



St. Bernard Police Newsletter

Internet Online Safety For more info visit <http://www.safesurf.com> or safekids.com

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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. In fact, it is the early recognition of a problem and quick involvement of the police that keeps small nuisances from growing into major problems and may provide the information to help solve or prevent a crime. We desperately need the eyes and ears of an informed community to keep our citizens safe. You can call us anytime.

Questions 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.

This article gives you something to think about, very scary, share this with your kids. It might just save them. ~~~~ Shannon could hear the footsteps behind her as she walked toward home. The thought of being followed made her heart beat faster. You're being silly," she told herself, "no one is following you." To be safe, she began to walk faster, but the footsteps kept up with her pace. She was afraid to look back and she was glad she was almost home. Shannon said a quick prayer, "God please get me home safe." She saw the porch light burning and she leaned against the door for a moment, relieved to be in the safety of her home. She glanced out the window to see if anyone was there. The sidewalk was empty. After tossing her books on the sofa, she decided to grab a snack and ~get on-line.~ She logged on under her screen name ByAngel213. She checked her Buddy List and saw GoTo123 was on. She sent him an instant message: ByAngel213: Hi. I'm glad you are on! I thought someone was following me home today. It was really weird! GoTo123: You watch too much TV. Why would someone be following you? Don't you live in a safe neighborhood?ByAngel213: Of course I do. I guess it was my imagination cuz' I didn't see anybody when I looked out. GoTo123: Unless you gave your name out online. You haven't done that have you? ByAngel213: Of course not. I'm not stupid you know. GoTo123: Did you have a softball game after school today? ByAngel213: Yes and we won!! GoTo123: That's great! Who did you play? ByAngel213: We played the Hornets. Their uniforms are so gross! They look like bees. GoTo123: What is your team called? ByAngel213: We are the Canton Cats. We have tiger paws on our uniforms. They are really cool. GoTo123: Did you pitch? ByAngel213: No I play second base. I got to go. My homework has to be done before my parents get home. I don't want them mad at me. Bye! GoTo123: Catch you later. Bye. Meanwhile, GoTo123 went to the member menu and began to search for her profile. When it came up, he highlighted it and printed it out. He took out a pen and began to write down what he knew about Angel so far. Her name: Shannon Birthday: Jan. 3, 1985 Age:13 State where she lived: North Carolina Hobbies: softball, chorus, skating and going to the mall. Besides this information, he knew she lived in Canton because she had just told him. He knew she stayed by her-

self until 6:30 p.m. every afternoon until her parents came home from work. He knew she played softball on Thursday afternoons on the school team, and the team was named the Canton Cats. Her favorite number 7 was printed on her jersey. He knew she was in the seventh grade at the Canton Junior High School. She had told him all this in the conversations they had on-line. He had enough information to find her now. Shannon didn't tell her parents about the incident on the way home from the ball park that day. She didn't want them to make a scene and stop her from walking home from the softball games. Parents were always overreacting and hers were the worst. It made her wish she was not an only child. Maybe if she had brothers and sisters, her parents wouldn't be so overprotective. By Thursday, Shannon had forgotten about the footsteps following her. Her game was in full swing when suddenly she felt someone staring at her. It was then that the memory came back. She glanced up from her second base position to see a man watching her closely. He was leaning against the fence behind first base and he smiled then she looked at him. He didn't look scary and she quickly dismissed the fear she had felt. After the game, he sat on a bleacher while she talked to the coach. She noticed his smile once again as she walked passed him. He noticed her name on the back of her shirt. He knew he had found her. Quietly, he walked a safe distance behind her. It was only a few blocks to Shannon's home, and once he saw where she lived he quickly returned to the park to get his car. Now he had to wait. He decided to get a bite to eat until the time came to go to Shannon's house. He drove to a fast food restaurant and sat there until time to make his move. Shannon was in her room later that evening when she heard voices in the living room. " Shannon, come here," her father called. He sounded upset and she couldn't imagine why. She went into the room to see the man from the ballpark sitting on the sofa. "Sit down," her father began, "this man has just told us a most interesting story about you." Shannon sat back. How could he tell her parents anything? She had never seen him before today! Do you know who I am, Shannon?" the man asked. "No," Shannon answered. "I am a police officer and your online friend, GoTo123." Shannon was

FAQ— What Works for House Numbers?

