



GET ON THE FRONT LINES OF CRIME-COMBAT AUTO THEFT

Imagine how you would feel, if after rushing to get yourself and your family ready for work and school, you step outside only to find that your vehicle has been stolen. Or, you spend several hours shopping, only to return to the parking lot and find your vehicle missing. For many Americans these are two scenarios that are all too real. Every year thousands of vehicles are stolen from driveways and parking lots all across this country.

The Combat Auto Theft (CAT) program is a voluntary vehicle

registration program administered through all police & sheriff's departments to help stop car thefts. Is the C.A.T. program right for you? To help you decide, ask yourself these questions: Do you rarely drive your vehicle between the hours of 1:00 am and 5:00 am? Would you like to stop Auto-Theft in your community? Statistics show that a majority of stolen vehicles are either taken or transported during early morning hours.

Residents of Winter Park can come to the police department and register their personal vehicles. Once registered, they re-

ceive a C.A.T. program decal to place in the lower left corner of the vehicle's rear window. The sticker alone is a powerful deterrent. Would-be car thieves know what the sticker represents. By displaying this C.A.T. decal, the vehicle's owner gives law enforcement officers permission to conduct an investigative stop on the vehicle, between 1:00 am to 5:00 am., to determine if the vehicle has been stolen. The C.A.T. program does not restrict a citizen from legitimately using his/her vehicle during these hours. On many occa-

A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

I would like to take a moment to publicly let you know how I feel about this city and the citizens we serve.

I have been a Police Officer in Winter Park for over 30 years. During

those years I have seen many changes occur both in the landscape and boundaries of the city as well as the citizens that make the city what it is. The Winter Park Police Department is, in my

opinion, the best trained and equipped group of men and women in law enforcement. That is because of you; the citizens of this city. Without your support we could not be where we are today.

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Special Points

Of Interest

There are a number of resources you can use to help safeguard your vehicle from being stolen. Using a device that immobilizes the steering wheel is a deterrent. While not visible like a steering wheel device, a car alarm, as long as it is activated, is likely to scare away anyone who tries to enter the vehicle. Another device is Lojack. This device will not prevent a vehicle theft, but it does help law enforcement to locate it.



contact Steve McDaniel at 407-599-3455 or email at smcdaniel@cityofwinterpark.org

sions a vehicle may be stolen and the owner doesn't even know that it's gone when officers stop it on the roadway. The C.A.T program changes that. The C.A.T. program is currently being used successfully by many law enforcement agencies around our state and across the nation.

As you can see the C.A.T. program is a high visibility program that is easy to join and best of all it works. With the cost of a vehicle today, and the number of vehicles being stolen, we encourage every citizen in Winter Park to join in a partnership with the Police Department, and help reduce auto theft in our community. For more information on the program, or to register your vehicle



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF CONTINUED

The number of officers working around the clock to ensure your protection and safety are there because of the desire in everyone to feel safe in their homes and businesses. While no police agency can completely prevent crime from occurring, Winter Park has seen crime remain at a low level for the past several years. Our crime rate remains low due to the involvement of our citizens. The fact that we do our job very well and in a very professional manner is one reason many new citizens call Winter Park "home" each year.

Additionally, the Winter Park Police Department recently earned its third accreditation by the Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). This Commission is an independent organization that has established a set of law enforcement standards which are used to

used to evaluate police departments throughout Florida. This evaluation process, which is conducted every three years, provides law enforcement agencies an opportunity to demonstrate, on a voluntary basis, their ability to meet a recognized set of standards for excellence in management and service delivery for the law enforcement profession.

These polices and procedures are evaluated in 276 categories which cover every aspect of the agency's operation. Members of the Accreditation Commission review policies, records and the operations for the Police Department. In 2000 the Winter Park Police Department received its third state accreditation through CFA for its accomplishments. This accreditation process ensures that the citizens who live, work and visit Winter Park are getting the most professional law enforcement service available in the state of Florida. The official ceremony bestowing the re-accreditation will take place in February.

GANGS, NOT JUST FOR L.A. ANYMORE

Gangs invoke feelings of fear and apprehension. Many people believe that if they don't admit gangs are in the community then there is no problem. The truth is that there are gangs in our community. There is not a gang whose complete membership lives inside the Winter Park city limits, but their presence is felt here. There are several gang members who do live in the city and their associates visit them as well. Gang members frequent the city, just as any other citizen may do. The major difference between a average citizen and a gang member is the gang member usually causes problems and or commits crimes.

The schools in Winter Park are some of the safest in Orange County. Despite this there are gang members in our schools. Several are 2nd or 3rd generation members. The School Resource Officers are versed in gang culture and the makeup of the various gangs represented.. Ther is also gang intelligence officer. Winter Park has been impacted by six different gang sets for several years. This year it seems to be on the rise. A set refers to a specific gang claiming allegiance under a larger umbrella of gangs. For example the East Side Bloods are a set of the Blood Nation. MEH are a set of the Latin Kings.

