

# INDEPENDENCE POLICE

April 2009

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**June 2, 2009 7:00 PM**  
Captain Meeting  
Truman High School  
Community Mediation

**July 7, 2009**  
Captain Meeting  
Location TBD  
Topic TBD

**July 30, 2009 6-9 PM**  
National Night Out  
6-9 PM

**August Meeting**  
There will be no August meeting due to Participation in National Night Out

### Bulletin!!!!

Please note that there was an issue with crimereports.com. This error resulted in updates not being given to the site. This has been corrected, and the site should be functioning properly. Please notify us if you have any problems.

As summer is upon us, and the weather begins to get warmer (finally), it is important that we remember to put our alert status into high gear. With warmer weather, criminals typically can stay out longer and later than in colder weather.

We need to remember our personal safety whether at home or out and about. While at home, if someone knocks on your door, or rings your doorbell, check to see who it is before answering. If it someone you do not know, do not answer the door. Yell a greeting through the door. If they are a solicitor, tell them to go away. If they do not, call the police.

As reported in our meeting, we had another case involving a homeowner who heard a knock on the door, and ignored it. That inaction resulted in a confrontation with a burglar in the living room of the house.

We also must remember to check to make sure that our outside lights are on and operational. These lights should be bright, and directed towards items of value in our yard (outbuildings, cars, etc.).

I have read of at least two reports reference larcenies from sheds during the week of May 7th-12th. Lawn mowers, weed-eaters, and garden tools are very popular targets right now.

I recently checked information on car larcenies, and found between May 7th-12th there were 14 car larcenies. In 12 of these larcenies, there was an item of value left in the car that was taken. We need to remember to remove these items of value from our vehicles when we leave them unattended.

If you are a block captain, this is also a great time to get back in touch with members who might have hibernated over the winter.

Send out a flyer or newsletter (if you haven't already) reminding everyone that there is an active watch group in your area. Remind everyone of some of the most important and easiest aspects of crime prevention.

It is important for us to not let our guard down and treat every circumstance we may come across objectively. We need to analyze each event, and determine whether or not it requires a call for emergency service.

As I discussed in our meeting, a resident of our city came home to find a strange car in her drive. As she approached her house, an unknown man was walking from the backyard. The man apologized, stated he was looking for someone else, and then left without confrontation.

This citizen could have not acted. She could have walked into her house and been done with it. Instead, she chose to call 911.

The man and vehicle were later located prowling another house. A computer check of the man revealed a warrant for burglary.

The action of this citizen protected someone else from having to experience a home burglary.

Remember, it is everyone's responsibility to act to keep not only our neighborhood, but our city safe.

We've all heard the old saying many times that. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Most everyone would agree with it, but how many of us actually take the time to practice the concept, especially when it comes to crime prevention? The probable answer is that most of us do not do as much as we should.

One of the most recent issues to arise regarding protecting oneself from becoming a victim of a crime is the issue of preventing personal vehicle license plate tabs from being stolen.

Throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area, police departments have taken several reports from citizens complaining their vehicle license plate tabs had somehow been stolen from off the plate. Investigations revealed that many of the stolen tabs appeared to have been scraped off with something like a razor blade tool.

The first and most important thing for a person to do to prevent license tabs from being stolen is to follow the directions of the Missouri Department of Revenue for the placement of the tabs on the license plate.

The Missouri Department of Revenue "recommends that you place your license plate tabs in the MIDDLE of your license plates to help prevent tab theft... several years ago, the department changed the placement of license plate year tabs, moving them from the **lower right-hand corner** to the **center** of the license plate (for regular license plates only, not personalized or specialty plates) as an effort to help reduce tab theft.

The standard license plate also now features an indentation in the middle of the plate to reduce the risk of tab theft. The indentation in the middle of the license plate makes it extremely difficult for some thief to scrape

the tab off the plate. The blade cannot get under the tab without bending the tab which causes the tab to bend and disintegrate.

In addition, before placing new tabs on the license plate, be sure to remove the old tab. Old id tabs raise the new tab higher out of the indentation, thus making them easier to steal, and they also help support the newer tab from bending and falling apart should someone make the attempt.

If you have any other questions regarding crime prevention, please call the Independence Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at (816) 325-7643.



BLOCK WATCH QUALIFICATION

It is hard to believe, but our year is almost half over. I have been very pleased with the turnout of groups at our last few meetings.

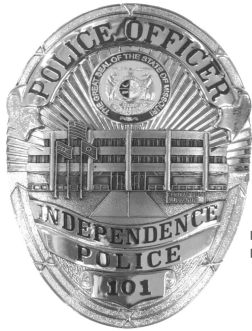
This year, we have averaged just over 100 people at our 5 meetings thus far. On top of that we have an 81% attendance of our registered groups. This does not include addi-

tional groups, who have not registered yet.

I just want to remind everyone to keep up on the qualification form as the year progresses. This form (see right) is your way to keep track of your groups progress through this year. This will be important come the end of the year, when we determine awards to be

handed out.

I also want to remind everyone that this is prime "block watch" party time, so make sure to plan your event early, giving me as much notice as possible if you would like to have an officer present.



# INDEPENDENCE POLICE

Questions?  
Call 325-7643

## Blockwatch Qualification Checklist

### Form Information

In order to be an active member of the blockwatch program, you must meet certain yearly requirements. These requirements qualify your group for such rewards as the monthly newsletters, awards and blockwatch signs.

This form will help you keep track of your groups yearly progress. Make sure to send copies of your paperwork, including maps, sign in sheets, and any other information pertinent to the blockwatch program office.

This information can be sent to Ofc. Romey at:

10920 E. Winner  
Independence MO, 64052

### Group Information

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_

Captain Name \_\_\_\_\_

Captain Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Level One Blockwatch

#### Tasks

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood conducts a yearly block party

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Attend 1 Block Captain Meeting

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Complete, and Submit Blockwatch Registration Form

**Recognition: Monthly Newsletter Subscription**

### Level Two Blockwatch

All of Level 1, Plus

#### Tasks

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Develop a map of your block, and distribute

Dates Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Organize meeting with block (2 per year)

Dates Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Attend 3 Block Captain Meetings (total)

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

At least Bi-Monthly Newsletter (e-mail or print)

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Develop phone list, and distribute

**Recognition: 1 Crime Watch Sign and Award**

### Level Three Blockwatch

All of Level 1, and 2 Plus

#### Tasks

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Turn in updated map by April 15

Dates Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Attend 4 Block Captain Meetings (total)

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

All addresses marked per city ordinance

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

Complete at least 1 full year in program

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_

One member is a Citizens Academy Graduate

**Recognition: Additional Crime Watch Signs and Award (Award Only if signs already awarded)**

