



Crimefighter

A Newsletter for Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Groups
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Jan 2005

Meet a Member of the Springfield Neighborhood Watch Board Submitted by Faye Brabham

We all know the old saying "If you want something done, just ask a busy person". That would be true for Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors member Lori Bacon. But don't ask her to do another project, because Neighborhood Watch really needs her talents. Watching Lori work an event is a rare treat. If you didn't know better you would think there were two Lori's.

Her husband of twenty years, served in the Air Force and the couple were on the road much of the time. Thankfully the family, including two teen-age girls, settled in Springfield. Lori worked at Tar-

get for eight years and now as a Nanny to three and a half year old triplets.

Neighborhood Watch was fortunate to have Lori come on the Board of Directors about a year ago. She is also an unofficial Co-Coordinator as well as a Block Captain for Artz Park.

In her spare time, and it is hard to believe she has any, Lori teaches Sunday School at her Church. For Christmas gifts this year, she made quilts out of jeans and had a ball working on them.

She is now working on a fundraiser for Thurston



Lori Bacon
NW Board Member

High to send students to Washington D.C. The date will be sometime in February of this year. To Learn more about this project, Lori will be glad to take your call. She can be reached at 747 -3969.

In the meantime Lori-- You go girl!

Springfield Police Calendars Available - Free

Springfield Police Calendars are now available. Coordinators are invited to pick up calendars from the department and distribute them to their members.

The Calendar provides information about the Springfield Police Department as well as pictures of Police personnel and events associated with the department. Resource information is listed on the inside cover of the calendar.

If you do not receive a calendar, contact your coordinator or you can pick one up from the police department.

Springfield Police Department 2005



The Springfield Police Department strives to work with citizens to promote a sense of personal safety and security through rapid response to emergency calls for services, enforcement of state and local laws, and providing prevention and education programs to support of citizens' efforts to promote conditions, attitudes, and behaviors that will result in a safer community.
Jerry D. Smith, Chief of Police

Message from the Chief



Springfield Police Chief
Jerry Smith

Welcome to a new year and it is my sincere hope that you had one of the most enjoyable holiday seasons ever and share my enthusiasm and optimism for a very good year as we move forward through 2005.

Our Mayor, Sid Leiken presented the State of the City address last week and spoke of the many accomplishments of 2004, but emphasized the work to be accomplished in the upcoming year, noting that many of the accomplishments will be realized and enjoyed far into the future.

The approval of voters for an Urban Renewal District in Glenwood will open the doors to tremendous opportunities for the community. The Mayor noted continued improvement in the economy with 73 million dollars worth of new development in Springfield during 2004. As many of you have heard, work is underway to attempt to relocate Williams Bakery in the Glenwood area from its current site next to the University of Oregon.

The addition of Oregon Medical Labs with 500 new jobs at the former Sony site in the Gateway area positions Springfield to be in a prime position as a medical research center. A partner-

ship could evolve between the University of Oregon, Peace Health and OHSU that very well could result in Springfield becoming a destination for other companies focused on medical research and services.

The Mayor mentioned an overhaul of the City's website and I would encourage citizens to visit the site for information about city government, after looking at the police department's website of course.

The Springfield City Council has worked very hard for the community and I have observed these individuals to be open, receptive and interested individuals in the comments, suggestions and opinions of our citizens. Indeed, you have much to be proud of in what has occurred and is underway in Springfield. Oregon Medical Laboratories, Peace Health, Royal Caribbean, Broadbase Regional Sports Center, Jasper Natron extension in east Springfield, Pacific Source, Oregon Urology Institute, Walgreen's, Wilamette Dental, Best Buy and a number of other new businesses have come to Springfield.

The police department is continuing progress on the replacement of the computer system that drives the Records Management System, Computer Aided Dispatch, Mobile Computers, Court Records System, Fire Records, Field Reporting and Prosecution components.

I would also like to inform you that as a product of Homeland Security Grants, the police department has installed a micro wave repeater system to enable greater efficiency in our radio communications.

