



# Crimefighter

A Newsletter for Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Groups

July 2010

## Special points of interest: - Inserts:

- National Night Out Flyer
- National Night Out Kick-off  
—Free coupon for meal

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## National Night Out Kick-Off Event

Sunday  
July 25, 2010  
4:00pm – 7:00pm  
Island Park

## Tips for Hosting a National Night Out Event

Organizing a National Night Out get-together allows an opportunity for neighbors to get to know each other. By getting to know each other, neighbors build a rapport and concern for each other. If you know someone you are more likely to pick up on suspicious circumstances. If you get to know your neighbors—suspicious people and circumstances stand out more. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 3 from 5pm-9pm.

Some events that are easy to organize in a short amount of time are:

1. Ice Cream/Root beer float socials
2. Desert Potluck
3. Flashlight Walks

Other Events:

1. Block Parties
2. Barbeques/Potlucks
3. Parades
4. Progressive dinners
5. Contests/Talent shows
6. Safety Fair

Resources Available:

1. Crime Prevention Info Giveaways: pens, coloring books, stickers, etc.
2. Door Prizes—you can request neighbors to bring white elephants for door prizes or solicit local businesses for prizes.
3. Flyers/Door hangers
4. CD with NNO logos and other info

Resources and more information can be obtained at the National Night Out Kick-off event at Island Park on Sunday, July 25 from 4-7 or by contacting Tana at 726-3731.

You can also sign up to have McGruff and Police Chief Jerry Smith visit you NNO event on Tuesday, August 3 by visiting the Crime Prevention booth at the Kick-off event or by calling Tana at 726-3731

## Message from Police Chief Jerry Smith



The past year has continued to be 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. 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.

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. During the first three weeks of operation, the police department receipted over \$138,000 in bail from offenders (not inclusive of the court bail receipts). During the last six months of 2009, the police department receipted only \$137,000 in bail from offenders. Bail is important to ensure the appearance of criminal defendants. Our experience prior to the jail was a high percentage of defendants who failed to appear in court, translating to tremendous resource costs to the taxpayers for wasted and repeated resource commitments. Bail can also be used upon convictions to be converted to fines (which previously were often not paid). We are too early in the program to reach definitive conclusions, but it does appear that our projected outcomes will be realized.

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.

Beyond the reduction of crime, I expect that the municipal court will increase their recovery of court fines owed by defendants to the taxpayers. I also expect to generate some efficiencies in time and effort by not having to transport many offenders to the Lane County Jail, where we all recognize that release from custody is imminent.

The effect of operating a municipal jail will be felt in not only the reduction of crime, but the reduction of work load demands imposed on police staff. Because of this, the need to add police officers and support staff as the community continues to grow will be decreased. Staffing is the huge cost for operating the police department and to the extent we can control the growth of personnel, we will experience a corresponding savings of taxpayer dollars.

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. 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.

With recent fiscal reduction warnings issued by the Lane County Commissioners, I would continue to remind us all that it is even more 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.

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 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



Don Hale  
Neighborhood Watch  
Board President



Vickie Hale  
Neighborhood Watch  
Board Vice-President

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

We live in an old house. Is that why we love it? Home is where our heart is. When we are invaded we have choices: 1) We can scream 2) feel violated or 3) report it.

The broken window to their motor home on 8th Street in Springfield is ready to be replaced. Shirley and Jim are deciding "how to" beef up their security and motion sensors. Before this year they never knew in their Sentinel Neighborhood Watch group what it felt like to be broken into not once but three times. We are quick to tie the hands of the police but until we have been there we do not have a clue what it is to have our things violated.

Last year on 12th and B the local church's white van had a Nazi swastika painted on it. Gang insignias on fences and utility and telephone boxes appear.

Recently in the Washburne NW area John and Patti's neighbor's house was broken into while they were gone. In the Thurston area behind locked gates heavy equipment has been vandalized and late night motorcycles and partying disturb close neighbors.

