

# SAINT LOUIS COUNTY POLICE

## Neighborhood Watch Letter

December 2011



### *Wildwood Precinct*

17014 D New College Ave  
Wildwood, MO 63040  
(636) 458-9194

[www.cityofwildwood.com](http://www.cityofwildwood.com)

### Holidays and Theft

December is that time of year when many of us are away from our homes for extended periods of time, be it shopping, visiting family and friends, traveling, etc. We know it and so do persons who prey on our homes and property for their own self gain. Burglaries, identity theft, thefts from cars, open garage doors and mail will increase during this season. A little vigilance on your part may keep you from being the victim of these crimes.

If you are going to be out of town ask a neighbor to watch your house, get your mail, park in your driveway. Put your home on our vacation check list and our officers will randomly check your house as well. Close all blinds and curtains on any floor that someone could see into from the outside. Use timers on your interior lights to make it appear that someone is home. Ensure all doors and windows are locked whether you are home or not. Leave exterior lights on at night to illuminate the outside of your residence.

Do not leave purchases or items of value in plain sight in your home or vehicle. While out shopping put your purchases in your trunk. Most thieves will not risk a break in if they don't know if there are items to steal.

On the back of my credit cards I write, "ASK FOR ID". The clerks should ask for I.D. but many times they don't. They expect to see a signature and when they don't they take notice and almost always ask me for I.D. I have it. But if someone else got a hold of my card they will not have one that matches my name which is impressed in the plastic. Check your credit card statements to make sure any charge is your charge. Many times a thief just uses the number while you still possess the card. Credit Card companies do try to flag unusual purchases, but during Christmas their hands are full with unusual purchases.

Whether your home or out and about, call the police if you see something suspicious. We all need to look out for one another through the holidays as well as every day. I hope you and yours have a great Christmas holiday.

**Reminder-** St. Louis County, Wildwood Police Department offers vacation checks for your home when you're out of town. Call the Wildwood Precinct at 458-9194 or go to the City of Wildwoods website, [cityofwildwood.com](http://cityofwildwood.com) to fill out the form to have your resident checked.

### 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