



Crimefighter

A Newsletter for Springfield's Neighborhood Watch Groups

April 2012

Special points of interest:

- *Updating Springfield Neighborhood Watch*
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

We are excited about the way the Neighborhood Watch Program is going. The updates are almost completed and the Police Department is working with us to re-energize and re-establish the program.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 19 at the Police Department at 6:30pm—the topic will be “How to Spot a Scam”. The meeting will also give you, the member, the opportunity to give input on your program.

National Night Out Kick-Off is an annual event that helps us get drug abuse and general crime prevention out to our community. It also allows us the opportunity to showcase our Neighborhood Watch program and to recruit new members. The main purpose of the Kick-Off is to encourage people to go back to their individual neighborhoods and get to know their neighbors and to spread the Drug Abuse and Crime Prevention information even further. The actual National Night Out date is always the first Tuesday of August. This year it falls on August 7 and we will be partnering with Willamalane. For the Kick-Off we will be part of their Summer-Fair event on Sunday, July 22 from Noon—4pm. National Night Out in Your Neighborhood will be held in Willamalane parks throughout the city (refer to list on page 7) on Tuesday August 7, from 6-8p.m.

Thank you for your continued involvement in this vital program.

Sincerely,

Don & Vickie Hale



Message from Police Chief Jerry Smith

Neighborhood watch is the best example where individual citizens come together to help each other to make their neighborhoods safer and more enjoyable. 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. Your police department is a tool of the community and will achieve only that level of success to which the citizens are willing to be involved. Indeed, there is a direct correlation between the success of your police department and the level of involvement and support of the community served.

Your police department enjoys tremendous assistance from citizens on a frequent basis and it is important to continue the relationship that fosters the unique partnership we enjoy. Almost daily actions by citizens to come to the aid of your police officers serve as a frequent reminder of the quality of citizens in Springfield. We encourage each citizen to call the police department when they observe suspicious activity. Remembering that your police department is a tool of the community to help make the neighborhoods a safer environment for all.

It is 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 and encourage 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.

The Municipal Jail continues to perform as predicted and expected and I am confident that we will continue realize positive outcomes as a product of this capability to hold offenders accountable. Bail from offenders continues to remain at all time highs. Bail is important to ensure the appearance of criminal defendants. Bail can also be used upon convictions to be converted to fines (which previously were often not paid).

We have increased efficiencies in time and effort by not having to transport as many offenders to the Lane County Jail, where we all recognize that release from custody is imminent. Property crimes have been reduced by 9.3% in 2011 from 2010. Failure to appear by defendants in Municipal Court have been significantly reduced. As I have stated in previous letters, the Failure to Appear by Defendants is a huge cost issue and produces no accountability.

Efficiently operating a municipal jail will produce positive results by 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 significantly 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.

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 with the reported shortfall of revenue at Lane County. The news accounts of the proposed reductions at the County Level will have negative impacts to police departments throughout the County as well as the Circuit Courts which we rely upon to prosecute felonies. 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 had a direct negative impact to outcomes for the Springfield Police Department and the accounts from Lane County authorities hold no promise of improvement.

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 available to meet with any group of citizens, Neighborhood Watch or any formal or informal gathering to discuss the activities of the Police Department, concerns about neighborhood issues or merely a general conversation about the "state of your Police Department." 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. You have my commitment to continuing to provide the very best possible service possible.

Jerry D. Smith
Chief of Police



Dumb Criminal Stories

On Dec. 5, a police officer said he saw a man drop a box of candy in a store parking lot in Eagan. But when the officer called out to alert him, he did not respond and the officer then noticed he was walking strangely. The officer drove up to him and honked his horn to get his attention, but he still did not respond. The officer got out of his car to confront him, he then reached into his pants, prompting the officer to handcuff him. After he was handcuffed, the officer noticed a large rectangular object in his pants, which turned out to be a 19-inch, flat-screen television. The officer also found other items, including a remote control, power cords and a bottle of brake fluid, on him.

A drug dealer, attempting to sell drugs, sent these text messages to a potential buyer: "Roxy twenties fifteen and hey buddy just wonderin if you needed any fortys." Those terms are street slang for oycodone and other prescription drugs. The recipient was definitely interested. She was a deputy prosecutor. They arrested the guy. He was charged with dealing in a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and public intoxication.

A guy in Great Falls, Montana had three outstanding warrants for his arrest. When he was stopped by the police for a traffic violation, he gave them a false name. The police ran a check and discovered that there was also a warrant out for the man with the false name. So the arrested the driver. In doing a search, they discovered half a gram of methamphetamine in his pocket and charged him with criminal possession of a dangerous drug. During his arrest, he gave his real name, so they also charged him with issuing a false report to law enforcement.

K9 Korner

by Sgt. Charboneau



Officer Kendrick and K9 Tjenco responded to a hit & run accident on Hwy 126 where the driver of one of the vehicles fled on foot. The driver's identity was discovered and she was found to also have a warrant for her arrest. Tjenco quickly picked up the track and followed it off the freeway and into an industrial area. The track eventually led to a pick-up parked in front of a business where the female was located hiding inside. She was taken into custody without incident.

