



Skamania County Sheriff's Office

Partnering with the Community to Continually Improve Public Safety.

APRIL 2014



Sheriff Dave Brown

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office has a proud history of providing exceptional public safety services to the people of the county. That history also includes the desire of the staff to grow in knowledge, skills and abilities so as to be some of the best trained law enforcement professionals in the region. Our ability to succeed as an agency and as a team has been based in large part on the availability of necessary and appropriate resources.

These past few years have brought a significant decline in revenues across the county. Your county government, feeling the impacts of this decline, has been tasked with downsizing and reorganizing in an effort to stay within the limits of a balanced budget. Your Sheriff's Office has felt the impact of this through the loss of patrol, corrections and civil deputies as well as probation staff. Our budgets have been reduced to levels not seen since 2004-2005. Our focus during the budget process has been to maintain adequate levels of staffing in all divisions in order to

From the Sheriff

ensure the safety of the deputies, inmates and to continue to meet the daily needs of the public we serve. As with most government agencies, the majority of costs are in the people who provide the service. The Sheriff's Office is no different and in fact, we have reduced the support areas of our budgets in order to maintain staffing levels.

As we move forward as an agency it is imperative that we continually our priorities and determine how to best organize the agency so as to position ourselves for success in the future. In December of 2013, we began an internal assessment of the Sheriff's Office by gathering staff input, reviewing our strategic plan, revisiting our current organizational structure and inviting an outside agency to review our current structure. My hope is to complete the evaluation process by June 2014. We will then review the recommendations and suggestions of the outside evaluators and determine what steps need to be taken in order to meet our objective of constant improvement as a public safety provider. As a result of the reductions made these past few years and, in order to maintain appropriate levels of officer safety, it became necessary to cut our patrol services. On January 1st, the Sheriff's Office reduced patrol hour coverage across the county from 24-hour service to 22-hour service.

Another change coming soon will be the implementation of an automated answering system. The Sheriff's Office has historically provided a live person to answer

your phone calls. While our business and 911 calls continue to increase and with staffing levels reduced, it has become increasingly difficult to appropriately meet the needs of dispatching for law enforcement, fire and EMS while addressing the multitude of business calls coming in each day. The implementation of the automated answering system will provide a multitude of selections allowing you to reach the appropriate person or division at the Sheriff's Office.

You may also notice a change in our response level to certain types of calls for service. Deputies and dispatchers have been instructed on how to address low priority calls for service. Certain types of calls that are determined to be a low priority or not a pressing public safety issue will be subject to longer response times from patrol deputies. In some cases, you may receive a phone call from a deputy in place of a response to your residence or place of business.

While the decisions to implement these changes have been difficult, it is both necessary and appropriate based on declining levels of funding and personnel. I remain steadfast in my commitment to you to carry out the duties of the office of Sheriff as prescribed by law and as sworn to in my oath. As we continue to evolve and adapt as a public safety provider, we recommit to stand in protection of you, your property and the rights afforded to you as a citizen of this great republic. ■

A Look Back in Time

Clara Lamb told me the Sheriff's Office was the best place she ever worked. "I enjoyed every minute." Clara began working at the Sheriff's Office in August of 1958 and was hired by then Sheriff Amos "Jim" Reid. She later served for Sheriff Bill Closner and was the Chief Civil Deputy when she retired in 1979. Clara was elected Skamania County Clerk in November of 1979 and took office January 1st 1980. She served as County Clerk for two terms retiring from public service in 1987.

When Clara began her career with the Sheriff's Office she said there were two night jailers who worked alternating nights and 2 deputies, George Jeter and Jack Wright. Usually there were only 3 or 4 inmates in the jail at any given time. There were many dispatchers who were coming and going throughout her time with the Sheriff's Office.

She recalls the deputies used their own cars as patrol vehicles and were provided money for gas. It was a short time after she began working when the county began supplying deputies with take home patrol cars. Radios were non-existent in the few years prior to 1958.

