



# St. Bernard Police Newsletter

## Juvenile Court Intervention Unit

FAQ - My Juvenile is out of control what can I do? For more info call 946-2700

Is your son or daughter....running away?.....breaking curfew?.....skipping school?.....refusing to attend school?.....using drugs?.....associating with peers who use drugs?.....becoming violent?.....unruly or uncontrollable?.....stealing from the family?.....

Then maybe you should check out the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Intervention Unit. They help families in crisis find a way to break the cycle before it is too late, finding solutions that respect parent and child/teenager.

The Intervention Unit assists families in crisis with children exhibiting unruly or minor delinquent behavior, by providing a diversionary process as an alternative to the Juvenile Justice System. Families are empowered with an understanding or new perspective of their child's behavior. This allows them to pursue solutions through their own resources, with a family counselor at the Intervention Unit or with the assistance of a community agency.

Question: What services do you provide? Answer: We provide intervention, counseling services and parent support services. When a referral is received, Intervention Unit Counselor will contact you within 12-48 hours. Our intention is to schedule an appointment with you and your child within 7-10 days. On the date of the appointment, the problem will be discussed with you and your child in an effort to find a workable solution. Our services are free to all Hamilton County residents. Question: Will my child have a criminal record? Answer: An incorrigible or unruly child is not processed offi-

cially. An incorrigible or unruly child must be referred to the Intervention Unit An unruly child is not considered a criminal and does not acquire a criminal record. Question: What if my child is a runaway? Answer: A runaway child can receive an official complaint and a warrant. However, the case is referred to the Intervention Unit prior to an official hearing. A runaway complaint does go on your child's record but is identified as a "status" offense, not a criminal offense. Question: How can I be referred to the Intervention Unit? A referral can occur if your child meets the following criteria: 1. You and your child reside in Hamilton County and you have legal custody or guardianship. 2. Has no prior juvenile record in Hamilton County. 3. Your child is under the age of 18. 4. The child is not currently in placement or on foster care status. 5. The child is unruly, incorrigible or beyond your care, custody and control. If your child meets the above five criteria stated above, you can fill out a referral at the Juvenile Court Intake Office at 2020 Auburn Avenue, Youth Center. Phone 946-2700.

Other Helpful Community Resource Listings:  
 INPAC 946-2595  
 Link Line 946-LINK 24 hour crisis hotline  
 Talbert House Drug and Family Counseling 684-7956  
 Cincinnati Family Center 751-0400  
 Family Services of Cincinnati 345-8554  
 Center for Children & Families 221-4673  
 Central Clinic 558-5804  
 Mental Health Services East 321-8286

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**Ask a Cop (FAQ's)**

If you have a law enforcement question or topic that you would like us to feature in an upcoming newsletter, mail your request to the PD attention Newsletter Publisher or email us. We have included several FAQ's in this issue, thanks for the input.

**Call Us**

We are still hearing citizens say "I have seen a particular activity taking place, but we didn't want to bother you guys." Please understand that you are not bothering the police when you have questions regarding suspicious or out of ordinary activity and or other nuisances. We desperately need the eyes and ears of an informed community to keep our citizens safe and take a bite out of crime. You can call us anytime.

**Move Over and Slow Down**

FAQ - What do I do when an officer is behind me with lights and sirens?

State law requires motorists to move over and slow down when emergency vehicles are approaching with their lights and/or sirens activated. Officers activate their lights and sirens when on emergency runs. These can include: medical emergencies, accidents, serious crimes etc. Knowledge and compliance of this law is key in protecting the lives of public safety workers and other citizens. When citizens see and hear the police officer or fire personnel and do not move over, they may be endangering the

safety of those that need help. Your best course of action is to slow down and pull over to the right and stop unless directed otherwise by the public safety officers and/or road conditions. If public safety personnel are on an emergency run the last thing they need is to be dodging other cars that do not slow or move to the right. This can create an additional hazard to others. Just remember, if your family is in need of help you would want us to get there in time to help. Thanks.

## Crime Prevention Tips—FAQ's

### Road Rage FAQ - Is there a law against Road Rage? What can I do to avoid becoming a victim of Road Rage?

The term *Road Rage* was created in the popular media to describe emotion-based reckless, aggressive, and intimidating driving. There is no specific offense in Ohio Law entitled "Road Rage," but the actions which are labeled "Road Rage" are specific offenses. Among these are: menacing; reckless operation, impeding, and assault, to name a few. There are several strategies you can use to minimize the potential dangers of Road Rage, including: Do not react to provocation; Stay away from erratic drivers; Avoid eye contact with aggressive drivers; Use your horn sparingly; Do not make obscene gestures; Do not switch lanes without signaling; Do not tailgate; Do not block the passing lane; When parking, do not take more than one parking space; Be polite and courteous even if other drivers are not; and avoid all conflict, and allow plenty of time for your trip.

