

PORCH LIGHT

CRIME
PREVENTION
NEWSLETTER

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Russ Isham, Sheriff

PORCH LIGHT

CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER
June • 2009

EMERGENCY
9•1•1

NON-EMERGENCY
503.588.5032

DRUG ACTIVITY TIP LINE
503.588.5112

GRAFFITI HOTLINE
503.566.6955

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
503.588.7981

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
503.589.3250

WEBSITE
www.co.marion.or.us/so



Host a Going-Away Party for Crime & Drugs

We cordially invite you to be a part of our NIGHT OUT 2009 Team. It's America's Night Out Against Crime! Tuesday, August 4, 2009, will be the 26th Annual National Night Out, a unique crime/drug prevention event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. Over 37 million people across the nation participated in National Night Out 2008. It is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit & law enforcement/community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



It is not too early to start planning; everyone can help!

- Plan a block party. Contact County Public Works to schedule a street closure.
- Have a cook-out. Organize a parade; include pets & children on bicycles.
- Have a flashlight walk. Plan youth activities.

Contact the Crime Prevention Unit of the Marion County Sheriff's Office to request a visit from one of their representatives. You may submit your request by phone at 503.588.7981, or by email: crimeprevention@co.marion.or.us

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- Is your group in need of a refresher course?
- Would you like to schedule a visit from our Crime Prevention Deputy at your next meeting?
- Does your group have any special concerns that you would like addressed?
- Are any new members in need of window stickers?
- Are you aware of any other residents who would like to start a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?



CALL 503.588.7981

PORCH LIGHT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *PORCH LIGHT*, the Crime Prevention Newsletter of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. To be published quarterly, it will be used as a tool to keep connected with our dedicated NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH members and to disseminate valuable crime prevention information, as well as the occasional human interest story, (or in the case of this issue, *bird interest*.) We hope you find the information of value. Comments may be sent to jpaul@co.marion.or.us.

TRIVIA•TRIVIA•TRIVIA•TRIVIA

Q: What is the most effective yet least costly step homeowners can take to help protect their home from intruders?

A: Keep the **PORCH LIGHT** turned on from dusk until dawn. A low wattage bulb costs less than \$2.00 per month but provides a substantial deterrence to those seeking to cause mischief.

A Message from Sheriff Russ Isham

Summer is upon us, so are our plans for vacations, special events, and hot weather. While each of these means something different to all of us, it can mean opportunity for many thieves. Hotter weather means we usually leave windows and doors open to allow for a cooler house. Make sure you put a stick in your window when sleeping to only allow your window to open about 4 inches. Close and lock all doors and windows prior to leaving for work the next day. Thieves have ladders too, so take these precautions even on second story windows.

When leaving on vacation, follow these tips to help keep your home safe while you are away: Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail. Stop delivery of your newspaper. Nothing says you are on vacation like a stack of rolled up newspapers in your driveway. Add a television or radio on a timer to give the appearance you are home. The same should be done with a few lights around your home. Close curtains so thieves cannot see you are gone.

"...the more you get to know your neighbors, the better you will be at recognizing suspicious or criminal activity."

Ask your neighbor to park their car in your driveway while you are gone.

One more tip - keep your porch light on from dusk until dawn. With a low wattage bulb, the cost is less than \$2.00 per month, and it is a great deterrent to criminals looking for a dark place to cause mischief.

It is not too early to begin your preparations for *National Night Out*, Tuesday, August 4th. Get your neighbors together and organize a block party, have an ice cream social or other special event. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our commitment to preventing crime. Remember, the more you get to know your neighbors, the better you will be at recognizing suspicious or criminal activity. Call the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit to start your Neighborhood Watch Group and get started on keeping your neighborhood safe.

