

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY POLICE

Neighborhood Watch Letter

December 2012



Wildwood Precinct

17014 D New College Ave
Wildwood, MO 63040
(636) 458-9194



What's Going on in Wildwood / Upcoming Events

City of Wildwood Events www.cityofwildwood.com

January 26, 2013 – Frozen Feet Run – Check out Wildwood website for further.

Connecticut School Shooting

In regards to the horrifying incident in Connecticut as well as the other mass shootings we have suffered in our country, we recognize that our families may have a heightened sense of vulnerability. As officers that serve your community we encourage our residents to report suspicious behavior, concerning statements involving weapons or threats of violence, and or persons who need their welfare checked reference mental illness or loss. As a department our officer's train for all such incidents mentioned whether it is in response to a critical situation such as the Connecticut shooting or a preventative situation as in someone who has made concerning statements.

We ask that all parents and members of our community support our schools in their safety efforts as it is our children whose best interest they have in mind. The schools safety efforts are in cooperation with their local police departments in an attempt to prevent any such incident from occurring in our schools.

We will keep the families of Newtown, Connecticut in our thoughts and or prayers.

Tips for the Holidays

- If you are going out of town for the holidays, let your neighbors know you're leaving and who should and or should not be at your house so they can call if they see anything suspicious. Turn a vacation check into the police department through the Wildwood website.
- Light up exterior of your home at night, burglars do not want to be seen.
- Do not leave valuables in view when you are not at home. Close blinds and or curtains on ground level floors.
- Stop all paper and mail deliveries if you are not going to be home and put interior lights on timers.

- Activate alarm on home if you have one.
- When shopping, keep purses on your body, not in shopping carts or unattended vehicles. Put purchases in trunk and out of sight if you plan to do additional shopping.

Scams

I was recently notified by a resident of Wildwood that they had received a call from what they initially believed was Publishers Clearing House. The caller required personal information and a financial transaction for them to be able to take them up on the offer. The resident declined the offer and checked into scams identifying themselves as Publishers Clearing house to find the following. <http://townandcountry-manchester.patch.com/articles/police-warn-of-publisher-s-clearing-house-scam>

Do not give out personal information to anyone on the phone. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Any reputable company or organization will not mind if you check them out prior to taking them up on their offer.

The City of Wildwood does not allow solicitation without permit. If someone comes to your door offering firewood, driveway sealing or any other service without a permit in hand from the City of Wildwood, decline their service and call the police with any vehicle and or personal description you may have. Fake solicitation is often used by burglars to determine if the resident(s) are home.

Protecting Your Child from On-Line Predators

Just about every household has a computer these days and it is practically required if you have children in school. Computers are being utilized as educational tools, an effective way of communicating, used for work, play, planning and sharing. The amount of time we spend on them is increasing as the number of items they can be used for increases. They seem to have become an extension of who we are and how we communicate.

Computers are no longer just desk tops and laptops though. Computers are cell phones, Wii, X box and Play Station. They are no longer just for adults, but have been increasingly geared toward our children. They are a highway of connectivity to not only our children's friends but to anyone and everyone in the world that has a computer with internet access. The question is then, do we want our children to be that accessible. Who are they communicating with and how can we protect them from all the things and people we want to protect them from. We have to educate ourselves on the technology, set boundaries, and utilize protective software and parental controls. We have to be present in both a physical and technological way to protect our children today.

As part of our mission to serve and protect all of our citizens we will offer some suggestions for safeguarding your children.

- Talk to your child – teach him or her about the dangers. Ensure they know to never go to private chat rooms with people you don't know. They are never to meet face to face with anyone they meet online as they never know who they are really meeting. They are never to give out their name, address, telephone number or other information that could lead someone to where they live or go to school. Tell them to never open or respond to e-mail or pictures from anyone they don't know.
- Set Clear limits for on-line time and monitor use.
- Encourage your child to talk to you about what he/she is doing on-line and share the experience.

- Keep the computer in a common area. Do not allow the child to use the computer in the privacy of his or her room.
- Review the contents of your child's computer regularly.
- Control all passwords to e-mail, chat areas and computer log-on.
- Learn – Learn –Learn! Educate yourself on all the programs they are interested in using.
- Seek out information on blocking, filtering and rating software. Set parental software controls to determine what your child can access and to limit who can access them.
- Be aware of your child's computer usage outside of your home (school, library, friend's house) and what their policies are.
- Monitor text messaging on cell phones.

In addition to the information listed above there are numerous websites that contain on-line information to assist in safeguarding your children. The dos, don'ts and warning signs to look for can be found at:

WWW.SAFEKIDS.COM WWW.SAFETEENS.COM WWW.CYBERTIP.COM
WWW.INTERNETALLIANCE.ORG WWW.NETSMARTZKIDS.ORG WWW.MISSINGKIDS.COM

The bullet points and additional website information came from the St. Louis County Police Brochure, Protecting Your Child from On-line Predators. For additional information reference the On-Line Predator brochure or other informational brochures, please visit www.stlouisco.com/police . If you would ever come across information through computer, phone, or conversation with your child that leads you to believe solicitation of your child, child pornography, or other illegal activity is or has occurred, please call 911.

Special Note

On Behalf of the St. Louis County Police, Wildwood Precinct, the officers would like to wish you all a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Reminder - **Lock vehicles parked outside and make sure you close your garage doors when not in view of them. Most thefts in Wildwood occur from unlocked cars and open garage doors. Let's be proactive in deterring crime in our community.**

Reminder- St. Louis County, Wildwood Police Department offers vacation checks for your home when you're out of town. Call the Wildwood Precinct at 458-9194 or go to the City of Wildwoods website, cityofwildwood.com to fill out the form to have your resident checked.

NUMBERS

Wildwood Precinct	636-458-9194	Crime Stoppers	866-371-8477
Non-Emergency 911	314-889-2341	Safe Schools Hotline	314-889-7233
Wildwood City Hall	636-458-0440	Drug Hotline	314-863-3673
Animal Control	314-726-6655	Neighborhood Preservation	314-615-4151

Please feel free to contact the Neighborhood Policing Officers Jamie Reiter and Brad Wood at 636-458-9194 in reference to neighborhood concerns or initiating a Neighborhood Watch Group for your subdivision

