

FLORISSANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

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THE CHIEF'S CORNER

I'd like to take this moment to welcome you to the new Florissant Police Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, "Neighborhood Happenings."

Our goal is to keep citizens informed and encourage your participation in the Neighborhood Watch program.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective crime prevention tools available to keep crime in check. It's simply, neighbors watching out for neighbors. You are our eyes and ears long before a police officer arrives on the scene. We encourage you to be the first line of offense, not defense, so to speak.

A defensive response is the police department responding to a call after the fact, after a house or auto has been broken into.

A good offense is citizens watching out for each other, reporting suspicious activity or problems before a criminal has the opportunity to strike.

I encourage you to participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program. By getting to know your neighbors, watching out for each other's property, and reporting suspicious activity you can make a difference. This is the first step in keeping your family safe, and reducing the risk of you becoming the victim of a crime. We know crime won't be elimi-



(Chief William Karabas)

nated completely, but you can, and must, do everything within your power to make it as difficult as possible for a criminal to think twice about committing crime in your neighborhood.

Sincerely,
William Karabas,
Chief of Police

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DATES SET FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TRAINING

The Florissant Police Department will be hosting Neighborhood Watch training sessions every 3rd Monday of the month, beginning on November 17th, 2008. Meetings will begin promptly at 6:30PM and will be held in the training room

of the Florissant Police Department located at 1700 N. Highway 67.

Topics will include, but will not be limited to, how to report crimes in progress or suspicious activity, reviewing crime prevention techniques

for the home, and other crime prevention information.

Contact Sgt. Kevin Boschert at 314-830-6042 if you plan to attend.

DOES NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORK?

Some citizens have asked the question, "Does Neighborhood Watch work?" Although there are no hard facts the program takes a pro-active approach to criminal activity. Experience has taught us that a pro-active approach can be very effective crime prevention tool.

If you consider the fact when someone locks their car and keeps valuables out of sight they certainly reduce the risk of becoming the next target of a criminal.

Criminals seek easy targets, unlocked cars, GPS system in plain sight, open garage doors, lawn mowers and bicycles left unattended.

The more difficult you can make it for a thief, the more time it takes the criminal to commit the crime, the more noise you force the criminal to make, the less

likely you are to become their victim of a crime. They will more on to an easier target.

Let's examine a crime to see what must be present for you to become a victim. In order for a criminal to commit a crime the following three (3) factors are necessary:

1. The *desire* to commit the crime.
2. The *ability* to do it.
3. The *opportunity* to do it.

All three of these elements must exist for a crime to occur. There is one element you have the most control over, eliminating the *opportunity*.

There are several ways to eliminate the opportunity. Here are a few:

- Secure/lock up items (bicycles, cars, lawn mowers, homes, unattended garages, etc.)
- Dead bolt locks with a 1" throw
- The "Club" or similar devices for your auto
- Keep bushes trimmed no taller than 36", and trim from the bottom up so a person can be seen if hiding behind them
- Report suspicious persons or activity while in progress. **Don't wait!**
- Have someone keep an eye on your home while your gone, collect mail and newspapers

You and your neighbors can make a difference.

