



## **Ft Wright “Dirty Hands” Garden Club News**

### **Purple People Bridge Award**

For the second time in a row, the Ft Wright Garden Club won the award for the best container planting in the amateur category, bestowed by the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Master Gardener Association. The theme for the plantings this year was “The Color Purple.” We titled our entry, “The Color Connection.” It featured a purple bridge made by member Val Dolwick connecting the containers, symbolizing the Newport-Cincinnati connection of the bridge. The planting, designed by Marylou Westling, featured purple fountain grass, verbena, petunias, heliotrope and sweet alyssum, among other things.

The club meets the second Thursday evening of the month plus field trips.

Please contact Ginny Bolte ([ginnybolte@yahoo.com](mailto:ginnybolte@yahoo.com)) for time and location.

# **Happy Birthday**

## *December*

December 15 - Police Officer George Kreutzjans

December 20 - Police Officer Jonathan Colwell

## *January*

January 8 - Firefighter/EMT Greg Aylor

January 9 - Police Officer Brian Cornett

January 11 - Firefighter/EMT Michael Gorman

## *February*

February 6 - Firefighter/EMT Jared Powers

February 16 - Police Specialist Andy Vonderhaar

February 16 - Firefighter/EMT Tim Deye

February 24 - Police Sergeant Marc Schworer



# Safety tips for the holiday season and any other time of year

By: Specialist Danny Martin.

The Fort Wright Police Department has some suggestions you can use to keep from becoming a victim. Remember one of my favorite statements is “When seconds count, the police are minutes away.” The holiday season is upon us and there are people who like to do their shopping by taking what you own and have recently purchased.

## **Please call the police immediately if you see something unusual or suspicious, you know your neighborhood.**

In the past residents have seen something suspicious and did not report it immediately to the police and thieves got away with your neighbors property stolen from their cars or homes. Call **911** for any Emergency, Police, Fire, Medical, for non-emergency issues call Kenton County 24-hour Dispatch **356-3191**, **Please call immediately, do not hesitate.** The dispatch center has direct radio contact 24-hours a day, seven days a week with the on-duty Fort Wright Police Officers. Please do not call the Police Department Administrative telephone number to get an officer.

**Vehicles:** Please lock your cars and remove all valuables from your cars and trucks or at least conceal them from plain sight. Some thieves, particularly at this time of year are watching at store parking lots, gyms and churches, watching you park your vehicle and watching when and where you hide your valuables. If you if you must leave your purse, wallet or purchases in your car place them in the trunk or hide items before you leave not in the parking lot of your destination, such as a gym or at church.

Just think if thieves steal your purse or wallet, etc. how much time and trouble will it take to get your phone, credit cards or identification replaced? We have taken theft reports from vehicles that were parked in the garage when the door was left open. Do not leave vehicle doors unlocked, especially vehicles with a garage door opener or house/business keys inside.

## **Homes:**

Here are a few easy tips to help make you and your home safer:

### Outside Your Home

- \* At night or if you will not be returning until after dark leave lights on inside and outside your residence in the front and rear of your residence.
- \* Do not leave tools outside when not in use, i.e. ladders, shovels, and hammers.
- \* Walk to the street in front of your house and look and see if you can see your house numbers. If you cannot see the house numbers then it is likely that the Police cannot see them either when responding to your residence nor can the pizza delivery person.
- \* Trim brush and bushes away from walkways and doors. It will make it harder for someone to hide while you are coming and going to your house.
- \* Make sure windows, garage and entry doors are closed and locked. In the summer you can place pins in the windows that will keep them from opening up all the way.
- \* If your dogs start barking or something else wakes you in the middle of the night it is a good idea to get up and look around, do not turn on all the lights watch and call the police if you see anything unusual.

### Inside Your Home

- \* Keep valuables, particularly purses out of plain view from ground floor windows and doors especially in the rear of your house.
- \* Remove the key hooks in your kitchen and place it in a location that is out of sight.
- \* Shred bank, credit card statements and applications before you throw them in the trash. Store financial records, checks, account numbers, billfolds and purses in a secure and out of sight place. Also have account numbers and telephone numbers readily available in case credit cards or your checkbook is lost or stolen.
- \* Photograph and record serial numbers of expensive items. This is vital if you hope to recover and identify any stolen items.

## Inside Your Home (continued)

- \* When having repair work done in your home, close doors to rooms the workers do not need to be in. Or better yet, ask a friend to come over and stay at the house while the work is being done. Always check references, the Better Business Bureau and with the Fort Wright City Administration/Police Department to make sure anyone coming into your home to work is a legitimate business and is properly licensed.
- \* Purchase an alarm system and if you have one set it at night or when you leave your residence.
- \* Do not advertise you're on vacation on social media or post photographs until you get back.
- \* Cut up and conceal the boxes of large and/or expensive purchases such as a big flat screen TV or other electronic items before they are taken to the curb so people will not know what you have just purchased. We routinely have people scavenging through garbage at the curb which is legal.
- \* It is always good to get to know your neighbors and look out for each other and report any and all suspicious activity immediately to Police when you hear or see it.
- \* Buy a safe, one that is a security and/or fire proof and bolt it down. Size? Depends on what you own that is valuable or irreplaceable i.e. insurance papers, will, trust, jewelry, coins and or firearms.

## **Information on Common Scams**

The I.R.S., Social Security Administration, Pay Pal, E-Bay and banks will not contact you by email or telephone asking for your account numbers, social security numbers or dates of birth.

You cannot win a prize if you did not enter a contest or purchase a lottery ticket. Publishers Clearing House comes to your house with the check if you win. They do not get your personal information over the phone to directly deposit the millions into your account. If you win a legitimate prize you will not have to send a money gram or other type of money order to confirm the prize and to avoid paying any taxes. If it sounds too good to be true, it is.

Another scam is when usually an elderly person is contacted and told that a son, daughter, grandson, niece or whoever was traveling out to the country and had their possession stolen and needs you to send money. The callers usually have a name of the relative and explain that the trip was unexpected. Please verify with your family that the person in question is traveling or needs assistance. These scammers can be very convincing.

A popular web site for checking if rumors, urban legends or other stories are real or fiction is: <http://www.snopes.com/snopes.asp>

It is Christmas time please be safe and enjoy the holidays and watch out for your neighbors. If you imbibe in holiday spirits please do so responsibly and have designated driver. A taxi cab ride from anywhere in Greater Cincinnati is much cheaper than a D.U.I. and you get to spend the night at home with your family.

Specialist Daniel Martin has been employed by The City of Fort Wright Police Department since 1999, he attended Eastern Kentucky University and has a BS in Police Administration with a minor in Loss Prevention and MS in Criminal Justice. Specialist Martin will be retiring at the end of this year, if you see him please congratulate him and wish him well.

## **Merry Christmas**

Col. Daniel J. Kreinest & the Fort Wright Police Department



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