

Twin Oaks Neighborhood Watch March 2009

Captain's Corner

Spring is always the sign of beginning. Let's use this as a reminder to "begin" or "renew" our interests in Neighborhood Watch and our community. Looking out for each other is the basic component for Neighborhood Watch. By looking out for our neighbor, we keep things better for ourselves. All of us need to take an active role and be responsible for our neighborhood. We have and can continue to make a difference in keeping our community standards high. Another way to be involved in Neighborhood Watch is by example. How many times have we looked to role models for answers? All of us have the potential to be role models. In fact, aside from being called a father and grandfather, being called a role model is one of the best compliments I can receive.

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 are hosting a Citizen Police Academy that started on Thursday, February 5, 2009. Week #6 of the academy featured speakers from the Police Crime Laboratory, the Crime Scene Unit and the Police Canine Unit. The academy will run for eight consecutive weeks with graduation on March 26, 2009. The academy is being held in the Rockwood Bank meeting room located at 1037 Majestic Drive, near the intersection of Highway 141 and Centurion Drive. Classes run from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. To register for the next class that will start in September or for further information, please contact Officer Lou Major at the West County Precinct lmajor@stlouisco.com or Officer Aaron Dilks at the Fenton Precinct at adilks@stlouisco.com

School Resource Officer News-Sgt. Burk

Nice weather is here and with it brings challenges. Those of us, who have teen children, need to make sure we talk to them about driving. In our office, we normally see an increase in speeding complaints when spring weather arrives. This is also the Prom season for several schools, and unfortunately the party season. Remember how invincible we all felt at that age?

According to the Center for Disease Control, on an average, 12,175 children, ages 0-19, die each year in the United States from unintentional injuries. Injuries due to transportation are the leading cause. One dangerous activity is car surfing. This involves a person riding on the hood or roof of a moving vehicle. Since 1990, at least 99 people have died or sustained serious injuries from car surfing. In 2005, 12 teens died each day in vehicle crashes. In particular, in 2006, 13,470 people died in alcohol impaired vehicle crashes. We can endlessly quote statistics.

Statistics really don't matter when it is our child, neighbor, relative or friend. The high schools will soon be distributing information on drinking and driving. In addition to this, we should provide guidance, preferably by example. Talk to your teen; let them know if they find themselves in a situation where they are uncomfortable, they can call you for a ride. It might be the most valuable decision you can make.

The Ordinance Corner

Funeral processions on public roadways are very common during spring. Motorists driving in these processions must be very alert. Per Ordinance 1218.070, drivers in a funeral procession are required to follow the preceding vehicle in the procession as closely as practical and safe. Also, a driver in a funeral procession following the lead vehicle through an intersection must exercise the highest degree of care toward any other vehicle or pedestrian in the road.

Crime Prevention Tips

- Consider removing spare car keys from the interior of your vehicle. Check your owner's manual for any valet keys that could start your car. Car thieves always check for spare keys too.
- Avoid using debit cards when out of town. In case of compromise, it may be more difficult to recover lost funds from their use. Use credit cards when traveling.
- Do not post your name on your mailbox. Do not use your curbside mail box for outgoing mail.
- Consider purchasing a shredder and use it to destroy documents that may contain your name and critical account numbers.
- Always keep your garage door down. Make sure any side entrance doors have deadbolt locks. The garage is a great way for thieves to enter into your home.
- Be very suspicious of anyone who approaches you while you are using an ATM machine.

Sincerely,

Karen Dresner