

# the SNSO STAR



## From the desk of Sheriff Dick Barta

In-service retraining classes have begun and in addressing the Deputies each week, I include in my remarks a special thanks to them for their professional work they have done, again, in 2009. So I don't miss anyone, as it takes everyone of us working together to be successful, I thank each of you for your dedicated commitment and the quality service you have provided to the citizens of Shawnee County this past year. (Every day we strive for professional excellence)



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That being said, we should always be looking for ways that we can do our job even better with the resources we have available. As we all know, we are experiencing some difficult economic times. The City of Topeka recently announced the elimination of employee positions to meet budget shortfalls. As taxpayers, we can appreciate the fact that our elected officials are reluctant to raise taxes. All the more reason for us to continually, re-evaluate our efficiency and effectiveness to the citizens we serve.

### In Sympathy

Our condolences to Chaplain and Sharon Hansen in the loss of Sharon's mother.

### Welcome

Katie Jones began employment in the Communications Division on February 22, 2010.

### Survey Card Comments

"All of the Deputies that I had contact with were certainly of high character."

As warm weather approaches (soon I hope) our Training complex will become a long awaited reality. Where once there was grass and brush there is now a 30' berm with 20, 100 yard firing lanes and a 42' by 80' training facility. While it appears to have happened overnight Undersheriff Holladay and Lieutenant Askew would disagree.

This entire project has been funded with drug forfeiture monies, no tax dollars have been utilized. Once the complex is complete we will host an Open House and invite agency employees their families and the community to tour the facility which no doubt will be something the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office will be proud of, for years to come!

According to the calendar, spring is 3 weeks away. I'm sure we are all ready for warmer weather to arrive.

## City of Character

### TOLERANCE:

realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development.

# Undersheriff Holladay

The construction of the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office Firearms Training Facility continues. Morton Buildings has fully enclosed the building and the framers will begin on the inside, which will be followed by the heating and cooling. The sheetrock portion should be completed by the end of March. When the weather breaks, KBS, the contractor for the Firearms Range will then be able to begin its portion of construction, which includes pouring the concrete floor of the range and the installation of the moving target system.

It is still a long process but the range is continuing to progress and will indeed be a state of the art facility when finished.

Training building before walls...



Training building after walls...



## Chaplain's Corner by Chaplain John Hansen

### " OBEDIENCE "

Here are two thoughts on the word "obedience".

Michel Eyquem de Montaigne, writes:

The first law that ever God gave to man was a law of obedience; it was a commandment pure and simple, wherein man had nothing to inquire after or to dispute, for as much as to obey is the proper office of a rational soul acknowledging a heavenly superior and benefactor. From obedience and submission spring all other virtues, as all sin does from self-opinion and self-will.

Deuteronomy 4:30 - 31, states: When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the Lord thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the Lord thy God is a merciful

God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he swore unto them.

Your Chaplain

**"For the Lord thy God is a merciful God"**  
**-your Chaplain**

## March Birthdays

Daniel Lopez	7
Debbie Wells	12
Kenton Lewis	14
Caitlin Johnson	17
Steve Luttjohann	18
Brian Rhodd	18
Kathy Bolan	20
Janet Apsley	21
Julie Sewell	22
Brandy Janeski	25
Tim McCaffrey	26
Emily Adams	26
Jenna Lechner	30

## Administration Captain Shane Hoobler

### Accreditation by Erin Olson

Our Accreditation consultant, Bob Moser, was here for a couple of days in early February to review some of our accreditation files. He made a few minor comments, but overall the files are in excellent conditions! He was also very impressed that our agency has started collecting 2010 proofs. We have collected over 300 proofs so far! Thank you to everyone who has turned in a proof. Keep up the good work!!!

The mid-term mock with TPD is still scheduled for March 17-19. Captains Thompson, Fox, and Stanley will be reviewing our accreditation files with Bob Moser, Capt. Hoobler, and Lt. Askew. I will have updates from our mock in the next newsletter.

