



Crimefighter

A Newsletter for Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Groups

Jan. 2010

Special points of interest:

- Applications now being accepted for the next Citizen Police Academy scheduled for Spring 2010 pg 4

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Don & Vickie Hale,
NW President & Vice Pres.
Neighborhood Watch Board

Message from Neighborhood Watch Board President and Vice-President

As I write this it is 2 am, a "never before" for me but I needed an article for the January newsletter. When you think of the Neighborhood Watch, what do you think of? The Island Park "Shindig", "Kick Off" party, or the Christmas Parade Float right after Thanksgiving. Perhaps you think of the newsletter, potlucks, and get-togethers with your neighbors that have now become your friends.

When we think of Neighborhood Watch, we think of taking a bite out of crime and keeping our neighborhood safer. A suggestion for keeping your possessions a little safer comes from Kevin Lewellyn of Springfield. "Purchasing a motion alarm from the local hardware store has been a huge success for me personally. Due to this motion sensor I have been able to place three people who were on my property under citizens arrest and charge them with trespassing. I would also recommend a master lock club for vehicles. This master lock club comes with a wonderful warranty upon registration. I have one on every one of my vehicles."

Any other suggestions for safer neighborhoods let us know by calling Don and Vickie Hale at 746-3757.

Springfield Neighborhood Watch is now on Facebook!



Message from Police Chief Jerry Smith

Thank you for the opportunity to express some of my thoughts to each of you. Recognizing that these are my thoughts and concerns, should you have questions I am open to discussing the particular concerns that may be generated as a result of reducing these concepts to paper.

While we are being told that the economy is recovering, the past year has been fiscally challenging to families, businesses, and local government as we all struggle through rather difficult economic conditions. I am optimistic that history will repeat itself and we will extricate ourselves from the recession. I would continue to remind us all that it is important to watch the decisions of Lane County related to the Jail, District Attorney, Sheriff's Office and the Juvenile Department. Your police department is dependent upon the services provided by these agencies to accomplish its mission. The continued degradation, particularly the District Attorney's Office and the Lane County Jail have a direct negative impact to outcomes for the Springfield Police Department. As you may have heard, the opening of the Municipal Jail was delayed for a while because of a Sprinkler System design issue. That has been resolved and we are in the final stages of construction and cleanup inside the Jail should begin next week.

I have previously discussed the mission of the Springfield Municipal Jail, as that of holding offenders accountable to the citizens of Springfield in a constitutionally operated incarceration facility. Detention staff are fully trained and

ready to begin exercising the new facility to ensure the security systems, computer systems, and other components function as required.

I applaud our Springfield Citizens who often report suspicious activity and are willing to get involved and assist the Police Department in solving crime. Just a few weeks ago, a citizen intervened in a robbery at one of our local credit unions, temporarily struggling with the suspect and then following the suspect who fled on foot, directing officers to where he had last seen the suspect. One of your Police K-9 teams deployed and the suspect was introduced to the dog up close and personal. This citizen was recognized at the City Council meeting on 12/7/09 for going beyond good citizenship. Please do not hesitate to call the Police Department if you witness something that looks suspicious to you.

Sergeant Umenhofer is continuing his efforts to develop a volunteer program which will be of tremendous service to the police department and an opportunity for citizens to contribute to the efficient operations of the police department. This may be delayed for a short time since it was necessary for Sergeant Umenhofer to return to patrol with the injury of Sergeant Jones. Should you have an interest in volunteering time with the police department, please call me and we will welcome your assistance.

The police department enjoys tremendous assistance from citizens on a frequent basis. It is important to continue the relationship that provides the forum for such assistance. The police department is a tool of the community and will enjoy only that

success to the extent that the citizens are willing to be involved. When suspicious or unusual behavior is occurring in your neighborhood, it is an important preventive measure to call the police and allow us to at least take a look at the circumstances. Involvement of citizens with the City Council is important to enable the Council to more accurately reflect the wishes of the community.

I consider it a privilege to serve this community and it is my expectation that the members of the Police Department extend themselves and provide the very best possible law enforcement services. I do appreciate comments from citizens, positive or negative about the perceptions they may have in circumstances involving our staff. We can only improve when we are able to receive feedback.

As each of you know, I am very proud of the members of your Police Department and I am proud of the community we serve and the support we receive and the willingness of our citizens to become involved.

It is my wish that each of you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and have a great New Year and please remember that I am available to speak with any of you or to groups in the community.

Jerry D. Smith
Chief of Police



Dumb Criminal Stories

Joseph Goetz, 48, was charged with trying to rob the Susquehanna Bank in Springettsbury Township, Pa., in November, even though he had to leave empty-handed. The bank had just opened for the day, and cash had not yet been delivered to tellers' stations. Employees said that Goetz was highly irritated at having wasted his time, and that he threatened to file a "complaint" about the bank's operations.

