

SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER



S.A.L.T. TIMES

July 2008



Here's your get-ready-to-retire checklist

By Liz Pulliam Weston

Part 2

This article cannot be printed on our web-site, but you can view this article by visiting:
<http://money.msn.com>.

GPS: An Invitation to Thieves

By Sgt. Steve Shea

I have lived in Clark County my entire life and worked for the Sheriff's Office for over twenty years. As you can imagine, I am pretty good at finding various addresses and obscure streets.

I started working nights in late 2007, and I found that my night vision wasn't as good as it used to be. It's really hard to see those little yellow street signs in the dark. I needed help. So I bought a Global Positioning System unit (along with some 5.8 million other people in the U.S., according to NPD Group). After my first shift using it, I couldn't believe I hadn't bought one sooner. The GPS units available today are amazing. I can clearly see what street is coming up next. If I am going to a hard to find address, I can enter the address and be directed right to it.

The only problem with GPS units is that thieves love them as much as we do. **Since January 2008, there have been 96 reports of stolen GPS units in the Vancouver area.** Many GPS units have been stolen out of vehicles while parked in the driveway overnight. Shopping centers are also a popular venue. Most of the stolen units are sold for cash that is all too often used to purchase drugs.

It's a good idea to remove your GPS unit when you're not in the car. Leaving that GPS unit sitting out is like a giant neon sign asking for a thief to break in. So you've taken the GPS unit off the mount and thrown it into the glove box. Unfortunately, an empty GPS cradle suggests to a thief that the owner (who mistakenly assumed this to be a safe course of action) has placed the unit somewhere in the car.

Now you've taken the electronic GPS *and* the mount down and hid them away. No thief will think twice about breaking in to steal it, right? Think again. Sharp-eyed thieves can spot the faint mark of the suction cup used to position the system on the dashboard or windshield and they know exactly what it means....there is a GPS unit waiting to be stolen.

How can you win this battle? Keep window cleaning wipes, microfiber cloths or moist towelettes in your glove box. That way you can wipe away any ring of film from the GPS cradle suction cup mounts that signal out a clue to the GPS thief. Not only will the thieves look for another car with more to offer, but your windshield won't have that unsightly ring on it.

GPS owners should make a written record of their unit's serial number in the event a police report is filed. If possible, use an engraving tool to etch some sort of distinctive marking onto the outer casing of their GPS unit.

To be placed on the mailing list to receive the FREE S.A.L.T. Times Newsletter, call the Clark County Sheriff's Office Outreach Unit at (360)397-2211 ext. 3380.

The newsletter is now available electronically! Simply e-mail Kasey.Frazier@clark.wa.gov to receive your newsletter via e-mail.

Good, Better, Best...How to Improve Gas Mileage

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, offers these tips to use fuel efficiently:

On the Road: Drive More Efficiently

- Stay within posted speed limits. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour.
- Stop aggressive driving. You can improve your gas mileage up to five percent around town if you avoid "jackrabbit" starts and stops by anticipating traffic conditions and driving gently.
- Avoid unnecessary idling. It wastes fuel, costs you money, and pollutes the air. Turn off the engine if you anticipate a wait.
- Combine errands. Several short trips taken from a cold start can use twice as much fuel as one trip covering the same distance when the engine is warm.
- Use overdrive gears and cruise control when appropriate. They improve the fuel economy of your car when you're driving on a highway.
- Remove excess weight from the trunk. An extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce a typical car's fuel economy by up to two percent.
- Avoid packing items on top of your car. A loaded roof rack or carrier creates wind resistance and can decrease fuel economy by five percent.

At the Garage: Maintain Your Car

- Keep your engine tuned. Tuning your engine according to your owner's manual can increase gas mileage by an average of four percent. Increases vary depending on a car's condition.
- Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned. It can increase gas mileage up to three percent.
- Check and replace air filters regularly. Replacing clogged filters can increase gas mileage up to ten percent.
-

At the Pump: Use the Octane Level You Need

Your owner's manual recommends the most effective octane level for your car. For most cars, the recommended gasoline is regular octane. In most cases, using a higher octane gas than the manufacturer recommends offers no benefit. Unless your engine is knocking, buying higher octane gasoline is a waste of money.

We Want to Know!

Are the high prices at the gas pump affecting your ability to attend the S.A.L.T. meetings and events? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please call the Sheriff's Office Outreach Unit at 360-397-2211 ext. 3380 with your comments and/or suggestions.



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

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

It's Picnic Time!!

**July 21, 2008
11:00 a.m.**

**Join us for the annual Project Lifesaver
Picnic!**

- **Chicken**
- **Potato Salad**
- **Watermelon**
- **Ice Cream**

Camas Heritage Park

located at the 200 block of NE Lake Rd. in Camas. To get there:

East on Hwy. 14, take the Camas Exit #12. Go east about 1/2 mile to Division. Turn left, go about 1/2 mile to 17th Ave. Turn right on 17th, go three blocks to NE Everett. Turn left, go 3/4 miles to the light at Lake Rd. Turn left, go three blocks. The park is on the right.

Come have fun with S.A.L.T. It's free for all seniors!

To request special accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Outreach office, (360)397-2104 or the Clark County ADA Office at (360)397-2045; TTY (360)397-2445; or e-mail at ADA@clark.wa.gov