

**MARION COUNTY
SHERIFF'S
OFFICE**
Jason Myers, Acting Sheriff

PORCH LIGHT
CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER
September • 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



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT *Brings Out the Dogs at Santana Park*

Marion County Sheriff's Office treated the residents living around Southeast Salem's Santana Park to a National Night Out party! 150 residents attended the annual anti-crime celebration on August 4th.



A hot dog dinner was served while *McGruff*, the Crime-fighting dog greeted the children. Deputy Jeff Stutrud and his K-9, *Garry*, amazed guests with a demonstration of *Garry's* skill and obedience. A close-up view of the vehicle technology at the disposal of our deputies was on hand with Deputy Curt Henckel's *talking* Traffic Team Mustang. This vehicle is set up with exterior speakers that allow the broadcasting of informational messages. We should not have been surprised by the "Star Wars Theme," blaring from the vehicle.

Marion County Fire Department added to the evening with the arrival of a fire engine, upon which the children were permitted to play. TARGET partnered with the Sheriff's Office for the event, providing support as well as various safety-related favors for the children. Additional contributions from Food-4-Less, Pepsi and Withnell Dodge helped to make this party a success.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH groups across the country provide the basis for the majority of NATIONAL NIGHT OUT celebrations. Representatives from all the Divisions of the Marion County Sheriff's Office, spanned out across the county, visiting numerous block parties and delivering the Marion County Sheriff's anti-crime message.

For NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH information contact the Crime Prevention Unit at: 503.588.7981.



Deputy Chris Bangs visits NNO in Donald . . . and recruits a future SWAT officer.

A Message from Acting Sheriff Jason Myers

With the recent events in our office culminating in the resignation of the Sheriff, I find it necessary to convey to the citizens of Marion County, the strength of this Office. The safety of the citizens of Marion County is in very capable hands. I have been designated *Acting Sheriff* while the Marion County Board of Commissioners determine the process by which a new sheriff will be appointed. I bring over 19 years of law enforcement experience to this position of Acting Sheriff.



Beginning my career as a cadet, I have risen through the ranks, from deputy sheriff to sergeant, to lieutenant, to commander, and finally appointed undersheriff. I have garnered a wide range of experience over the years, from investigative to executive. That executive experience has afforded me opportunities that range from developing policies and procedures, managing the Sheriff's Office \$50 million budget, assisting in crafting our long term Strategic Plan, and negotiating union contracts. Most importantly, my affiliation with this office has allowed me to work with some of the most dedicated law enforcement professionals in public service, today. I support this Office. I stand by its mission. I am dedicated to the safety of the citizens of Marion County.

I have asked Commander Troy Clausen to assist me by assuming the position of Acting Undersheriff. Troy has been with our Office for 12 Years, beginning his law enforcement

career by serving the citizen of Independence. He comes to this assignment from his current position of Commander of our Enforcement Division. He has previously served as Commander of Parole & Probation. Acting Undersheriff Clausen shares my commitment to the mission of this Office. I know he will serve the people of Marion County with the integrity and respect they deserve.

This office was faced with a challenge that tested our honest, integrity and accountability. I am proud to say, "We passed the test." Our command staff and personnel will uphold our mission, vision, and core values, no matter the difficulty presented to us. Our office is dedicated to providing the highest level of public safety services, in partnership with our communities.

Acting Sheriff Jason Myers

Combat Auto Theft Program is Up and Running

Auto theft is a problem that exists in every major city in the United States and is certainly not uncommon in smaller communities. Impacts on auto theft victims are many including expenses related to vehicle replacement, inconvenience, and insurance costs. Combating auto theft has become crucial.

Willamette Valley law enforcement agencies, including the Marion County Sheriff's Office, have partnered together to offer a program designed to reduce the number of auto thefts in our area. It is called *Combat Auto Theft*, or **CAT**.



Through **voluntary registration**, owners may enroll one or all of their motorized vehicles. For a \$2.00 fee per vehicle, your information will be registered into a law enforcement database as a CAT participant. You will receive a decal which you will affix to the rear window of your vehicle. The decal signals any law enforcement officer in Marion or Polk County that you have authorized them to stop your vehicle between the hours of 1:00am and 5:00am, to determine if you or an authorized designee are driving it.

