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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.

**EDITORS NOTES** We are proud to present this publication to our community on behalf of the personnel of this department. The intent of this newsletter is to keep you informed about current law enforcement issues and to allow you to get to know your police officers better. If you have any suggestions for articles or comments send them to the editors. Thanks! Officers Bill Ungruhe, Rodney Chatman, and Keith Ingram.




**BE INFORMED – KEEP US INFORMED – BE SAFE** Officer Bill Ungruhe

**ALERT** During Jan – Jun 2001 there were a total of 405 offenses. The following is a breakdown of offenses committed for the last six months: Arrest Open Capias/Warrant 106; Assaults 11; Attempt Theft 2; Bomb threat 1; Breaking & Entering 4; Burglary 6; Child Abuse Investigation 1; Child Endangering 1; Counterfeit Money 4; Criminal Damaging 31; Criminal Mischief 3; Criminal Trespass 1; Curfew Violation (Day) 1; Curfew Violation (Night) 1; Death Investigation (DOA) 1; Disorderly Conduct 13; Domestic Dispute 8; Domestic Violence 13; Drive Off (Non-payment) 1; Drug Investigations 5; Drug Paraphernalia 2; Drugs Possession 8; Forgery 5; Juvenile Status Offenses 29; Menacing 4; Mental Holds 2; Missing Adult 1; Missing Juvenile 8; Obstructing Official Business 3; Open Container 2; Receiving Stolen Property 2; Robbery 3, Sex Offense 1; Stalking 1; Street Sales 1; Telephone Harassment 11; Theft 87; Theft Bike 5; Theft Vehicle 10; Underage Consumption 3; Vandalism 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. Recently, we have seen an increase in criminal damaging, thefts, and



Together we can stop  
criminals and solve  
community problems!



auto thefts. Crime Prevention Tips On Auto Theft: 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. They're also often used to commit other crimes. Don't become a victim of this serious crime. The Basic Prevention Policy: Never leave your keys in the car or ignition; 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. During these first six months we have answered 4846 calls to service. Light up your neighborhood and If you see something strange going on, give us a call!

July 2001

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## *St. Bernard Police Newsletter*

**PLEASE CALL US** Officer Rodney Chatman (Crime Prevention Officer)

Quite often Police Officers hear 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 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) 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. *Please call us!*

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**DARE Corner - Summer Drug Prevention** Kids are most likely to experiment with drugs during unsupervised free time. Fill their summer days with fun structured activities. One idea is the DARE summer camp. A great resource is the web site [www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com). This site is dedicated to assisting parents in this area. They have 101 activities for your kids this summer. We have posted this information to our website on our DARE page. Here are a few ideas: Make one day a week "Adventure Day" and explore someplace you haven't been; Enroll them in Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts; Help them start a collection (shells, coins, stamps, etc.); Hold a multi-family garage sale; Send them to church sponsored activities; Learn a foreign language together; Just make time to talk to them and let them know you care!

## D.A.R.E. SUMMER CAMP

The St. Bernard Police and Recreation Departments are sponsoring a summer DARE day camp for resident students who will be in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, or 6<sup>th</sup> grade in September. The Dates are August 6-10, 2001 10 AM – 2 PM. Sign up now and send in your registration early. We can only handle a limited number of students. Activities include: Monday *animal* day, Tuesday *art* day, Wednesday *water* day, Thursday *safety* day, and Friday *games* day. Many fun and exciting things are being planned. People from the Zoo, SPCA, Hamilton County Parks, and many others will par-

**CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY (CPA)**    Officer Bill Ungruhe

We have received 17 applications for our first Citizens Police Academy. The academy is free of charge and starts in September. We will be holding future classes so if you didn't get in on this one check the web site out for future dates. The courses are designed to increase understanding among citizens and police department members so that we can work together in partnership to resolve problems in our community. We hope that many of the persons attending will walk away with an increased understanding of how to improve our community and how we can better support each other. Possible classes include: Narcotics

Lt. Bob Feichtner

participate. It will be great fun. Campers will get a Camp "T" shirt if they attend all 5 days. Come join the fun at our camp located in Vine St. Park. Please provide the following information:

Name, Address, Phone, Shirt Size (adult), Grade. Likewise, attach the fee which is \$10. (Please make checks payable to "St. Bernard DARE"). Please return these forms to the pool or police department by July 15th. Any questions contact Lt. Bob Feichtner.

Demo, Firearms Range Demo and gun safety, Emergency First-aide, Meeting with the Mayor and Chief of Police to discuss the current issues in our community, Tour of department, Accreditation Program, Patrol Functions, Traffic Functions, Tour Communications Center, DARE Program, Juvenile Crimes, Meet with Prosecutor, SWAT Demo, Self-defense, Media Relations, Interview/Interrogations, Tour of Jails, etc. See you then.