When I asked what her duties were at the Sheriff's Office she replied, "I was hired



to do everything." "I went out on the road with the deputies, dispatched, locked guys up and interviewed new hires for dispatch." She told me she still has her federal license, which was required in order to work the radios at the time. She recalled, with a laugh, those times when they had difficulty talking to the deputies on patrol but could use the radio system to talk to people in Georgia.

Clara was born in 1923 in Goldendale and moved to Carson when she was 2 years old. She graduated from Stevenson High School in 1940 and in June of 2010 she and 4 of her classmates celebrated their

70th class reunion during S.H.S. alumni weekend. Clara worked for the County extension office and the Assessor from 1940 to 1958.

Clara was married to Frank Lamb who worked as a logger and served in the Army stationed in Iran during World War II. They had two sons, Charles and Frank Jr. who preceeded her in death. Clara spent the last several years living at the Rock Cove Assisted Living center in Stevenson while still living life to the fullest finding herself skydiving, zip lining and trail hiking as well as enjoying time with extended family and friends. ■

In Memory of Clara

The adjacent article was run in a 2010 edition of the Sheriff's Newsletter. Clara passed away on March 27th 2014. She will always be remembered as a true servant of the people both in her professional life and in the many ways she volunteered throughout the community. Let us all hope that we can model Clara's passion for life and the happiness she spread throughout the lives of so many people.

Did You Know?

In 2013, the Washington State Legislature legalized the use of All Terrain Vehicles on public roads in Washington State. In counties with a population of less than 15,000 residents, a person can license their ATV or UTV and if properly equipped and inspected, you can operate the vehicle on county roads with a speed limit of 35 mph or less. You can license the ATV at the county auditor's office in Stevenson. Additional information regarding the use of ATV's on county roads can be found at the Sheriff's Office or online at www.skamaniasheriff.com ■

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is a term most people have heard, but have you ever taken the time to learn more about the program? You may be surprised at how easy and effective it can be established in your neighborhood when there are enough concerned citizens willing to take on the task of organizing. Neighborhood Watch is not a Sheriff's Office program; it's organized by you and your neighbors. The Sheriff's Office will partner with neighborhoods and assist in many ways.

Officially, Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It offers instruction to organizers on how to help

themselves by identifying suspicious activity in their respective neighborhoods. It's a volunteer program designed to bring community members together to reduce crime and increase quality of life in your respective neighborhood.

To start a program you will need to form a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss interest and potential problems. Pick a time to meet with all neighbors or volunteers and invite the Sheriff's Office. At the meeting, a deputy can discuss crime



trends in your area and talk about how better to insulate your homes and area as easy targets for the criminal element.

It's really that easy, you and your neighbors become the eyes and ears to suppress and discourage criminals. If you are interested in starting a

Neighborhood Watch program, log on to USAonwatch.org. It has valuable information on the program and several other checklists to help secure your home and inventory your valuables. ■

WILDERNESS SAFETY

Are you safe to recreate in the Columbia River Gorge?

The Columbia River gorge is recognized as having wide variety of recreational opportunities. With any form of outdoor recreation, it is crucial people take the time to prepare for an adventure. Accidents do happen but, most problems can be avoided if you take the time to prepare yourself. Most people believe, "It won't happen to me". And yet, it seems like every day you read in our local news about someone who had a problem and needed to be rescued. It does and can happen so don't fool yourself!

Before you go: Do some research on the area or outing you are planning. Read what experiences or problems others may have encountered doing the same activity. Update yourself with current maps of the area. Check with your cell phone provider to see if there is cell service where you are going. Monitor local weather services for the possibility of extreme conditions such as thick fog, rain, snow, or high water conditions. If these types of conditions exist, you may want to wait a few days until conditions improve. Inventory your equipment and make sure it's in good condition, does everything still fit? Do I remember how to use this? If you have recently purchased new equipment such as a GPS unit, familiarize yourself with its operation

before going out. Make sure you pack extra supplies such as a medical kit, fire starter, flashlights, food and water, and warm/dry clothing in case you have to

spend the night in the elements. Once you think you are prepared, ask yourself, am I trained or skilled enough to do this? If you have any doubt, you're probably not ready. Maybe you need to go with someone with more experience. How about taking a class on navigation or rafting first? It will prove invaluable and will make your adventure safer and much more enjoyable.