We are in the winter season

and starting up our cars in the morning to warm them before driving to work, school or other destinations presents an attractive opportunity for car thieves. Please be aware of this and take appropriate precautions. I do want to take this opportunity to remind us all that property crimes continue to be the driving forces in Springfield's crime rate. We need to be conscientious in locking our cars and homes when not attended. Drug abuse is of course, a significant factor in property crimes. You may have read or heard of policy changes in the District Attorney's Office that relate to prosecution or lack of prosecution for certain crimes, including drug offenses. I want to assure you that your police department will continue to arrest offenders of all crimes. The Springfield Municipal Court has jurisdiction of all misdemeanor crimes (either Municipal or State) and will continue to aggressively prosecute offenders.

Forgery, fraud and counterfeiting remain a serious concern. Stolen identification can create extremely difficult and time consuming problems for victims and we all need to exercise extreme care of our checks, credit cards and identification. The Springfield-Eugene area continues to experience the distribution of counterfeit money. Counterfeit twenty dollar bills are popular denomination; however we are now encountering significant numbers of counterfeit One Hundred dollar bills in circulation.

Truly, Springfield is a great community to live, work and play as a product of the quality of citizens such as you and I am very proud to be a part of that community. The effectiveness of your police department is directly related

to the quality of citizens within the community and their willingness to get involved. Neighborhood watch is but one example where individual citizens come together to help each other to make their neighborhoods safer and more enjoyable.

I would welcome the opportunity to address your concerns, questions or issues at any of your meetings. Please feel free to give me a call and I will make myself available.

There are a number of exciting things occurring in the police department that we will discuss in upcoming issues. I would like to recommend the department's web site to view for information about your police department and the specialized units as well as the latest annual report (www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html).

Thank you for the work you all do in making our community a better place to live and raise families. Please do not hesitate to contact me (726-3729) or the Community Services Unit should you have any questions, suggestions or issues.

Jerry D. Smith
Chief of Police

Neighborhood Watch takes 3rd place at the Christmas Parade



Photos by Don & Vickie Hale

Congratulations and thanks to all who participated in the Neighborhood Watch Christmas parade entry. The theme for the Christmas parade was "A Jolly Holiday in Springfield". The Neighborhood Watch Parade Committee chose "Jingle Bells Brand New Cells" for their float theme.

Message from Wil Hoff - President, Neighborhood Watch Board



Neighborhood Watch Board President, Wil Hoff

Looking back over 2004, the Neighborhood Watch program has proved to be a useful tool to help prevent crime in our city. As citizens continue to use their eyes, ears and other senses, reporting all things that appear to be not in order.

This includes drug dealing, manufacturing, robberies and break ins.

This adds up to safety of our neighborhoods. We should not be afraid to take down license numbers and descriptions of suspicious activities. As we report these things to the police, we help with stopping crime in our community.

I want every citizen to know that you will not get into any trouble by making a report to the police. Your action of reporting will apprise the police of possible criminal activity in our city which will help stop crime.

As we, the Board of Directors, add to our Neighborhood Watch program, new groups, new members, and expand our training program, Springfield will continue to be a safe and secure community where we can raise our Families.

Please feel free to talk with the Board, giving us ideas and suggestions, helping us to continue the work to stop crime in our neighborhoods. We also want you to know that Springfield Neighborhood Watch is a non-profit corporation. (501-C3) and all contributions are tax deductible.

Welcome New Coordinators!

Submitted by Lori Bacon

Springfield Neighborhood Watch is growing and getting stronger every day. For example Jenni Peterson has agreed to be coordinator for **Lucerne Meadows - group 74. Her area will be between the railroad tracks to Jasper and 42nd St. -S. 47th St.** If you live in that area please help her out as a possible block captain. She has about 6 so far and needs more. You can call her at 736-9102. She'd love your help.

Marie Nichols has taken on **Country Manor - group 19. Her area is the Country Manor Mobile Home Park.** She needs a lot of help from her members. Let's take back the park and make it a nice place to live. Let's send the message that drugs are not wanted in there.

I am looking for help in the **Eyes and Ears of 59 group. It's Main St. to Daisy and 42ndSt.- S. 47th St.** It's also between the tracks and Daisy on both sides of Country Manor. We've started with a few block captains but need a lot more. I am also in great need of a coordinator for the area. Maybe two neighbors/friends might want to take it on together. This too is an area that we need to tell crime good-bye and don't come back. If you or anyone you know lives in this area please call me (Lori) at 747-3969 and let's see how you may be able to help out.