Why only during those hours? Auto theft occurs at all hours of the day and night, but current statistics for our area show an increased frequency during this time period. Remember, by enrolling you are indicating that the vehicle is owned by someone *unlikely* to be driving between the hours of 1:00am and 5:00am, and therefore the vehicle may have been stolen. **Participation in this program is strictly voluntary.** If an officer stops your vehicle, then we are working together to defeat auto theft in the Willamette Valley.

The Salem Police Department has agreed to enter and maintain registrant information for all the partnering agencies. To enroll your vehicle(s) in the CAT Program and obtain your CAT decal, visit the Salem Police Department website for your COMBAT AUTO THEFT REGISTRATION FORM:

<http://www.cityofsalem.net/Departments/Police/CrimePrevention/Pages/CAT-CombatAutoTheft.aspx>

Back to School Safety Message

Commander Kevin Schultz

Summer is behind us and excitement builds for the start of the new school year. **Prepare your children with these safety guidelines:**

- Have a conversation about **strangers**. Give instructions to your child as to how to handle such a situation, should someone approach them.
- When labeling clothing and backpacks, be sure **not** to place their name in plain view. This permits an abductor to be on a first-name basis with your child.
- Complete a **Child Identification Kit**, available free from the Marion County Sheriff's Office at **503.588.7981**. Children change dramatically, in their formative years. Update their information annually.
- Practice walking your child to school or their bus stop several times before the start of school. Be sure they are familiar with the shortest and safest route. Identify safe houses along the way, houses they can go to for help.



- When leaving your children home alone, teach them **never** to tell anyone on the phone that they are alone. Be sure they understand how to dial 911 and teach them never to answer the door for a stranger. It is a good idea to make noise inside the house in order to give the impression that someone is home, should that stranger at the door be on the prowl for empty homes.
- **Drivers Remember: Stopping for school buses is the law.** All vehicles traveling in both directions must slow down when amber lights start to flash, and come to a complete stop when the amber lights turn red. When children are present near the school bus, be cautious and allow plenty of room for frequent stops.

CAUTIONARY NOTE: A commonly held **misconception** is that burglaries only happen during the nighttime hours. The reality is that they happen at all hours of the day. **Be sure to secure your home before leaving, regardless of how short a time you anticipate being gone.** Enlist the help of your school children; make it a morning ritual to check all the doors and windows and make sure they are locked. The start of every new school year is exciting for children and parents alike. The Marion County Sheriff's Office wants you to have a safe and rewarding year with your children.



Deputy Skip Lumley, K-9 Handler *Extraordinaire*

Meet Marion County Sheriff's longest serving K-9 handler, Deputy Skip Lumley. A 25 year veteran of our office, Deputy Lumley has been with the K-9 Unit since 1990. How do K-9 handlers differ from the average dog owner? Skip explained. K-9 handlers and their dogs develop a unique bond, very different from the kind one has with a family pet. This strong bond is more like the bond one would have with a human partner. Officers who handle K-9's, entrust their very lives to their dogs. That bond of trust is critical because K-9 officers are often called to assist in volatile situations. Skip likens his four legged partner to, "A one-man SWAT team," adding, "These dogs are always working, even when they appear to be resting."

Over the past 19 years of dog handling, much has changed. K-9's used to arrive from Germany, trained in *Schutzhund*, a German sport centered around tracking, obedience and protection. The handler would then build upon that training. Most recent additions to the K-9 team have been trained in Dutch police work, shortening the duty-ready timeline.

Skip's first dog, *Oldt*, tragically passed away from cancer. His next dog, *Alex*, "Was unique, we bonded immediately. Within two weeks of arrival, we passed the qualifications to go to work."

When ask what made him unique? Skip replied, "I think he was in need of a buddy, and so was I."

Skip's current K-9 partner *Chicco*, is a German Shepherd. Other handlers have begun to switch to Belgian Malinois. Does Skip have a favorite among the three dogs he has handled? "Each dog, in their own way, holds a special place in my heart. They all have both strong and weak points. I will never forget my first dog, *Oldt*."

Deputy Lumley and *Chicco* are part of an eight man/dog K-9 Unit, serving the citizens of Marion County in both suspect tracking and drug detection.