

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jason Myers, Sheriff
www.co.marion.or.us/so

PORCH LIGHT
CRIME PREVENTION NEWSLETTER
September • 2010

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

NEWS RELEASES
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RURAL CRIME PREVENTION

News media constantly report on the epidemic of crime in city and urban settings. Historically, rural residents have enjoyed lower incidents of crime than their city neighbors, but this has changed. Increased affluence of farm and non-farm populations in rural areas, declines in the number of households with family members at home during the day, and poor visibility of property between neighbors and from public roads, has resulted in increased crime in rural communities. Criminals are tempted by easily “fenced” items such as jewelry, guns, computers and home entertainment systems. But rural areas have additional problems such as arson and vandalism of property and theft of high-valued farm equipment, crops and livestock. Country dwellers can take action to protect their property and discourage criminals. *Continued on page 3.*




WE HAVE A WINNER!

The Marion County Sheriff's Office is contracted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide law enforcement services to the Chemawa Indian School on Chemawa Road. In an effort to foster communication, the *DESIGN A PATCH* contest was held for students at the school. They were asked to submit an original design for a new Marion County Sheriff's Office, Chemawa Deputy patch. The winning design would be worn on our Chemawa deputies' uniforms and also used as an identifier on their patrol vehicles.

A number of designs were submitted. We were looking for that special design that exemplifies the collaborative effort that exists between our office and the students and staff at the school. The excitement generated in our office by 9th grader, Stormy Defender's idea could not have been anticipated. Stormy integrated teepees into the points of the sheriff's seven-point star badge and added a headdress backed by an arrow and tomahawk, as well as placing all inside an arrow-head shaped patch. Our deputies assigned to Chemawa Indian School proudly wear the new patch on their uniforms.



Congratulations to Stormy Defender of Lower Brule, South Dakota! 



A Message from Sheriff Jason Myers

October is *National Crime Prevention Month*, and an ideal time to take a personal *safety assessment*. Renew your commitment to providing no opportunities for you and your family to become victims of crime. Consider the following suggestions:

- Limit hiding places for criminals around your home. Make sure bushes are no higher than 2-feet and trees are trimmed up 6-feet from the ground.
- Criminals hate lighting. Install outdoor light sources higher than the average person can reach to help prevent tampering. Keep a porch light on from dusk until dawn with a low wattage bulb to discourage criminals who come looking for a dark place to cause mischief.
- Never leave items in your car, even if that bag only has your gym clothes in it. A thief won't know that until *after* he has broken into your car.
- Make it a habit to have your house keys ready before you get out of your vehicle. A distracted person searching for house keys is a prime target.

- Instruct your children never to talk to strangers, to never go anywhere with them or to accept gifts from them without your permission. Make sure they know that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school that they should tell an adult. And avoid writing your child's name on the outside of their clothing or backpack.
- Teach your children to make sure they can see the bus driver and the bus driver can see them, before crossing in front of the bus. Instruct them never to walk behind the bus.

- Talk to your children—or grandchildren—about their day. To encourage conversation, ask questions that cannot be answered with a simple “yes” or “no,” but those that require them to provide a more elaborate answer.
- You will find more safety tips and ways you can help encourage crime prevention on our website.

Stay safe,

Jason Myers

“A crime prevented is much more valuable than a crime prosecuted.” Cyrus Vance, NY County DA



Marion County Sheriff's Office has joined **CrimeReports.com**, an independent, on-line service that tracks crime in membership jurisdictions. Marion County residents now have the ability to access the latest in crime reporting tools, by logging on to our web site and clicking on the Crime Map link. Easy-to-view mapping lets you get block-level crime data for your area. Though not in real time, it is quick time. The web technology lets you view reported crimes once they are entered into our records database and also to narrow your search to pinpoint the type of crime you want to know about. Integrated mapping also allows you to see sex offender information for your neighborhood.



LAPTOP SECURITY

“Perfect for use in libraries and dorm rooms.”