### Training by Sergeant Steve Luttjohann

Our agency has just completed 6 weeks of the scheduled 10 weeks of in-service training. Because of our on-going accreditation efforts, this is the first year we have included SCECC employees in our in-service. CALEA requires these agency members to receive training in select topics such as Mental Illness and Ethics. We are also pleased to have had other law enforcement agencies take us up on our offer to have their officers attend some of our training classes. So far we have officers scheduled for training from the following outside law enforcement agencies: BNSF, Rossville PD, USD 450, Kansas Attorney General's Office, National Guard Police, Osage Police Department, Perry Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and members of M-Squad.



Captain Hoobler demonstrating skills he learned living with 5 women!

### Community Services by Sergeant Jay Simecka

The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office has been invited to participate in this year's Topeka St. Patrick's Day Parade on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. We have been asked to find volunteers to provide manpower coverage at barricades set up along and around the parade route. The Sheriff's Office believes this would be a wonderful opportunity to get our past Citizen Academy graduates involved with participating in community events. For those who would like to volunteer for this event, we're calling for all graduates to join us in representing the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office. If you're interested in volunteering for this event, or if you have any questions about this event, please call Sgt. Jay Simecka at 368-2217, Sgt. Danny Lotridge at 368-2200 or Deputy J. Boyles at 368-2265. Thanks in advance for helping us represent the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office.

March 16<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting, employees of the Sheriff's Office will be treated to lunch served by John and Debbie Jenkins, owners of the OZ Highland Farm (Auburn, Ks). They will provide a full service meal featuring their homegrown Scottish Highland beef (burgers). Please visit the concessions trailer, parked on the eastside of the LEC, anytime from 11:30 am - 2:30 pm and enjoy some great food.

## Operations Captain Michael Kolbek

Inside Story Headline

The Uniformed Operations Division continuous onward and upward toward fulfilling our mission each and every day. The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of the law enforcement patrol function that involves much more than the performance of patrolling an area. It is an aspect in which officers perform very diverse activities, including community oriented policing, enforcing criminal and traffic laws, answering citizen complaints, conducting investigations, crime prevention activities, and the service of court documents. Our mere presence often acts as a deterrent to criminal activity, but as is often the case an enforcement action is necessary to maintain an ordered society.

As all of you are aware one of the basic tenets of our agency mission statement is "working in partnership with the community." This could not have been clearer than the events that unfolded during the early morning hours recently. A resident in one of our county subdivisions awoke to hear noises, looked outside and discovered an individual breaking in to his car. Father and son gave chase while mom called 911. After a short foot pursuit the suspect was detained until our officers arrived and took him into custody. Later admissions made by the suspect resulted in the identification of several other auto burglaries he was responsible for. This is an extreme case, not usually recommended for obvious safety reasons, but nonetheless, another fine example of our law-abiding citizens lending a hand. Just this morning I received a telephone call from a citizen who wanted to report a vehicle, unfortunately yesterday morning,

that was acting suspicious and appeared to not belong in the neighborhood. After some thought the caller advised that he felt he should let us know. He was very apologetic if the information turned out to be nothing. I thanked him for the info and encouraged him to call anytime, because no one knows better what is right/wrong than a citizen in their own neighborhood. I am convinced that each and every day when we are out and about in our respective territories interacting with the public, "flying the flag" so to speak, we are forging a relationship (partnership) with our citizenry that encourages them to feel comfortable enough with law enforcement to contact us anytime they feel it necessary. We recognize that in order to be successful we must have this kind of a relationship with the citizens of Shawnee County.

On the subject of flags, the Shawnee County Sheriff's Office had the honor and privilege to be the custodian of the US Honor Flag recently. For those that are unaware, this is the flag that flew at Ground Zero after the twin towers collapsed in New York on September 11, 2001. This flag represents all of the lives that were lost that tragic day, the resolve that exists to this very day to eradicate the terrorist organizations both at home and abroad, and every law enforcement officer, firefighter, and military member that puts on a uniform each day. Honor Guards from our agency, the Topeka Police Department, Topeka Fire Department, and the Kansas Army National Guard participated in its transport from Kansas City International Airport, to several events around Topeka, and its return to the airport, at all times

showing it the respect it is due. To some, it was a flag, but to those that were touched by it, it was their flag if only for a short time.