It is also important you tell someone your plans and leave detailed information with them in case something does happen. The list should include: Where are you going? Who is with you? What route you are taking? Your vehicle description including license plate and where are you going to park. When do you plan on being back? What medical conditions you or other others may have? Do you have your medications with you? Your clothing and gear descriptions. Do you have a cell phone, extra batteries, and what is your



phone number including your cell phone provider. This type of information can prove critical to authorities in the event you need assistance.

The Skamania County Dispatch Center receives numerous calls from concerned persons who report their family or friends, went hiking, climbing, kayaking, hunting, or other activity somewhere in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest or near Mt. St. Helens and have not returned. Where do we start looking for you? Skamania County encompasses over 1683 sq. miles. The mountains, forests, rivers and trail systems are numerous. If you become dependent on the outside assistance you can assist the emergency response time by hours or even days if provide or can communicate better information. It will make a difference!

The last thing, before you take off, check your vehicle to make sure it has plenty of fuel, proper tires, oil and water topped off, along with jumper cables, spare tire, shovel, flares, and other important gear. The wilderness in the gorge and surrounding mountains is massive. You may not see anyone in days.

Be prepared and know your limitations. ■

SURPLUS SOLUTIONS

As financial resources continue to decrease for Skamania County, the Sheriff's Office continues to search out fiscal opportunities that allow us to maintain a basic level of service to our citizens.

Over the past several years, the Sheriff's Office has taken advantage of equipment grants and federal surplus programs that have enabled us to procure equipment to continue our mission that we otherwise would not have been able to obtain.

For example, law enforcement grants through the Department of Homeland Security has provided the opportunities to obtain Mobile Data Computers for the patrol vehicles, upgraded UHF and VHF portable radios which provide inter-operational communications with neighboring agencies, and two Marine Patrol vessels for the Columbia River and Swift Reservoir areas. Additionally, we have taken advantage of a federal surplus program which allows law enforcement agencies to obtain equipment formerly utilized by the US armed forces, for their respective mission critical needs. Search and Rescue operations are a legislative responsibility of each respective County Sheriff and we take that responsibility very seriously. We have been able to procure mission critical equipment at no cost to Skamania County, which enables



us to continue to provide one of the best Search and Rescue responses in the Pacific Northwest.

Through the surplus program, over the past several years we have been able to obtain a 16 foot Zodiac vessel for our Dive Team, a self sustaining light generation plant, a 1 and ½ ton Cargo truck (commonly called a Deuce and a half), several large command post tents, a HMMVV (Humvee), and most recently, a trailer mounted twin 5KW generators plant. We have also been the recipient of several generous donations such as the Sheriff's Office Command Post Bus from Vancouver Fire, several 4 and 6 wheelers from the Bonneville Power Administration, and equipment for our Dive Team from the US Army Corps of Engineers, all at no cost to Skamania County.

"We will continue to seek out fiscal opportunities that will enable us to continue mission critical operations for the citizens of Skamania County", said Sheriff Dave Brown. "We are fortunate to have these resources available. They are a great asset." ■

What You Said

"Deputy Clifford, We would like to express our deep gratitude for the services you provided. We are grateful that there are so many individuals willing to accept the responsibilities, commitment of time and required training to respond when there is a call for help."

Rescued hiker in the Gorge

Animal Control Officer Tina Anderson, Thank you for being so understanding and helpful on the location of my dog. I wish the outcome was different but I know he's not suffering anymore. You gave me that peace and I will never forget you. I hope I will be able to help someone in need as you helped me."

An owner of a lost pet that was found deceased

Communications Officer Rob Itzen, I am writing to express my sincere appreciation. I am grateful for the responsiveness and professionalism of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. You went the extra mile by dispatching the rescue team and assuring us help was on the way. Thank you, Thank you!"

