



# C.O.P.S. Northwest News

Your neighborhood crime prevention and community services resource

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## Volume IV, Number 2 September/October 2009

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Autumn is upon us!

Now that summer is coming to a close it is time to remember that School busses will be on the roads again. This also means children will be walking to school. Be a cautious driver... our neighborhood children's lives depend on it!

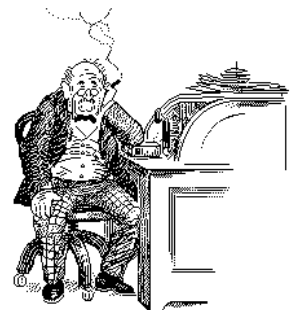
School zone speed limits are 20 MPH (when children are present or lights are flashing) unless marked otherwise.

Until I get used to typing one handed or my broken arm heals, this newsletter will be published bimonthly. This is your newsletter; your input is greatly appreciated. Since most of my work is at home, you can use my personal email address to contact me:

**[parker.harold@gmail.com](mailto:parker.harold@gmail.com)**

Any contributions are appreciated.

Harold



## **CRIME CHECK ONLINE**

Go to [www.crimecheck.org](http://www.crimecheck.org). You can find a lot of useful phone numbers there and in some circumstances; you can file a report online.

### ***Tips for Calling***

- Know where you are and your telephone number.
- Stay calm.
- Answer the Call Receivers questions and stay on the line until the Call Receiver is finished obtaining the necessary information.
- If you are unsure you have an emergency, dial 911 and let the communications center decide what action is necessary.
- Do not call 911 for information. Refer to your telephone book or call your phone provider for directory assistance.

It's worth your time to check it out.

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## **SPOKANE C.O.P.S. ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DINNER**

When:  
October 22, 2009  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where:  
Faith Bible Church  
600 West Cora  
Spokane, WA.

Sincere thanks to all our volunteers and partners for your continued support of Spokane C.O.P.S. It takes an army of people to make Community Oriented Policing work. And, because Spokane cares, we are successful beyond our dreams!



## **AUTUMN SAFETY TIPS**

With autumn fast approaching, more and more people will be enjoying the change of the leaves and the cooler temperatures. Unfortunately, some autumn-related weather activities such as hiking and camping, turning the furnace back on, cleaning the chimney, and trick-or-treating do present their share of hazards. To help ensure everyone in the community enjoys a safe autumn, we offer the following tips:

### ***Chimney maintenance is vital to your family's safety.***

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned on a regular basis.
- When possible, burn seasoned woods (dryness of the wood is more important than hard wood versus soft wood).
- Smaller, hotter fires will burn more completely and produce less smoke than larger fires.
- Do not burn cardboard boxes or trash, as they can spark a chimney fire.

### ***Don't get caught up in the holiday spirit — make sure your children trick-or-treat safely.***

- Rather than buying a mask, use makeup to decorate children. That way, they can see more easily.
- If your kids go trick-or-treating after dusk, make sure they have a flashlight and are wearing retro reflective material.
- Dress children in warm, light colored clothing so that they may be easily seen when crossing the street.
- Do not purchase Halloween costumes and other items which are not marked "Flameproof" or "Flame-Retardant".
- Remind children to skip houses that are not well-lit.
- Check candy before allowing kids to eat it.

Continued... (see "Safety Tips" on page 3)

## Safety Tips (continued from page 2)

*As you take in the fall's beautiful scenery, think ahead, be prepared, and stay safe.*

- Check the weather forecast before heading outdoors for a hike. It is not safe to hike when thunderstorms or heavy snowfall is expected.
- Carry drinking water. Don't drink from streams, springs, or lakes without first properly treating the water.
- Observe wildlife from a safe distance.
- Don't try and get too close to wild animals.
- Stay on the trail — if you leave it, you may get lost.
- To help prevent food poisoning, keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot.
- Don't store perishable foods in a hot car.
- Clean all surfaces and utensils that come into contact with raw meat or meat juices before re-using them.
- Wash hands frequently when preparing food, and before serving and eating.
- Keep kids away from grills and lighter fluid, and keep grills away from anything that can burn them.
- Be aware of tiny deer ticks that carry Lyme disease and know which symptoms to watch out for. When in a potentially infested area, apply insect repellent, wear light-colored, long sleeved-shirts, pants, and socks.
- Do not build a fire near tree trunks, fallen trees, or over hanging branches.
- When extinguishing a campfire, let it die down, then break up the coals or logs, spread the pieces, soak them with water, and then cover the area with dirt or sand.