Last year, eight people were killed in motor vehicle accidents in Shawnee County, three of which were alcohol related crashes. Alcohol was determined to be a contributing factor in 57 accidents occurring throughout the county last year. In reviewing our individual numbers it is clear that we can do more toward enforcing the DUI laws. More aggressive enforcement of all of our traffic laws will result in a reduction, of not only motor vehicle accidents, but also death and injuries associated with those accidents. I challenge each of you to actively seek out these offenders toward a safer community for all of us. It has been said as well, if we are unable to arrive at our assigned calls because we are involved in an accident, not only are we unable to fulfill our duties, but it potentially costs the agency hundreds and thousands of dollars in repair bills to fix our equipment. These very tax dollars can be diverted to other necessary agency needs if we do not spend it on vehicle repairs.

Lastly, congratulations to Deputy Matt Akers on his successful completion of the Field Training Officer Program and release to solo patrol duties, and Corporal Wanamaker's successful certification of his new canine Dice. Dice came to us in part due to a donation from a Citizens Academy graduate who was so impressed with our canine program that she wanted to do something for it. In conjunction with Corporal Wanamaker's canine certification, he also became certified as an Instructor.

## Investigation Captain Phil Blume

In the previous newsletter, we addressed to current legislative issue regarding K2. The DEU has been receiving inquires more frequently due to the media coverage. Again at present, K2 is still legal to posses, but in all probability, not for much longer. The DEU is also noting an increase in prescription drug cases or fraud, those persons using

### Agency Vehicle Accident Reduction Goal

In the month of February the agency had 1 vehicle accident, it was ruled to be preventable. Year to date we have had 2 vehicle accidents, 1 was preventable.

selling prescription medication that is either not theirs or a prescription that a person is selling for personal profit. These are cases that we typically are involved in on the fringe, but the DEU is working some proactive cases currently.

In January, the Criminal Interdiction unit had two significant seizures: First, was the seizure of 555 pounds of marijuana. The DEA was contacted and a controlled delivery was made in Kansas City. A number of suspects were either identified or taken into custody and the DEA is proceeding with this case in the federal court system. Second, was the seizure of over

\$590,000 in cash on one stop. This is the largest single seizure of cash made by this agency. Again the DEA is assisting our agency with this case and both criminal and civil cases are pending. Also, Tracy Trammel was instrumental in the detection and take down of a methamphetamine laboratory in a residence near Silver Lake. Tracy took intelligence received from Silver Lake Police, businesses, and independent investigation and was able to locate the lab.

The detective unit has done an outstanding job in regard to some recent business and vehicle burglaries. A number of businesses were recently burglarized in northwest Shawnee County. Kevin Kasl has done a tremendous job of not only clearing these cases, but tying the suspects back to a substantial burglary that was reported to the Topeka Police Department in 2009. Bill

Vaughn is working on cases of a number of vehicle burglaries in southeast Shawnee County that link to one suspect. In the last week, the SNSO has seen an increase in residential burglaries in southeast Shawnee County. Any information, regardless of how minor you may think, could be important in solving these cases. Remember we know our neighbors and neighborhoods better than anyone else, if something or someone seems out of place that needs to be reported and investigated.

From CSIU, Sergeant Kenton Lewis wants to remind everyone the importance of collection of DNA. Kenton has noted getting CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) on our cases dating back to 2003. The collection of DNA may not pay dividends immediately, but in many instances we have time on our side. Remember it is important to build the DNA database.



## Thank you Sara Foster KBI

Sheriff Barta,

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your attendance at the Plane Toss. (A benefit for Project Topeka) If I can ever do anything for you please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you so much!

