



Crimefighter

A Newsletter for Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Groups

April 2008

Special points of interest:

- Save the date for NNO Kick-Off: July 27, 4-7pm pg 4
- Calendar of events pg 7

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

Message from Neighborhood Watch Board President and Vice-President

No, summer is not here yet but spring is opening up with daffodils and crocuses popping up. It is time as a community for new growth. We need some new bulbs such as volunteers for National Night Out Kick-off at Island Park, July 27th. We are in dire need of cooks and servers and barbecue units to prepare the hot dogs we serve HELP!!!!!!!!!!

We send orchids to Brian and Lori Bacon and family for years of dedicated hours in this area. They have in the past purchased the food, stored it at their home overnight, brought it to Island Park in coolers and cooked and served about 400 hotdog meals and pop. Thank you for their generosity.

Think safety this spring whether you are in your yard or walking your neighborhood. I for one have made a pledge to exercise and walk the equivalent of 5 miles each day. My feet are made for walking! Remember avoid deserted areas and wear light colored clothes so you can be seen easily.

We would like to replace old neighborhood watch signs with new ones. Let us know what is happening in your groups. We have recently been having graffiti numbers painted on home fences and phone junction boxes. Remember it takes people to create a community. We want to hear from you— 746-3757.

Your president and vice president,

Don and Vickie Hale



Message from Police Chief Jerry Smith

As we approach the spring and summer months, outdoor events will provide opportunity for family fun and I would like to remind us that Willamalane provides weekly entertainment in Island Park. The weather also permits the opportunity for increased numbers of pedestrians, joggers and bicyclists so it is important that we give greater attention to the safety of all as we travel the streets in our community. I would like to begin again by expressing my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Citizens of Springfield for allowing the men and women of the police department to serve you. It is indeed a privilege and an honor that is not taken lightly by the members of the police department.

Your police department will be providing bicycle patrols to the downtown area as well as neighborhoods with specific problems that may be compatible for bicycle patrols. Those neighborhoods with specific issues are encouraged to contact Captain Richard Lewis who commands the Patrol Bureau to discuss the potential of using this service.

We have acquired the capability to conduct better crime mapping that could provide citizens (and police) a better definition of crime activities in any defined geographical area of the community. Neighborhood Watch Groups who are interested in what activities are occurring in their neighborhood could receive this information. Tana Steers is the best contact to request the information and she can seek the data from our staff person who has been trained to use the program.

Construction of the new Springfield Justice Center is on schedule with completion scheduled for November, 2008. The second phase will be to demolish the current police facility and construct the municipal jail on that site. The jail is scheduled for completion approximately 18 months following completion of the Police/Courts facility.

Completion of this project, in my judgment will go far to mitigating the capacity issues affecting Springfield and which has crippled the criminal justice system in all of Lane County as it relates to misdemeanor offenders. I am concerned with the financial condition of Lane County Government and the impact to the Criminal Justice System

in Lane County. While the completion of the Justice Center will remedy many of our local issues at the misdemeanor level, the Police Department remains impacted by a reduction in prosecutor services from the District Attorney for Felony offenses, the Circuit Court and Lane County Jail in those Felony cases and the Juvenile Department for all criminal issues associated with juvenile offenders. The loss of Federal financial assistance to Lane County is finding the Sheriff's Office (and jail), the District Attorney's Office and the Juvenile Department to project service reductions that are at best, extremely alarming.

This is an issue that all of us need to pay attention to and communicate our concerns, recommendations and input to County leadership, i.e., the County Commissioners. Approximately two weeks ago, one of the County Commissioners addressed the Springfield City Council and informed us that the Lane County Jail will be reduced to 15 beds for all local offenders in Lane County and that there are currently 8 persons awaiting trial in murder cases. These beds for local offenders are for both pre-trial and sentenced offenders. Your police department makes an average of between 22-25 arrests per day. Even if a third of the arrests are felonies, that's about 2,500 per year in which we are reliant on County services for prosecution and incarceration. When one considers the other agencies with the same dependency, Eugene, Cottage Grove, Florence, Junction City, State Police, etc., it is not difficult to recognize a serious problem. I would be enthusiastic about discussing this issue, the impact of a municipal jail on Springfield with anyone interested.

