



Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Todd O. Dahl

Community Update

October 1, 2009

Subject: **Fourth Quarter Update**

Sheriff's Message:

A rookie deputy was out for his first ride in a cruiser with his field training officer (FTO)....a seasoned officer. A call came in advising them to disperse some people who were loitering in the area in which they were patrolling. They drove down the street and observed a small crowd standing on a street corner. The rookie, proud and true, rolled down his window and said, "Let's get off of the street corner people." A few glances were given back to him, however, no one moved. The rookie, agitated by the failure to comply barked again, "Let's get off of that street corner....**NOW!**" The group who was very intimidated by now, began to leave, casting puzzled looks and stares in his direction. Proud of his first official act, the deputy turned to his seasoned partner and asked, "Well, how did I do?" "You did a great job", chuckled the veteran deputy, "especially since this is a bus stop"

Several years ago I set out in an effort to become Crow Wing County Sheriff. This is a position that I feel privileged and honored to hold.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once stated, "The greatest thing in this world is not so much where we are but in what direction we are moving." Just as the growth of tropical fish is limited by the size of the aquarium in which they live, you are always affected by your environment. My goal since becoming sheriff is to make this a better place than when I was first hired and came into the office. To strive for professionalism, fairness, accountability and communication. To work together with citizens in an effort to serve each other.

As sheriff, I'm always looking for the person who brings something to the table in the area of ideas. I've surrounded myself with people who not only challenge me in my line of thinking but they also are creative and generate new ideas. I've set the tone of being receptive to people who are constructive and who takes an idea and makes it better. Often times the difference between a good idea and a great idea is the value added to it during the process.

I would ask of each of you to remain in a partnership with our office. To work together in thinking of ways we can better serve each of you as this is not only our goal but it is our job.

As always.....Thank You for your support and **Stay Safe**

Sounds of gunfire

Every fall, our office receives calls from people concerned about gunfire in the vicinity of their residence. We take these calls seriously and routinely send a deputy out to assess each situation. In the vast majority of these calls, the activity we find is someone engaged in hunting, target practice or some other lawful act involving the use of a firearm.

So should you call when you hear the sound of gunfire? Because each situation is unique, you should never hesitate to call if you are concerned for your safety. That being said, being in the vicinity of gunfire does not, by itself, place you at risk. We rely on other people's good judgment all the time for our own well being. A primary example of this is when we drive our cars down the road. We expect that the other driver's will obey the rules, act responsibly and drive safely. At the same time, we drive defensively. This is a good approach to take when outdoors in the fall, during the hunting season. Be aware of your surroundings. Wear bright colored clothing and stay out of areas where you know hunting is taking place.

You should also keep in mind that it is a Felony to provide a firearm to a minor without the permission of the minor's parent or guardian. It is also a Felony to discharge a firearm at or toward a motor vehicle or building while in or immediately after exiting from a motor vehicle.

Firearms transported in or on a motor vehicle must be unloaded and under most circumstances cased.

For a more comprehensive look at our state firearm laws and regulations, you can visit www.leg.state.mn.us.

Our Jail

The Crow Wing County Jail opened in May 2007 and like any major construction project has had to adapt to a number of significant changes. Big or small all have been addressed and the jail has been operating in complete compliance with the MN Department of Corrections (DOC) rules and regulations to ensure the safety and security of our inmates and staff.

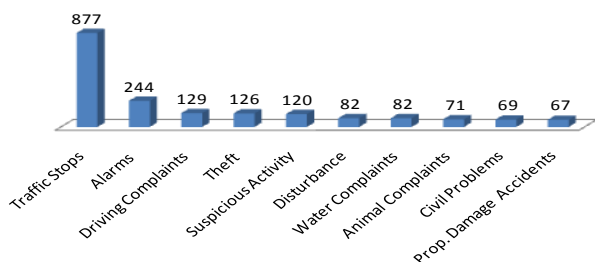
There has been much discussion lately regarding the decrease in our population. Like many agencies throughout the state and national level, the jail has experienced an unforeseen decrease in inmate population. Many factors have contributed to this. Once major factor in our population change can be attributed to the creation of new and innovative programming to manage individuals with alcohol and drug addictions through drug court. The Crow Wing County Drug Court is designed to focus on treatment rather than incarceration. Cass County's population has also been fluctuating. The Department of Corrections previously had been placing a significant number of inmates in our jail but due to budgeting issues faced by the State those numbers are down as well.

However, decreasing jail numbers do not equal less demand on staffing needs. DOC standards require staff to be present 24 hours a day—seven days a week at all posts in the facility and also dictate the frequency of well being checks, meal and medication deliveries and all other necessary activities to insure the safety and well being of our inmates and staff. Adequate staffing is also needed to respond to all emergencies and events in the facility as well as to provide back up to arresting officers who bring in violent offenders. The jail has currently shut down one housing pod but it is necessary to keep the remaining pods open in order to accommodate housing classification needs that are also mandated. With all that in mind, our Jail Administration has continued to research and make contacts with local agencies, other counties and our state and federal prison systems in an effort to increase populations through contracted bed space. We are confident that the lower numbers are only temporary.

Upcoming Events:

- National Domestic Violence Awareness MonthOctober 1, 2009
- Click It or Ticket Seat Belt MobilizationOctober 9—22, 2009
- Toys for Kids Kick-Off at 3WI Radio.....November 27, 2009
- 15th Annual Radiothon to End Child Abuse.....December 4-5, 2009

Third Quarter Top Ten Calls for Service



Other calls/services provided by the Sheriff's Office (not included above):

- Warrant Arrests246
- Emergency Medical Calls269
- Fire..... 27
- Gun Permits issued (purchase & carry)153
- Boat and Water Permits issues 37