



# Crimefighter

A Newsletter for Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Groups

April 2010

## Special points of interest:

- Neighborhood Watch Annual Membership Meeting - April 22, 6:30pm, Springfield Justice Center, 230 4th St.

For more info see page 5

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

## Message from Neighborhood Watch Board President and Vice-President

Faye Brabham and I survived our night in the jail. (Spend a Night in jail event— was open to the public and gave staff an opportunity to deal with real people without having to deal with actual inmates first). We were assigned to the “E pod” and shared a two person cement cell. When the doors clanged shut we were locked in for the night. I strongly recommend Faye’s article about the “slammer” on page 4 . Taxpayers do not have to worry that prisoners are pampered or fed extravagant meals. My one friend asked if I was going there to convert prisoners! We were strictly volunteers acting as inmates to give the jail staff practice before they let the actual inmates in the following week. After I was “Sprung” from jail next day, I so appreciated our comfortable bed, the pleasure of going outside and the freedom to come and go.

Once again, Spring is here. Although the nights are still close to freezing. Make it a safe Spring by cutting back shrubs so you can see out. Don’t forget to trim up as well. Many of us have had a hard winter and it never seems to stop. Our weather people keep telling us we need rain and more rain. When is enough, enough? I have been listening to “Walking in the Sunshine” sung by the late John Denver; and as Lily Tomlin used to say on “Laugh-In” “and that’s the truth !!!!!!!”

### Safety and Security Tips:

- \* When you are home if you have a garage use it.
- \* Baby monitors are great - you just put the baby monitor outside in a dry place in a five gallon bucket or plastic bag with the receiver you will hear if anyone is approaching your car or house.

If you or your neighborhood have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Tana at 726-3731 or Don or (me) Vickie Hale 746-3757. Thank you for all your volunteer work you do. You have great community spirit and we appreciate it.



## 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.

I am convinced that the effectiveness of your police department is directly related to the quality of citizens within the community and their willingness to get involved. Actions by citizens to come to the aid of your police officers serve as a frequent reminder of the quality of citizens in Springfield.

Neighborhood watch is but one example where individual citizens come together to help each other to make their neighborhoods safer and more enjoyable. 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 past year has been fiscally challenging to families, businesses, and local government as we all continue to struggle through rather difficult economic conditions. I am optimistic that history will repeat itself and we will extricate ourselves from the recession and economists are asserting that we have begun to recover. This is somewhat difficult to accept when we see friends and neighbors remaining unemployed.

There are some exciting things happening in the City of Springfield that I would like to share. First of all, this is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City of Springfield and some celebration events are scheduled for the summer months. The Police Department is hosting the annual Police K-9 competition on June 26<sup>th</sup> at Silke Field, Springfield High School. The price is right (FREE) and is an excellent opportunity to observe police k-9's from across the state in competition that is related to the duties they perform in actual service. Following the competition, children and adults will be offered the opportunity to pet the animals.

July 25<sup>th</sup> will present an opportunity for citizens to participate in National Night Out Kick-Off party at Island Park. May 15<sup>th</sup> is Springfield Spring Clean-up, an opportunity for citizens to rid themselves of old appliances, tires, furniture, lawn debris, etc. free

of charge at 17<sup>th</sup> and South A Street. City Employees volunteer their time to aid in this cleanup effort.

The Municipal Jail opened for business on January 29, 2010 and I am confident that we will realize positive outcomes as a product of this capability to hold offenders accountable. The opening of the jail was preceded by an opportunity for citizens to spend an "overnight stay" and have an up close and personal experience with the facility and the staff. The response was much greater than any of us anticipated with over 400 citizens applying to spend the night. Indeed, we had an 80% occupancy for the five nights we hosted the event. To those who participated, we are grateful as it provided an opportunity to exercise the facility and staff with real people that allowed us to experience a live exercise. Appreciation goes out to the citizens of the Springfield Police Academy Alumni Association who coordinated the event and volunteered to assist staff inside the facility during the evening.

I fully expect that real crime will be reduced as a product of operating a municipal jail. As I have stated many times during the past ten years, the lack of capacity at the Lane County Jail has crippled the Lane County Criminal Justice System. The Police and the Prosecutors are making arrest, lodging and charging decisions based on the availability or in reality the lack of availability of jail space. The court is making sentencing decisions on lack of space, not what is appropriate. Offenders are not being held accountable and the result is outrageous costs to us as taxpayers. The failure to appear in court is costing millions of dollars annually on wasted and redundant work demands when defendants ignore their court appearances.

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 departments 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 in serving the citizens of

Springfield.

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 success limited 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.