CRIME PREVENTION

Safety Tips for Seniors:

As people grow older, their chance of being victims of crime decreases dramatically. But a lifetime of experience coupled with the physical problems associated with aging often make older Americans fearful. Though they're on the lookout constantly for physical attack and burglary, they're not as alert to frauds and con games - in reality the greatest crime threat to seniors' well being and trust. Want to conquer fear and prevent crime? Take these common-sense precautions: **Be Alert When Out and About:** Go with friends or family, not alone;

Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps; Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket; Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash; Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks; Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance; Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train, or subway; If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instincts and leave. **Make Your Home Safe and Secure:** Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them! Light up the outside of your

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SAFETY TIPS FOR RUNNERS & WALKERS Officer Bill Ungruhe

**Safety Tips for Runners and Walkers: Before You Leave** - Plan your outing. Always tell someone where you are going and when you will return. Tell friends and family of your favorite exercise routes. Know where telephones are located along the course. Wear an identification tag or write your name, phone number, and blood type on the inside of your athletic shoe. Include any medical information. Don't wear jewelry or carry cash. **On the Road** - Stay alert at all times. The more aware you are, the less vulnerable you are. Run or walk with a partner or a dog. Don't wear headsets. If you wear them you won't hear an approaching car or attacker. Listen to your surroundings. Consider carrying a cellular phone. Exercise in familiar areas. Know which businesses or stores are open. Vary your route. Avoid unpopulated areas, deserted streets, and overgrown trails. Especially avoid poorly lighted areas at night. Run clear of parked cars or bushes. Ignore verbal harassment. Use discretion in acknowledging strangers. Look directly at others and be observant, but keep your distance and keep moving. Run against traffic so you can observe approaching automobiles. Trust your intuition about a person or an area. React based on that intuition and avoid areas you feel unsure about. Be careful

if anyone in a car asks you for directions? If you decide to answer, keep at least a full arm's length from the car. If you think you are being followed, change direction and head for open stores, or a lighted house. Have your door key ready before you reach your home. Call police immediately if something happens to you or someone else, or you notice anyone out of the ordinary. It is also a good idea to check with police about any criminal activity in the area you plan to run. **Stay Alert** - Sometimes runners and walkers get lulled into a "zone" where they are so focused on their exercise they lose track of what's going on around them. This state can make runners and walkers more vulnerable to attacks. Walk and run with confidence and purpose. If you get bored running without music, practice identifying characteristics of strangers and memorizing license tags to keep you from "zoning out." **Running and Walking in the Evening or Early Morning** - Get off the streets and head to the security of a well-lighted outdoor track or consider running on an indoor track or tread mill. If you are a walker, consider laps around an indoor shopping mall. If these options are not available, make sure people can see you: wear reflective clothing or shoes consider a vest complete with reflective tape. Watch the road: Wet or icy spots are considerably harder to see in the dark. Keep alert. Dawn and dusk offer convenient shadows for muggers and other crooks. Enjoy

Meet Your Officers

Officer George Nimmo started with our Department in 1996. George currently has 13 years of police experience. He previously served with New Richmond, Greenhills, and Xavier University Police Departments. Prior to police work George served four years in the United States Marine Corps. George serves as our evidence technician, crime scene analyst, and is an integral part of our motorcycle patrol. George can be seen all over town and at special events showing the motorcycle to big and small kids. George is happily married to his wife, Lisa, and



Officer George Nimmo

they have four beautiful children: Casey (7), Kelli (5), Daniel (3), and John (1). George enjoys softball and fishing and he and his family are active members of their church. George stated, "My family and I have been here for five years now and love life in St. Bernard. We have neighbors we love, the children take advantage of the many activities St. Bernard offers such as crafts, sports and swimming. I believe God has blessed me with the job and the community just right for me. This is our home." If you ever want to stop by and check out the motorcycle, give George a call, he is currently assigned to second shift and would be glad to demonstrate the motorcycle.

Officer Jeff McCarty started with our Department in 1998. Jeff retired from the U.S. military with 26 years of dedicated service to his country. He became a police Officer in 1994 and spent two years as a Special Deputy with the Brown County Sheriff's Department and two years with the Xavier University Police Department before coming to us. Jeff has been married to his wonderful wife Glenna for ten years and they have four lovely children: Jessica, Troy, Jamie, and Jared. When Jeff isn't in uniform his favorite hobbies are: hunting, fishing and basketball.