Visitor involved in a collision in the National Forest.

☞ Citizen's Corner ☜



Constitution Expert KrisAnne Hall

Complimenting our county's *Principles of Liberty series*, we are very fortunate to be hosting Constitutional attorney KrisAnne Hall on Saturday, August 2nd in Stevenson (more info as event draws

closer). KrisAnne Hall's "The Roots of Liberty" Seminar is NOT JUST ANOTHER LECTURE ON THE CONSTITUTION. She presents the 700+ year history that gave us our founding documents - proving that our founding documents were not created on a whim and that they are reliable and relevant. It is important to know not only what your rights are, but why you have them. In addition to the history of the bill of rights, KrisAnne presents each of the first ten amendments in their context - in the words and history of our founders. She also presents the 17th amendment and what we must do to make our federal politicians accountable. ■

– West End Resident



Second Step Program

Pictured are Anti Bullying Poster Contest Winners from Carson Elementary School, Ashley Brannan & Brittany Lemons. The students are 6th graders who recently completed the Second Step Program.

A total of 63 students participated in and completed the Second Step Program. Second Step is a classroom-based social-skills program for children 4-14 years of age that teaches socioemotional skills aimed at reducing impulsive behaviors, such as early use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and aggressive behavior while increasing social competence.

The Second Step, 6th grade program was designed to reduce risk factors and increase the protective factors that safeguard youth.

Risk factors pose dangers that take away from a child's likelihood for success and increase their likelihood of involvement in the use of dangerous drugs. Protective factors prevent the onset of or buffer the risks for harmful behavior.

Second Step is an Evidence Based Program, approved by both State and National authorities as a proven & effective program in the prevention of drug, alcohol & tobacco use by youth, and in reducing risky behavior in youth.

As a requirement of the program the students participate in both pre/post surveys. The results indicated that the students did retain important information, and that their attitudes and beliefs about drug, alcohol and tobacco use were changed. 88% of the students surveyed showed an increased knowledge of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse.

Prevention Services Coordinator, Susie Strom, met on a weekly basis, for 10 weeks with the students and covered topics such as:

- Empathy & communication
- Bullying prevention
- Emotion management & coping
- Problem solving, decision making, and goal setting
- Substance abuse prevention



*Left to Right
Wyatt Ottis, Elena Ruby (2nd place),
Ashley Brannan (1st place),
Anna Marie Camus, Brinley Price*

In April, All Stars, a drug, alcohol & tobacco prevention program for 5th grade students will begin.

Approximately 75 students at Carson Elementary School will receive services. ■



"To Protect and Serve"

Mobile Patrol App

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Mobile Patrol App. This app, available on both android and I-phone products, allows the user access to the daily Jail population, current inmate charges and various options explaining how to post bail for an inmate. There is also a link to the National Missing Children site that displays photos and information regarding missing children from the both from the region and across the country. When utilizing the app you will have access to recent news and press releases issued by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The app is available for free on iTunes and Google play stores. Once the app is loaded you are prompted to select your state and then asked to make Skamania County your preference. It is our hope this link will prove beneficial by assisting the public with questions and keeping you informed of information and activities at the Sheriff's Office. The app has a great deal of room for future en-



hancements so keep posted on potential new changes as the app evolves and we hope you find it to be a useful tool.

Inmatecanteen.com to better help you

Inmatecanteen.com is a new website we are using to enhance the ability of persons who need to assist an inmate in the jail facility. A person using this site will discover many options that will assist those incarcerated in our Jail. The site allows you to add money to an inmate's jail account. This account allows them to order

personal care items, snack food, under clothing and a multitude of other items not provided for by the facility. You may also order specific items for the inmate. These items are delivered twice a week to the inmates. There is an opportunity to communicate with an inmate using email and video visitation. Inmatecanteen.com provides a simple and easy way to stay connected with a specific inmate. Inmate.com can be utilized from a computer and also by use of a mobile app for android devices. A newer feature provided by Inmate canteen is kiosk which has been installed in the public lobby at the jail facility. The kiosk allows 24/7 access to the same type of options. If you are visiting and inmate or simply choose to stop by the jail, you can use the kiosk to deposit cash to an inmate's account or use your debit or credit card. All of these transactions can occur without to wait for assistance from jail staff. We hope this service proves to be a quick and convenient option for persons who chose to use it. ■

Firearm Safety

According to statistics one-third of all families in the United States possess firearms. In rural counties such as Skamania, I believe that number is much higher. Statistics also show that children and teens commit more than half of all accidental and unintentional shootings.

