

COMMUNITY NEWS

Provided by: Tucker Crime Prevention Unit of the DeKalb Police Department

SAFETY INFORMATION and PRECINCT CHANGES

BACK TO SCHOOL

DeKalb County students returned to school on August 10th. Although it may seem early in the school term to mention this, I want to remind Tucker Precinct residents about Truancy Laws (State) and Curfew Ordances (County).

If you see children of school age in your community, during school hours on a day when school is in session, this could be a **Truancy** issue. This year Tucker Precinct has designated 2 officers to specifically enforce the Truancy Laws. ICP and patrol officers will be still be involved with truancy issues too. Truancy violations can evolve into another issue...**Educational Neglect**. Educational Neglect occurs when a child accumulates 10 or more unexcused absences in the current academic year, or 10 or more unexcused absences from the prior academic year. Parents/guardians are subject to misdemeanor fines of \$25-\$100 per count of the child's unexcused absences (the counts begin to accumulate on the 11th unexcused absence) and can be sentenced to up to 30 days in jail or community service.

DeKalb County has a **Curfew Ordinance** that states that a minor child, 16 years and under, is violating the Curfew Ordinance if they are outside their residence (from O.C.G.A. 15-11-2 -E) "Wanders or loiters about the streets of any city, or in or about any public place between midnight and 5:00 A.M."

There are exceptions to this, including the minor's work related hours, or if they are in the company of a parent or guardian.

- Some source material was provided by Nicole Marchand, Chief Assistant Solicitor-General

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Upon hearing that 5 teens were struck by a SUV, while walking home from school on the first day of school, and the incident where a six year old child was fatally injured after departing a MARTA bus, I contacted the police traffic enforcement unit (TAC) for information regarding traffic laws. The following information is provided to refresh your knowledge of existing traffic laws.

I asked what the **leading causes of accidents** were and was provided with the following information:

1. **Following too close**
2. **Reckless driving** This includes, but is not limited to, weaving in and out of traffic, failure to use signaling devices, and driving too fast for existing road conditions.
3. **Speeding**

Additional information discussed included: State law requires drivers to **stop at crosswalks** and **helmets are required for all bicycle and motorcycle riders**.

School Bus: If you are driving on a multiple lane roadway, with no center divider and a **school bus is stopped on the opposite side of the road**, you are **required to stop** until the driver of the school bus disengages the flashing lights and stop sign.

Running red lights/stop signs or **passing on a double yellow line**, in addition to being illegal, this can result in serious injury to you/others and/or in extensive property damage.

Kids are impulsive and tend to dart out unexpectedly into traffic; so drivers need to employ *defensive* driving measures at all times.

One last reminder: *police officers are actively enforcing laws pertaining to speeding, the move over law, and seatbelt use.*

UPDATE: The driver responsible for the fatality mentioned above has been identified.

- Some source material was provided by the DeKalb Police traffic enforcement unit (TAC).

SCAM

Georgia Power Scam: Some residents have received phone calls, over the weekend, informing them that their power will be turned off at 8:00A.M on Monday, due to non-payment of their Georgia Power bill. The caller advises that you can pay your bill at the nearest payment center, or you can pay online....**by supplying them with your Credit Card number. DON'T DO IT, this is a SCAM!**

Approximately 65 persons, mostly elderly, are known victims of this scam.

Call the phone number listed on your Georgia Power statement if you have any questions regarding payment. This will ensure that you are speaking to an official Georgia Power employee.

UPDATE: A suspect has been identified.

VICTIMS SPEAK

Auto Theft Victim: "Our SUV was stolen from our driveway in front of our home...between the hours of 10:00 P.M, July 30 and 9:00A.M. July 31. A spare set of keys were (regrettably) hidden inside the vehicle, much to the thief's delight, I'm sure. ...Please let this be a reminder NEVER to leave ANYTHING of value inside your cars, and if possible, ALWAYS park and lock your vehicles INSIDE your garage"

Vehicle stolen: a 2007 high end SUV.

Entering Auto Victim: ... "My car was broken into in my driveway last Monday night and my purse was stolen. My empty wallet was returned to Tucker police and some items found on Evans Rd. were returned to me in my mailbox because a prescription bottle had my address on it.Oh yeah, and I guess warn people not to leave anything valuable in their cars, ever."

Victim's purse was stolen in the Chamblee Tucker Rd. area.

I have provided you with information regarding Entering Auto and Stolen Vehicle theft numerous times over the years, but thought it might be informative to hear about these crimes in the victims' own words. My goal is to help prevent future theft by sharing with you both of these victims' experiences and to encourage you to listen to their warnings about leaving keys and other valuables in your vehicles. Also, "hiding" your portable GPS system in your glove box or console isn't effective. The bad guys know where to look.

BREAKING NEWS...PRECINCT CHANGES

Effective Saturday, August 22, the Command Staff for Tucker Precinct will be:

Precinct Commander: Major Thomas Lane

Assistant Precinct Commander: Captain Brian Harris

Assistant Precinct Commander: Captain S.R. Fore

Comparison of 2008 crime stats to 2009 crime stats- through August 9, 2009

Department crime stats: Violent crime -22% and Property Crime -20%

Tucker Precinct crime stats: Violent crime -40% and Property Crime -34%

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