Officer Keetle and Bronko responded to Eugene to assist with locating a suspect in a home invasion robbery where one of the suspects was killed. Since everyone knows about this it may be a good time to say this case is an example of why those of us in K9 will always say K9 was the best assignment of our career. Officer Keetle and Bronko have spent thousands of hours together at work. Included in that time is training in obedience, tracking, searching and bite control. When it all comes together on a big case, there is nothing that feels as good in our professional lives. At 9 years old, Bronko doesn't have that much longer to work the street but Officer Keetle will have those memories of success forever.

This past week was unique in that two handlers, Officer Keetle and Officer Kendrick, both testified in Circuit Court about a track with their dog where the suspect was located. One case was a homicide and one was an armed robbery. Although our dogs find many people using their olfactory system, most arrestees do not contest it in court. When they do, it allows the K9 officers the opportunity to educate the attorneys, judge and jury about the amazing ability of our dogs when they utilize their sense of smell.

Retired Lt. Jim Callahan passed away recently. His family requested any donations be made in his memory to the K9 Unit. Lt. Callahan was always supportive of us and we appreciate their thoughts.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

How can we make it work better for you?

Neighborhood Watch has been proven to reduce criminal activity. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is 30 years old this Year! It is still around because it is effective. However, when things are going well we tend to forget about the program. It is important for NW to be proactive and not just come to life when there are problems.

We are trying to update and revitalize the program. The newest benefit that we have implemented is the monthly Police Calls for Service Reports - specific to individual neighborhoods. These reports give you the hundred block of the street the police were called to and why. It also gives you the disposition for the call what the police did - such as give a citation, make an arrest, etc. If you have an email address you should be receiving the reports.

We have also sent out Alerts and Advisories via email. Advisories are usually general information about missing people or suspect descriptions that is important for us to get out to everyone so there are more eyes helping us look for specific people.

Alerts are generally specific to a certain area and might be sent out to one or a few Neighborhood Watch Groups that are in the general vicinity of the missing or possibly wanted person. This information is generally followed up by phone calls that advise to check your email for details.

If you are not receiving these reports, advisories - or if you did not receive this newsletter via email - we do not have your email address - or do not have it correct. If you would like to receive the monthly reports, advisories and alerts via email please contact Tana at 541-726-3731 or tsteers@springfield-or.gov. Unfortunately we are unable to send out the monthly reports via regular mail but we will continue to send the newsletter out via regular mail to those without email addresses (at least for a while). The monthly reports are generated through a mapping system connected to the map shown on page 5

With the recent updates to the NW program a lot of you probably received a phone call from us trying to update our files. Some people move out of the neighborhood and we don't usually find out until we make these calls. We are also trying to obtain email addresses so that we can send out the monthly reports, alerts and advisories and the newsletter.



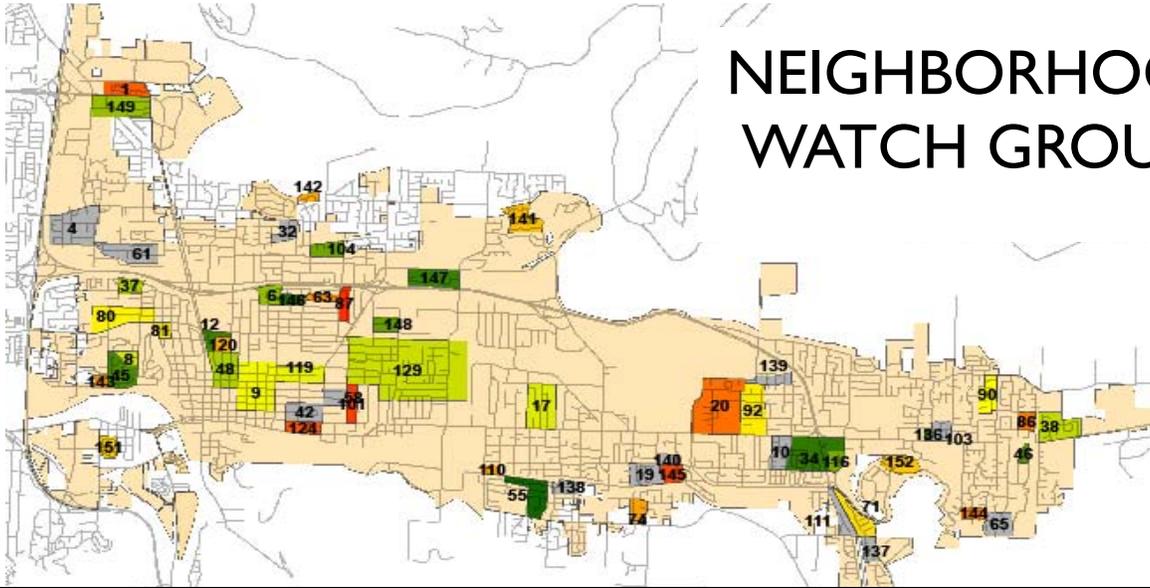
At one point we were sending out over 1500 newsletters via regular mail. We are currently down to sending out about 500 via regular mail and the rest through email. That has saved us a substantial amount of money. We realize the reluctance to give out email addresses but communication is a big part of NW, and email makes it easier for us. We do not give out the email addresses and when we do send out emails—we send it out blind copy so others do not see the addresses. However the email addresses are included in the membership report that goes to your area coordinator. If you do not want your email address to go out to other members in your group, just advise your coordinator.