The lack of capacity to hold offenders at the Lane County Jail is critically compromising the other system components and is costing millions of dollars annually to us as taxpayers with no outcome changes. This is an important element to creating a safer community as well as holding offenders accountable for their behavior. To that extent, it is important for all citizens to be aware of the impact Lane County decisions will have on the lives of Springfield citizens.

The effectiveness of your police department is directly related to the quality of citizens within the community and their willingness to get involved. 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. Neighborhood watch is a great

example where individual citizens come together to help each other to make their neighborhoods safer and more enjoyable.

Wire thefts have surfaced as a serious problem and if one is building or remodeling, extra care should be exercised in protecting these assets. Thefts, computer crimes and fraud are serious problems in the region and I encourage extreme caution in protecting your identification, monitoring of your financial transactions and reporting of suspicious behavior.

The police department and other city departments are working with other governmental institutions to become better prepared for disasters, whether natural or man made. This year, the Officer assigned to Springfield High School worked with School administrators to develop a plan for better police response to the schools in concert with defined procedures for school staff. The outcome should afford greater protection to our children in schools.

The police department is preparing for the Olympic Trials in May of 2008. While the events will be conducted at the University of Oregon facilities, much of the housing of visitors will be in the Gateway area. The new Peace Health Medical Center is scheduled to open in August, 2008. A new hotel is under construction in the Gateway area. The dust has not settled on the issue of McKenzie Willamette Hospital's construction plans. The school district is planning for the construction of new elementary schools to replace aging facilities. Growth appears to be continuing at a rapid pace. But more importantly, the people who make up Springfield have continued to be strong in spirit and character. Yes, we certainly have reason for looking forward to the immediate future.

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

UPDATE ON JUSTICE CENTER- By Captain Harrison



Northwest view as of 3-14-08



Springfield Police Captain,
Richard Harrison



2nd floor—community meeting room, southeast corner



Neighborhood Watch/Volunteer Office, northeast corner

The Justice Center is coming along very well, with all projections still saying we are on schedule for a November 08 completion date for the Police Facility portion. As impressive as the progress has been on the building's exterior, the interior, hidden from view is just as remarkable. Wall board has gone up throughout much of the first floor and rooms are beginning to take shape. The results of long planning sessions and the work of many are beginning to materialize. Fourth street will soon undergo some needed repairs and updating, so you will be seeing the patrol fleet moving one block to the east, occupying portion of the Justice Courts' parking area. This will last about 2 weeks, and then return to "normal". As you may have heard, LUBA ruled in favor of the City in regards to the closure of B St. As a result of this, we have continued plans for its closure and the construction of the ancillary building and secure parking area. The actual building of these should begin shortly. All in all, the process is going very well and we are looking forward to the months ahead as we continue building our future.



SAVE THE DATE
NNO Kick-off
Sunday, July 27, 4pm-7pm
Island Park (north end)



National Night Out Kick-off plans are well underway. We have a major sponsor this year in Allegiant Air. They have donated roundtrip airfare for two to Las Vegas from Eugene. We are working on obtaining other donations from Vegas to put together with the airfare to make a nice get away package that will be sold at the auction at the kick-off.



Would your Neighborhood Watch group be interested in contributing to the auction? We are hoping that groups will consider putting together a themed basket such as "A night at the Movies", "Italian cooking", "fishing", "car care bucket", scrapbooking, pet lovers, children's games/toys, picnic basket, golfer's basket, BBQ, coffee/chocolate lovers, etc. If your group is interested, please contact Tana Steers at 726-3731 or tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us. To view a NNO flyer visit: www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html.



CATCH---CAUGHT IN THE ACT

Written by Faye Brabham



Remember last year in Island Park at the Neighborhood Watch Night Out kick-off? Of course you do. It is one of the most important days of the year! Remember the DJ who performed so admirably? Members of Neighborhood Watch will be "caught up" again in Jared Ritzer's fantastic production.

Jared was definitely born to perform. Born in Las Vegas in 1957, he is always and forever "on stage." Twenty years ago he formed the production company "CAUGHT IN THE ACT PRODUCTIONS." He now lives in Springfield and has three other people in his employ.

Jared is a most engaging man with a great sense of humor and a performers personality. He specializes in Karaoke and DJ events and he does these seven nights a week. He also professes to have done at least six hundred weddings in his time. Working children's parties are a favorite and also high on the list are Anniversaries and Birthdays. When planning parties and Jared is on the program, you can count on him to be prepared and on time. To make your next party more fun and have a lifetime of memories, call Jared at 461-8568 or 915-9957.



