle
3. If you alter, modify, or misrepresent a driver's license
4. Any second offense if you are under 18 years of age and possess or use alcohol

If you injure or kill someone because you were drinking or using drugs while driving, you may:

1. Spend two to seven years in jail.
2. Pay \$5,000 fine; and /or
3. Lose your license for five years.

Zero Tolerance Law in Missouri states that drivers under the age of 21 can lose their driver's license if their blood alcohol content is a mere .02 percent.

1. One drink for most people will result in a .02 or higher blood alcohol content
2. A five ounce glass of wine or a wine cooler has the same amount of alcohol as a can of beer or one ounce (shot glass) of hard liquor
3. It is not okay for a designated driver to have any alcohol or other drugs, not even one drink

Parents can be held responsible financially and criminally for violations committed by their children.

1. Parents who sell, give, or supply intoxicating liquor to a minor are in violation of St. Louis County Ordinance 801.150 and they can be arrested and fined for the violation.
2. Parents who permit conduct in or upon any house or premises which disturbs the peace of another (loud party) are in violation of St. Louis County ordinance 716.070 and they can be arrested and fined for the violation.

Driving Is A Privilege, Not A Right!!!