Ricky Dale Ford was jailed in September in Conway, Ark., accused of stealing an all-terrain vehicle. While joyriding, Ford had accidentally hit a beehive, and when police found him in nearby woods, he was "barely breathing," one officer said, having been stung more than 100 times.

Lisa Newsome, 42, was arrested in Zachary, La., in August, caught trying to smuggle a 24-can case of beer out of a convenience store. The heavysset, housecoat-clad Newsome was squeezing the 20-pound case between her legs as she waddled from the cooler toward the front door. When police arrived, Newsome offered to pull up the dress to demonstrate how she carried the case, but, said a police captain: "I told her, no thanks. I wasn't into that."

A long-time customer of Penny Lane Records in Sydenham, New Zealand, picked out a CD in August, asked the clerk to reserve it, and even wrote his name and address on it to make sure they held it. Moments later, he saw an opportunity, grabbed cash from the cash drawer and fled (but only briefly.)

Jarell Arnold, 34, in line at the Alaska USA Federal Credit Union in Anchorage in August, showed his ID in order to check his balance, took the account slip from the teller, wrote his holdup note on it, gave it back and escaped with \$600 (but only briefly.)

K9 Korner by Sgt. Charboneau



Officer Kendrick and K9 Cyrill responded to assist LCSD with the search of a vacant residence for a wanted person. Upon their arrival they were only able to search the basement because the main part of the residence was locked. A bathroom window was found to be open and Daren looked inside but didn't see anyone. Cyrill was directed to jump up and sniff inside. Upon doing so he began barking and when Daren looked back inside he saw a leg. Confronted with Cyrill entering the room, the person gave up and was taken into custody. One month later Cyrill located the same subject, wanted again for the same crime, in Springfield after he ran from an officer.

Officer Keetle and K9 Bronko were patrolling a vacant car lot who had past troubles with transients. The owners had provided the PD with a trespass letter. As they were walking around the property Bronko indicated fresh scent near two truck canopies that were on the ground. As Bronko got closer he began to bark and Brian observed a female open up the back of a canopy. She was arrested for trespass.

Officer DelCastillo and K9 Creck responded to assist with locating a suspect in a bank robbery who had just fled on foot. Witnesses observed the suspect run into a large field and Creck began searching at that location. Creck quickly picked up the track and followed it until he located the suspect near some berry bushes. Creck grabbed on to the suspect and held him until Tony arrived. The suspect was later identified as being involved in two additional bank robberies.

On November 18th, after successfully completing his training with K9 Fedo, Officer Dan Grice returned to patrol as a state certified K9 handler. Both dog and handler put in a lot of hard work over the month of training and are excited to start finding suspects.

McGruff Speaks



Red noses and cold toes. Ok, so I'm grammatically incorrect! Hey, I'm a dog and that should make it Ok. Not used to sharing the spotlight, I agreed to move it on over for the big dog to move in. Parade day arrived as usual and proved to keep the record as the "oldest and coldest. Neighborhood Watch members outdid themselves once again and came up with a great float. For the first time ever, I, McGruff the Crime Dog, shared the float with two of Springfield's Finest. Officer Dan Grice and his four legged friend and fellow officer graced us with their company.

Now most believe a hero has two legs and walks upright. But we see those with four legs as heroes in our sight. The courageous, brave police dog who's ready at the call

Is willing to serve the many and strives to protect us all!
But I'm still the best looking.....

Special Thanks to Officer Dan Grice and K9 Fedo as well as all those who helped put the float together: Faye and Keith Brabham, Don and Vickie Hale, Mariah Butts, and Charlene Miller. And thanks to those who helped with the float on Parade Day by either pulling the float, riding on or walking with the float passing out calendars: Jim Steers, Don Hale, Patty DeLeau, Stacey Doll, Sandra Hagues, Pat Mahoney, Rege Shaw, Tessa Barone, Josie Losco, Tina, Colby, & Shanah Forgey, Alesha Graves, Ashlee Stoneburner, Britlee Monroe and Kyara Komisar.

Citizen Police Academy—Spring 2010 - Now Accepting Applications

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 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.

The course is free. Each applicant must answer each question on the application form. To graduate, each student must attend at least nine of the eleven classes. Therefore, prior to applying, applicants must determine whether or not they can attend the minimum number of classes for graduation.

Classes will generally be held weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with some exceptions. (listed on schedule with application) The first class will be held March 31 and will continue through June 9.

If you are interested in attending the academy, please obtain an application at the Springfield Police Department, 230 Fourth St. or the police department web-site at www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html or call 726-3731 to have an application sent to you. **The application deadline is March 5, 2010.** 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.

Mystery Shopper Scam

Another sign of the economic challenges we are facing is a modification to the mystery shopper scam. The victim is contacted by email stating that they have been selected to be a mystery shopper to evaluate customer service at Western Union. They receive a check for \$4000 and are asked to send a check for \$3000 through the local Western Union office to an address and then keep the balance for their fee. The check sent to them is bogus and they are now out the money.