Have a great, *safe* summer,
Russ

NICB Offers a *Layered Approach* to Preventing Auto Theft Western States Auto Theft Investigators

Vehicle theft is a major concern of citizens and insurance carriers, alike. The National Insurance Crime Bureau recommends a layered approach to vehicle theft protection. The *common sense approach* to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart would-be thieves: **SECURE YOUR VEHICLE EVEN IF PARKED FOR BRIEF PERIODS. You should always remove your keys from the ignition, lock your doors, close your windows, and park in a well-lit area.**

The second layer of protection is a visible or audible device which alerts thieves that your vehicle is protected. Popular second layer devices include audible alarms, steering column collars, steering wheel/brake pedal locks, as well as brake and wheel locks. Tire locks/tire deflators, theft deterrent decals and identification markers in or on the vehicle, as well as VIN etching and micro dot marking are also included in the second layer of protection.

The third layer of protection is a device which prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle. Some electronic devices have computer chips in ignition keys. Other devices inhibit the flow of electricity or fuel to the engine until a hidden switch or button is activated. Popular third layer devices include smart keys, fuse cut-offs, kill switches, starter, ignition, and fuel pump disablers and wireless ignition authentication.

The final layer of protection is a tracking device which emits a signal to police or a monitoring station when the vehicle is stolen. Tracking devices are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles. In 2007, Marion County Sheriff's deputies responded to 467 stolen vehicle reports; 68% of these were recovered. 2008 saw almost a 20% decrease with 376 reported stolen vehicles, but also a decrease of 56% in recovery.



Boating Safety at Detroit Lake

As the weather heats up, **Marion County Sheriff's Office Volunteers** conduct boat inspections at Detroit Lake. This frees up the patrol deputies, so they can focus their efforts on the water. Inspections are performed at Mongold boat ramp, both Kane's and Detroit Marinas and the State Park. This dedicated group of trained volunteers are not law enforcement officers and cannot issue citations. Their role is to advise boaters of any missing safety requirements to hopefully head-off a citation if stopped on the water by a patrol deputy. Boaters who pass the inspection are issued a compliance sticker that is good for one year. Volunteers will be on duty each weekend during the summer, and on all holidays. **For additional information about opportunities available and joining the Volunteer Team, please call Coordinator, Doc Nelson: 503.589.3250.**



Peahen Calls Sheriff's Office Home

There are many circumstances that Sheriff Isham could anticipate having to deal with in his position as Marion County Sheriff, hosting a female peacock was *not* one of them. But there she was, in early April, seemingly content to be living in the courtyard off of his office. He affectionately named her *Cynthia*.

News of this exotic visitor brought both local and national media attention but no one came forward to claim her. Sheriff Isham suspected she had been abandoned to fend for herself. A more suitable home had to be found for her. Both the Humane Society and the State's Fish and Wildlife Department had no jurisdiction over exotic animals.

Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center offered her a temporary home. Only temporary, because their purpose is to rescue and rehabilitate injured or orphaned wildlife and release them back into their natural habitat. Cynthia's fate stalled amid *exotic, jurisdictions, injured, orphaned, natural* and *released into the wild*.

Joining the US Navy was a promising final home for her at the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where peacocks have resided since the 1900's. They were very excited about having another peahen, as most of their birds are male. Funds would have to be raised to fly her to California. Unfortunate for the US Navy, Cynthia demanded immediate placement. This was peacock mating season. Cynthia was not eating at Turtle Ridge and wanted out of her cage. Her caretakers were concerned for her well-being. Local Turner residents came to her rescue. They already had a



Cynthia, finds refuge in the courtyard of Sheriff's Isham's office.

peacock living with them on their acreage and welcomed the female peahen. We are happy to report that Cynthia has settled in and is thriving at her adoptive home. She is eating again, and seems very content.

She flies up into a big oak tree at night, sleeping on the lower branches while her companion sleeps higher up in the same tree. For now, she's playing a little *hard-to-get*, but we're hoping for pea-babies in the future.



Cynthia, ignoring her new companion's overtures, *for now*.