



CITY OF MUSKEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



August 13, 2010

Greetings from your neighbors at the Muskego Police Department,

Wow! Has it been a scorcher lately. I hope all of you have been able to stay cool during this hot, muggy weather. Here are some of the things that have been keeping the heat on at the police department:

- August 6, 2010 – Amann's Beach Resort reported a burglary to the business.
- August 9, 2010 – A black Chevy Monte Carlo parked in the S7400 block of Baylane Dr. was entered sometime between Thursday, August 5 and Monday, August 9, 2010, and several items were taken.
- August 9, 2010 – A 51 year old Waterford man was arrested for shoplifting at Pick N Save.
- August 9, 2010 – A resident in the W14800 block of Cornell Cir. reported personal checks stolen. A family member was taken into custody for the theft.
- August 12, 2010 – A resident from the W15500 block of Foxboro Pl. reported that sometime during late July 2010, the unlocked vehicle was entered, and a GPS unit was taken. It is believed that this theft is related to the arrest of three "car shoppers" on July 30, 2010.

As always, if you have any information on these or any other incidents, please call the Muskego Police Department at 262-679-4130.

Keep it Cool

As much as I love summer, I will be happy when it starts to cool off. You see, in addition to the usual problems associated with the hot, sticky weather, we at the police department have to deal with additional issues related to the heat. Namely, hot heads and short fuses. In the type of heat we have been experiencing, people's senses seem to be, for lack of a better phrase, more sensitive. This leads to minor disagreements blowing up into major confrontations, and verbal arguments turn into physical fights. We handle more domestic fights, more neighbor disputes, and more suicide attempts.

I am asking you to stop and think the next time you are about to fly off the handle. Ask yourself, is your reaction to what just happened really a justified and proportionate response, or are you responding this way just because you are hot and cranky? I ask you to do this because, while cooler weather will be here soon enough, and the heat nothing but a memory, the consequences of an ill-advised, or inappropriate response can last for a very long time.

Oh, and if you are out in the heat and get thirsty, remember that alcoholic drinks do the exact opposite of what you are trying to accomplish. Alcohol will dehydrate you more (yes, even those really, really light beers) and the effects might actually be enhanced. That means that it will take less alcohol to affect your judgment, and impair your ability to operate a motor vehicle. It can also contribute to those consequences we talked about earlier. You can't go wrong with water, and it has even less calories than those light beers. You can't beat that!

Internet Snares

It seems like every week, we hear about a new scam that people are pulling to try and separate you from your cash. It makes you wonder what kind of a world we would live in if those people put their talents and efforts towards a project that would benefit society. I just wanted to briefly touch on a couple we continue to see:

- **The grandchild traveling abroad that runs into trouble and calls grandma and grandpa.** An elderly person will get a phone call from someone claiming to be a grandchild. They will trick the person into revealing the name of a grandchild and then claim to be the child, and in trouble. They will claim they were traveling abroad or in another part of the country, and were; 1. mugged, 2.

in an accident, 3. in jail, or some other circumstances which requires immediate cash. They also don't want "Grandma" to contact any other family members and "worry" them. If you are older, or you have elderly relatives, be advised that this is happening in this area. Most potential victims see through the scam, but some have been fooled.

- **Highjack a known email address.** You will receive an email from a friend, from their email account, advising that they were traveling abroad or in another part of the country, and were: 1. mugged, 2. in an accident, 3. in jail...you get the point. Only this one comes from an email address you know and you think, this might actually be legit. Apparently, people have found a way to take over email accounts, and get hold of that account's contacts. They then send emails out and hope for a bite. Like most of the public over the age of 14, the computer is a magic box to me, and it wouldn't dawn on me that someone could do this, but they can, so be aware.
- **EBay and Craigslist.** It seems like everyone is using these websites, and websites like them, to get rid of junk, or priceless family heirlooms, depending on your point of view. The problem with Craigslist is there are no controls in place to ensure people are legitimate. We actually recently received a complaint that an unknown party listed a home for rent on Craigslist. The problem was that the homeowners weren't the ones who posted the listing. No real harm done, but a major inconvenience. EBay has had problems with people taking over accounts, and then selling and receiving cash for items they don't own.

We have found a few things to be a dead give-away to a scam include the seller not wanting to use a service like PayPal, or accept credit card payment. They usually want cash or a Western Union wire transfer. If someone doesn't want to use PayPal, that should send up red flags. Also, if someone claims they are in Texas, but the item for sale is in Florida, and they want the money sent to a bank in Georgia, run, don't walk away from the deal. It is a scam! Or, if you are selling something, and they send you a check for several hundred or thousand dollars over the selling amount, and they tell you it was a mistake. Be very careful. The next step will be for them to tell you to cash the check, keep a little something for your trouble, and send the rest back to them in a cashier's check or money order. Don't do it! Their check is going to bounce higher than my son's super ball.

If you are the victim of these types of scams, and you suffer a loss, we will take a look at it, but you must understand that once it looks like it leads out of state or out of the country, there is really nothing we are going to be able to do for you. Remember, if that little voice in your head says, "this situation doesn't seem right, but it is such a deal," you are about to be taken. Listen to your little voice. You know it's usually right.

National Night Out

As I told you last week, National Night Out was a huge success. A member of our department has a flair for video production, and has compiled a video from our 3rd Annual National Night Out. It is awesome! She has posted it on YouTube, and I have attached a link here. The link will be posted on our department website soon. If you weren't able to attend this year, please take five minutes to watch the video, and see what you missed. If you were there, see if you spot yourself!
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PE_s7lZmpwI

Until next time, have a good week, and stay alert and stay safe,

Lt David Constantineau

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IMMEDIATELY
MUSKEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT – (262) 679-4130
IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911**