

As School Resumes, Police Offer Safety Reminders

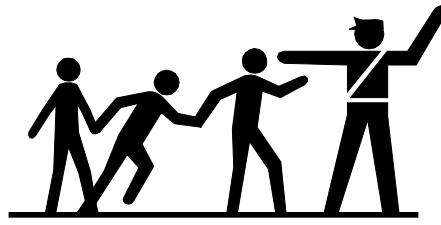
Brentwood youngsters have returned to school, and that means the first few weeks are hectic as parents and children adapt to their new schedules.

The Brentwood Police Department is asking all motorists to remember to slow down in school zones, to use extra caution and to heed the directions of school crossing guards.

"People forget that the speed is 35 mph in some areas and that they have to drop back to 25 mph when they are in a school zone," says Officer George Aguirre of the department's Traffic Division.

"We want to make sure drivers are aware that in all school zones the speed limit is 25 mph when students are present," he says.

Parents are advised to leave a few minutes early so they will arrive at their children's school on time without speeding. They should expect a large amount of traffic during the beginning of the new school year.



"Try to get there early," Aguirre says.

Each year, to ensure safety, the Police Department plans for the reopening of school. Brentwood has not had a child injured en route to school in many years, the officer says.

"We've been doing the safety plan for the last couple of years, and it actually has increased driver awareness tremendously and reduced a lot of headaches for everybody," he says. "There have been no collisions in the last few years that I know of. This plan mainly helps make drivers aware of the need to be cautious."

Traffic officers, school resource officers, police volunteers and crossing

guards all will be alert to any safety violations.

Police officers will be watching not only for speeders but making sure that motorists yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.

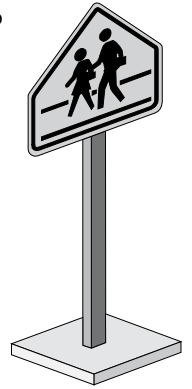
Radar machines that advise motorists of their speed will be posted in school zones as a reminder to slow down and be careful.

Violators will be cited, even those who disregard the crossing guards' directions, Aguirre says.

As results are tabulated, officers will shift their emphasis to areas where the most problems are occurring.

By maintaining a high visibility profile in school zones, police expect most drivers will be cautious.

Meanwhile, everyone will get to school on time and safely if they leave early and drive carefully, Aguirre says.



Chief 'Set High Standard;' Many Firsts During Tenure

(POLICE CHIEF, from Page 5)

digital video system. He established Brentwood's first SWAT Team and the Mobile Command Vehicle.

While Davies was chief, the department introduced a new policy and procedures manual, and he oversaw the planning and development of the new police facility. More than half the current force was either hired or promoted by him during his tenure as chief.

Former Brentwood Police Detective George Johnson, who retired in 2004 and worked with and for Davies for more than 20 years, says he understands Davies' decision to retire but regrets it.

"I hate to see him retire but he's got no other place to go and doesn't want to trade up to another, bigger department. It's one thing to come into an established department, but he's been there

from the ground up," Johnson says.

"He set a very high standard and tried to raise the levels of performance of everybody in the department," the retired detective adds.

"Everybody around him knew he was going to take the high road. Whatever we were going to do, it was because this was the right way to do it," he says.

Detective Walter O'Grodnick, a member of the force since 1998, says Davies insisted on hiring only the most qualified candidates and seeing to it that they had the best equipment and training to do their jobs.

"He was committed to improving the quality of life in the department and the community. He was big on facilitating the success of others," O'Grodnick says. "If you came to him with a question, he didn't give you a quick response. He helped you learn

how to do it yourself so you wouldn't have to ask the next time."

Appointed to the chief's position in January 2002, Davies joined the force in 1980 after working as a clerk for the FBI and later as an Alameda County Deputy Sheriff.

He rose through the ranks, becoming a sergeant in 1993; six years later he was promoted to lieutenant, three years before being named chief.

During his career, Davies has served the community outside of his uniform. He has been involved in Brentwood Rotary, Wheelchair Foundation, Diversity Committee, One Day at a Time, Brentwood Arts and Design Committee and the Brentwood Community Theatre.

He is also a former president, treasurer and negotiator for the Brentwood Police Officers Association.