STOLEN AUTOS

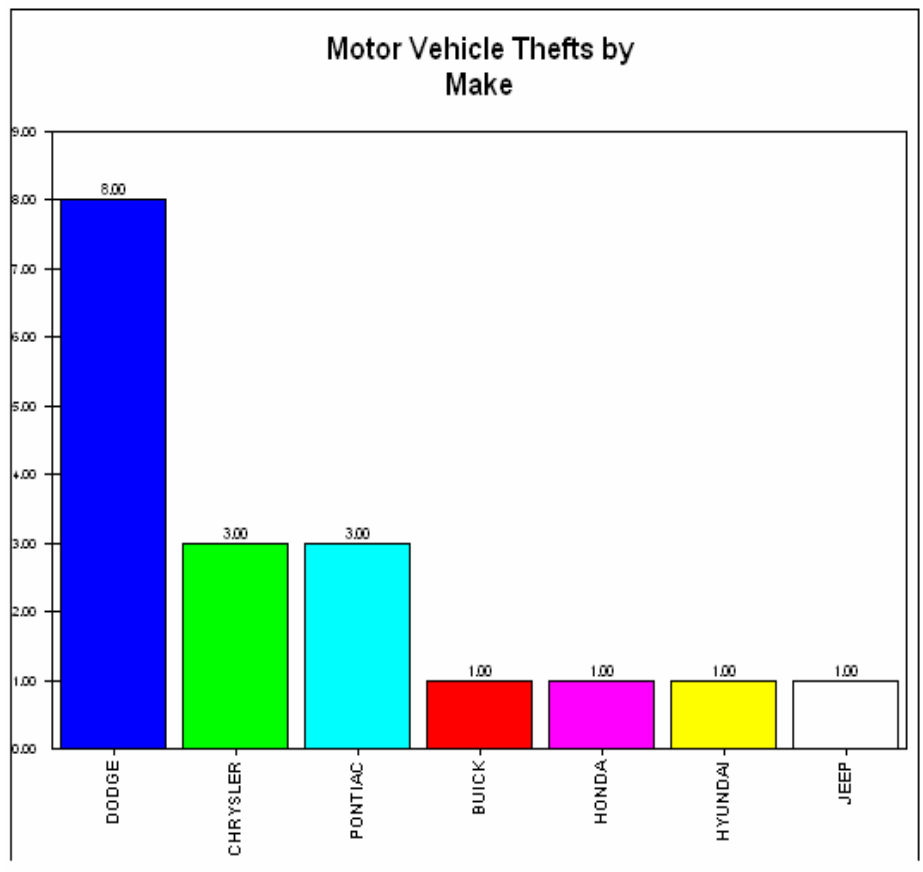
A total of 18 automobiles were stolen in the month of September 2008. Chrysler products, Dodge, Chrysler, and Jeep, (12 vehicles) were the criminals most frequent choice. Dodge was the most frequent brand stolen. GM products were second with 4 vehicles stolen.

A year-to-date total of 158 vehicles have been reported stolen through September 30, 2008.

The trend of Chrysler products being the choice of theft has held steady over the course of 2008. There have been 46 Dodge, 18 Chrysler, and 6 Jeep vehicles stolen, for a year-to-date total of 70 Chrysler products. This total accounts for nearly half of all vehicle stolen since January 1st, 2008.

We encourage citizens to remember to lock your vehicles. There are devices available to reduce the risk of becoming the victim of auto theft. Check with your local locksmith, hardware, or auto parts store for more anti-theft product information.

(The graph to the right shows the brand of vehicles stolen during the month of September 2008.)



September 2008 Crime Report

There have been no Homicides during the month of September.

There have been 6 Robberies in the month of September.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 09/01/08 3500 blk Patterson Rd | 09/18/08 200 blk N. Hwy 67 | 09/20/08 2100 blk Charbonier |
| 09/21/08 600 blk Mater Dei | 09/26/08 2100 blk Charbonier | 09/29/08 1 st blk Patterson Plaza |

3 Robberies were committed with a firearm/knife/other dangerous weapon was implied or displayed,
2 Robberies were a Strong Arm type.

There have been 2 Rapes reported in the month of September.

09/14/08 300 blk Monterey (Statutory Rape – delayed report)
09/29/08 1800 blk S Florissant Rd (reported as an Attempt Rape)

There have been 23 Burglaries during the month of September. (Includes 5 Attempt Burglaries)

19 Residential Burglaries

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 09/04/08 3700 blk Greengrass | Unlawful entry | 09/10/08 200 blk Naomi | Forced entry |
| 09/10/08 500 blk St. Marie | Unlawful entry | 09/11/08 700 blk Mescalero | Forced entry |
| 09/11/08 800 blk Pershall | Forced entry | 09/12/08 1300 blk Hialeah | Forced entry |
| 09/12/08 1 st blk Bruce Dr | <i>Attempt only</i> | 09/13/08 500 blk Rancho Ln | Unlawful entry |
| 09/15/08 1300 blk Flamingo | Forced entry | 09/15/08 1200 blk Flamingo | <i>Attempt only</i> |
| 09/15/08 600 blk Blackbird Dr | <i>Attempt only</i> | 09/15/08 3000 blk Durwood Dr | Forced entry |
| 09/17/08 13500 blk New Halls Ferry | Forced entry | 09/19/08 300 blk Humes Ln | Forced entry |
| 09/22/08 2500 blk Hawthorne Manor | Unlawful entry | 09/26/08 1 st blk Locust | Forced entry |
| 09/26/08 2500 blk Ponchartrain | Forced entry | 09/29/08 1500 blk Zurich | <i>Attempt only</i> |
| 09/29/08 1400 blk Wadsworth | <i>Attempt only</i> | | |

4 Business Burglaries

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 09/05/08 2000 blk N Highway 67 | Unlawful entry | 09/14/08 1800 blk Dunn Rd | Forced entry |
| 09/19/08 3200 blk N Hwy 67 | Forced entry | 09/28/08 2700 blk N Hwy 67 | Forced entry |

Vehicle Thefts: 18 Motor vehicles have been reported stolen during the month of September.

