



Colonel Timothy Fitch
Chief of Police

St. Louis County Police Department City of Fenton Precinct Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



FENTON
City of Parks

July 2009

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I hope that this letter finds your family and you well, enjoying the warm weather (though it has often been hot and humid). This summer has brought change to the St. Louis County Police Department and the City of Fenton Precinct, which I would like to share with all of you.

In June, St. Louis County Police Department Chief Jerry Lee chose to retire and Major Timothy Fitch was chosen as his replacement. Chief Fitch began his career with the St. Louis County Police Department in 1983. He has served as the Commanding Officer of the Divisions of Operational Support and Patrol. Chief Fitch has held various positions of rank in all Divisions within the Department, including assignments in the City of Fenton Precinct.

Captain Jack Webb was reassigned to the St. Louis Crime Laboratory and Jeff Bader was promoted to Captain of the City of Fenton Precinct.

Captain Bader began his career with the St. Louis County Police Department in 1983. He served as an Officer in the South County Precinct and Tactical Unit before being promoted to the rank of Sergeant, where he was assigned to the South County Precinct and St. Louis County Police and Municipal Academy. As a Lieutenant, Captain Bader served in the South County Precinct, Tactical Operations Unit, Bureau of Drug Enforcement, Affton Southwest and City of Fenton Precincts. He was assigned to the City of Fenton as a Lieutenant in 2005 and promoted to the rank of Captain on June 17, 2009.

Due to Captain Bader's promotion, Sergeant Matt Redmond was reassigned to the City of Fenton Precinct and we are happy to welcome him to the community. Sgt. Redmond began his career with the St. Louis County Police Department in 1997. He served as a patrolman in the Affton Southwest Precinct before being promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2007.

We would like to congratulate Chief Fitch and Captain Bader on their promotions and give a warm welcome to Captain Bader as the new Commander of the City of Fenton Precinct.

-Neighborhood Policing Officer Chrystal Ruhmann

Kids and safety

Teach our youth to survive and thrive

Review safe transportation behaviors

It's always a good time of year for teachers, caregivers and parents to educate and remind children to practice safe behaviors when walking, biking or riding the bus to and from school.



In 2005, 18 percent of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. In the same year, 17 percent of bicyclists killed in traffic crashes were between the ages of 5 and 15.

Parents and caregivers need to remember that **children are not small adults and need help crossing the street** -- especially if they are 10 years old or younger.

Since 1995, 170 school-age children younger than 19 years old have died in school transportation-related crashes. Nearly 65 percent were killed by school buses, 5 percent by vehicles functioning as school buses and 30 percent by other vehicles.

Tips for a safe school commute

Review these basic rules with your child.

Biking to school

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Wear bright colored clothing to increase visibility.
- Know the "rules of the road." Visit www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm for more information.

Walking to school

- Make sure your child's walk to a school is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection.
- Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision.
- Bright colored clothing will make your child more visible to drivers.

Riding the bus

- If your child's school bus has lap/shoulder seat belts, make sure your child uses one at all times when in the bus. If your child's school bus does not have lap/shoulder belts, encourage the school to buy or lease buses with lap/shoulder belts.
- Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb.
- Do not move around on the bus.
- Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing.
- Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

Talking with your kids about drugs

Don't put off talking with your children about alcohol and other drugs. As early as fourth grade, kids worry about pressures to try drugs. School programs alone aren't enough. Parents must become involved, but most parents aren't sure how to tell their children about drugs.

What do you say?

Tell them that you love them and you want them to be healthy and happy. Say you do not find alcohol and other illegal drugs acceptable. Many parents never state this simple principle. Explain how this use hurts people. Physical harm, emotional harm, and educational harm. Discuss the legal issues. A conviction for a drug offense can lead to time in prison, or cost someone a job, driver's license, or college loan. Talk about positive, drug free alternatives, and how you can explore them together. Some ideas include sports, reading, movies, bike rides, hikes, camping, cooking, games, and concerts. Involve your children's friends too.

How do you say it?

- Calmly and openly, don't exaggerate. The facts speak for themselves.
- Face to face, exchange information and try to understand each other's point of view. Be an active listener and let your child talk about fears and concerns. Don't interrupt and don't preach.
- Through "teachable moments" in contrast to a formal lecture, use a variety of situations, television news, newspapers, and books.
- Establish an ongoing conversation rather than giving a one-time speech. Remember that you set the example. Avoid contradictions between your words and actions. Don't use illegal drugs, period!