P.S. Please extend my thanks to your "Pit Crew"! (Sergeant Simecka & Deputy Boyles)

by Acting Assistant Director  
Nancy Ganson

Communications Captain Lance Royer

Dispatch was bustling even more than usual during February. As planned, our new telephone system went live on the morning of Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Leading up to the cutover from the old phone system to the new, supervisors trained the first week of February for a day and a half on administrative functions and phone operations, then dispatchers followed with four hours of phone training each. Throughout January and early February, employees from AT&T and Plant CML worked on system installation. During the cutover on Feb. 10th, Capt. Royer, Lloyd Trimble, Stan Blanchard, Marion Brown, Chris Kerry, four Plant CML employees and two AT&T employees were all in dispatch assisting with activation, training, problem solving, line testing, and removal of the old, bulky telephone consoles. Our two favorite (and only) AT&T installers, Mark Conley and Lowell Thornton, continued fine-tuning the system for the following week and a half.

A new recording system for dispatch also activated on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Two representatives from Voice Products worked throughout the day making sure the system interfaced correctly with the new phones and the radios. The new system now records all channels on our 800 MHz radios. The

number of recording channels were limited on the former version. A new "Last Minute Replay" (LMR), which allows dispatchers to instantly replay recently-recorded radio and telephone traffic, accompanied the new recorder. The old LMR was a window on our PC screens. The new display looks like a boom box! Anyone interested is welcome to come in for a demonstration of our newly-acquired equipment.

Thank you from  
**TFI NAD Committee**

**CORRECTION**

December 7, 2009

Shawnee County Sheriff's Office,

Thank you for working on NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY. Your support made our day successful. A special thanks to **Tracy (McKnight)** for helping with the banner.

Dispatch has begun a program of sending employees to cross train in Records and Warrants. Third shift dispatchers have been responsible for warrant confirmations at night for the past year.

Jane Cooper suggested recently that dispatch trainees spend some time with Records and Warrants personnel during the day to observe how they do their jobs so the trainees would have an increased understanding when working third shift hours. Cecilia Craig said that Aimee Craig has been doing a very good job with the cross training. The program has been so successful for dispatch trainees that we hope to, over a period of time, send all dispatchers to Records and Warrants during their working hours for the same purpose. Cecilia said she also hopes to start sending Records personnel over to dispatch so they can become more familiar with that operation.

Chris Kerry has been installing a new radio and intercom for Rossville Fire into its brand new fire engine.

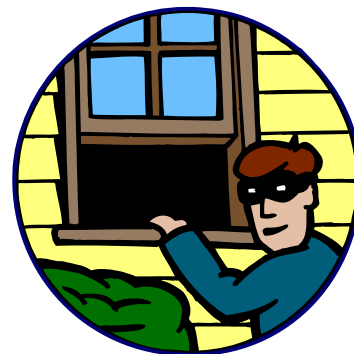
Stan Blanchard said that Radio Repair continues to work on re-banding the clones for the rural fire department radios. Stan and Marion Brown meet at the convenience of rural fire personnel, usually at their evening departmental meetings, to accomplish this task. Most have been completed, but Stan said Silver Lake and Shawnee Heights Fire Departments' radios remain to be re-banded.



# Home Burglary Prevention

Most people only think about making their home secure after a burglary has occurred. According to crime reports compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation one out of every six homes will be burglarized this year. It has been stated that burglars only need 60 seconds to break into most homes. FBI statistics claim that only one out of every four burglaries involve forced entry. Most burglars enter homes through an open or unlocked window or door. By making it more difficult for intruders to get into your residence, you can greatly reduce your chances of being robbed. The more a burglar has to work to get into your home, the less chance you have of becoming his victim.

To determine how secure your home is, think like a robber. From the outside of your home, consider how difficult it would be to break in. If you locked yourself out, could you easily break in or climb in through an unlocked window? If you answered yes, then a burglar could answer yes also. Carefully observe any items or objects in your yard that could offer assistance to a would-be thief. Are there any items laying around your home that could actually entice a burglar? A ladder propped up beside your garage could offer easy access to a second floor window. A tool such as a screwdriver or hammer left outside could be used to break a window or pry open a window or door. A privacy fence or large trees and shrubs could provide cover for a burglar while he attempts to break in. Here are a few other things to consider on the outside of your home.