We put up with what has always been not knowing how to change it afraid something is going to happen. We are guaranteed change in life. Now is the time to have community pride and stop complaining get involved. Recharge your neighborhood watches, start new ones, talk to each other, and find out what is happening around you.

Just because Spring only poked it's head out and gave us mostly liquid sunshine summer is soon to be here. We need you to be involved. NNO kickoff across the nation is Sunday July25,2010 at Island Park. Enjoy a fun family free day. Step up to the plate you will gain new friends and self respect. Dangerous or not life is to be lived. It takes a crisis sometimes to make us take a deep breath and look at things in a new way.

Remember to call the anonymous tip line: 541-726-3773

our number is 541-746-3757

Tana Steers is 541-726-3731 or [tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us](mailto:tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us)



# DUMB CRIMINAL STORIES

Thief gets a mouthful trying to siphon what he "thinks" is gas. Police got a call one morning from the owner of a motor home. The owner had been inside his motor home when he heard weird noises from outside. Apparently, a thief was trying to siphon gas from his vehicle. (Siphoning is when you transport liquid from one place to another, usually using a rubber hose.) You gotta suck on the hose to get the liquid moving, sometimes getting a mouthful. This thief sure got a mouthful - of sewage! He'd sucked from the wrong tank. Police found vomit on the ground beside a young man who was curled up in a ball. No charges were pressed cuz Dennis thought the dumb thief had suffered enough.

I was flagged down by a citizen whose vehicle had stalled at an intersection. If he would not have flagged me down, I would not have noticed his vehicle was stalled. He asked me to order a tow truck for him because his cell phone was not working. When asked for his name (Jonathan), he couldn't spell it correctly. And because he did not have any form of identification on him, I became a little suspicious. I asked him if I could look inside his vehicle, he joyfully said yes. When he stood up, he dropped a baggy containing 3 grams of cocaine from his lap. When I searched him, he had an additional 14.5 grams of rock cocaine, 5 grams of marijuana and 2 marijuana pipes in his shorts pocket. I eventually found out his real name was "Craig" and he had a felony and a misdemeanor warrant on file, hence the alias "Jonathan." Of course, I ordered the tow truck for him!

A local man is involved in a car accident. When the police arrive, the man gives his drivers license to the officer, and then literally turns and runs away. The officer doesn't give chase, but does check him through the computer. He has no warrants and is a valid driver. His car is also registered to him and everything is proper. The officer simply tows the man's car, drives over to his house and issues him a ticket



## K9 Korner By Sgt. Charboneau



Officer Keetle and K9 Bronko assisted officers in looking for three suspects who fled during a ped stop. Bronko was deployed in the area where they were last observed and quickly picked up fresh scent. He followed the scent for approximately 50 yards until he came to some berry bushes. Bronko began barking and then Officer Keetle observed a leg sticking out of the bushes. After making an announcement for the suspects to show themselves, the three surrendered and were taken into custody.

Officer Grice and K9 Fedo responded to a report of a car clouter who fled prior to SPD arriving. Upon their arrival, Fedo picked up the track where a citizen last observed the suspect. He followed it across a street, down another street and into a driveway. At the end of the driveway Fedo began barking in the area of two utility trailers. Officer Grice gave an announcement and the suspect emerged from under a trailer. The suspect was taken into custody and \$657 in property was recovered from a backpack.

Officer Kendrick and K9 Cyrill responded to assist in locating the passenger of a car involved in a pursuit. The passenger was wanted for Criminal Mischief and Trespass. Cyrill was taken to the last known location of the person and he quickly picked up the track. The track went through a back yard, over a fence and into an alley. At the end of the alley, Cyrill entered a back yard and tracked to bushes where the suspect was observed hiding. The suspect surrendered and was taken into custody.

