

SAINT LOUIS COUNTY POLICE

Neighborhood Watch Letter

May 2008



Wildwood Precinct

17065 Manchester Road
Wildwood, MO 63040
(636) 458-9194

Highlights:

Window Tinting
Motorized Scooters/Mini-Bikes
Garage Door Openers
Alcoholic Energy Drinks
Keep Kids Alive Zones
Subdivision Safety Days
Rockwood Bank Customer Appreciation

Window Tinting

Many drivers have equipped their vehicles with illegal vision-reducing material (AKA Window Tint). Vision reducing material applied to the vehicle's windshield, side wings or windows located immediately to the left and right of the driver must permit at least 35% light transmission. An exception to this law is if a vehicle owner has a medical condition requiring a low light environment inside of the vehicle. In this case a note (from a doctor) indicating the medical condition must be in the possession of the driver when operating the vehicle. If you are uncertain about the percentage of "tint" on your windows, please call Officer Robert Wolff at the Wildwood Precinct station to set up an appointment to have a tint meter measurement.

Motorized Scooters/Mini-Bikes

The following information was sent out last year, however, due to the number of calls that we are receiving concerning the aforementioned vehicles, it will again be included in our newsletter.

- Motorized scooters and mini-bikes **are considered motor vehicles** and shall be subject to all applicable motor vehicle laws.
- Motorized scooters and mini-bikes **do not** have to be inspected or licensed.
- Motorized scooters and mini-bikes **do not** have to be insured.
- **All** operators of motorized scooters and mini-bikes must be at least 16 years of age **and** have a valid driver's license.
- **All** operators of motorized scooters and mini-bikes **under the age of 17** must wear a protective helmet.
- Motorized scooters and mini-bikes **cannot** be operated on sidewalks.

The St. Louis County Police Department has recently released a brochure in reference to motorized scooters and mini-bikes. Copies are available at the Wildwood Precinct Station and online at www.co.st-louis.mo.us/police.

Garage Door Openers

Always remove a garage door opener remote from your vehicle if you park the vehicle in your driveway or on the street in front of your residence. Suspect(s) can enter a victim's vehicle and use the garage door opener remote to gain access to the residence.

In addition, suspect(s) can use universal remote controls to gain access to a victim's residence. A universal remote control will activate a garage door opener upon reading the unit's access code. It is advisable to periodically change the access code on your garage door opener. Some garage door openers have "Rolling Access Code Technology" which changes the code of your automatic opener after every use. Consult your garage door opener operator's manual for more information.

Alcoholic Energy Drinks

The market has been saturated with numerous energy drinks such as Red Bull AMP, Rock Star, and Monster. These drinks contain caffeine and other stimulants which give the user extra energy to get through the day.

Public health and safety officials have become alarmed by the newest entry into the energy drink world – alcoholic energy drinks. These drinks are prepackaged beverages that contain not only alcohol, but caffeine and other stimulants. Since energy drinks are stimulants and alcohol is a depressant, the combination of effects can be dangerous. The stimulant effects can mask the user's level of intoxication giving them the impression that they are not impaired. Many of these drinks contain between 6% - 10% of alcohol – much higher than a normal beer.

The two most popular alcoholic energy drinks, Sparks and Tilt, look nothing like an alcoholic beverage. They are extremely similar in look and feel to the energy drinks that contain no alcohol. Even some retailers have inadvertently sold alcoholic energy drinks to underage youth after confusing the products with non-alcoholic energy drinks. A check of the retailers in the City of Wildwood revealed that alcoholic energy drinks were kept in the liquor section of the respective stores (*away from the non-alcoholic energy drinks*). A photo I.D. must be presented to the store clerk in order to purchase the alcoholic beverage.



SPARKS



TILT

Keep Kids Alive Zones

The following areas have been designated as keep Kids Alive Zones within the City of Wildwood:

1. Westglen Farms Drive
2. Wildhorse Parkway Drive
3. Wildridge Drive
4. Washington Avenue
5. Grand Avenue

The speed limit in these zones is posted at 25mph. Fines will be double. If you have any questions please call Officer Robert Wolff at the Wildwood precinct station (636)458-9194.

Subdivision Safety Days

The warmer months are upon us and it is time to plan for subdivision safety days. These events include instructions and demonstrations on bicycle safety and child car seat safety. Discussions involving strangers and 9-1-1 emergency guidelines are frequently conducted. Many department resources (police cars, motorcycles, bicycles) are present at the event as well as a fire truck and an ambulance. Those attending, especially the children, will not only enjoy themselves but will learn a lot. If you are interested in organizing a safety day for your neighborhood, you can contact Officers Wood or Wolff at the Wildwood Precinct station (636) 458-9194.

Rockwood Bank Customer Appreciation Day

Rockwood Bank will be hosting a Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, June 13th, 2008 from 9:00am to 6:00pm. Officer Robert Wolff will be present at the event (12:00pm to 2:00pm) fitting children with bicycle helmets as well as talking about general bicycle safety. Rockwood bank is located at 2620 Highway 109 in Wildwood, Missouri (across from the Wildwood Family YMCA).

Captain Gary Crews, <i>Precinct Commander</i>
Lieutenant Tim Tanner, <i>Watch Commander</i>
Sergeant Gary Goro, <i>Supervisor</i>
Sergeant Brad Wendling, <i>Supervisor</i>
Sergeant Eric Holtz, <i>Supervisor</i>
Officer Robert Wolff, <i>Neighborhood Policing Officer</i>
Officer Brad Wood, <i>Neighborhood Policing Officer</i>
Officer Dan Keim, <i>Precinct Traffic Officer</i>