Together we can take back our neighborhoods one block at a time. Make sure you have your sticker in a window for all to see. If you need one, let your block captain or coordinator know. That's the first step to letting criminals know they are unwelcome in our neighborhoods. Step by step we can make a difference. One neighbor at a time we can grow.



Jenni Peterson, Coordinator
Lucerne Meadows Neighbor-
hood Watch Group



Marie Nichols, Coordinator
Country Manor Neighborhood
Watch

Citizen Police Academy—Tuesday Evenings, March 29-June 7

Applications being accepted until March 4

The Springfield Police Department is inviting applicants to attend its Citizen Police Academy. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Preference will be given to Springfield residents and people doing business in Springfield. The academy course is designed for citizens from all backgrounds or occupations.

The Springfield Citizen Police Academy is a long established and important police/community relations program. It is designed to provide citizens with a better understanding of the nature of police work and to provide citizens with the opportunity to interact with department members in a non-emergency setting. It is also an opportunity for citizens to provide input on police policy, practice and procedure.

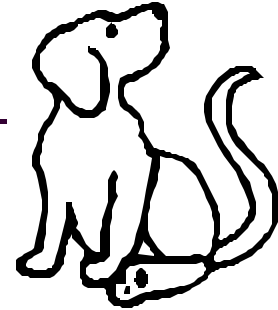
The 33-hour training program consists of classroom and "hands-on" instruction. Topics covered include the officer selection and training process, the job of the uniformed patrol officer, investigation skills, tactical operation, the canine unit, use of firearms, vice and narcotics, communications, crime scene search, and crime prevention. Students will be actively involved in many interesting activities, such as touring police facilities, using police equipment, and firing the department-issued weapons.

Graduates of this course will not be police officers, but will be better-informed citizens. The graduates will be in a position to relate their experiences to friends, and co-workers.

Classes will generally be held weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with some exceptions. (listed on schedule with application) The first class will be held March 29, and will continue through June 7.

If you are interested in attending the academy, please obtain an application at Springfield Police Department, 344 "A" Street or at the police department's website at www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html. **The application deadline is March 4, 2004.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Services Unit at **726-3731**, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

A Message From Animal Control - Winter is Here!



As winter is now upon on us, we need to remember the animals in our lives. Please be sure to provide food, water and appropriate shelter for your animals. If you have indoor animals that's great but some of us have animals we keep outside and that is fine too. Any animal should have proper shelter for them to escape the elements. They must be able to get out of the rain, cold, snow, etc. If you have a dog house for your dog be sure that it has bedding inside the house and that if the house is made of wood that you place some type of brick or foundation under it to keep the house from becoming wet. Plastic houses will not become wet on the bottom and should be fine. Also be sure that the water that is kept outside is cleaned daily, when the temperature goes below 32 degrees be sure to check for frozen water. You can buy heated bowls at most pet supplies stores if you would like to be sure the water does not freeze.

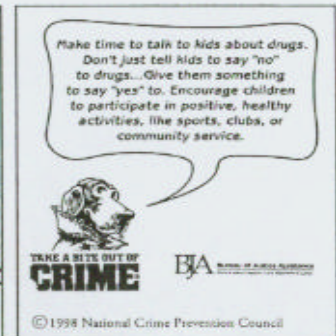
When feeding your animals outside be sure the food is out of the way of the elements. Also be aware if you leave the food out that other animals may decide to come for a little snack so keep an eye on your pet's weight. All dogs should be licensed if you live with in city limits of Springfield. It always helps to have an id tag with the animal's name, address and phone number. Cats are not required to be licensed but it helps other citizens be aware that the cat is owned by someone if it also has owner identification on it. There are break away collars so that the animal can wear it safely.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except designated holidays.

