



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



## CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Volume 3, Issue 2.....April/May/June 2006

**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 may 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 Website:**

**[www.clackamas.or.us/sheriff](http://www.clackamas.or.us/sheriff)**

### Changing of the Guard in the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit

After 25 years of dedicated service Deputy Sheriff, Mark Koberstein retired effective March 31, 2006. He was the Crime Prevention Deputy for the last five years.

Community Service Officer Tom Solano has been selected as the interim Crime Prevention Coordinator until a permanent position is established.

Officer Solano has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2003. As a Community Service Officer, his main duty was to take crime reports from victims and provide information to the public. Tom is a member of the Crime Prevention Association of Oregon and has a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Administration of Justice. Prior to coming to the Sheriff's Office, Tom worked in banking, including time in Corporate Investigations where he investigated bank fraud and identity theft.

"I am excited and look forward to working with the residents of Clackamas County, helping them stay safe in their community" said Solano.

### More on Page Two:

- ➔ Safety Tip
- ➔ Open for Burglars?
- ➔ Plan for your Annual Neighborhood watch Get Together!

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.volunteerhere.com](http://www.volunteerhere.com) and look up the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

This newsletter can be found online at the Sheriff's Office Website, [www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff). If you need additional copies you may call the Neighborhood Watch News Info Line at (503) 353-4444.

To receive further information or to join the Neighborhood Watch Program contact:

Community Service Officer Tom Solano  
Community Safety Action Team  
(503) 353-4441  
[crimeprevention@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:crimeprevention@co.clackamas.or.us)

## Spring Safety Tips from your Sheriff's Office

Spring is here, the weather is getting better and soon kids will be out of school for the summer. It's a good time to talk about bicycle and jogger safety!

- Make sure your bicycle is the proper size and the seat is adjusted appropriately.
- Your feet should touch the ground when stopped.
- When you go for a ride, the law says anyone under 16 years old must wear a helmet. Make sure it fits properly.
- Also, if you ride in the dark, you need to have a light on your bicycle.
- Drivers need to be aware that there will be more bicycles sharing the road with them. Be sure to check the bike lane before turning.
- When bicycling or jogging try to stay in well lit areas. Carry a whistle and cell phone for emergencies.
- And remember, it is always safest to jog or bike with a partner.
- Keeping these tips in mind will help ensure a safe spring and summer for us all.

## **OPEN FOR BURGLARS?**

"Hey that's a nice lawn mower, I think I'll take it." Theft and Burglary are crimes of opportunity. Thieves are opportunists! If you do not present a thief with the opportunity to take your property they will move on.

Often people will leave their lawn care equipment outside in plain sight. Other people try to "hide it." Think about your hiding place? Is it under that tarp outside of the house? Do you put things under the awning behind your house? Thieves know all the hiding places. Some people take the time to put their items in the shed, but then do not lock the shed. A padlock for your shed only costs a few dollars.

It is relatively rare that a burglar will forcibly enter a home. Especially during summer, many people leave

doors and windows open. To burglars this is an invitation to help themselves.

When you are having a backyard bar-b-que do you remember to lock the front door? When you have company, do the women leave their purses near the front door? A brazen burglar will notice that people are in the back and will quietly go in the front. Your visitors may leave and realize their wallet is gone. Or you may not notice anything is missing until several months later when you or your loved one goes to put on a favorite piece of jewelry and discovers it missing.

When it's 95 or 100 degrees it is tempting to leave windows open at night to let the warm air out, however it is also an open window to a burglar. The lights are out, nobody will see them; it's easy to get in and get out without being detected.

Not only during the summer, but also year round, outside lighting is important. Leave your porch light on at night. Lights with motion sensors are perfect for outside your garage. When lights are on all the time you or your neighbors may not notice when someone walks by. However a motion sensor can act as a silent alarm alerting you to activity. They also save energy.

When you plan to go out of town notify your newspaper and mail carriers. Newspapers piled outside a home signal that nobody is home. A mailbox full of mail creates an opportunity for identity theft. Also notify members of your Neighborhood Watch when going on trips so they can watch your home.

Don't make your home an open invitation to a burglar!

## **PLAN YOUR ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GET TOGETHER!**

Now is the time to start planning your spring or summer Neighborhood Watch Annual Get Together. This can be in a neighborhood park, a large back yard or anywhere that folks can get together. Contact Officer Tom Solano to schedule an appointment to discuss crime statistics in your area and talk about the status of your Neighborhood Watch.