## Caught in the Act at National Night Out



DJ Jared Ritzer with Springfield Police Representatives at National Night out Kick-off

What could be more appetizing than a summer day in the park listening to the sizzle of hot dogs on the grill? Come and listen to the sounds of laughter from the children who are playing games while all the time they are soaking up safety tips from Neighborhood Watch members. Island Park is where its all happening on July 25th as the annual National Night Out kick off gets underway. For the fourth year in a row, Jared Ritzer of "Caught in the Act" will perform as Master of Ceremony. Jared is a natural born performer with a penchant for selecting the perfect music for the event. For many years now he has been specializing in Karaoke and DJ events and he can do these seven nights a week. After presiding at well over six hundred weddings in his time, he now holds the title of Wedding Specialist. However, he still does anniversaries, birthdays and all kinds of parties. Neighborhood Watch is grateful to Jared for making this yearly event very special. To give a party with a lifetime of memories, call Jared at 541-461-8568 or 541-915-9957.

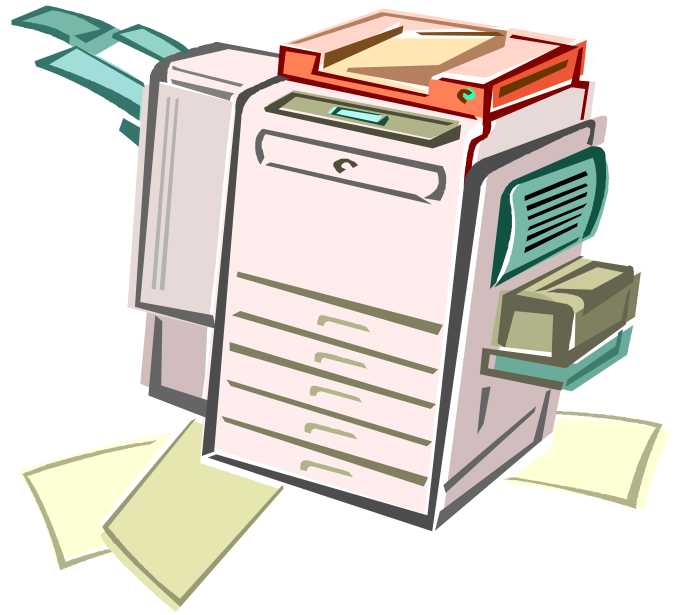


## Save the Date! Breakfast With Santa Saturday, December 11

The Springfield Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association is in the process of developing this community event. If you would like to help with the planning or would like to volunteer at the breakfast, please contact Barb Nichols at [nichols.ab@comcast.net](mailto:nichols.ab@comcast.net) or by phone at 541-912-8773 or Stacey Doll at [stacey-lee.doll@comcast.net](mailto:stacey-lee.doll@comcast.net) or by phone at 541-554-8188.

## Copy Machines, a Security Risk?

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the good, old-fashioned copy machine. But, as Armen Keteyian reports, advanced technology has opened a dangerous hole in data security. 60% of Americans don't know that copiers store images made in the machine on an internal hard drive. To see the report go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iC38D5am7go>




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## FireMed... A Great Community Partner for Your Safety & Security



**Save Money...**A ground ambulance transport in the Eugene-Springfield area will likely cost you more than \$1,800, and an air ambulance transport more than \$18,000, unless you have FireMed. If you have health insurance you may only have to pay 20-50% of that cost, more if you haven't met your deductible. FireMed members pay nothing, even if they have no insurance, and your membership covers your whole household.

**Save Lives...**People you love are alive, or better off, because of FireMed membership. If you don't use an ambulance, FireMed uses your money to improve ambulance service - for everyone. Maybe you someday.

### You Have A Choice...

-  FireMed Basic: Emergency Ground Ambulance Services, \$62/year for your entire household
-  FireMed Plus: Ground *plus* Emergency Air Ambulance Services, \$97/year for your household

### Firemed Protects you... 24/7

Nine advanced life support medic units stand by at local fire stations to help you. Top pilots, flight nurses, and flight paramedic stand by 24/7 at the Life Flight heliport in the Eugene Fire & EMS Emergency Services Center at 2nd and Chambers. This life saving service is available to everyone, but FireMed members who call 911 will get no bill.