Thanks and Happy New Year to all!
Officer Tracy Neal
Springfield Animal Control
726-3634



McGRUFF TOONS



10 Ways To Prevent Identity Theft

1. Burn or shred, with a cross shredder, any mail or financial papers with your personal information on it. Never recycle them.
2. Call 1-888-5OPTOUT and ask to stop credit card companies from sending pre-approved credit card applications to your house. You can choose between stopping them for 2 years or permanently.
3. Ask your credit card firm to cease delivery of "convenience checks." They are ticking identity theft time bombs.
4. Beginning in December 2004 (in the western USA and by the end of 2005 for the rest of the USA), you're entitled to one free credit report each year. Get it as soon as possible and review it carefully.
5. Order a credit report a month or more before you make a big purchase or apply for credit, to be sure there are no surprises in your history.
6. Question companies that ask for personal information, such as your phone number at a checkout line. Don't provide any personal information.
7. It's impossible to tell what's real and what's fake online. Just delete any e-mail that asks for personal information.
8. Hang up on telemarketers, particularly ones who seem to be fishing for personal information, like your birthday.
9. Limit the number of credit cards you hold, and religiously inspect your financial statements each month. Consumer rights quickly fade over time; the sooner you discover an identity theft incident, the better.
10. Most of the time, you can't prevent an ID theft incident from occurring, because two-thirds of the time, some company that leaked the data is to blame. So be prepared, and be organized. Save paper bank records for a year, at least. You'll need them to prove your account balance in the event of an ID theft incident.

Do you suspect a Drug House?

Do you suspect a house in your area is a drug house? If so, ask yourself the following:

1. Is there excessive car, bike and foot traffic coming and leaving at all hours of the day and night?
2. Is the general appearance of the house, yard and driveway unkempt?
3. Do you notice the "disabled car syndrome"? The cars are often rusted, rundown, damaged and being repaired. The removal and replacement of batteries and the changing of tires are constant activities.
4. Are the house windows often covered?

Do you notice strange, indefinable smells coming from the house? These are only a few of the many signs that may indicate potential drug dealing. If so, read what you can do:

Write on paper:

- 1) Date, time of day and location.
- 2) Length of stay and/or suspect activity.
- 3) Suspect description, driver of car(s).

- 4) Vehicle license plates and description.

It would help investigators if you could pin point a day of the week and/or time of day when the drug activity is more apparent. Send these written records, with or without your name and phone number, to:

Springfield Police Department
ATTN: Investigations
344 A Street
Springfield, OR 97477

Getting evidence to shut a "drug house" down takes time, especially if the police cannot substantiate your leads with hard evidence such as finding their clandestine lab. It won't go away overnight! The best investigation is with witnesses willing to get involved and testify.

In order for investigators to get a search warrant, they have to have someone swear in an affidavit regarding a specific drug transaction. If you witness a specific transaction where you see money and drugs exchanged,

you could be the person to sign the affidavit. This information has to be fresh – it needs to be reported right away. If you did not see a specific transaction, or if you are not willing to testify, then the next step would be to try to get an

undercover agent to make a buy at that residence. In order to do this, it takes a lot of time. Drug dealers are apprehensive and normally will not sell to people they don't know. So the agent has to take the time to get to know the dealer, or another customer, in order to get introduced to the dealer.

As you can probably imagine, we do receive several reports of suspected drug activity. Therefore, it does take some time to work all of the reported cases.

If the drug activity is occurring in a rental, you may try approaching the owner of the property.

For more information, feel free to contact the Springfield Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 726-3731.

The Lock Out Crime (LOC) Project

This project provides free home security inspections to residents in Lane County. Also, available through this program is lock installation for low income residents. Information about the program and appointments for inspections can be made by calling 726-2323.

Springfield Neighborhood Watch
344 "A" Street
Springfield, OR 97477

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Secretary:	Ray Cavagnaro	744-9161		3/06
Treasurer:	Charlene Miller	726-6412	ccjmillier@comcast.net	3/07
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	Ed Chaney	746-5163		3/06
	Johanna Dahlin	747-6340	jodahlin@comcast.net	3/07
	Don & Vicki Hale	746-3757		3/07
	Neil Morris	747-6872	nmorris@efn.org	3/05
	Carol Thelen	726-9185	CarmalettaTang@aol.com	3/06
Police Liaison:	Tana Steers	726-3731	tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us	
Lock Out Crime Project:		726-2323		
Non-Emerg. Complaints/Records:		726-3714		