(Includes 1 Attempt Auto Thefts (*) – counted as Auto Thefts for UCR purposes)

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 09/04/08 1200 blk Spring Valley | 09/04/08(*) 1100 blk Hallwood | 09/10/08 100 blk Broadmere | |
| 09/11/08 1700 blk N Hwy 67 | 09/11/08 700 blk Waterford | 09/11/08 800 blk Pershall Rd | |
| 09/12/08 1900 blk Tahoe | 09/17/08 300 blk Dunn Rd | 09/17/08 1 st blk Grandview Plaza | |
| 09/17/08 1 st blk Brackleigh | 09/18/08 1 st blk Dunn Rd | 09/20/08 2700 blk Monfort | |
| 09/22/08 1700 blk N Hwy 67 | 09/26/08 1000 blk Grandview Grd | 09/26/08 1300 blk Grandview Dr | |
| 09/27/08 2100 blk Keeven Ln | 09/27/08 1300 blk Dunn Rd | 09/27/08 1600 blk Tyson | |

Stealing Offenses:

A total of 91 incidents of stealing have been reported during the month of September. 1 report was related to purse snatching, 23 reports related to shoplifting, 29 reports related to stealing from a motor vehicle, 2 reports related to stealing motor vehicle parts, 4 reports related to stealing bicycles, 7 reports related to stealing from a building, and the remaining reports were of the miscellaneous stealing variety.



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MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Florissant Police Department is to provide the highest quality police services to the people of the City of Florissant, by promoting a safe environment through police and citizen interaction, with an emphasis on integrity, fairness, and professionalism."

Citizen Interaction

We recognize our community-policing role as a partnership with the Citizens of Florissant. We need and encourage the participation of every citizen in solving problems and improving the quality of life for our community.

Integrity

In order to achieve public trust and build upon our community partnership, we demand the highest level of integrity in ourselves. Integrity is defined as being honest, moral, upright, and sincere

Fairness

We are committed to upholding the law in an ethical, impartial, courteous, and professional manner. We serve every member of our community equally, regardless of race, sex, creed, national origin, or social status.

Professionalism

In order to insure the highest level of service to our community, we pledge to continually evaluate our programs and our performance. We promote organizational and individual standards of excellence. We encourage continuing education and training.

FLORISSANT CITIZEN ACADEMY HOLDS GRADUATION

Congratulations are in order for the recent graduates of the 17th Florissant Police Department Citizen Academy. Participants met one night a week, three hours a night, for eight weeks.

During that time, participants were briefed on a variety of law enforcement related topics:

- Neighborhood Preservation Team
- How to Report a crime
- Communications Unit
- Corrections / Holding facility
- Criminal Investigations
- Constitutional Law
- Evidence collection/preservation
- Identity Theft

- K-9 Operations
- Narcotics identification
- Bomb and Arson
- Conducting a traffic stop

The purpose of the academy is to give Florissant citizens a better understanding of the variety of police services available and how officers are trained to respond to a variety of situations.

The academy gave Florissant officers an opportunity relay personal experiences and display some the recent new technology Florissant has been able to acquire. One item in particular was the new evidence bar-code tracking system recently put into service. The system allows officers to give bar-codes to evidence so they can be tracked by computer which streamlines the tracking

system.

A hit with the participants seemed to be the lesson on conducting a safe traffic stop. They received instruction on how an officer is trained to safely approach a driver during a vehicle stop.

Participants were then given the opportunity to simulate making a traffic stop and approach a driver of a vehicle.

It didn't take long for our students to learn there is no such thing as a routine traffic stop. And although there were a few laughs it soon became apparent an officer much approach each stop with extreme caution until a determination can be made on just how dangerous, or not, the situation is.

Keep an eye out on our website or this newsletter for more information when the next class is scheduled after the first of the year.