Young people join gangs for a variety of reasons. The most common reason is that they have a sense of family or belonging to a group that actually cares about them. This is far from the truth. Gang members will stand up for each other against rival gangs, but most abandon each other

when they have encounters with the police. There is a perception that gangs exist only in low socio-economic area. This is a myth, as there are members from all cultures and economic levels. Gangs are split along racial lines as much as they used to be. Hybrid gangs have members from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Gangs are not harmless. The risk factors involved with young people associating with gangs and their members range from investigative encounters with the police to being injured or killed through gang warfare or being arrested. Young people need to have limits and those limits should be enforced. It is not uncommon for officers to encounter families where the child runs the house and the parent(s) or grandparent(s) just live there as they have no parental control.

There are an number of strategies that parents/grandparents can employ to help keep their child from falling into the gang lifestyle. One strategy is to be a model for them. Another is to approve or remove some of the clothing their child wears. Wearing clothes with gang members photos, notably many rap stars, or gang slang words just adds fuel to the fire and draws attention to them. Sometimes this attention is from rival gangs. Dressing like a gang member, when you aren't one is a sure fire way to get hurt by the gang.

Contacting the Police Department Gang officers or the Orange County Gang unit about activity will also help. The Winter Park Police Department can provide a program for adults who want to learn more about gangs & their impact on our community. To arrange this program please call 407-599-3455.

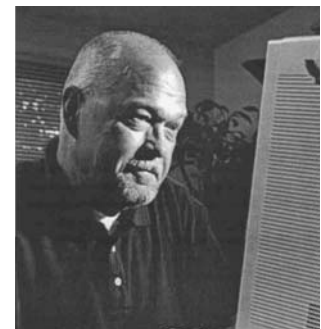
WIRED OR WORRIED A 'NET DANGER PROGRAM

How many times has your son or daughter been solicited online? Would you believe the average is 1 out of every 5 in the past year? There are a number of ways people prey on kids through the use of computers.

The Police Department is concerned about this as more websites become available that entice young people to post personal web pages or revealing information about themselves.

A seminar for adults to show you how sex offenders prey on our kids through the internet will be held March 8th at 7pm at the Winter Park Police Department. This revealing program will show you how to prevent it and also show you steps you can take to check on your kids while they are surfing the internet. We'd like to see you on **March 8th at 7:00pm**. The program will be at the Police Department, 500 N. Virginia Ave. Adults only. No children will be allowed regardless of age. Please RSVP to 407.599.3455 to reserve your seat.

The Police Department maintains the right to refuse acceptance to anyone.



Meet 10 year old Becky's
12 year old internet friend

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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Managing Editor: Sgt. Pam Marcum

Assistant Editor: Officer Steve McDaniel

Editorial Board: Chief Doug Ball,

Deputy Chief William McEachnie,

Lt. Wayne Farrell

Contributing Writers: Officer Steve McDaniel

Officer Jamie Loomis

“We're always there when you need us”

Community Policing

Services & Programs

C.A.T. Program: Enroll your vehicle in this free anti-theft program. This program allows police to stop a vehicle with a C.A.T. sticker on it if the vehicle is being driven between 1:00 am and 5:00 am, the time when most car thefts happen.

Business Watch: Business owners are offered anti-theft ideas, information regarding fraud, workplace violence & robbery issues, and become aware of current criminal trends.

House Check Program: If you are out of town more than a few days the Police Department will stop by your home (work load permitting) and check the exterior of it to ensure it is secure. If any problems are found, your emergency contact will be notified. This service is free. Contact the Police Communications Center at (407) 644-1313.

Ride-Along Program: Ride with an officer on a tour of duty. Riders must be at least 18 yrs. old and of good moral character. Contact Officer McDaniel @ (407) 599-3455. Riding is at the discretion of the Police Department.

Security Surveys: Officers of the Community Policing Unit will be glad to meet you at your home to offer advice for crime-proofing your home. Just call Officer McDaniel at 407-599-3455 to set it up.

We're on the web!

www.wppd.org

Find out what crime is doing in your area. Log onto the web for residential crime statistics

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

Please help us welcome Officer German Massallo who was sworn in on August 28, 2006. Born in Puerto Rico, German is a native of New Jersey who spent 9 years serving our country in the Army Reserves, three years in active duty. He served with distinction in the Bosnian War and Operation Iraqi Freedom last holding the rank of Sergeant.

Officer Massallo comes to the Winter Park Police Department from the Edgewood Police

Department where he worked for six years as a Field Training Officer and worked road patrol and Criminal Investigations. He came to Winter Park because he felt it would be better for his law enforcement career to be associated with the number one agency in Central Florida. Officer Massallo would like to expand his knowledge of policing and is interested in pursuing K-9 and vice.

German is married with a 14 year old son and in his spare

time, loves to be with his family, spending quality time.

