



# S.A.L.T. TIMES

January 2009



Garry E. Lucas

## Crooks can use tough times to commit crimes

You probably don't need to watch the news to know that we are experiencing tough economic times. It's affecting just about everyone in some way, and it could give crooks ideas for new ways to get into your home to steal or even harm you.

Just recently, in Clark County, a man was approached at his home by a couple of young men wanting to do household chores to earn money. One of the chores they offered to do was vacuum (even though they didn't have a vacuum cleaner-but were more than willing to use the homeowner's). The man turned them away.

With the winter weather there may be legitimate opportunities for young people to earn cash (such as shoveling snow.) Use caution and do not allow anyone you don't know access to your home.

### Here are some tips to help you avoid being a victim:

- Never let any strangers into your home. When answering the door to an unexpected stranger, leave the door closed and locked. Speak to them through the door and make use of peep holes or windows near the door.
- If people you do not know appear out of nowhere with a request that would entail you letting them into your home, don't do it. You can be safe without appearing rude. For example, if they ask to use your phone, offer to make the call for them. If they need directions, provide them from the other side of your locked door.
- Be wary of people you don't know that approach you offering services in exchange for cash.
- Never give credit card information or a check to anyone you do not know. It is often very difficult to determine if someone is representing a legitimate organization or charity.
- Any suspicious activity should be reported to local law enforcement with a description of the individual and/or vehicle, license plate, and direction of travel, if possible. Law enforcement is particularly concerned about scams during this period of economic uncertainty. Scam artists may be more desperate for cash and citizens may be less able to financially recover from a loss due to fraud.

## 2008 S.A.L.T. potluck and ornament exchange



S.A.L.T. tradition continues despite cold weather!

## We want You!

To join the S.A.L.T. Advisory Board! Board members work with law enforcement to plan monthly meetings, discuss crime issues that affect seniors, and participate in various events such as the Senior Expo.

The advisory board meets on the first Thursday, every other month. For more information, call Tami Strunk at 834-4151 or Sgt. Mike McCabe at 397-2104.

## Canines for Clean Water campaign asks dog owners to “Scoop the Poop”

The Clark County Clean Water program recently launched the new Canines for Clean Water outreach campaign encouraging dog owners to “scoop the poop.” Estimates indicate there are more than 103,000 dogs in Clark County and that’s a lot of waste finding its way to Clark County streams, where it can harm aquatic wildlife and spread pathogens.

The Clean Water program will be partnering with the Humane Society for Southwest Washington, Clark County Animal Protection and Control and local veterinary clinics to disperse this important message throughout the pet owner community. A Close Up public service announcement has just debuted on CVTV to help get the word out.

Clark county dog owners can visit [www.CleanWaterDogs.com](http://www.CleanWaterDogs.com) to pledge to pick up after their dogs and receive free doggie bandannas. If they submit photos of their dogs showing off their new bandannas, they can be eligible for other prizes.



To be placed on the mailing list or e-mail distribution list to receive the FREE S.A.L.T. Times monthly newsletter, call the Clark County Sheriff’s Office Outreach Unit at (360)397-2211 ext. 3380 or e-mail [Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov).

# Dryer Fire: Are you at risk?

**D**ryer fires might not be something you think about. But with 12,700 clothes dryer fires resulting in 15 deaths and 300 injuries annually, maybe you should.

## What are the primary causes of a dryer fire?

“Failure to clean” is the leading factor contributing to clothes dryer fires. A blocked vent or exhaust pipe blocks hot air from release, turning the highly combustible lint into a fire hazard. Lack of maintenance and poor installation and/or the use of improper duct material also play a role.

## What are the signs to look for?

- Clothes are taking more than one cycle to dry, especially towels.
- Clothes are hotter than usual at the end of the cycle.
- Outside of dryer is unusually hot.

## How can dryer fires be prevented?

- Just cleaning your lint filter after each load of laundry may not be enough. The fine mesh of most dryer filters can contain a build-up caused by fabric softeners. An occasional quick scrub and rinse in warm, soapy water will remove residue and increase the efficiency of your dryer (which will also help save money on energy bills!)
- Clean inside, behind and underneath the dryer, where lint can also build up.
- Replace any plastic or foil vent with semi-rigid or solid metal venting.
- In the winter, make sure that dryer vent flaps are not freezing shut or sticking.
- The interior of the appliance and venting system should be cleaned periodically by qualified service personnel.
- Keep the area around the dryer clear of flammable materials.
- Never run the dryer when you are not at home or while sleeping.
- If your dryer has a moisture sensor, occasionally wipe the sensor with a soft cloth or cotton ball and rubbing alcohol to keep it functioning accurately.
- Install a fire extinguisher and smoke alarm in laundry area (not directly over the dryer.)
- If you have a dryer fire, exit the house and call 9-1-1.



This *local* fire started in a flexible aluminum exhaust duct where the lint had built up and the heat couldn't escape.

### **F.Y.I.**

The peak month for clothes dryer fires is January



## Congratulations!

**C**ongratulations to Marion Swendsen who is retiring after 19 years of service with Clark County Sheriff's Office and the Vancouver Police Department!

Marion has contributed greatly to the success of the S.A.L.T. program and will truly be missed. We wish her much happiness and relaxation!

Clark County Sheriff's Office  
P.O. Box 410  
Vancouver, WA 98666

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
VANCOUVER, WA  
Permit No. 130

# Administrative Panel



**W**here can you hear from Sheriff Lucas, Chief Lackey, Chief Cook and Interim Chief Mitchell all in one place?

At the next S.A.L.T. meeting! Join us for an administrative panel discussion about law enforcement services, budgets, and more. Bring your questions!

**January 26, 2008  
11:00 a.m.**

**Camas Police Dept.  
2100 NE 3rd Ave.  
Camas, WA**



**For other formats:** Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000 Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail [ADA@clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@clark.wa.gov)