Summer will be upon us soon and you will notice officers on bicycles in some areas of Springfield. Should you have a particular problem issue in your neighborhood and believe that focused bicycle patrols may aid in resolving issues, please feel free to contact us and we'll discuss the potential of utilizing this tactic as a response.

We continue to partner with the Springfield School District in assigning an officer to each of the High Schools. This is a particularly valuable program for the Police Department as it provides an opportunity to provide a safer environment for our youth, an opportunity for youth to interact with police in a non adversarial atmosphere and relieves patrol officers from responding to the schools that occurred on a regular, frequent basis prior to the program's inception in 1999.

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 enjoy a pleasant and safe summer 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

A group of kids used one of their old rusted cars to snatch off a door to a shoe store. Wrapped chains around the bumper, then the door. Driver hit the gas, and bam, the door held fast, but the rusted bumper was pulled off the vehicle. Kids got scared, and left. When caught, the driver wanted to know how. Well you know the bumper you left at the scene., the license plate was still on it. He was dumbfounded.

Robber at a bank had no idea all cameras are on all the time. He thought they only took pictures of you if the teller hits the alarm. Well it was a busy day, and he waited in line going through the dividers turning left, and right. Just before he got to the window, he put his mask on. He could not believe they had several pictures of him head on, left, and right profile and so on.

It's always important to plan ahead. You never know when you might need to make a quick get-away and GPS coverage is spotty at best these days. Two burglars were jailed for their crimes after stopping to ask a Police Officer for directions. They had just got done with their caper when they stopped a police officer to ask for directions. They were arrested on the spot and confessed. It sounds like they would have been caught either way since they left their brains at the scene of the crime.

Phillip Williams was an unhappy consumer. So he stopped two Tampa, Florida, police officers, handed over his crack pipe, and asked if they wouldn't mind testing the crack cocaine that he'd bought earlier, just to make sure it was the real deal. Good news! It was. Bad news! They arrested him.

A 17-year-old suspected arsonist approached a car in Lambertville, Michigan, intending to siphon gas from it. What he forgot to do was ask permission from the detective sitting in the front seat.

## K9 Korner by Sgt. Charboneau



Officer Keetle and K9 Bronko received a report of EPD coming into the city chasing a motorcycle. He joined in the pursuit which eventually ended when the suspect jumped from the motorcycle and began running on foot. A Eugene officer began chasing the suspect so Bronko was not released. The suspect and officer rounded a corner and as Officer Keetle and Bronko caught up to them, they found the suspect fighting with the officer. Officer Keetle and Bronko both joined in the struggle and the suspect was eventually placed in handcuffs. At the hospital the suspect apologized for fighting. After treatment for dog bites he was transported to jail.

Officer Kendrick and K9 Cyrill responded to assist Officer Todd with a pursuit. The pursuit terminated at a residence as Officer Kendrick and Cyrill arrived on scene. The driver, a robbery suspect, was out of the car and appeared to be cooperating. However, he turned and ran into the residence before Cyrill could be deployed. Officer Kendrick and Cyrill ran to the back of the residence and observed the back door open. Cyrill picked up a track at the door and followed it for some distance leading Officer Kendrick to some berry bushes near the freeway. Officer Kendrick then observed the suspect attempting to crawl to the freeway side of the bushes. Cyrill was released and took the suspect into custody. At the hospital the suspect stated "30 seconds more and I would have made it across the freeway."

Officer DelCastillo and K9 Creck responded to assist OSP with a pursuit inside Springfield. They arrived just after the pursuit ended and the driver fled on foot. He was advised the Trooper was chasing the suspect and had just ran to the back of a house. Officer DelCastillo got Creck out of the car and began to run to the side of the house. He was surprised to see the suspect appear from the opposite side of the house running back towards the suspect vehicle. Officer DelCastillo and Creck challenged the suspect who immediately stopped, put his hands up and laid on the ground.

# A NIGHT IN THE SLAMMER - By Faye Brabham



On January 26<sup>th</sup> I became one of the “pod people.” Pod-- as seen in “Invasion of the Body Snatchers.” I ate in my pod, I socialized in my pod and I slept in my pod. As I started to write this article it was with my usual off beat sense of humor. Then I changed my mind. Going to jail is not funny! There is nothing funny about sleeping on a metal bunk that appears to the naked eye to be about two feet wide with a pillow the size of a postage stamp and a blanket with the weight of a piece of cheesecloth. My first thought was, who ever made it to the top bunk was going to suffer from what ever the medical term is for “fear of heights.” But, since my pod mate was suffering with a bad knee---up I went! Also, I must admit, being at the top did not make me feel superior to anyone. The truth is none of us want prisoners to be comfortable. Best they remember the pain and not want to return to the pod. The staff, including Captain Golden and Chief Smith were hospitable but firm. That is the way it should be. After all jail is a punishment for being or doing bad things so expect to be uncomfortable. However, the thing that will keep me on the straight and narrow is---- they don’t serve coffee.



**Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (SCPAAA) Bicycle Helmet Program**



**Please help children in our community obtain a bicycle helmet**

**The Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association** has purchased and provided bicycle helmets to children in Springfield. Please help them to continue to provide this service.

**For every \$5 donated, we can provide a bike helmet to a child in our community**

**Please make checks payable to SCPAAA (Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association)**

**Please send donation to:**  
 SCPAAA  
 230 Fourth St.  
 Springfield, OR 97477

This would qualify as a tax deductible donation  
 SCPAAA is a 501 c3 - No. 51-0637172

[www.springfieldcpaaa.org](http://www.springfieldcpaaa.org)

## Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association (SCPAAA) Bicycle Helmet Program

The SCPAAA Board has purchased and provided bicycle helmets to children in need of helmets in Springfield. They are hoping to continue to make these helmets available to children in need. The board is partnering with businesses to accept donations for helmets.

For every \$5 donated - they can buy a brand new, good quality helmet. Please see the flyer on their website at [www.springfieldcpaaa.org](http://www.springfieldcpaaa.org) for details. (Feel free to make copies of the flyer, post and or distribute).



**Springfield Neighborhood Watch  
Neighborhood Watch General Member-  
ship, Annual Meeting - This year com-  
bined with Springfield Citizen Police  
Academy Alumni Assoc. annual meeting  
Thursday, April 22, 6:30p.m.**

**WHERE:** Springfield Police Department, 230 Fourth St., Second Floor  
(corner of 4th & "B" Street)

**TOPIC:** Your Jail—A Great Prevention Tool!

**OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:**

Door prizes, Refreshments, & Elections

**BOARD POSITIONS ARE AVAILABLE:**

If you are interested in serving on the NW Board of Directors please contact Tana Steers (before the general meeting) at 541-726-3731 or [tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us](mailto:tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us)

## Central Lane 9-1-1 Implements Tool to Improve Call Efficiency (important info on how to call 911)



Central Lane 9-1-1 has a new tool to help improve call efficiency.

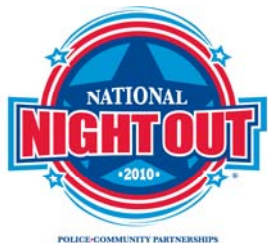
Over the past two years, Central Lane 9-1-1 found its response times had increased from three seconds to four because of decreased staffing and increased call volume. Most of the call volume, is attributed to cell phone use. Now, a new software filter installed by QWEST, called XMU, will help handle cell phone calls.

More than 60% of Central Lane's 9-1-1 calls come from cellular devices. XMU is being implemented to reduce accidental 9-1-1 calls. Essentially, it screens the call before the operator begins to answer. This will allow Central Lane to save time for legitimate emergency calls.

**Important! - Here is how the system will work (this only applies to cellular calls):**

When a **cellular** caller dials into 9-1-1, the call is routed to the 9-1-1 Center. The first thing the caller will hear is an extremely brief recorded voice message after which they must say "9-1-1" or press any key on their phone and at that time they are routed straight to a call taker. If the caller does nothing, a message is repeated in Spanish, and if there is no response, the message is repeated in English and then Spanish. If there is no response or selection after nine seconds, the call ends.

Call centers from the Portland Metropolitan area (Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties) have seen up to a 25 percent reduction in unintentional calls with this change.



SAVE THE DATE !  
National Night Out Kick-off  
Sunday, July 25, 2010, 4pm-7pm  
Island Park (north end)



## Fingerprinting Children—A Prevention Strategy or a Scam? By Tana Steers, Crime Prevention Specialist

Over the past year I have received inquiries from people who have signed up to receive a free fingerprint kit for their children only to find out that it was a business's way to get their foot in the door to make a sale. One of the main concerns is that the company giving out these free kits insists that they need to come to your house to give you the kit. The other concern is that in one situation the company representative kept the prints and advised that they would be kept in a national database in case they were needed.

Fingerprinting won't help to prevent abduction, or even keep a child from running away. However, fingerprinting a child will likely encourage dialogue between parents and the child about the issue of safety. The Springfield Police Department gives out free child fingerprint kits that you can do in your own home. The kit not only provides information on how to effectively take your child's prints but also gives you information on how to help keep your children safe and gives you a place to put identifying information about your child including a photo.

A person's fingerprints never change, and are one of the most valuable investigative tools available to law enforcement. In the unfortunate event of a missing child, fingerprints can be used to track the movements of the child and the abductor. During the crucial first moments after a child is discovered missing, parents are often too emotionally upset to remember details such as the child's height, weight, and blood type. Child identification kits condense this information into a compact booklet that can be simply handed to the first investigators on the scene.