Please take a few moments to make sure your house number is plainly visible on your home and/or mailbox. Make sure they are not blocked by plants or trees or other items. Residents in apartments or condo's should make sure that their name is on the mailbox. A label maker works very well for these mail boxes. Numbers on one side of the box are sufficient for the US Postal Service, but in an emergency situation, they may not be enough to enable Police and Rescue personnel to find your home. *Choose large house numbers (at least 2-3 inches in height) which contrast with the color of your house or mailbox. If the numbers are reflective that is even better.* The fancy gold numbers, may look "pretty", but they do little good in a 911 situation. If you can light the numbers up by leaving on a porch light that also works very well. When you call in an emergency remember to tell the dispatcher how to gain entry to your residence. I.e. Rear door etc. If you have any questions, contact the Police Department. In an emergency, seconds could save YOUR LIFE!

Bike Crime Prevention A bike can be stolen from just about any place, but simple precautions can deter would-be bike thieves. Lock your bike. Also, registering and marking your bike can help protect you and serves as a deterrent. It also helps the police in identifying and returning a found or stolen bicycle to the owner.

Internet Online Safety (Cont. from Page 1) For more info visit <http://www.blueridgethunder.com/>

stunned. "That's impossible! GoTo123 is a kid my age! He's 14 and he lives in Michigan !" The man smiled. "I know I told you all that, but it wasn't true. You see, Shannon , there are people on-line who pretend to be kids; I was one of them. But while others do it to find kids and hurt them, I belong to a group of parents who do it to protect kids from predators. I came here to find you to teach you how dangerous it is to give out too much information to people on-line. You told me enough about yourself to make it easy for me to find you. Your name, the school you went to, the name of your ball team and the position you played. The number and name on your jersey just made finding you a breeze." Shannon was stunned. "You mean you don't live in Michigan ?" He laughed. "No, I live in Raleigh . It made you feel safe to think I was so far away, didn't it?" She nodded. I had a friend whose daughter was like you. Only she wasn't as lucky. The guy found her and murdered her while she was home alone. Kids are taught not to tell anyone when they are alone, yet they do it all the time on-line. The wrong people trick you into giving out information a little here and there on-line. Before you know it, you have told them enough for them to find you without even realizing you have done it. I hope you've learned a lesson from this and won't do it again". Tell others about this so they will be safe too?" "It's a promise!" That night Shannon and her dad and Mom all knelt down together and thanked God for protecting Shannon from what could have been a tragic situation. The Internet can be a fun and exciting place filled

with learning tools and resources for your child to explore. Children who have access to online services, whether inside or outside the home, enjoy learning about a wide variety of topics, communicating with friends and family by email, chatting with other computer users, and surfing the web. Unless you take adequate precautions, your child might encounter material you find objectionable. Just as you would not send your children near a busy road without some safety rules, you should not send them to the information superhighway without rules of the road. Set up a master account in your name and do not give your child the password. Many services will allow you to create separate screen names for children, allowing you to block access to inappropriate areas. Place the computer in a room where the whole family usually gathers together, such as the family or living room. This will make it easier for you to keep an eye on your child's Internet activities. Make it clear that if you cannot see what they are doing online, then they cannot do it. Discuss with your child ways to handle certain situations ahead of time. For example, discuss what to do if someone sends them a message over the Internet that scares or threatens them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Consider using blocking software. (Our website has a listing of links for this area.) Many of these products will allow you to control your children's access to certain areas on the Internet. Talk with your children about chat rooms (open forum and private rooms) and avoid these types of Internet communication. Establish a clear set of rules and guidelines for computer use by your children and post them near the computer. Make Internet surfing a family activity and get involved in your children's Internet activities. Follow these rules even when at school or at a friend's house. Be careful and responsible.

Meet Your Officers (Dan Luken and Charlie Barnes)

Officer Dan Luken began his career as a police officer with the City of St. Bernard in February of 1990. Dan graduated from Roger Bacon High School in 1978 and from Xavier University in 1982 with a BA Degree in Marketing and Business Administration. He enjoys the great outdoors whether it be while working or playing a round of golf. Dan plays many charitable golf tournaments, the most notable



Officer Dan Luken

Officer Charlie Barnes began his career as a police officer with the City of St. Bernard in 1991. Charlie graduated from Roger Bacon High School in 1980. He is a lifelong resident and is married to his lovely wife Cathy and they have a great son, Ben. They also have two dogs, Lucy and Maddie which they love. Charlie is an ac-