## Exterior Doors

Take a good look at your exterior doors. Do they appear solid and sturdy? Your exterior doors should be constructed of solid wood or metal for the most protection against break-ins. Try inserting a straight pin into the door, if it goes in without much effort, you have a hollow door that can easily be kicked in by burglars.

Make sure that all doors are kept locked at all times. In addition to your door knob or key lock, you should have a high quality dead bolt lock installed on all entry way doors. Deadbolts can withstand the prying and pounding that regular key locks can't.

If you have glass windows on your doors or next to your doors, consider installing a double cylinder deadbolt. This type of deadbolt requires a key to open it from the outside and the inside.

Not all robberies occur in an unoccupied house, you may also consider a peephole so you can see who is at your door before you open it.

## Windows

Windows should be closed and locked anytime that you are not in your home or anytime at night. Many burglars, and worse, have easily entered homes through open windows while the home's occupants sleep.

Consider installing window locks on all windows to help prevent them from being broken into. If you have double-hung windows, ones that slide up and down, you can utilize window pinning or track fillers to add inexpensive security.

Window pinning is done by inserting a pin or nail above a window so it can't be opened. Track fillers are items such as a wooden pole that is placed into the track of the window.

## Sliding Glass Doors

Sliding glass doors can be the easiest place for a burglar to gain entry into your home. Since these doors provide the easiest opportunities for thieves, special consideration and expense, if necessary, should be used to properly secure these doors. To improve the security on your sliding glass doors:

1. Have eyed locking devices that secure the doors to the frame or track installed by a professional locksmith.
2. Adjusting the door's track clearances so they can't be pushed or lifted out of their tracks.



## Home Burglary Prevention tips continued

3. Place a strong metal or wooden bar, such as a metal pipe or broomstick handle, inside the track to prevent the doors from being opened.
  4. Install locking hinges that slide over the tracks to prevent the door from being forced open.
- Some of the newer styles of sliding glass doors have built in locking systems. If your doors do not have these locks, you may want to consult with a professional about having them replaced with the more secure models.

### Outdoor Lighting

Lighting, both inside and outside of your home, is one of the best and most economical deterrents for burglars. Indoor lighting gives the impression that a home is occupied while outdoor lighting diminishes places to hide.

You should have lights placed near porches, outside of all doorways, garage doors and all other points of entry. Keep any entryways well lit. Statistics have shown that a burglar is less likely to attempt to enter a well-lit residence.

Floodlights are good choices for providing bright light. Motion detecting lights are also good choices for home security. These lights turn on automatically whenever motion is detected nearby. The sudden flash of bright lights can be very effective in scaring away a would-be burglar.

For added security, place some lights out of reach so that the bulbs can't be removed or easily broken. Install flood lights or motion lights on each corner of your house's roof for added light and security. Aim the lights away from the house so that your yard is illuminated, allowing you to see anyone that approaches.

### Burglar Alarms

Burglar Alarm Systems may offer an advantage to you if you live in an isolated area or if you that spend extended periods of time away from your home. Also, if you live in a high crime area or keep valuable items in your home, you may want to consider installing a security system.

There are a variety of burglar alarms and security systems available. To determine which level of security best suits your need, compare the services of several companies. If you have an alarm system installed in your home make sure all household members are properly trained at using it. A top notch security system is worthless if it isn't used...or if it is used improperly.

### Security When You're Away From Home

Burglars have an opportune time to rob your house while you are away from home on business or vacation. Make sure your home looks as if someone is living in it at all times. If possible, ask a trusted friend, neighbor or family member to stay in your home while you are away. Otherwise, arrange for them to visit your house each day to pick up the mail, any newspapers, deliveries, and turn on lights.

If you will be away for a long period of time, consider using light timers that will automatically turn lights off and on at specific times. Have the post office and the newspapers stop your deliveries while you are away. A pile of old newspapers in the driveway are a sure sign that no one is home.

No method is 100 percent effective against burglaries, but with the steps described above, you can decrease your chances of being the next burglary victim.

If you need additional information about home security, contact Deputy Justin Boyles at 785-368-2265 or [justin.boyles@snco.us](mailto:justin.boyles@snco.us)