### Park Hours FAQ - What are the park hours in the City?

The park hours have just recently changed. The ordinance 541.14 reads "All St. Bernard Park premises shall close at 11:00 PM and no person shall enter or remain within or on any park premises or recreational  
**Continued Page 3**

## Traffic Stops FAQ - Why do Police make Traffic Stops?

**Why Do Officers Conduct Traffic Stops?** No one likes to get a ticket, but if a ticket deters someone from doing things that put the community's safety at risk, we all benefit. In addition to reducing injuries and deaths on our roadways, officers save us money. For example, an uninsured driver not wearing a seat belt speeds down the road, loses control and hits a guardrail. Who pays for rescue and emergency services? Who pays for his hospital stay and physical therapy? Who pays for the guardrail repair? It is not the careless driver, but your local government, which is funded by you, the taxpayer. Costs are controlled every time patrol officers enforce the laws. This is another reason why officers encourage us to do things - like wearing our seat belts, using child safety seats for our little ones, and not driving under the influence. **Traffic Stops Are Dangerous.** Many officers are killed each year and thousands more are injured in traffic related incidences. For example, in 1998, about half of all officer line of duty deaths were related to traffic incidences. This is because even the most routine stop for a traffic violation has the potential for danger. Routine traffic stops often turn out to be not so routine. Officers find uninsured drivers, suspended licenses, impaired drivers, illegal firearms, drugs and fugitives. Discoveries like these are all in a day's work for many officers. This is why officers are trained to place a great deal of emphasis on their safety and take a defensive posture at the stop until the risk of confrontation or injury is diminished. **What Can You Do?** Whether you are stopped by a police officer, state highway patrol trooper or a county sheriff deputy, you can help to create a more professional atmosphere at the stop by cooperating. Here are a few things to remember: Carry proper identification: a valid driver's license, proof of vehicle registration and proof of insurance. When being signaled by an officer to stop, look for the nearest safe, well lit place and position your vehicle as far out of the lane of traffic as possible. Generally, pull off to the right side of the roadway where the shoulder is wider, unless otherwise directed. Turn on your flashers. Never attempt to outrun the patrol vehicle or pretend not to see the lights or hear the siren. Stay in your vehicle unless told otherwise. Exit the vehicle slowly if asked to do so. Remain calm. If there are passengers, also ask them to remain quiet and cooperate with instructions. Do not let anyone make statements or threatening motions to the officers. **Why a police officer does the things he does during a traffic stop?** Why did the officer stand behind my

driver's door so that I had to turn around to look at him? Car stops are one of the most dangerous things that a law enforcement officer does. A large percentage of officers injured on duty are injured during traffic stops and domestic disputes. The purpose of the officer standing to the rear of the driver's door is for his own safety. It allows the officer a view of the entire interior of a vehicle and allows him to react if the driver or other occupant has a weapon. The other night I was stopped by an officer and he left all his lights on bright when he approached my car and asked me for my driver's license. The bright lights blinded me. Why did he do that? During the hours of darkness the risk to an officer increases simply because he cannot see into the vehicle as he approaches it. It is necessary to "light up" the vehicle until the officer is satisfied that the occupant is not going to do harm to the officer or hide contraband. Why did the officer order me to stay in my car? I just got out to walk back and talk to him to find out what I had done wrong. When the officer asks you to stay in, or return to, your vehicle it is for your safety as well as the officer's. The officer is concerned that if you are out of your vehicle walking around you may be struck by another vehicle. He is also concerned you may be approaching him with a weapon and intend to harm him. When the officer first walked up to my car, his attitude was blunt toward me. Later, the officer's attitude changed and he was friendly. Why? When the officer first approached your vehicle, he did not know that the only thing you had done was commit a traffic infraction. He was at that time concerned for his safety. After the officer was satisfied that you were not someone who was going to harm him, and in fact a citizen who had just committed a traffic infraction, the officer was more at ease. When I get stopped by an officer, I don't appreciate how long it takes for him to give me a ticket. What is he doing back there in his car? When an officer returns to his vehicle with your license, there are several things that happen. The officer contacts the dispatcher and requests both a driving record check and a check of the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer. This is how the officer finds out if you are wanted. Computers are sometimes slow in giving the officer the information he needs. When the officer first walked up to my car, why did he have his hand on his gun? I was just speeding and it wasn't necessary for him to act like he was going to draw his gun. The fact that an officer approaches your car with his hand on his weapon is not an offensive action on his part, but rather a defensive one. You probably also noticed that when the officer approached your car, he walked up rather cautiously. He also stopped just behind the driver's door and stood at an angle to your vehicle. All these things are for the officer's protection until the officer is satisfied that you, or an occupant in your vehicle, are not going to harm him. The other night a friend was arrested for DUI. Why was he handcuffed? When a person is arrested, the officer places the person in handcuffs, then searches the person to make

### Traffic Stops FAQ - Why do Police make Traffic Stops? (Continued from Page 2)

sure the person has no weapons. Sometimes people, who are on drugs or alcohol, can become violent. It is necessary to restrict their movements for their own safety as well as the officer's. What can I do to put the officer more at ease when I get stopped? If you are stopped in the daylight, stay in your vehicle, keep both hands on the steering wheel and wait for the officer to ask for your driver's license or give you instructions. If you need to reach into the glove compartment or elsewhere, advise the officer before doing so. If you are stopped at night, it is helpful to the officer if you have your dome light on when he approaches. Again, keep your

hands where the officer can see them. Do not be a "name dropper" or threaten to have the officer's job if he gives you a ticket. If you would like to know the officer's name and badge number, they are on the ticket. If you have a weapon in your vehicle, advise the officer as soon as he approaches you. Keep your hands in view of the officer at all times. Remember, if you treat the officer with the same respect as you expect from him, the experience will be more pleasant for all involved. Drive Safely!