Springfield Police Department 2010



Springfield Municipal Jail & Staff

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 in support of citizens' efforts to promote conditions, attitudes and behaviors that will result in a safer community.

Jerry D. Smith, Chief of Police

Police Department Calendars Available

Coordinators - Please pick up calendars for your members. Contact Tana at 726-3731 to order calendars. The calendar contains information about the police department as well as the inside front cover contains important resource phone numbers. The inside back cover contains crime prevention resource web-sites. Members - If you do not receive a calendar, contact your coordinator or pick one up from the Police Department or the Library.



Senior Fraud

*A campaign aimed at older Americans to keep them from becoming victims of fraud and identity theft
From the National Crime Prevention Council*

Many legitimate companies and charities solicit consumers by phone and consider it an effective way to raise money or increase company business. Unfortunately, others are simply up to no good. We at the National Crime Prevention Council believe seniors can prevent telemarketing fraud by being educated consumers.

[According to the FTC](#), nearly 25 million Americans are victims of consumer fraud each year. Senior citizens continue to be a rapidly increasing segment of the population, and that makes them a prime target for con artists and thieves. Americans who are 65 or older represent about 13 percent of our country's population, and their population will only continue to grow as the Baby Boomer generation begins to enter that age range.

Studies have shown that senior citizens are more at risk to be targeted by telemarketing scams than other age groups, and fraudulent telemarketers direct anywhere from 56 to 80 percent of their calls at older Americans. These con artists believe that senior citizens are vulnerable and more susceptible to their tricks. However, NCPC is helping many seniors to be shrewd and savvy citizens by keeping these tips in mind:

- Offers too good to be true usually are. Ask to receive the “unbelievable deal” or the “amazing prize offer” in writing so you can read it carefully before making a commitment.
- Never give out your personal information over the phone or Internet unless you have initiated the contact. Legitimate business callers will never ask you for this information over the phone.
- If a caller asks you to pay for an offer in advance or asks for your credit card number or Social Security number, tell the person *you don't give out personal information over the telephone*.
- Remember that legitimate telemarketers won't be turned off if you use these techniques. They will appreciate dealing with an educated consumer. *It's not rude – it's shrewd!*

Something to Think About



Long Lens of the Law: Speed Cameras - Are They All About the Revenue? By Elizabeth Daigneau

Cameras are everywhere these days. There are red light cameras, speed cameras, parking enforcement cameras, surveillance cameras and now, there are cameras that capture the license-plate number of every vehicle entering a jurisdiction in a new crime-prevention measure. Medina, a community of about 3,100 just across Lake Washington from Seattle, has installed cameras at several intersections to monitor every vehicle coming into the city, reports the [Seattle Times](#). The cameras capture a car's license-plate number, and immediately runs it through a police database that checks for felonies. Signs are posted at Medina's city limits that warn, "You Are Entering a 24 Hour Video Surveillance Area," and all captured information is stored for 60 days so that police can mine data if a crime occurs later. If say the vehicle was reported stolen, or is registered to a homicide suspect, the information is immediately transmitted to police. The goal is simply to prevent crime. Last year, there was just 11 burglaries in Medina, but in the neighboring community of Hunts Point, there were zero. Hunts Point has been using a video-camera setup to record a continuous loop of car traffic in and out of town for more than three years, and there hasn't been a single burglary since the cameras were installed.

Facts About: Bullying and Harassment

Bullying and harassment takes lots of forms and bullies keep bullying as long as it works – as long as it makes them feel more powerful. Many children and teens are bullies or victims of bullies, but the largest number of children and teens are bystanders – witnesses to bullying. Bullying begins in elementary school, peaks in middle school, and falls off in high school. It does not, however, disappear altogether. Girls can be bullies too, although bullying by girls is more likely to show up as spreading rumors, leaving people out of social events, teasing about clothes or boyfriends, or threatening to withdraw a friendship.

Adults Need to Know:

- 160,000 children skip school every day because they fear being attacked or intimidated by other students.
- The U.S. Department of Justice states that 37% of all students don't feel safe at school.
- The National Institute of Health reports that a third of students in 6th to 10th grades nationwide experienced some kind of bullying.
- 90% of 4th through 8th graders report being victims of bullying.
- Students reported 71% of the teachers or other adults in the classroom ignored bullying incidents.
- One in six children who bully will have a criminal record before the age of 24.
- Although much bullying happens where adults cannot see or hear it, it also happens when adults are present. Often adults don't do anything to stop the bullying.
- When asked, students uniformly expressed the desire that teachers intervene rather than ignore teasing and bullying.

Springfield Neighborhood Watch
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CONTACT INFORMATION

Springfield Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors 2009-2010

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Police Liaison:	Tana Steers	726-3731	tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us	
Non-Emerg. Complaints/Records:		726-3714		Emergency: 911

To view public police logs: www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html—click on public logs