Neighborhood Watch General Membership Annual Meeting - Wed, April 16, 6:30p.m.

WHERE: Springfield City Hall, Library Meeting
Room, 225 5th St.

TOPIC: Child Abuse Prevention and
The status of police department

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Door prizes, Refreshments, & Elections

BOARD POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE:

If you are interested in serving on the Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors please contact Tana Steers (before the general meeting) at 726-3731 or tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us



Neighborhood Watch Signs in Need of Repair (or Replacement)?

About three years ago the Neighborhood Watch Board replaced several old and rusty Neighborhood signs. Either we didn't get them all or the last few years of rainy weather has deteriorated more signs. We are asking for your help in two ways:



1. If you are aware of any NW signs in your neighborhood (or anywhere in Springfield) please contact Tana Steers at 726-3731 or tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us and advise her of the specific location of the sign—to the nearest hundred block, i.e. 200 block of 4th St.

2. If you have tools and abilities and could help in sign replacement please contact Tana at 726-3731 or tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us.



RAPE AND FIGHTING BACK

By Crime Prevention and Personal Safety Specialist, Susan Bartelstone

I recently appeared on the Today Show in a great segment concerning rape and fighting back—prompted by an incident in Los Angeles where a young woman, walking to her car in an empty parking garage, was jumped by a concealed assailant and raped. The segment featured two re-creations of the rape scenario with a security specialist playing the part of the attacker and a young woman volunteer playing the rape victim.

The first re-creation was identical to the original incident. Prior to the second re-creation, however, a martial arts instructor gave the woman volunteer a self defense lesson which included simple strikes and kicks, advice to keep moving and the instruction to try to attract attention and assistance by yelling.

After her lesson, the volunteer victim was clearly able to deter the assault. I was proud to appear on this program and to offer additional information and tips on this subject.

FIGHTING BACK is not a magical solution to an attack, but if you have no other choice, it just might save your life. Before a situation occurs where you have to decide whether to fight or not, mull over the following. It might help you make your decision.

- Always consider a rape attack (or an assault) a life-threatening situation.
- Don't assume that if you cooperate with an attacker you won't be hurt or killed anyway—even if he tells you this.
- The physical trauma resulting from a rape can be devastating (including the possibility of getting pregnant or contracting AIDS or other STDs).
- The emotional trauma resulting from a rape can be equally severe and can last for years.

The Myths and Facts. Many people, women especially, have absorbed falsehoods about self defense that make them hesitant to even think about fighting back as a choice. Here are three common myths:

Myth: *Fighting back will just make an attacker madder. It's safer to submit than to try to defend yourself.*

Fact: Submitting to any crime, with or without resistance, is always a valid choice and a person should only act in a way that will enable them to survive.

When considering whether to fight an attacker or cooperate, however, it's hard to view fighting as a viable option if you don't know how to go about it. The myth that it's safer to submit is based on the assumption that you would lose the fight. This assumption is erroneous; there's no way to predict the outcome in advance. In fact, scientific studies have determined that you're **twice as likely to prevent a rape if you take forceful and immediate action!** The odds of success can only get better if you actually have some defensive instruction (i.e., a Self Defense or Personal Safety course).

Myth: *A person needs to be a martial arts expert in order to defeat an attacker. A few weeks of a Self Defense course isn't enough.*

Fact: For centuries people with no martial arts training at all have successfully fought off attackers—using only guts and the determination to survive. It's well known in my field that these factors can be even more important than years of training! The Self Defense approach to fighting is different from the martial arts approach and training is designed to be short-term (usually 4-6 weeks). Naturally, no one can expect to attain a high level of skill after only a few weeks; but the fact is, a high level of skill isn't necessary in the most common crime scenarios. Thousands of success stories from former self defense students attest to this.

TRAINING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Myth: *No matter what, I think I'd be too scared to fight someone. Besides, I'm (pick one) too old, too small, too weak, too out of shape to be effective in a fight (or to even take a Self Defense course).*

Fact: If you've never driven a car, you might be fearful of driving until you take some lessons and actually get behind the wheel. Similarly, taking a self defense/personal safety course is the quickest way to break through the false conditioning and mental barriers (I'm too old, too weak, etc.) that make you fearful of fighting. As opposed to martial arts, self defense courses are specifically designed for shorter, older, weaker people. Techniques focus on vulnerable areas of the body which can be hurt severely with minimal strength and don't require athletic ability or a fully-functioning body to be effective. They don't require years of practice to master either. A good course should also include skills for avoiding problems and defusing confrontations and techniques for finding your inner courage in a desperate situation so you can overcome the common reaction of freezing in panic. It should also provide a safe space for those folks who already have battle scars, so they can further their healing process.