Officer Charlie Barnes

includes the Billy Barty Foundation Golf Classic both locally and on the national level which is played in Palm Springs California and is the longest running charity tournament in the United States. He is a life-long resident and is married to his lovely wife Lisa Lohman Luken and they have three beautiful children, Austin, Blake and Natalie. Dan works third shift and keeps us safe at night. He always has a smile and is willing to go that extra mile to help someone in need.

tive member of the Immanuel United Church of Christ in St. Bernard. He is also an integral part of our department's bike patrol program and also serves as our Jail Officer. Charlie works dayshift and is very active with children in the community and serves as a baseball/soccer coach. He enjoys sports and loves to bike. Charlie can always be counted on to help others.

Citizens Police Academy (CPA) For more info visit our website on the CPA page.

The academy class is a 10-week course of instruction. The class meets once a week on Monday from 6:30-8:30 P.M. and the majority of classes are held in the St. Bernard Police Department training room. For those classes out of town, bus transportation is available. We will be conducting future classes based upon the amount of interest, we hope to have 15 students in this next class. If you are interested in being included in these types of classes, pickup an application at the station and we will notify you of future classes. Upon receiving

the application, approval requirements to be accepted into the academy include: St. Bernard Resident, submit to and pass a routine background check, sign a liability waiver for training and ride along (if you desire), provide references. Possible classes include: Narcotics Demo, Firearms Range Demo, Emergency First-aid, Meeting with the Mayor and Chief of Police to discuss the current issues in our community, Tour of department, Accreditation Program, Patrol Functions, etc. Hope to see you there.

Second Annual Police vs. Fire Charity Basketball Game

If you didn't make it to the second annual charity basketball game, you missed a good one. We had a nice turn out and appreciated the support. The game was very close but in the end the Fire Department pulled out another win. Our organizer

Rodney Chatman gave it his all injuring his knee but he is OK and ready for next years battle. We collected a total of \$900 which was donated to the Children Hospital Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Thank you for your contribution.

Preventing Child Abductions For more info visit <http://www.escapeschool.com/> and <http://www.childidprogram.com/ChildID/index2.html> and <http://www.missingkids.com>

Young Children Should—Never say they are alone if they answer the phone. They can offer to take a message or say their parents will phone back. Never answer the door if they are alone. Do not invite anyone in the house without the permission of a parent or baby-sitter. Do not go into people's houses without letting anyone know where they are. Never get into anyone's car without permission. Do not take candy or other gifts from strangers or anyone else without asking a parent first. Never play in deserted buildings or isolated areas. Scream and yell fire and scatter books and belongings if they are forced toward a building or car. Move away from a car that pulls up beside them if they do not know the driver. Be taught that it's all right to say 'no' to an adult if the person wants them to do something you've thought them is wrong. Know that no one has the right to touch any part of their bodies that a bathing suit would cover. Tell, school authorities or a police officer about anyone who exposes private parts. Go to the nearest cashier if lost or separated from your parents in a store or mall. Older Children & Teens Should—Tell you where they are at all times or leave a written or recorded message at home. Never hitchhike. Avoid shortcuts through empty parks, fields or alleys. Run home or go to the nearest public place and yell for help if they are being followed. Learn to recognize suspicious behavior and remember a description of the person or vehicle to give you or the police. Write the plate number in the dirt or snow if nothing else is available. If attacked for money, jewelry or clothing give it

up rather than risking injury. Feel that they can talk to you and call you to pick them up at any time, anyplace. You Should—Avoid clothing and toys with your child's name on it. A child is less likely to fear someone who knows his or her name. Check all potential baby-sitters and older friends of your child. Never leave your child alone in a public place, stroller or car. Not even for a minute. Always accompany young children to the bathroom in a public place and advise them never to play in or around the area. Always accompany your child on door-to-door activities, i.e., Halloween, school fund-raising campaigns, etc. Create an environment in which the child feels free to talk to you. Let him/her know that you are interested and sensitive to their fears. Teach them that the police are their friends and that they can rely on them if they are in trouble. Keep an up-to-date color photograph of your child, a medical and dental history, and have your child fingerprinted. If your child is abducted or missing, you should contact the St. Bernard Police Department immediately. Many parents wait too long to contact the Police. If we get notified immediately after an actual abduction, statistics show that we have a better chance of a recovery if we take action in the first hour. The St. Bernard Police Department will fingerprint and photograph children at no charge. Just call and make an appointment during normal business hours 730 AM to 330 PM. Our Department is prepared to implement the Hamilton County Child Abduction Plan in cases of confirmed abductions. (Cont.)