For more information or to sign up call 541-726-3636 or visit: [www.firemed.org](http://www.firemed.org)

# National Night Out



National Night Out  
Kick-off Event  
Sunday, July 25,  
4-7pm, Island Park

National Night Out promotes police and community partnerships, crime and drug prevention awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. The Kick-off is designed to encourage participation in National Night out on Tuesday, August 3 in their own neighborhoods. They can celebrate by having block parties or other get togethers or by turning on porch lights, going outside and meeting neighbors. Neighborhood organizers can sign up at the kick-off to have Police Chief Jerry Smith and McGruff the Crime Dog visit their Neighborhood Event.

Springfield Neighborhood Watch members will find a coupon in this newsletter for a free hotdog meal. Children can obtain a free meal and carnival tickets by visiting community booths and completing a passport. Activities will include free games for children, public safety displays, police vehicles, a police K-9 demonstration, drug and other crime prevention information. Children will be given the opportunity to receive a two for one coupon from Slash by visiting several community booths.

## Silent Auction Fundraiser

A silent auction will be held at the National Night Out Kick-Off event to benefit Neighborhood Watch. To donate items for the silent auction, contact Neighborhood Watch Board President, Don Hale or Vice-President Vickie Hale at 746-3757, or Police liaison, Tana Steers at 726-3731 or [tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us](mailto:tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us) by July 18. If each Neighborhood Watch group contributed one item—we would have over 60 items!

## National Night Out Tuesday, August 3

Give Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party in your neighborhood! Organize a pot-luck, picnic, ice cream social or just a gathering of your neighbors. McGruff the Crime Dog and Springfield Police Chief, Jerry Smith, will be visiting various neighborhoods celebrating National Night Out. They will bring door prizes for the groups and goody bags for the children. To schedule a visit, call Tana Steers at 726-3731. Please let us know if you are organizing a National Night Out event. We would like to know how many neighborhoods are participating. We also have door hanger flyers you can use to promote your event.

## The Sean Wilson Good Neighbor Award

In conjunction with the National Night Out Kick Off event, the Good Neighbor Award was developed six years ago. Two years ago the Neighborhood Watch Board renamed the award "the Sean Wilson Good Neighbor Award".

Sean Wilson was a very active member of Neighborhood Watch and served on the Board in many capacities including President.

At the Kick Off event on July 25, we will recognize a few good neighbors. The award winners will exemplify Neighborhood Watch concepts and goals. The goals and concepts which Sean embodied. If you have anyone in mind to nominate as the Sean Wilson Good Neighbor, please contact Tana at 726-3731 or fax to 726-3640 or e-mail [tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us](mailto:tsteers@ci.springfield.or.us). The nominee could be an individual or a business. Be sure to include your name and phone number, the nominee's name and phone number and the reasons you believe they should be acknowledged.

Springfield Neighborhood Watch  
230 Fourth Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Springfield Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors 2010-2011

Board:				Term ends
President:	Don Hale	746-3757	<a href="mailto:kellyblvd@comcast.net">kellyblvd@comcast.net</a>	3/13
Vice-Pres:	Vickie Hale	746-3757	<a href="mailto:kellyblvd@comcast.net">kellyblvd@comcast.net</a>	3/13
Secretary:	Carol Thelen	726-9185	<a href="mailto:carmalettatang@aol.com">carmalettatang@aol.com</a>	3/13
Treasurer:	Charlene Miller	726-6412	<a href="mailto:ccjmillier@comcast.net">ccjmillier@comcast.net</a>	3/13
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>	3/13
	Pat DeLeau	736-3127	<a href="mailto:pamd@comcast.net">pamd@comcast.net</a>	3/12
	John DeLeau	736-3127	<a href="mailto:johndel@comcast.net">johndel@comcast.net</a>	3/11
	Rege Shaw	741-2227	<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