



The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office



Neighborhood Watch

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NEWS

What Neighborhood Watch is:

A crime-prevention program that encourages neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activities can be observed and recognized for what they are, then reported and investigated if necessary.

What Neighborhood Watch is not:

A program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.

SHERIFF'S KEY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 911

24-hour

Non-Emergency:

(503) 655-8211

Business Number:

(503) 655-8218

Sheriff's Office

Web site:

www.clackamas.us/sheriff

A new ID-theft threat: credit-card skimmers

Technology can be a great thing — but the current demand for better ways to commit ID theft has led to the creation of an electronic tool called a “credit-card skimmer.”



same time they're doing this, they *also* take a quick second to capture your credit-card information on their skimmer before handing it back to you. This leaves you totally unaware that your credit card is now compromised.

This handy gadget fits into the palm of your hand, and is equipped to capture all of your credit/debit card information with a quick swipe of your card. There are several models available for purchase online that are so small, they can easily be concealed in a pocket. Just one credit-card Skimmer can capture information on up to 100 cards at a time.

Here's how a scam using this device would work:

You make a routine purchase at a gas station, restaurant or other business that requires you to hand over your credit card to an employee. The employee takes your card and processes your purchase — but at the

Now that the employee has your name, credit-card number, expiration date and security information, they can do a number of things with it. They can buy concert tickets or a computer online. They can sell your information to the highest bidder, who then uses it to purchase a luxury vacation. They may even make up a mock credit card with all of your credit-card information so they can make purchases anyplace that accepts your card. In some cases, criminals have succeeded in making cash withdrawals.

A big problem with this type of crime is that you don't know you're an identity-theft

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The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Citizen Volunteer Auxiliary/Neighborhood Watch Program publishes the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS quarterly. To learn more about volunteering for the Sheriff's Office, go to www.1-800-Volunteer.org and look up “Crime/legal” in the Issue area drop down box, with zip code 97045. This newsletter can be found online at the Sheriff's Office Web site, www.clackamas.us/sheriff. If you need additional copies, you may call the Crime Prevention Unit at (503) 353-4441. To receive further information or to join the Neighborhood Watch Program contact: **Community Service Officer Sara McClurg**, Crime Prevention Unit, (503) 353-4441 or CrimePrevention@co.clackamas.or.us.

12800 SE 82ND AVE. • CLACKAMAS, OR 97015
(503) 655-8218 • FAX (503) 655-8549 • www.clackamas.us/sheriff

Can I have a contract-breaker arrested?

Suppose I make a verbal agreement to sell my car to a acquaintance who promises to pay me \$200 a month until the car is paid off — but then this acquaintance only makes a couple of payments and refuses to pay what is owed.

Can I call the Sheriff's Office to have this individual arrested?

The Sheriff's Office often receives calls from citizens who wish to report a theft in contract situations that unfortunately are NOT enforceable by deputies.

Even if a contract/agreement is only verbal, it still constitutes a contract. However, while reneging on a contract is unlawful, it is NOT a criminal offense.

Situations such as borrowing someone's vacuum cleaner and not returning it or accepting payment for painting a house but then not completing the job constitute contracts in which one party has not lived up to the agreed-upon terms of the arrangement. In these cases, the Sheriff has no authority to make arrests — but you CAN pursue such matters in civil court.

If you wish to recover losses under \$2,500, you may go through small-claims court. Some filing fees will be applied. If you wish to recover an amount in excess of \$2,500, you may want to retain an attorney.



If you decide to enter into an agreement with someone to sell something over a period of time, be sure to get it in writing — even if you're doing business with someone you believe can trust. You may want to have the contract written up by a contract attorney and notarized.

If you take the time to write up a contract, there is less likelihood that either party will try to back out on it later. Also, a written contract is excellent evidence for court. You might be surprised what people say when there is no record of the original agreement. ♦

Skimmers

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victim until you check your monthly statement; until your bank notifies you are overdrawn or have exceeded your credit limit; or until your bank calls you to get approval for a suspicious transaction. By this time, the criminal may have gouged your account for thousands of dollars. It's also very likely you won't have any idea how someone got your personal information in the first place -- making it hard to catch the person responsible for the crime.

So how can you protect yourself from these criminals?

- The easy answer is to use cash for some of your more risky purchases, and of course, carry only what cash you need.
- You could also make purchases only at places where the credit card does not leave your sight and you are able to watch each transaction carefully.
- If you build a trusting relationship with employees of certain businesses, your risk could be lessened.

