



# St. Bernard Police Newsletter

## Identity Theft – Protect Your Identification

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**CAER Contact Information**  
Community Awareness & Emergency Response (CAER) Information Line for St. Bernard and Winton Communities  
This emergency line, contains recorded messages about emergency activities going on in the St. Bernard area. If you have any questions when an event is going on, I.e. chemical spill etc. Please call 981-0220.

**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 at [mail@stbernardpolice.org](mailto:mail@stbernardpolice.org). We value your input.

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. Credit card numbers, driver's license numbers, social security numbers, and other personal identification can net criminals thousands of dollars in a very short period of time. While the financial loss incurred by this type of crime is not always incurred by the consumer, it can significantly traumatize them, and take them months if not years to restore their credit and good name, and may keep them from being able to cash checks, obtain loans, or even rent an apartment or obtain utilities.

**You can minimize the risk of being victimized by taking the following steps:**

1. Never leave your purse or wallet unattended, at work, at restaurants, at health fitness clubs, in your shopping cart, at church, at parties. Never leave your purse or wallet in open view in your car, even when locked.
2. Destroy all checks immediately when you close a checking account. Destroy or keep in a secure place, any courtesy checks that your bank or credit card company may mail you.
3. Reconcile your check and credit card statements in a timely fashion and challenge any purchases you did not make.
4. Limit the number of Credit Cards you have, and cancel any inactive accounts.
5. Never give any credit card, bank, or social security information to anyone over the telephone.
6. Minimize exposure of your social security and credit card numbers. If the numbers are requested for check cashing purposes, ask if the business has alternative options such as a check cashing card.
7. Safeguard your credit and debit and ATM card receipts and shred them before disposing of them. If you do not shred returned checks or mail containing your credit card or checking account numbers, do not place them in outdoor trash bins. Wait until garbage collection day to place them in the trash..
8. Scrutinize your utility and subscription bills to make sure the charges are yours.
9. Memorize your passwords and personal identification (PIN) numbers. Keep your PIN numbers somewhere that only you know about, anywhere but with your credit cards. Don't give out your PIN. Keeping your numbers to yourself is the best option..
10. Keep a list of, or photocopy all credit and identification cards you carry with you, in-

cluding front and back, so that you can quickly call the issuers to inform them about missing or stolen cards. Keep the list or copies in safe place.

11. If you receive an e-mail request that appears to be from your Internet Service Provider (ISP) stating that your "account information needs to be updated" or that "the credit card you signed up with is invalid or expired and the information needs to be reentered to keep your account active," do not respond without checking with your ISP first. According to information received by the FTC, this may be a scam.

**Here are some ways that identity thieves work:**

1. They open a new credit card account, using your name, date of birth, and Social Security number. When they use the credit card and don't pay the bills, the delinquent account is reported on *your* credit report.
2. They call your credit card issuer and, pretending to be you, change the mailing address on your credit card account. Then, your impostor runs up charges on your account. Because your bills are being sent to the new address, you may not immediately realize there's a problem.
3. They establish cellular phone service in your name.
4. They open a bank account in your name and write bad checks on that account.

**If you are the victim of identity theft, you can do the following:**

1. Report the incident to the police immediately. If you know where your identification was stolen, that would be the jurisdiction you would have to report it to. Insist you be given a complaint number.
2. Report all stolen cards to the issuers immediately and request new cards be issued. Follow up with written notification.
3. Notify your bank in the event your checks were stolen and request that your account be closed.
4. In order to prove your innocence, be prepared to fill out affidavits of forgeries for banks, credit grantors and recipients of stolen checks. They are joint victims with you and may suffer a financial loss. **(Continued Pg 2.)**

## Crime Prevention – Please Call Us

With the increase in thefts and auto break-ins over the last month 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. Safety concerns, public nuisances and suspicious activity is exactly what we do much like fixing a leaky faucet is a plumbers job. Although the St. Bernard Police Department makes a concerted effort at Community Oriented Policing and proactive attempts at making the Police more accessible and in touch with the community, Officers cannot be everywhere. We desperately need the eyes and ears of an informed community to keep our citizens safe.

