

## **April 2008**

Newsletter #11

### **Retirement at EPD**

We'll soon bid a farewell to an old friend at the Police Department. She has served us well for nearly nine years and we're sorry to see her go but when it's time it's time. Squad 697 has seen better days and will be replaced in mid April by a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria.

Before ordering the new squad I asked the troops if they had a color preference and black won by majority vote. This squad will replace the 1999 white unmarked unit which is used predominantly for traffic enforcement and currently has in excess of 140,000 miles.

Coincidentally the very day we took delivery of the new squad I received a telephone call from a concerned citizen regarding the very topic of unmarked police cars. She expressed safety concerns that many people have and I'd like to address her apprehension as a matter of public interest.

Occasionally we read of suspected police impersonators using a dash mounted red light to pull someone over. Our caller this morning asked what she should do if she were ever pulled over by an unmarked car on a dark night in a secluded area. This concern is legitimate and I would advise anyone that had good reason to be suspicious, to

keep driving. Don't speed up or try to get away but rather, turn on your emergency flashers. If the person trying to stop you is a police officer, this will cue them that you know s/he is trying to stop you and that you're acknowledging their presence. If it's dark outside, look for a well lit area with lots of people such as a fast food restaurant parking lot or gas station to pull over. Even better, if you have a cell phone, dial 9-1-1 and tell the dispatcher where you are and what's happening. They should be able to tell you in a matter of seconds if they have an officer attempting to make a traffic stop in the area. The dispatcher can also send a marked police unit to your location. Ask the dispatcher to stay on the line with you until you're comfortable that the person really is a police officer.

Finally, I'd like to offer the same advice I've shared with my wife. If you find yourself pulled over by an unmarked squad, it's dark outside and the "officer" asks you to step out of your vehicle for no apparent reason, ask the officer if you can make a quick 9-1-1 call to dispatch. Most officers using unmarked squad are sensitive to this type of situation and should have no problem with your calling 9-1-1 before you exit the car. If the officer gives you grief, simply tell the officer that you intend to be

cooperative but that you are **VERY** uncomfortable with the circumstances. Indicate that you would like to see a marked police car at the scene. A legitimate officer should be able to call for a marked squad using his handheld radio right then and there.

Police impersonators are few but they're out there and no one, particularly a police officer, should fault you for playing it safe.

### **Mobile-Eyes**

Thanks to cash donations from two generous Village of Eagle residents and a third from the Eagle Horseshoe Club, we've purchased a speed display board. This costly device was made possible only by way of these bighearted contributions.

The speed board is on a dolly, is very mobile and easily relocated from place to place. As motorists approach, their vehicle speed is displayed on a lighted screen. We are soon to begin displaying the board in areas of the Village needing special traffic attention. The built-in radar, or "EYE", mounted to the unit is the same type of radar officers use for traffic enforcement.

As much as I would like to publicly thank the cash contributors, they've indicated to me that their Christian faith was their motivation and neither supporter wanted recognition. From time to time the police department receives donations from residents. Each time we are given a gift of money I am humbled and astounded at the charitable nature of the citizens in this community.

Whether your contribution to "the cause" comes in the form of a kind wave to one of our officers, a bit of corrective criticism, a financial donation or a simple pop in at the police department to just say hi, I'd like to thank all of you for your continued support. It's a pleasure serving the citizens of Eagle.

### **Statues Revealed**

I enjoy stumbling on strange or whacky State Statues and when I do, I earmark them for the newsletter.

Wisconsin State Statue 945.08, Bribery of Participant in Contest, states in part:

"Any person who, with intent to influence any participant to refrain from exerting full skill, speed, strength or endurance, transfers or promises any property or any personal advantage to or on behalf of any participant in a contest of skill, speed, strength or endurance is guilty of a Class H felony."

I guess I'd better rethink offering my five year old daughter a Kit-Kat Bar so I can win an occasional hand of Go Fish!

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*As always we look forward to your comments and suggestions. We encourage you to contact any of us at the police department. You can reach us by mail, phone or email.*

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