



# NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2016

### **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY AND ILLINOIS STATE POLICE TO HOST KIDS SAFETY EVENT AT LAKE FOREST OASIS AUGUST 20**

*Events offer free kids' ID cards and safety seat inspections*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – To help locate children if they go missing and protect them when they are traveling, the Illinois Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 are hosting a free Kids Identification and Safety Seat (K.I.S.S.) event on Saturday, August 20, in Lake Forest to provide free kids' ID cards and inspect and install child safety seats, with a goal of keeping children safe and parents worry-free, every trip, every time.

"Surveys indicate that up to 90 percent of families will at some point temporarily lose a child in a public place, but kids IDs are a simple tool that can help locate lost children by providing police an accurate description," said Illinois Tollway Executive Director Greg Bedalov. "The Tollway and Illinois State Police District 15 are providing IDs for kids along with safety seat inspections to help give parents and caregivers some extra peace of mind this summer."

The free K.I.S.S. event will be held on Saturday, August 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lake Forest Oasis on the Tri-State Tollway (I-94) at milepost 18. Safety seat inspections will take place in the parking lot on the eastbound side of the oasis and kids' ID card processing will take place inside the oasis pavilion, accessible from parking lots on both sides.

The event will feature additional fun for kids and families including activities and entertainment with Dude the Parrot, the mascot from KeyLime Cove Indoor Waterpark in Gurnee, accompanied by a balloon twister who will also give out complimentary kids' tattoos, and kids will be able to get an up-close look at small reptiles from the Wildlife Discovery Center in Lake Forest. In addition, a Duesenberg II Murphy Body Roadster from the Volo Auto Museum will be on display inside the oasis pavilion.

During the event, MB Real Estate Services Inc., which manages the Tollway oases, will provide goodie bags for children that will include coupons for complimentary treats and discounts from participating oasis vendors, including Dairy Queen, Doc Popcorn, McDonald's and Starbucks, as well as Dunkin Donuts, new to the Lake Forest Oasis. The Lake Forest Oasis offers a spacious food court with panoramic windows, kid-friendly spaces and family restrooms.

K.I.S.S. events offer parents and caregivers the opportunity to have ID cards created for children age 3 and older. Specially trained professionals take photographs and fingerprints of children 3 and older and gather vital information to include on two personal identification cards – one for home and one for a wallet or purse – that parents and caregivers can reference in an emergency. Neither Illinois State Police nor the Illinois Tollway keeps this information in a database. Once the ID card is issued to the guardian, the information is deleted.

U.S. Department of Justice reports have estimated that some 340,500 children a year become temporarily separated from a parent or caregiver for at least an hour. If a child goes missing, an up-to-date, good quality photo along with descriptive information is one of the most important tools law

enforcement needs to help locate the child, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited children. It's estimated that 34 percent of American parents wouldn't be able to accurately describe their child to law enforcement, including details of exact height and weight, as well as their children's eye color. K.I.S.S. events also have available certified child passenger safety technicians to inspect and install child safety seats and help drivers stay up-to-date with the latest safety seat informational and educational materials. Properly installed child safety seats significantly reduce the risk of injury or greater tragedy for children in the event of a crash. And yet, Illinois State Police have found that approximately 90 percent of child safety seats they inspect are improperly installed.

Nationally, research on the effectiveness of child safety seats has found them to reduce fatal injury by 71 percent for infants younger than 1 year old and by 54 percent for toddlers 1 to 4 years old in passenger cars, according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

"One child fatality on Illinois roadways is one too many," said District 15 Commander Robert Meeder. "District 15 and the Tollway offer parents and caregivers a great opportunity to ensure that the appropriate child safety seats for their children's ages, weight and height are properly installed in their vehicles."

K.I.S.S. events also offer a convenient way for drivers to make sure they comply with Illinois law, which requires that whenever a person is transporting a child under age 8, the person is responsible for properly securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system.

To participate, parents, grandparents and caregivers should bring child safety seats, the children who will be using the seats and the vehicle in which the child safety seats will be installed. Information on recalls and recall detection, correct positioning, correct sizing to protect the child most effectively, plus additional safety information and resources will be offered at these events.

K.I.S.S. events are scheduled at a variety of locations along the 292-mile Illinois Tollway system throughout Northern Illinois. For more information about K.I.S.S. events, visit the Tollway's website at [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com).

### **Missing Child Basics**

Information provided on kids ID cards can help law enforcement search and recover a missing child. That includes a description of the child's hair and eye color, height, weight, race, unique identifiers such as glasses or beauty marks, as well as date of birth, current photo and fingerprints.

The FBI suggests that parents keep their children's fingerprints, not only because fingerprints are unique but also because they don't change over time like a child's appearance. The FBI also recommends that parents update the photos of their children on ID cards at least once a year to ensure they are current.

With increased public awareness, training, laws and better technology, the recovery rate of missing children has jumped from 62 percent in 1990 to more than 97 percent today, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

### **Child Safety Seat Basics**

Illinois law requires that whenever a person is transporting a child under age 8, the person is responsible for properly securing the child in an appropriate child restraint system. The safest place for infants, toddlers and young children to ride is in the back seat with the appropriate child safety seat for their age and weight.

Infants should ride rear-facing until 2 years of age, longer if possible, to protect their developing head muscles and bones. Toddlers and young children should ride in a child safety seat with an internal harness until they reach the maximum harness limit of the child restraint. A booster seat is the most effective way to position a safety belt properly on a young child's growing body.

Safety belts are designed for adults who are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall. Until age 8, most children have not developed strong hipbones and their legs and bodies are too short for the adult safety belt to fit correctly without use of a booster seat.

**About MB Real Estate Services Inc.**

Founded in 1982, MB Real Estate is a full-service real estate organization that provides multifaceted expertise in Asset/Facilities Management; Leasing Services; Project/Construction Management; Tenant Representation; and Investment Services. Headquartered in Chicago, with regional offices in New York City, Atlanta and Denver, MB Real Estate provides these services to corporations, institutions, professional organizations, private investors, and non-profit agencies. For more information, please visit [www.mbres.com](http://www.mbres.com).

**About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 292 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

###



<b>Illinois State Police-District 15/Illinois Tollway</b>	
<b>PRINCESS BELLA</b>	
Eye: BRO	Hair: BLN
Height:	Weight: Sex:
	LBS F
DOB:	Race:
01182010	W
Special Marks:	
	Date: 06/17/2014
Other Health Concerns or Considerations:	
IF YOUR CHILD IS MISSING CONTACT LAW ENFORCEMENT FINGERPRINT TECHNOLOGY BY CROSS MATCH TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	