Officer Jeff McCarty

He loves to just get away and get out on his boat. If you ask his fellow Officers what Jeff wants to eat, the answer would be "chicken". He loves it and eats more chicken than anyone I know. Jeff always has a smile on his face and always is willing to lend a hand no matter how small or large the task. Jeff is currently lending his expertise in the area of property control. He and Officer Doug Roll are in the process of renovating our property room and they have been doing a fantastic job. We are happy to have Jeff on our team. If you get a chance stop him and say hello and he will tell you a fish story or two.

PARKING REGULATIONS Officer Bill Ungruhe



As a driver or owner of a vehicle or property it is ultimately your responsibility to adhere to all parking regulations.

Not knowing of a regulation does not excuse a person from responsibility. When in doubt, call for information. Remember, city streets belong to everyone, we receive many calls because someone is parked in front of their residence and they have parked there for 20 years. We can't do anything about this type of call. The streets belong to everyone. The fine for most parking violations is \$30. If not paid by the set court date, warrants will be issued for the violators arrest. Violation of handicap parking is \$250. *Failure to pay a parking ticket may result in SUSPENSION of your operator's license.* Watch carefully for signs and markings that prohibit or restrict parking. Check up and down the street several car lengths because signs can't be everywhere. Don't park against sign restrictions, in yellow painted curb areas, across parking stall lines, in excess of time limits signs. You may contact the police department to request temporary permission to park in violation of restrictions for disabled vehicles and/or special circumstances. This will often be granted for short periods if the vehicle does not create a hazard. You must call for permission beforehand, tickets will not be excused after the fact! You certainly have the right to contest a parking ticket. Cases are heard in the St. Bernard Mayor's Court before a Magistrate. To contest a ticket, simply show in court on the date listed on your citation. Court costs of \$35 will be added which must be paid at the time of court if you are found guilty of the violation. A parking ticket is an allegation that the vehicle was parked in violation of the law. Special parking restrictions include:

- Vehicles may not be parked on city streets for more than 12 hours.
- The City of St. Bernard supports the American with Disabilities Act. Handicapped parking is marked both by signs and marked stalls in the municipal lots and we have signs on residential streets for handicapped residents. Please observe these signs to assist our elderly and disabled citizens. This area will be strictly enforced!
- No person will park any vehicle wider than

- 7' or longer than 18' on any residential street unless it is providing a bona fide service to a resident. There is no overnight parking of semi's unless prior approval has been granted. This is a serious safety issue because these vehicle block the view of the roadway especially near intersections.
- There is no overnight parking in municipal lots. Check for sign listings in City lots and in the Vine Street business district. Time limits of one or two hours will apply. In addition to large full lot signs, smaller signs may restrict individual stalls.
- You may not park on private property without permission. This includes apartment or condominium parking lots.
- You may not park on any lawn area not designated for parking (your own lawn included)
- You may not park in posted fire lanes. This is a serious safety hazard and will be strictly enforced.
- No person shall park or store any vehicle which is not licensed. These vehicles will be considered junk vehicles and will be towed at the owners expense. Likewise, you can't store these vehicles in the open on your property.
- Do not leave your vehicle running and unattended. This is a parking violation and is a common way of auto thefts. It only takes a few seconds. Also, if an officer finds a vehicle parked where the it constitutes an obstruction to traffic the vehicle will be towed at the owners expense.
- No person shall park a vehicle in any residential district for the principal purpose of: displaying such vehicle for sale, conducting engine overhauls, major repairs, sanding, painting, body work.
- Other Prohibited Parking Places: On a sidewalk, curb, In front of a public or private driveway, Within an intersection, On a crosswalk, Within 20' of a crosswalk, Within 10' of a fire hydrant, Within 50' of railroad crossing, Across from fire station or within 20' of it's entrance, On any expressway.

Don't get into an argument with your neighbor. Recently in the news we have seen where persons have become seriously hurt over a parking argument. If you have any questions or problems, call 242-2727 and ask to speak to an Officer. We

(Safety Tips for Seniors Continued from page 2)

house, motion detectors are great; Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a trusted neighbor or friend; Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify; Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well-lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly; Consider a home alarm system that provides monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies. **Get Involved in the Community:** Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement; Form a neighborhood watch to look out for each other and help the police; Work to change conditions that hurt your neighborhood. Volunteer as a tutor for children, mentor for teens, deliver meals on wheels, escort for individuals with disabilities, help out at your church or get involved in Senior Citizens etc. If you want our crime prevention officer to come out and give you some suggestions give him a call.

**QUESTIONS???** If you have a law enforcement question or topic that you would like us to feature in upcoming newsletters, mail your request to the PD , or email us at mail@stbernardpolice.org.