



Talk With the Hawk

**We want to hear from you,
and we want to connect with
you.**

Community Outreach

A Note from Major Hawkins Bureau of Community Policing Commander, Brentwood Police

Last week, the Brentwood Police Department Detective Bureau and I went door-to-door in the Brentwood Forest neighborhood to ask some questions. These were not the typical police-style questions, however, and we were not there as a show of force. We were there as a direct response to a complaint of our officers' driving behavior in the neighborhood. We wanted to ensure our residents feel safe, see our presence, and we wanted to give them the opportunity to share concerns with us and to ask questions of us.

Over the course of the week, we were able to knock on every door in the complex of Brentwood Forest, and we made in-person contacts with nearly 500 residents. The response from our residents was overwhelmingly positive, and we were able to have some real, in-depth conversations with those in our community about what they value, and what makes them love about living in The City of Warmth.

One of the first items we addressed was our officer patrols, ensuring residents our officers have been counseled on safe driving practices, and ensuring our patrol cars are being seen frequently in the neighborhood. can be done to dissuade these criminals from frequenting such areas.

Crime can be a complicated phenomenon, and it can be difficult to identify what drives crime in certain areas. In



many areas, and Brentwood is no exception, opportunity drives much of the crime, especially vehicle-related crimes.

As we all know, St. Louis weather offers no mercy in our colder months, and requires us to warm up our vehicles before we drive. There is no greater feeling on a frigid winter morning than getting into a nice, warm car. No one likes to sit inside their car watching their clouds of breath and waiting for the defrost to kick in. Many times, what we see is residents starting their vehicles in the morning, to warm them up, but leaving them unlocked. Every winter, like clockwork, stolen auto numbers climb a bit for this very reason.

We suggest that if someone is going to warm up their vehicle in the morning, they lock it, or invest in automatic start technology. I am often asked, "How do we stop this crime?" The reality is, stopping crime is an impossibility. Preventing crime, and educating residents, however, is an attainable goal. ***Last month, of 26 thefts from vehicles, 18 of the vehicles were unlocked. Of 4 vehicle thefts, all four were unlocked with keys inside.***

Please help us keep the Brentwood Forest community safe and, as always, stay safe and healthy.



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