IF YOU SEE A GUN:

1. **STOP!**
2. **Don't Touch**
3. **Leave the Area**
4. **Tell an Adult**



Eagle Gun Safe Program that can be found on the NRA

performed shooters alike. The local Cascade Sportsman's Club holds competitive shoots and trainings on a regular basis and can be contacted at www.cascadesportsmansclub.com. Best Defense Training, a business in Hood River, OR also provides Firearm Instruction, Self Defense classes, as well as offers Oregon Carry Concealed Weapons (CCW) classes and can be contacted at www.bestdefensetraining.biz.

Firearm ownership comes with a large amount of responsibility, not only with proper handling, use, and storage but educating children about firearms and what to do when they encounter a gun.

You may not have firearms in your own home but your child may visit other homes that do have firearms. It is impossible to know or expect how your child will react when he or she encounters a firearm without teaching from parents.

The National Rifle Association or NRA provides a national program for teaching children what to do when they encounter a gun. The program is called the Eddie

website and teaches four simple principles to young children.

There has been a huge increase in the numbers of Concealed Pistol Licenses granted over the past few years as firearm ownership has increased in popularity. Some of these licenses are being granted to first time firearm owners with little to no safe gun handling experience or instruction. There are four Firearm Safety Rules that will assist all shooters of any age or experience (See inset).

There are local clubs and businesses in the Gorge that promote safe shooting and provide training to new shooters and ex-

Rule 1 Treat all guns like they are always loaded

Rule 2 Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy

Rule 3 Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you have made the decision to fire

Rule 4 Be sure of the target, as well as the surroundings and beyond



**Skamania County
Emergency
Management**

Budgets in most jurisdictions, at all levels are undergoing significant reductions; our Emergency Management program is no different.

For the past ten years, Homeland Security funding has covered 50% of our program, as well as supporting equipment and training for our First Responders. That funding has come through Washington's Homeland Security Region IV, which is comprised of Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties. The past three to four years have seen funding cut in half each year, to the point that the support of the local programs may be in question.

Another source of funding is the Emergency Management Program Grant (EMPG). This program is administered by the

Budgets, Budgets, Budgets...

Local Volunteers SAR, CERT & EOC Staff Skamania County, WA	Date: 12/4/13	2460 08-024031
Pay to the Order of <u>Skamania County</u>	\$ <u>225,376.76</u>	
<i>Two Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six and 76/100 Dollars</i>		
Bank of Goodwill Skamania County, WA 12,562 hrs @ \$15/hr, For 65,392.5 Miles @ \$.50/mile	<u>Your Volunteers</u>	
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State, and the allocation formula is based on a percentage of the local Emergency Management budget. Historically that has meant smaller jurisdictions, with smaller budgets, were at a disadvantage relative to larger jurisdictions. Recently changes have been made that will phase in new allocation formulas that will ensure each jurisdiction a baseline of meaningful levels.

Our local program relies heavily on the volunteer spirit of the Citizens of our communities. In the face of emergencies that may quickly overwhelm our First Re-

sponder capacity, it is incumbent on all of us to be prepared to care for ourselves, and help our neighbors. That situation is exactly what the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) is all about; neighbors helping neighbors.

CERT, along with Search and Rescue and the EOC Staff are the three volunteer programs coordinated by Emergency Management. Many other volunteer opportunities may be found in firefighting, working with seniors and other facets of our communities - there truly is something for everyone!

Whatever volunteer choice you make, give it your best, and reap the rewards of being involved with other great people in our great county! ■

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