You might also consider storing a viable DNA sample with your child's fingerprint kit. What makes a viable DNA sample:

1. Cheek swab ( 1st choice) (using a clean sterile swab inside the cheek collecting cheek cells which carry the DNA) use a sterile swab to take the saliva sample, you want to let it dry in a clean undisturbed location for at least an hour. Then you can cut the stick of the swab down short enough to fit into a small ziplock bag.
2. Blood (2nd choice) (when you remove a band-aid from a wound from your child, place dried band-aid in ziplock bag)
3. Hair strands (10 - 20 strands pulled from head with follicle still attached)
4. Skin sample
5. Finger or toe nail
6. Tooth (such as a baby tooth or one that was removed for dental reasons including root material.)

While fingerprinting is not considered a prevention strategy, a fingerprint/ID/DNA kit can be a valuable tool in the event of a missing, abducted or runaway child. We recommend that you obtain a fingerprint kit from your police agency (or possibly your Insurance Agent), take your child's prints, complete the kit with information on your child (including a DNA sample) and keep it in a safe, easy accessible location.

Do be wary of anyone promising a fingerprint kit that they need to deliver to your home or of anyone wanting to keep your child's fingerprints for any reason. If you have any questions contact Tana Steers at 541-726-3731.



## 2010 Census Warning

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist?

The Better Business Bureau offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a hand held device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. **Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census.**
- While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. **However, they will not contact you by email, so be on the lookout for email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit: <http://www.bbb.org>.**



### Jury Duty/I.D.Theft Scam

by Tana Steers, Crime Prevention Specialist

In 2005, Springfield Police Department received a report from an elderly lady who advised that she had been a victim of this Scam. At that time we warned Lane County residents to be wary of callers threatening people with arrest for missing jury duty unless they provide specific personal information. Unfortunately this scam is still being used so we thought this was a good time to refresh your memory.

This is a scam and it works this way: The caller identifies himself as a representative of a court jury office and tells the person he or she has missed a jury date and must make it up. The caller then asks for personal information such as address, Social Security

number and other specific information for "verification purposes." If the information is not provided, the caller tells you that a warrant will be issued for your arrest.

It's easy to see why this works. The victim is clearly caught off guard, and is understandably upset at the prospect of a warrant being issued for his or her arrest. So, the victim is much less likely to be vigilant about protecting their confidential information.

Lane County Courts will not call you if you miss Jury Duty. They will never ask you for your Social Security number – they do not need that information.

The following are tips to avoid being victimized:

- Be skeptical of callers who threaten arrest for missing jury duty.
- Do not comply with any request to "verify information" such as a Social Security number.
- Do not agree to send the caller any written information for review.
- Hang up! Do not be afraid to be rude, even if the caller attempts to play on fear of prosecution.
- Never give out bank, credit card or Social Security information over the phone.
- Screen calls. Let the answering machine pick up calls from unknown callers. Most telemarketers/scammers will not leave messages.

Springfield Neighborhood Watch  
230 Fourth Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Eugene, Oregon  
Permit No. 518

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Springfield Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors 2009-2010

Board:				Term ends
President:	Don Hale	746-3757	<a href="mailto:kellyblvd@comcast.net">kellyblvd@comcast.net</a>	3/10
Vice-Pres:	Vickie Hale	746-3757	<a href="mailto:kellyblvd@comcast.net">kellyblvd@comcast.net</a>	3/10
Secretary:	Carol Thelen	726-9185	<a href="mailto:carmalettatang@aol.com">carmalettatang@aol.com</a>	3/10
Treasurer:	Charlene Miller	726-6412	<a href="mailto:ccjmillier@comcast.net">ccjmillier@comcast.net</a>	3/10
Board Members:				
	Faye Brabham	746-8760	<a href="mailto:fayebrab@gmail.com">fayebrab@gmail.com</a>	3/12
	Keith Brabham	746-8760	<a href="mailto:keithbrab@gmail.com">keithbrab@gmail.com</a>	3/10
	Pat DeLeau	736-3127	<a href="mailto:johnedel@q.com">johnedel@q.com</a>	3/12
	John DeLeau	736-3127	<a href="mailto:johnedel@q.com">johnedel@q.com</a>	3/11
	Rege Shaw	741-2700	<a href="mailto:regeshaw@yahoo.com">regeshaw@yahoo.com</a>	3/11
Police Liaison:	Tana Steers	726-3731	<a href="mailto:tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us">tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us</a>	
Non-Emerg. Complaints/Records:		726-3714		Emergency: 911

To view public police logs: [www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html](http://www.ci.springfield.or.us/police/home.html)—click on public logs