

Twin Oaks Neighborhood Watch September 2009

Captain's Corner

During tough economic times, many criminals look for easy ways to take money. Some of us have been the victims of identity theft. By taking precautions and following some simple steps, we can minimize the chances of this happening. Don't provide personal information to people you do not know, especially your Social Security number! Shred personal and medical documents, including credit card applications, prior to throwing them away. Review your bills immediately to ensure no unauthorized transactions were made. By being vigilant, you can minimize the chance of becoming a victim. If you become a victim, take immediate action. Report the incident promptly to us. Responding officers will be able to answer many of your questions and provide suggestions for further action.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Meeting

Our next Neighborhood Watch Coordinators meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm and will be held in the clubhouse of the Tree Top Condos located at 701 Sandy Summit. Anyone interested in organizing a watch program is also invited to attend. Snacks and refreshments will be served. Watch Coordinators; please have a Block Captain attend if you are unable.

Save the Date!

"STRIKE IN THE NAME OF THE LAW!" There will be a bowling fundraiser to benefit the St. Louis County Police Welfare Association on Saturday, October 10th, at the Olivette Lanes. The event will start at 3:00 PM.

Enjoy bowling, games and raffles. You can register as a person or team. Teams of six will be given personalized t-shirts and discounted entry fees, so get your teams together. Contact Rachel Major at rmajor@stlouisco.com for more information.

4th Annual CPAAA Trivia Night

The West County Chapter of the St. Louis County Police Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association will host its annual trivia night on November 7, 2009. The event will start at 6:30 pm and will be held at the Meramec Bluffs Lutheran Senior Services located at #1 Meramec Bluffs (at the intersection of Vance and Sulphur Springs). The cost is \$10 per person. Sodas and snacks will be provided. Please feel free to bring additional food and/or alcoholic beverages. Sorry, no one under 21! Reservations are recommended. Please contact Officer Lou Major at lmajor@stlouisco.com or Michael Groves at jaspaz@sbcglobal.net for further information or reservations.

Halloween Safety Centers

Don't forget about our Safety Center in the park on October 31 at 6:30 in the park! Everyone is invited to stop by and enjoy the activities of the evening.

Something To Think About

A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and specially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen.

The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house. The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents. Something to consider if you have a GPS—don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet...Etc...was stolen. 20 minutes later when she called her hubby, from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago."

When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of these stories:

- Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list.
- Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc..
- And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by call back

Also, when you're being text by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

Sincerely,

Karen Dresner