Some other items we are working on is a computer application where people can go on our website and sign up on the website to join a NW group.

We are also working on providing ongoing training opportunities for Neighborhood Watch members to be held at the Police Department. We will be starting that off at the annual meeting to be held on April 19 at 6:30 p.m. with a short class on new scams that our detectives are seeing. Please let us know if there are specific topics you would like to see covered. We will probably come off with a brief survey with training topics and will send it out via email—and have it available at the annual meeting.

Please let us know how we can better serve you. Are there other resources or programs that the NW board or the police department can provide? Please let us know via phone at 541-726-3731 or email at tsteers@springfield-or.gov or attend a board meeting generally held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm at the Police Department .

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS



Parents' Guide to Social Networking Websites

From National Crime Prevention Association

You've probably heard the names – [MySpace.com](#), [Facebook.com](#), [Xanga.com](#). These are some of the top social networking websites, that have become an online craze for teens and for many adults. You've probably also heard some stories about how pedophiles are surfing these pages for their next targets, or how teens are having their identities stolen after posting too much information online. The good news is that young people can protect themselves and their personal information easily, if they know how.

Social networking websites may seem high-tech, especially to the non-tech savvy user, but they're easy to use and to understand. They differ from traditional websites in that they allow users to interact with them and with other users. Many of the popular social networking websites let users create personal profiles, add photos, write in a public journal or blog, send messages to others, and invite people to become their online friend – all with just a few clicks of the mouse.

None of this technology is inherently dangerous, and if it's safely used it can be a great creative outlet for young people and a way to get them excited about technology. However, many young people are sharing too much information online and aren't aware that anyone with an Internet connection can view it - even pedophiles, employers, teachers, their school nemesis, and you. As a parent, you can teach your children how to safely use social networking websites and make sure that they do. Below are some ways that you can protect your children and their personal information online.

Talk to your kids about the risks. Explain that online information and images can live forever. It can be very hard and sometimes impossible to take down information that is posted, and photos and information may already have been copied and posted elsewhere.

Tell your children not to post any identifying information online. This includes their cell phone number, address, hometown, school name, and anything else that a stranger could use to locate them.

Explain that anyone in the world can access what they post online. Tell your children that some college admissions boards and employers are checking social networking sites before they admit students or hire people. Remind your children never to give out their passwords to anyone but you – not even their friends. Explain that if someone has their password, they could post embarrassing and unsafe information about them on their personal pages and even pose as your children to talk to other people.





Springfield Neighborhood Watch General Membership Annual Meeting

combined with Springfield
Citizen Police Academy
Alumni Annual Meeting

WHEN:

Thursday, April 19, 6:30p.m.

WHERE:

Springfield Police Department,
230 Fourth St., 2nd Floor
(corner of 4th & "B" Street)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Brief presentation on current Scams, Volunteer Opportunities,
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 541-726-3731 or
tsteers@springfield-or.gov

Save the Dates for National Night Out July 22 - Kick-off, Aug. 7 - in your Neighborhood



National Night Out Kick-Off Event

This year a part of Willamalane's
Summer Fair—Island Park

Sunday, July 22 Noon - 4p.m.

Lots of fun activities for the whole family!

Including a Silent Auction & Raffles to Benefit Springfield Neighborhood Watch



- * Police/Fire Vehicle Displays
- * Police K9 Demo
- * Safety Information Booths
- * Presentation of the Sean Wilson Good Neighbor Award
- * Goody Bags for Children
- * McGruff the Crime Dog

**FREE ENTRY! PRIZES! MOST ACTIVITIES
FREE! SAFETY INFORMATION!
CARNIVAL GAMES! INFLATABLES!**

National Night Out in Your Neighborhood - Tues, Aug 7

Goody bags for kids, door prizes for adults, fun and refreshments for everyone. Meet your neighbors and greet Police Chief Jerry Smith, McGruff the Crime Dog, and Police K-9 units. Help give crime and drugs a going-away party. For more information call 541-726-3731.



Springfield
Neighborhood
Watch

Tues, August 7, 6p.m. - 8p.m.

Guy Lee Park	Tyson Park
Meadow Park	Bluebell Park
Willamalane	Thurston Park



Springfield Neighborhood Watch
230 Fourth Street
Springfield, OR 97477

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Springfield Neighborhood Watch Board of Directors 2011-2012

Board:				Term ends
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Treasurer:	Charlene Miller		ccjmillier@comcast.net	3/13
Board Members:				
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	Pat DeLeau			3/12
	John DeLeau		johnedel@comcast.net	3/14
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	Rege Shaw		regeshaw@yahoo.com	3/14
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Non-Emerg. Complaints/Records:		726-3714		Emergency: 911
To view public police logs: www.springfield-or.gov/police/home.html —click on public logs				