Many people are reluctant to get involved when they observe suspicious and or criminal activity. The St. Bernard Police Department is most interested in the information and have no problems with callers keeping their anonymity. When persons ask who called we do not release that information. There is also an anonymous crime tip line, simply dial 860-SAFE (7233)

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Crime Prevention –

## Identity Theft (Continued from page 1)

5. Contact the social security office if someone is using your social security number to establish credit or new accounts.

6. All three major credit reporting agencies have Fraud Assistance programs. Report the theft of your credit cards and request that your account be flagged to all three of the following credit bureau companies:

Equifax – [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

To order your report, call: 800-685-1111 or write: P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241 To report fraud, call: 800-525-6285/ TDD: 800-255-0056 and write: P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241

Experian – [www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

To order your report, call: 888-EXPERIAN

(397-3742) or write: P.O. Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013 To report fraud, call: 888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)/ TDD: 800-972-0322 and write: P.O. Box 9532, Allen, TX 75013

TransUnion – [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

To order your report, call: 800-916-8800 or write: P.O. Box 1000, Chester, PA 19022

To report fraud, call: 800-680-7289/ TDD: 877-553-7803 and write: Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P.O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92634-6790

**To report identity theft and get help on how to restore your credit:**

Contact the Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580, or call, toll free, (877) 382-4357. [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft)

## Meet Your Officers

Officer Bryant Kleinfeldt started with our Department in 1994. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a BA Degree in both Psychology and Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement in 1992 and from Mariemont High School in 1986. During college he worked for the Cincinnati Zoo in the Education Department's program called "Nocturnal Adventurers." At that time he developed a deep and respect/love for our planet's wildlife/ecosystem. He enjoys what some might describe as "extreme sports" to include skydiving, motorcycling and especially SCUBA diving. He spends most of his vacation time visiting family and friends on the island of St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands . Bryant serves as one of our firearms/range officers. In 2001, he went to



Officer Bryant Kleinfeldt

Washington DC to represent our department's motorcycle patrol during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Week; to New York to assist in the cleanup effort after Sept 11th tragedy; and assisted in the Funeral Motorcades for fallen Police Officers & Fire Fighters in the Greater Cincinnati area. His message for our youth,

"Remember that every day is an opportunity to learn something new. My favorite old adage is

that sometimes you get the bull and sometimes the bull gets you. This applies in life in that you can't expect everything to go your way all the time. Tomorrow is always a new day." His message to the community, " If you have pets, please be responsible & take proper care of them. This means not letting them roam the streets and providing collars with identification. There's nothing worse than having to tell somebody that their pet has been hit by a car and killed or that an officer found it and it had to be euthanized because nobody knew who owned it. Take

Officer Mike Matheson started with our Department in 1995. He is a graduate of Northwest High School. After high school, Mike proudly served six years in the United States Marine Corps as a Military Policeman, ultimately achieving the rank of Sergeant. After serving in the military, Mike started out his civilian law enforcement career at the Hamilton County Sheriffs Department, where he spent five years during which time he received several commendations for his outstanding performance. During the past seven years, Mike Matheson has continued making a difference in the lives of St. Bernard residents. The ultimate professional, he credits his success to: "hard work, teamwork, and a can do attitude." Mike is currently responsible for the Departments DUI Testing Equipment, is a



Officer Mike Matheson

Firearms Instructor, Bike Patrol Officer and is currently attending classes to become an evidence technician. Mike is happily married to his lovely wife Diane, who is a marketing specialist at Fifth Third Bank and an excellent art student.

We are very proud of Diane who recently designed the artwork for our new department patch. She did a fantastic job and we have received many compliments on our patch. Mike also has two wonderful children, a daughter age 6, and a son, age 3. His hobbies include golfing, hunting, and fishing.