## Mystery Volunteer

The previous "Mystery Volunteer" was: **Lola M.** Did you get it right?

This mysterious person was born in Athol, Massachusetts and has lived in Spokane for the last 59 years. This person's first car was a Pontiac. Their first Job was at a drug store.

While working as an x-ray technician, this caring individual met their spouse while having to x-ray a fractured bone. Two children was the result of their marriage.

This volunteer has been with Spokane C.O.P.S. for 8 years and lists decorating their home as a hobby. They have many miscellaneous interests, too many to list here.

Now begs the question: Who is it?

I will reveal who this is in the next issue of *C.O.P.S. Northwest News*. 

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## C.O.P.S. Northwest General Meetings

Until further notice, all general meetings will be held on the last Tuesday of each month at 1500 hrs, (3:00 p.m.) in the back room of our neighborhood station.

These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome... we are always looking for more volunteers.



## **Internet E-Mail Scam**

You receive an e-mail verifying that your credit card account has been charged \$453.29 for online purchases at [www.sexymama.com](http://www.sexymama.com). If you have questions you are instructed to call toll-free telephone number. Of course you never made such a purchase and cannot wait to call to complain about the charge. The only problem is that the number you are supposed to call is in the Caribbean or in the Middle East and is not toll-free. Sometimes you will get put on hold or have to listen to a long recorded message while the meter is running at an exorbitant international rate. One guy got charged \$45 for a four minute phone call. Most credit card companies will not send you an e-mail message. Also, be leery of dialing area codes unfamiliar to you.

## **Sweepstakes**

You've Just Won \$25,000! Or you are told that you just won a boat, a car, or something else "valuable." So goes the pitch. But if you're asked to pay before you get your prize, it's a scam. Often these outfits claim the money is for shipping, taxes, or something like that. But legitimate companies rarely require any payment or purchase up front.

## **Travel Scams**

Two Weeks in Hawaii for \$350! Maybe it's a "certificate" for a bargain vacation. Claims of inexpensive travel are easy to believe, because real bargains are available if you shop carefully. Check out all travel offers with a reputable travel agency. If they want your money right away, before you can think the offer through, odds are it's a scam.

## **Gemstones**

Invest in Gemstones with Low Risk and Great Return! Usually, you must rely on the seller and phony "grading certificates" or "appraisals" for information about what these investments

are worth. Often, however, they're not worth the money you've paid and they have little resale value.

## **Recovery rooms**

Been Ripped Off? We'll Get Your Money Back! These "recovery rooms" get the names of people who have been defrauded in other scams and then call, claiming to be federal attorneys or agents who can get your lost money back-for a fee. When the federal government sues scam artists, there is never a charge to consumers to return any money recovered.

## **Business Opportunities**

Earn Big Money with Vending Machines! Or claims wealth by operating some other type of business that the promoter claims will produce big returns. These outfits promise all the support you need, and they may tell you to call others who have done well with their program. Too often the assistance is nonexistent and the references are "shills" who actually work for the company. Once consumers invest their money, they may learn that there is no market for the business. If the business is a franchise, special disclosure rules apply. These disclosures give some useful background on the company, including substantiation for any earnings claims the marketers make.

## **Telephone Solicitations**

Do you often donate money or items to a good cause? You may think you are donating to a good cause, but often the telephone calls are from crooks. In many cases, these scam artists claim to be collecting on behalf of the police or the highway patrol officers. It's important to give money to charitable causes, but take all necessary steps to make sure the charity is legitimate. Get a phone number or better you look it up in the directory. Call the number at different hours to see who answers. 