



Seniors And Law Enforcement Together

S.A.L.T. TIMES

October 2009

WEST Meeting

Monday, Oct. 19, 11:00 a.m.
40 and 8 Community Rm.
7607 NE 26th Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98665
(next to Bingo)

EAST Meeting

Monday, Oct. 26, 11:00 a.m.
Camas Police
2100 NE 3rd Ave.
Camas, WA 98607

Senior Crime Statistics

Presented by
Clark County Sheriff's Office

Wondering what the crime rate is in your area? Come find out your neighborhood crime stats, how many senior citizens are victims and even how many seniors are offenders and what crimes they committed. Please join us!

As always, meetings are free and open to all seniors.

To receive the free monthly S.A.L.T. Times Newsletter, call 397-2211 ext. 3380 or send an e-mail to: sheriffcommunityoutreach@clark.wa.gov. For other formats: Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000, Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov



Seniors and Law Enforcement Together
Clark County Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 410
Vancouver, WA 98666

BBB Alerts Consumers about U.S. Census Workers: Be Cooperative, But Cautious!

For years, Better Business Bureau has educated consumers about not giving out personal information over the telephone or to anyone who shows up at their front door. With the U.S. Census process beginning, BBB advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft.

The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United

States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race and other relevant data.

"Most people are rightfully cautious and won't give out personal information to unsolicited phone callers or visitors, however the Census is an exception to the rule," said Steve Cox, BBB spokesperson. "Unfortunately, scammers know that the public is more willing to share personal data when taking part in the Census and they have an opportunity



United States Census Bureau

to ply their trade by posing as a government employee and soliciting sensitive financial information."

The Census data will be used to allocate more than \$300 billion in federal funds every year, as well as determine a State's number of Congressional representatives. Households are actually required by law to

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October is Crime Prevention Month

More than twenty-five million Americans are victims of crime each year. October is Crime Prevention Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the practice of crime prevention while promoting awareness of important issues such as victimization, volunteerism, and creating safer, more caring communities.

A broad goal of Crime Prevention Month is to stress the role that each individual and neighborhood group truly plays in crime prevention. Anyway that you choose to get involved in Crime Prevention Month is critical to spreading the message that crime prevention is everyone's business!

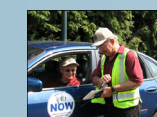
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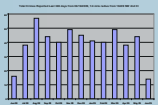
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respond to the Census Bureau's request for information.

During the U.S. Census, households will be contacted by mail, telephone or visited by a U.S. Census worker who will inquire about the number of people living in the house. Unfortunately, people may also be contacted by scammers who are impersonating Census workers in order to gain access to sensitive financial information such as Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers. Law enforcement in several states have issued warnings that scammers are already posing as Census Bureau employees and knocking on doors asking for donations and Social Security numbers.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

- If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.
- Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, it will not ask for Social Security, bank account or credit card numbers nor will employees solicit donations.
- Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, they will not contact you by e-mail, so be on the look out for e-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an e-mail that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

Make A Difference Day

The national day to help others October 24, 2009, the 19th annual Day



Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. The next event is Saturday, October 24, 2009.

You can join projects going on right here in Vancouver. This year several organizations are uniting to make this the biggest "Make A Difference Day" project and service day ever in Vancouver/Clark County. The goal is to mobilize 1,000 volunteers of all ages, including families, church groups, and civic clubs.

Projects include revitalizing neighborhoods by helping with planting shrubs and cleaning up alleys, helping seniors with yard clean-up and maintenance, and collecting food for local food banks. These projects will take place on Saturday, October 24, at various locations beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at noon. After the service projects have been completed, volunteers will meet for food, fun and a celebration of the day's activities.

For more information about how you or your group can get involved and help make a difference in Vancouver and Clark County, call Volunteer Connections at 360.735.3682. Information is also available at www.hsc-wa.org.

Halloween Safety Tips

- Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards such as garden hoses and flower pots on your porch and walkway.
- Keep pets inside your home, or another safe place on Halloween night.
- Never invite children into your home.
- Don't give homemade treats to children you don't know.
- Be especially watchful for children if you are driving on Halloween.

Vancouver Police recruiting volunteer citizen patrollers for next training academy



Assisting with a felony arrest, recovering a stolen car, distributing flyers to neighbors in an arson investigation, reporting a suspected drug deal in progress, and observing suspicious activity in a Vancouver neighborhood are all recent activities performed by specially trained volunteers in the Vancouver Police Department's Neighbors On Watch



(NOW) program.

The NOW program has 38 citizen volunteers from 16 neighborhoods who have completed a training academy and actively patrol as extra "eyes and ears" for the police department. Those who have interest in crime prevention and helping to keep their neighborhoods safe are encouraged to apply. Applications are accepted year-round. The police department would like to grow the program to about 300 volunteers.

"The purpose of this program is to utilize citizens, in their own

neighborhoods, to help decrease crime and improve livability through visibility," Police Chief Cliff Cook said. "Similar programs are active all over the country and are very successful," Cook added.

NOW volunteers patrol their neighborhoods on foot, bike, or personal vehicle. Volunteers are prohibited from taking any type of enforcement action or making contact with a possible violator. Volunteers receive specialized training in



observation skills, police radio communications, criminal law, crime detection and prevention, patrol procedures, first aid, CPR and AED, among other relevant topics.



NOW volunteers must live in the city limits of Vancouver, be at least 21 years old, and agree to patrol a minimum of four hours every month. All applicants must successfully pass a screening process which includes: criminal background

investigation, fingerprints, interviews, and a reference check. In addition to the NOW program,

there are many other volunteer opportunities with the Vancouver Police Department. For more information call Kelly Mott at (360) 487-7467.