His message to our youth: "Be patient, work hard, and don't be afraid to ask for help from your teachers, parents, or the police." His message to our Citizen's: "Get involved. Keeping our streets safe is a community effort."

## Exciting New Program – Easy Caller is Here

In our continuing effort to strengthen our involvement in the community, we have activated a telephone notification system called "EASY CALLER". This equipment gives us the capability to keep you, the resident or business owner, informed on a regular basis by phone. This program allows us to automatically make telephone notifications with a pre-recorded message on up to nine different subjects. Those wishing to be part of this program will receive a pre-recorded message when events dictate. We envision a wide variety of uses for this program, such as crime alerts, police and fire department program notifica-

tion and special event information just to name a few. We encourage your input to ensure the success of this program. There is no cost for this service. If you would like to be added to the call list, you simply need to provide the following to our dispatcher: name, address, phone number. Your information will remain confidential and will not be released to third parties. It would simply be added into our calling database so that you would then be included in the various notifications that will go out. Please call us!

## Annual Police / Fire Charity Basketball Game (Guns vs. Hoses)

The St. Bernard Police and Fire Departments will once again square off against one another in the 2nd annual benefit basketball game. The game will be held Friday March 29th at 7 PM at the St. Bernard High School gymnasium. There will be plenty of door prizes and surprises and fun for all

Admission is free. All proceeds from donations and split the pot will benefit the American Diabetes Association. (<http://www.diabetes.org/>) Please come out and have some fun with your fire and police departments and help support a good cause. See you there!

## Look Out for Spring Scams

There is a unique group of con artists that usually surfaces with the arrival of spring who typically target senior citizens and homeowners during yard work with one of two similar scams. The group will send a representative to your door and try to solicit themselves to fix some part of your home that they claim is in need of repair. For example, they may claim to be roofers and say that they were in the neighborhood working and noticed your roof needs repair. The representative may say that they have enough left over materials from their last job to fix your problem and offer you a deal on their services if you agree to pay them in advance. They simply accept your payment at that time and never return. Homeowners working in the yard often will work in an area of their property out of sight of an unlocked door to their home. The

group will have one person stop to talk with the homeowner as a distraction while one to several members of the group enters the unlocked door and removes valuables from the home. To protect yourself observe the following safety tips: Lock doors to your home and garage when doing yard work, Do not engage in conversation with repairmen or others whom you did not call, ask for and check references of all persons you solicit for repairs (this includes established companies), Never pay for any repairs in advance, If someone comes to your door, never turn your back on them or otherwise leave them unattended at the door. If you see these scams, don't hesitate to call us immediately so that we can stop them in their tracks.

## St. Clement 4th Grade "Adopts" Police Department



recently developed a partnership with the Police Department. This is a community service project in conjunction with the Developmental Assets Program that the school has been working on during this past year. They have been assisting us with assembling our newsletter and other activities. We are very proud that they have chosen us. It is very rewarding to know that our young children are learning such important values and really want to be involved in their community. With citizens like these our future is very bright. Thanks!

**Please Call Us (Continued from Pg 2)** and leave the information on the recorder which is manned 24 hours a day. We have no way of knowing where the phone call originated and we will follow-up on tips provided. Anyone wishing to call us direct (242-2727) or using the crime tip line, please try to have as much of the following information available to report an incident: For ongoing activity, approximate days and times these incidents occur. Descriptions of persons involved (Race, gender, age, unique features – clothing, hair styles, scars/tattoos, accent etc. Descriptions of vehicles – license plate number/state, make/model of car, color, unique features – dents, bumper stickers, window decals, loud muffler/exhaust etc. Together we can keep St. Bernard a beautiful place to live, work and play. On page four of this newsletter we have a cut-out that lists all of the phone numbers that you can place on your refrigerator or bulletin board. We also have stickers available at the station that you pickup to place on all of your telephones at home which is good idea for yourself or children in an emergency situation. If you are unable to get out, just call the PD and an officer can drop off some stickers for you. Thanks!

