

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY POLICE

Neighborhood Watch Letter

November/December 2014



Wildwood Precinct

16860 Main Street
Wildwood, MO 63040
(636) 458-9194



What's Going on in Wildwood / Upcoming Events

City of Wildwood Events www.cityofwildwood.com

December 3, 2014 - **Heartsaver CPR AED Course** – Wildwood City Hall (Registration required and there is a fee) Course description, cost and registration forms can be found on the City of Wildwoods website or at City Hall.

January 24, 2015 – Wildwood Frozen Feet Run – (13.1 mile trail race) Additional information and registration can be found on the City of Wildwood website or City Hall Lobby.

Crimes and Holidays

As the holidays approach and we all run in three directions to prepare for them, we must keep our surroundings in mind to not become an easy target. Burglars and thieves know people are shopping and they know the new gifts you purchased will be in your house or car. Burglars know people go out of town for the holidays and spend extra time with friends and family in the evenings and on weekends. The question is, “how can you do all of these things yet not become an easy target?”

Don't be in such a hurry that you don't check that all your doors and windows are locked before you leave your house. Close all main level and walk out basement blinds and curtains as burglars are less interested in what they do not see. If you're only gone for an evening, leave your television on and put some lights on timers, so it appears there is activity in the house. Leave your exterior lights on so your property is well lit. Bad guys don't like to be seen. Tell your neighbors you are going to be gone and who, if anyone, should be at your house. When you leave for an extended period of time, do all of the same to include stopping your mail and papers. If a driveway or walk needs to be shoveled so the home doesn't look vacant, pay a neighbor kid or ask a friend. You can always put your house on a vacation check with the St. Louis County Wildwood Police Department, who will periodically stop by and check your doors to ensure there has not been any activity.

If you are leaving your home and you see any occupied but unfamiliar cars on your street, take an extra look and get a description. Call the police and advise them of the suspicious auto with the information you observed. Let us see what, if anything is going on. No one knows your neighborhood better than those who live in it.

Do not post your vacation plans on social media. Let everyone know how nice your trip was after you get back so you don't return to an unwanted situation.

If you stay in town, close your garage doors and lock your car doors. One of the biggest problems we have in the west county area is thefts from unlocked cars and open garages. It's easy to forget to lock things up when we are so busy during the holiday season, but it makes for an easy target.

When shopping, don't flash cash if that's how you pay. Be discreet with your money. Divide it into envelopes so each purchase appears to an onlooker as the last of what you have.

Don't leave packages inside your vehicle in plain sight. Someone else will view your car as a free store after some glass breakage. Trunks are the way to go.

When walking to your vehicle, particularly women after dark, have your keys ready, constantly check your surroundings and carry yourself in a confident manner. A sports whistle is a great tool for drawing attention to your location if you feel threatened and mace can be effective in allowing for your escape if necessary.

On behalf of the Wildwood Precinct, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

P.O. Reiter

IMPORTANT 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