How to tell if a child is using drugs?

- Change in moods, more irritable, secretive, withdrawn, overly sensitive, inappropriately angry, and euphoric.
- Less responsible, late coming home, late for school or class, dishonest.
- Changing friends or changing lifestyles, new interests, unexplained cash.
- Physical deterioration, difficulty in concentration, loss of weight, unhealthy appearance.
- Young people say they turn to drugs for one or more of the following reason:
 - To do what their friends are doing.
 - To escape pain in their lives.
 - To fit in.
 - Boredom
 - For fun.
 - Curiosity
 - To take risks.

Taking a stand.

Educate yourself about the facts surrounding alcohol and other drug use. You will lose credibility with your child if your information is not correct. Establish clear family rules against drug use and enforce them constantly. Develop your parenting skills through seminars, networking with other parents, reading, counseling, and support groups. Work with other parents to set community standards, you don't raise a child alone. Volunteer at schools, youth centers, Boys and Girls clubs, or other activities in your community.

Officer Recognition

On June 10th, a suspect presented a note to the bank teller at US Bank, requested money and implied that he had a weapon. After the teller complied with the demand, the suspect fled the scene. City of Fenton Officers Nigh, Begley, Kriska and Seventh Precinct Officers Maxwell and Krinitsky responded to the scene to conduct a canvass of the area. St. Louis County Crime Scene Unit responded. After a media broadcast of the incident, which included a photograph of the suspect, an informant notified officers of a possible suspect name. Officer Sanders then assisted with locating and arresting the suspect shortly after the robbery. A warrant was issued on the suspect with a \$100,000.00 bond.

On June 21st, Officer Becker received a radio assignment for a male and female fighting inside of a moving vehicle near Fenway and Bowles, at which time he conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle. The female driver exited the vehicle and the male passenger slid into the driver's seat, nearly striking the officer with the vehicle before speeding away. A short time later, Officer Becker located the vehicle, which illegally entered the intersection at Bowles and Horan, striking a vehicle and leaving the scene. Officer Becker continued following the suspect vehicle to the intersection of Hwy 141 and Bowles, where the driver ran a red light and lost control of his vehicle in the intersection, striking a curb and stopping a short distance from the collision. Officer Becker and West County Precinct Officer Lindeman arrested the suspect. Officer Sanders responded and conveyed the suspect to St. Clare Hospital, then to St. Louis County Intake, where he was booked for Felony DWI, Assault 1st on a Police Officer, Felony Resisting by Flight, Leaving the Scene of an Accident, and Domestic Assault 3rd. Officer Becker conducted warrant application with the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, at which time the suspect was issued a six-count warrant for the above listed charges.

When to Call the Police

Many people hesitate about calling the police department even when faced with circumstances that, upon reflection, are highly suspicious. Some people think they are bothering us and are not sure what they are seeing. There are trained and experienced communications personnel at the other end of the line to ask questions and help decide the right thing to do. For emergencies and crimes in progress, call

9-1-1 (make sure to tell the dispatcher your location, as sometimes your cell phone is directed to a tower that is not in the right jurisdiction). For non-emergency situations dial 314-889-2341.

Try to remember: what the suspect looked like (height, weight, hair color, eye color, scars, tattoos, etc.), what the suspect was wearing (clothing from top to bottom), and the suspect's direction of travel (north, south, down the alley, or which road), vehicle description (color, make, model, plate number, and state, if possible).



To receive the City of Fenton E-Newsletter or Neighborhood Watch Alerts online, please send an e-mail to:

cruhmann@stlouisco.com

OR

adilks@stlouisco.com

Phone Numbers

Non-Emergency Dispatch	314-889-2341	Animal Control	314-726-6655
Fenton Precinct Station	636-349-8120	Child Abuse Hotline	800-392-3738
Safe Schools Hotline	314-889-7233	KUTO Teen Hotline	314-644-5886
Drug Hotline	314-863-3673	Neighborhood Preservation	314-615-4151
CrimeStoppers	866-371-8477	Highways and Traffic	314-615-8504
Fenton Court Clerk	636-343-1007	Fenton City Hall	636-343-2080