Take at least one Self Defense or Personal Safety course a year.

Got a Personal Safety Concern? Ask Dear Safety Solutions at www.dearsafetysolutions.com .

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Upcoming Events

- April 3, (Thurs.) 6:30 p.m.—**Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Training**
Springfield City Hall, Library Meeting Room, 225 5th St.
Topics: Graffiti/First Female Police Officer in Oregon Status of the Police Dept,
Speakers: Mike Harman, Janell Mitchell, Chief Jerry Smith,
General public invited. Any questions contact Tana Steers at 727-3731.
- April 16 (Wed.) 6:30—**Neighborhood Watch Annual Membership Meeting and Training**
Springfield City Hall, Library Meeting Room, 225 5th St. **Refer to page 5 for details.**
- April 23-25 (W-F)— **Crime Prevention Association of Oregon (CPAO) annual Conference and Training**
Hoodriver Inn, Hood River, Oregon Refer to CPAO's web-site for more information :
www.oregoncrimeprevention.org .
- May 14 (Wed.) 6pm-7pm—**Neighborhood Watch Monthly Informational/Organizational Meeting**
Springfield Police Dept., 344 "A" St.
Topic: This meeting is designed for people who are interested in starting or reorganizing a Neighborhood Watch in their neighborhood—or for anyone who would just like to learn the basics of Neighborhood Watch and how it works here in Springfield.
Please RSVP to Tana Steers at 727-3731.
- May 14(Wed.) 7p.m.—**Neighborhood Watch Board Meeting**—members welcome Come help plan NNO Kick-off
Springfield Police Dept., 344 "A" St., Any questions contact Tana Steers at 727-3731.
- June 11(Wed.) 6pm-7pm—**Neighborhood Watch Monthly Informational/Organizational Meeting**
Springfield Police Dept., 344 "A" St.
Topic: This meeting is designed for people who are interested in starting or reorganizing a Neighborhood Watch in their neighborhood—or for anyone who would just like to learn the basics of Neighborhood Watch and how it works here in Springfield.
Please RSVP to Tana Steers at 727-3731.
- June 11 (Wed.) 7p.m.—**Neighborhood Watch Board Meeting**—members welcome
Springfield Police Dept., 344 "A" St., Any questions contact Tana Steers at 727-3731.
- June 14(Sat.) Noon-4 **State wide Police K9 competition** Location: Silke Field (10th & G)
for more info call 726-3714 or visit: www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html .
- July 27 (Sun.) 4-7pm—**National Night Out—Kick Off Party**
Island Park—North end
Come help give crime and drugs a going away party. Learn how to organize a National Night event in your neighborhood for the actual National Night out—which is always the first Tuesday in August.
This year it is set for Tuesday, Aug 5.
- Aug. 5(Tues) 5-9pm—**National Night Out- Your Neighborhood**
Come to the NNO Kick Off Party on July 27 or contact Tana Steers at 726-3731 to schedule a visit from the Police Chief and McGruff the Crime Dog and to obtain crime prevention materials and Door prizes. Visit [www. Natw.org](http://www.Natw.org) for more info about the national program. Visit the police department's website at [www. ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.htm](http://www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.htm) for info on the local program.

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

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Springfield Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors 2007-2008

Board:				Term ends
President:	Don Hale	746-3757	kellyblvd@comcast.net	3/10
Vice-Pres:	Vickie Hale	746-3757	kellyblvd@comcast.net	3/10
Secretary:	Carol Thelen	729-0399	carmalettatang@aol.com	3/10
Treasurer:	Charlene Miller	726-6412	ccjmillier@comcast.net	3/10
Board Members:				
	Ronald Snow	747-9160	snowr3@comcast.net	3/08
	Faye Brabham	746-8760	fayebrab@gmail.com	3/09
	Keith Brabham	746-8760	keithbrab@gmail.com	3/10
	Don Durland	744-1286	charleybonze@comcast.net	3/10
Police Liaison:	Tana Steers	726-3731	tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us	

Non-Emerg. Complaints/Records: 726-3714

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