## St. Bernard Police Department

4700 Vine Street  
St. Bernard, Ohio 45217-1254

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

Anonymous Crime Tip Line  
860-7233

Email: [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!!!!



### 2001 Crime Statistics and Crime Prevention Tips for Vehicle Thefts/Break-Ins

During the year 2001, we answered 10,031 calls to service. The following is a breakdown of offenses for 2001: Arrest Open Capias/Warrants/Recites 212; Assaults 27; Attempt Theft 8; Bomb threat 2; Breaking & Entering 14; Burglary 10; Carrying Concealed Weapon 3; Child Abuse Investigation 1; Child Endangering 1; Counterfeit Money 7; Criminal Damaging 76; Criminal Mischief 8; Criminal Trespass 5; Curfew Violation (Day) 3; Curfew Violation (Night) 8; Death Investigation (DOA) 5; Disorderly Conduct 20; Domestic Dispute 13; Domestic Violence 15; Drive by shooting 1; Driving Under the Influence 7; Drive Off (Non-payment) 1; Drug Investigations 39; Drug Paraphernalia 5; Drugs Possession 13; Forgery 8; Fraud 9; Illegal Dumping 1; Intimidation 1; Juvenile Status Offenses 32; Littering 2; Menacing 8; Mental Holds 10; Missing Adult 1; Missing Juvenile 13; Noise Violation 1; Obstructing Official Business 7; Open Container 3; Parking Citations 98; Public Gaming 1; Public Indecency 1; Receiving Stolen Property 4; Robbery 12; Sex Offense 2; Stalking 3; Street Sales 1; Telephone Harassment 23; Theft 199; Theft Bike 11; Theft Vehicle 31 (16 Recovered); Traffic Arrest 259; Underage Consumption 5; Vandalism 4; Vehicle Fire 2; VCO 2; Weapons Under Disability 1. As you can see, we are not immune to crime, but if we work together we can stop some of these criminals. It starts by reporting the crime or anything that appears to you to be out of place. We need the eyes and ears of every citizen. Over the past several weeks, we have seen an increase in automobile break-ins and thefts. One vehicle is stolen every twenty seconds in the United States. Stolen cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles cost victims time and money - and increase everyone's insurance premiums.



Together we can stop criminals and solve community problems!

They're also often used to commit other crimes. Don't become a victim of this serious crime. **Crime Prevention Tips for Vehicles:** Never leave your keys in the car or ignition; Install an alarm on your car; Don't leave valuables in your car; Install a stereo with a removable face; Light the outside of your home especially the area where your vehicles are parked; Always lock your car, even if it's in front of your home; Copy

your tag number and vehicle identification number (VIN) on a card and keep them with your driver's license; Keep the registration with you, not in the car; Keep the keys to your home and car separate; Keep your car in good running condition; Make sure there's enough gas to get there and back; Avoid parking in isolated areas with little foot or auto traffic; Be especially alert in un-staffed lots and enclosed parking garages; If you think someone is following you, drive to the nearest police or fire station, open service station, or other open business to get help; Don't pick up hitchhikers and don't hitchhike yourself; If you often drive at night, or alone, consider a citizens band radio or cellular phone to make it easier to summon help in a emergency; If you see strangers around vehicles, call; If you see something going on in the neighborhood or persons looking out of place give us a call; It doesn't always have to be something very strange or suspicious, many times it's something small like I saw four kids in Joe's backyard and they never have any kids in his yard, or I saw a stranger standing outside my neighbors garage at 5 AM and they left when they saw me, you probably should call. If you call, we will come and together we may stop a criminal in their tracks. Thanks to those that have helped us by calling during this past year. Together we can and will make a difference!