Computer locks are the quickest and easiest way to secure laptops, desktops, monitors and other IT equipment. These computer locks are designed to secure otherwise portable electronic equipment. Wrap one end of the cable around an immovable object and insert the lock into the built-in security slot in your computer. Lock and walk away. It's that simple! Prices range from \$17.95 to \$51.95. Both keyed and combination style locks are available.



DEPUTY JOINS COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT

It is with pleasure we introduce to you Deputy Curt Henckel, our new face of Crime Prevention for the Marion County Sheriff's Office. A lifelong resident of Marion County, Curt attended Silverton High School and received his Bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement from WOU. Over Curt's seven years with our office, he has been a Field Training Officer, taser instructor, member of the SWAT team and a certified physical abilities instructor.

"The reality is, our office does a lot of good things in our community. My son asked me, 'What do you do now?' At the heart of what we do is try to minimize crime... This is not the same community it was 25 years ago.

We are asking citizens to get involved in deterring and fighting crime."

"Crime Prevention is a positive thing for the community. That is what draws me to it."

"You have to make a decision along the way to stay positive, despite difficulties with the system. As a police officer, it is easy to become jaded. I wake up everyday and try to make a difference...


I look forward to the opportunity to get people involved and educated on things they can do to be safer."



Welcome aboard, Curt.

RURAL CRIME PREVENTION *continued from page 1.*

- The first step in crime prevention is to be a good neighbor. Make it a point to know neighbors and pay attention to what goes on around their homes, livestock, equipment and buildings. Contact neighbors if something suspicious is observed. Write down license numbers of strange vehicles in areas where they don't belong.
- Second, use a standardized system to mark farm machinery and equipment as well as other personnel items. The Sheriff recommends you etch your driver's license number, flanked by OR and DL. Law enforcement anywhere in the nation can trace the property to its rightful owner. Keep a complete inventory list of all property including model, serial numbers, and original cost. Digital photos are very helpful, especially for jewelry, coins, etc.
- Secure your property to discourage would-be thieves. Make sure all outside doors are solid wood or metal and have deadbolt locks. Secure sliding glass doors with commercially available locks and insert screws in the upper track going into the fixed frame to prevent lifting the door from its track. Secure double hung windows with sliding bolts or nails through a hole drilled at a downward angle in each top corner of the inside sash and partway through the outside sash. Don't forget to secure basement windows as well.
- Thieves hate bright lights. Use outside lights at night and keep the house, driveway, barns and other buildings well lighted. Make use of timers and motion sensors with your lighting. Prune back shrubbery that hides doors, windows and lights. Keep fences in good repair and secure all access roads with gates or cables stretched between posts cemented in the ground, making them visible with flags or streamers.

- Protect livestock with tattoo or brand and take regular counts of all animals. Secure gas pumps, tanks, storage bins and grain elevators with sturdy padlocks or dead bolts. Keep small equipment locked in a barn or garage. Keep guns locked and unloaded in a secure place, away from curious children or would-be thieves. Gun safes and trigger locks are also good investments.
- Never leave keys in vehicles or farm equipment. Always lock trucks and other vehicles when they're not in use. And don't leave tools in the open back of a pick-up truck or in an unsecured truck bed toolbox.
- Don't leave major equipment in a field overnight if it can be avoided. Lock it in a barn or shed near the house, or park where it can be seen from the owner's house or a neighbor's. If machines must be left out for long periods, disable them by removing the rotor, distributor or battery.
- Keep storage areas neat and well-organized so that thefts will be noticed immediately. This warns would-be thieves that the owner is watchful. Store harvested crops in protected and locked locations. Consider marking grain, hay or similar crops with nontoxic confetti that is easily removed by storage or processing facilities.
- Check employees' references before hiring them. Before they begin work, discuss the family/business crime prevention measures and expectations of their compliance.
- Finally, warn thieves that this property is on alert. Post *No Trespassing*, *No Hunting* and other signs around the property. Some farm organizations provide signs and pay rewards for their members; make use of them when available. 

Article courtesy of Crime Prevention Association of Oregon.