### Weather Alert Sirens FAQ - What do you do when the sirens sound?

At this time the sirens will go off for many reasons: I.e. Bad weather, scheduled testing, chemical releases by industry etc. Please try not call the department when the sirens go off. In many instances we get flooded with 20+ phone calls when sirens go off and that ties up the lines and personnel that should be available for real emergency situations. Also, if it is an emergency situation those personnel need to be implementing our emergency opera-

tion procedures. A better choice is to first, turn on your TV to your weather station to see what the alert is for. These channels will provide you with your best updated source of information. If the alert is for a more serious emergency situation (I.e. Homeland security etc.) we will be providing information via the emergency alert system so start there and stay tuned

### Meet Your Officers (LT Bill Tempel and LT Mike Simos)

Lieutenant Bill Tempel began his career as a police officer with the City of St. Bernard in 1989 and was promoted in 1994. Bill is married and has three lovely children. Bill supervises third shift keeping us safe while the rest of us are sleeping. In addition to his normal shift Bill oversees the following functions for the department: vehicle maintenance, extra



Lieutenant Bill Tempel

duty details, facility maintenance, fitness program, jail operations, internal affairs, motorcycles, new hire testing, and is part of our training committee. Bill enjoys sports including: boating, hockey, and football. He also just enjoys spending time with his family. He is a lifelong resident and his family has always been very active in St. Bernard.

Lieutenant Simos began his law enforcement career with St. Bernard in December of 1991. Mike is a transplant from the west side. He grew up in Delhi and is an Oak Hills H.S. graduate circa 1983. He is happily married to his lovely wife Theresa and they have two beautiful daughters, Chassidy and Brittany. Although not born and raised here, Mike has quickly become a very recognizable and respected member of the community. He volunteers much of his time to helping others and gives back to the community. He has coached some part of girls softball in the community for over 10 years and his efforts earned him a spot as Asst. Head Coach for the



Lieutenant Mike Simos

St. Bernard H.S. team for the past 3 years. At the time of this newsletter going to press, the Lady Titans were alone in first place in the league! In his "spare time", Mike enjoys the outdoors as his outstanding holiday displays would attest. He is also an accomplished bowler and enjoys golf, tennis, softball, and biking. His contributions to your police department are also extensive. He is involved in crime scenes, investigations, bike patrol, D.A.R.E., our Citizen's Police Academy, Safety Committee, Union Rep, and several others. Mike is always willing to help others and would like to pass on this message to the younger members of our community: "The only place where SUCCESS comes before work is in the dictionary!"

### Park Hours FAQ - Continued from Page 2

facility after that time, or enter any park premises or property before 6:00 AM, except with the written permission of the St. Bernard Recreation Director. Whoever violates this section shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor. Each subsequent violation of this section within a one year period shall be a misdemeanor of the 4th degree. Please help us to keep our parks safe.

### Traffic Lights Out

#### FAQ - What do you do when the traffic lights are out?

When traffic lights are out there can be some confusion as to what you should do. If the lights are flashing red, you must stop and then proceed with caution into the intersection to make sure that you have assured clear distance to enter the intersection without causing an accident. When the lights are flashing the yellow caution, you must slow down especially at an intersection and enter the intersection using caution. If the lights are out all together, stop and look in all directions when approaching intersections. Many times drivers assume that the other car is going to stop when in fact they do not. Please drive courteously and follow these lights to ensure everyone's safety.

**St. Bernard Police Department**4700 Vine Street  
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217-1254Phone 513-242-2727  
Fax 513-482-7234Anonymous Crime Tip Line  
513-860-7233Email: [mail@stbernardpolice.org](mailto:mail@stbernardpolice.org)  
Web: [www.stbernardpolice.org](http://www.stbernardpolice.org)

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**Mission** The mission of the St. Bernard Police Department is to safeguard the lives and property of the people we serve, to reduce the incidence and fear of crime, to resolve problems among citizens, and to enhance public safety and quality of life through the delivery of fair and impartial police services. We can accomplish this mission best with your help. If you need us – Call us!!!!

**Identity Theft Prevention Ideas** For more info visit: <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>  
<http://www.identitytheft.org/> <http://www1.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp> <http://www.fraud.org/>

Just some more identity theft prevention ideas submitted by PO McCarty. A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company. The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks. Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks (DUH!) you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad. We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know: We have been told we should cancel our credit cards

immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one). But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this) Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks. The numbers are: Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271 Pass this information along. It could really help someone you care about. Recently we had a success story, a resident's purse was stolen and she immediately contacted her credit card companies and the police. Her correct/quick actions helped stop the thieves from racking up additional charges. Even so, they had used the cards within a couple hours of the theft. Plan ahead.