As the economy worsens, ID theft will likely become a more popular crime. ♦

Target donates \$2,000 to Neighborhood Watch effort

On Dec. 4, 2008, Target presented the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office with a \$2,000 grant to go toward new Neighborhood Watch programs.

"This is very much appreciated and comes at an excellent time," said Officer Sara McClurg, who coordinates the Neighborhood Watch program for the Sheriff's Office. "The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office frequently works with local citizens to start new Neighborhood Watch chapters in our county. But I had dwindling amounts of materials for Neighborhood Watch -- I was down to my last sign, actually -- so this will keep the program running for a minimum of a year. Our goal is to use this money to get at least 15 new Neighborhood Watch programs started."

David Bondioli, a Loss Prevention Specialist with Target, stressed the close relationship his stores have developed with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office while presenting the check to McClurg.

"The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office has been such a great resource for the Clackamas Target store that I was able to talk to the people that head the grant program at corporate headquarters, and I talked to Sara, who did a great job writing a grant and submitting it," Bondioli said. "Target is very supportive of law enforcement agencies that do programs like this."

Bondioli has been attending monthly Loss Prevention meetings hosted by the Crime Prevention Unit, and works closely with deputies to capture shoplifters at the



For more information on the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention unit and its Neighborhood Watch program, contact **Officer Sara McClurg** at **(503) 353-4441** or **crimeprevention@co.clackamas.or.us** or visit the official Web page: **www.clackamas.us/sheriff/neighborhoodwatch.jsp**

For video of the check presentation, visit **www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff/sheriffvids.jsp**

Target at Clackamas Promenade.

"The Neighborhood Watch program emphasizes community involvement -- recognizing and reporting suspicious activity, keeping abreast of crime trends, and being aware of good practices in home and personal safety," said McClurg. "The program has a track record of effectively reducing crime in neighborhoods.

"Our Crime Prevention unit provides

Neighborhood Watch training to interested neighborhoods free of charge -- supplying them with training manuals, window decals and Neighborhood Watch street signs.

"Of course, the materials cost money -- and the Crime Prevention budget is not adequate to keep pace with demand for these materials. I asked Target for \$2,000 in my grant application -- enough money to keep the program running for at least another year." ♦

Measuring Measure 11

Back in 1994, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 11, which guaranteed that offenders who commit certain violent crimes have to serve minimum sentences. The measure also made it mandatory that violators as young as 15 years old be tried as adults for crimes specified by Measure 11.

Measure 11 was designed to make people accountable for violent crimes and remove them from the general public for as long as possible. Has it worked? How do violent crimes look now as opposed to before 1995 — when Measure 11 first went into effect?

- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Oregon's violent-crime rate dropped every year for seven consecutive years from 1996 to 2002, relative to the 1995 rate. It then increased slightly in 2003 and 2004, before dropping again in 2005 and 2006.

- In percent terms, Oregon experienced the second-largest drop in violent crime in the U.S. — 45 percent. New York State was first with a 48 percent decrease, but ended with 55 percent more violent crime per capita than Oregon.

What would the picture look like without Measure 11 in place? No one can tell — but the fact that violent crimes are down is a good indication that Measure 11 has made an impact. ♦

MEASURE 11: Crimes and Sentences

Crime	Sentence
Arson I	7 years, 6 months
Assault I	7 years, 6 months
Assault II	5 years, 10 months
Attempted Aggravated Murder	10 years
Attempted Murder	7 years, 5 months
Compelling Prostitution	5 years, 10 months
Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Murder	10 years
Conspiracy to Commit Murder	7 years, 5 months
Kidnapping I	7 years, 6 months or 25 years
Kidnapping II	5 years, 10 months
Manslaughter I	10 years
Manslaughter II	6 years, 3 months
Murder	25 years
Rape I	8 years, 4 months or 25 years
Rape II	6 years, 3 months
Robbery I	7 years, 6 months
Robbery II	5 years, 10 months
Sexual Abuse I	6 years, 3 months
Sodomy I	8 years, 4 months or 25 years
Sodomy II	6 years, 3 months
Unlawful Sexual Penetration I	8 years, 4 months or 25 years
Unlawful Sexual Penetration II	6 years, 3 months
Using a Child in a Display of Sexually Explicit Material	5 years, 10 months