Preventing Child Abductions (Cont.)

This includes notifying local media etc. Our Officers will work closely with you until your child is returned home safely. Please don't delay notifying the Police. We will be offering a seminar on this topic in the near future.

School Bus Safety

Before your know it, summer will be over and our children will be back in school. Millions of children in the United States ride safely to and from school on school buses each day. Although school buses are the safest way to get them to school, an average of 33 school-age children die in school bus-related traffic crashes each year. Teach your child to get on and off the bus safely. When loading, stay away from the danger zone and wait for the driver's signal. Board the bus in single file. When unloading, look before stepping off the bus to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder (side of the road). Move away from the bus. Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen. Wait for the driver to signal that it's safe to cross. Look left-right-left when coming to the edge of the bus to make sure traffic is stopped. Continue to watch for traffic when crossing. Let's keep our children safe.

St. Bernard Police Department

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Phone 513-242-2727
Fax 513-482-7234

Anonymous Crime Tip Line
513-860-7233

Email: mail@stbernardpolice.org
Web: 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!!!!

Tips for Managing Conflict

 For more info visit <http://www.mediate.com/>

Irritated? Frustrated? Angry? Ready to explode? You're not alone. Whether it's an argument with a friend, aggravation because a driver cuts in front of you, or a disagreement about the best way to do a job - conflict is part of everyday life. Conflict produces stress, hurts friendships, and can cause injury and death. We can't always avoid conflict but we can learn to manage it without violence. That way, we use conflict to improve our lives and to learn from past mistakes. Do it yourself. . . What skills do you need to manage personal conflict? Understanding your own feelings about conflict. This means recognizing your "triggers," words or actions that immediately provoke an emotional response, like anger. It could be facial expression, a tone of voice, a pointing finger, a certain phrase. Once you know your "triggers," you can better control your emotions. Active listening. Go beyond hearing just words; try to understand what the other person is saying. Listen carefully, instead of thinking about what you're going to say next. Active listening requires concentration and body language that says you are paying attention. Generating options for resolving a conflict. Many people can think of only two ways to manage conflict - fighting or avoiding the problem. Get the facts straight, brainstorm all ideas that might help resolve the argument, and discuss the pros, cons, and consequences. Moving away from confrontation and toward agreement. Look at your response to conflict. If your style isn't working - you're left with raging emotions that lead to more problems - try to change. State your needs and define the problem. Talk about the issues without insulting or blaming the other person. Don't state your position; that's simply your solution to the problem. Take a hard look at what is said (position) with what is really meant (needs). Together, discuss various ways of meeting needs or solving the problem.

Be flexible and open-minded. Decide who will be responsible for a specific action after reaching agreement on a plan. Tips for Making Peace: Choose a convenient time, Plan ahead, Talk directly, Don't blame or name-call, Give information, Listen, Show that you are listening, Talk it through, Work on a solution, Follow through. If you can't work it out...get help. Try mediation. Courts, schools, and businesses are turning more and more to mediation to help resolve disputes. Mediators do not make decisions for people - they help people make their own decisions. In mediation sessions, a neutral third person (or persons) helps the parties in conflict resolve their problem. Mediators should be detached and unbiased. They may be professionals or volunteers who have undergone intensive training. Mediators do not dictate a settlement; they encourage dialog, provide guidance, and help the parties define areas of agreement and disagreement. A mediation session is confidential. Try arbitration. In arbitration, a neutral party acts as a judge. Disputing parties agree on an arbitrator who then hears evidence from all sides, asks questions, and hands down a decision. Usually, the arbitrator's decision is final. Some arbitration programs use a panel of arbitrators who make decisions by majority vote. Try an ombudsman. An ombudsman is hired by and works within an institution. The ombudsman's job is to investigate complaints from the public against the institution, make recommendations, and try to resolve problems. Newspapers, television and radio stations, government agencies, health care systems, and educational systems often use ombudsmen. Where to find help. Schools, colleges, universities. Local or state consumer protection offices. Community or neighborhood dispute resolution centers. Local government - district attorney, small claims court, family services. Better Business Bureau. Law school legal clinics. Check out our website link page for general violence links.