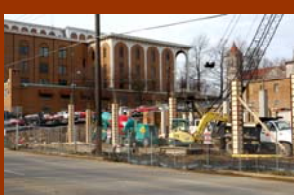




Quarterly Township Newsletter

Richland County Sheriff's Office



NEW BOOKS DONATED FOR SHERIFF'S INMATE LIBRARY PROGRAM:

Thanks to the efforts of Corrections Officer George Isaman, the **Holly's Book Rack** located in the Applesseed Shopping Center in Mansfield, Ohio recently donated "new" books to the Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Office to replace worn books/magazines on the "book cart" circulated among inmates for their personal usage.

The library program is just one of many programs offered to inmates during their period of confinement. Reading is the key to success in a modern advanced civilization. Without strong reading skills, many people face a limited future and in turn, are prone to crime.

During the summer of 2006, Officer Isaman was given the opportunity to reinstitute the "book cart" program that was ceased due to the deteriorating conditions of the reading material being distributed to inmates on a weekly basis.

Initially, Officer Isaman began his search for new material by contacting the Mansfield-Richland County Library and resulted in some success. Then about 1-year ago, the Holly's Book Rack began to donate a vast variety of good books for the inmates to read.

The Holly's gifts has given the inmates with untold hours of reading enjoyment and they continue to offer "free" books to enable the Corrections Division to replenish the "book cart" reading material.



Pictured above, Officer Isaman presents Holly and Chris Workman (owners of Holly's Book Rack) with a "certificate of appreciation" for "graciously" supporting the Sheriff's Office.

CRIME DATA:

Overall crime in Richland County during the month of January/February 2007 considerably dropped compared to the same months last year, thus, resulting in a **decrease of 18.68%** (or down by 119 criminal offenses).

Part I (UCR) criminal offenses dropped by 13.4% (or down by 24 offenses) & Part II offenses decreased by 20.74% (or down by 95 offenses) compared to last year.

Violent crimes (composed of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) rose by 20% (or up by 1 offense).

Property crimes (composed of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) declined by 14.37% (or down by 25 offenses).

Captain Larry Faith, Administrative Assistant, credits the decline to the bad and extremely cold weather we've had that keeps persons indoors.

TRACTORS TEAR UP ROADWAYS:



Most horse and buggy old Order Mennonites allow the use of tractors for farming, although some groups insist on steel-wheeled tractors to prevent their

tractors from being used for road transportation. Over the past several years, complaints are sometimes received about road damage caused by steel-wheeled tractors equipped with cleats or spikes.

In checking with the Ohio Department of Transportation to determine if they had ever performed a study on damage done to highway or roadway surfaces caused by tractors with steel wheels equipped with cleats or spikes, we were told that no study specific to this problem had ever been performed.

In 2003, an Amish & Mennonite Transportation Report for Clark County, Wisconsin revealed that steel wheels appear to



cause occasional loss of aggregate on paved surfaces. The study showed of the 142 miles surveyed, about 62 miles showed evidence

of surface scarring and asphalt penetration. In isolated occurrences, their impact on gravel roads was far more significant than on paved surfaces. Some steel tractor wheels that have "spikes" for improved traction cause more of an impact. Horseshoe cleats caused the primary road damage in Clark County, Wisconsin.



Asphalt paved surfaces are designed to withstand heavy loads from rubber tires that distribute weight evenly over the area where the tires meet the road. Steel wheels focus the weight of the tractor over a smaller area that can lead to indentations in the pavement, separation of the aggregate and asphalt in pavement, and eventually the creation of ruts and potholes.¹

Richland County Sheriff's Deputy Rich Eichinger recently had the occasion to talk with a Mennonite farmer from the Shiloh area who frequently operates his tractor with steel wheels upon the roadway (twice a day) to get to his second farm in the area. Further, he personally felt his tractor only caused *minimal* damage to the roadway when driving on it with his tractor.

This farmer permitted Deputy Eichinger to take some photos of his tractor and explained that the wheels on his tractor were called "Belting Wheels" and made out of old industrial belts consisting of 2-inch rubber. The farmer alleges the use of this type of wheels prevents other family members from constantly using the tractor for transportation to go to town to get pop, chips, tobacco or alcohol or other none worldly items.

The Village of Shiloh will soon be posting new roadway signs regarding it being against the village code to drive a traction engine or tractor with tires or wheels equipped with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains or other projections of any kind extending beyond the cleats.

Other township trustees interested in obtaining a copy of Shiloh's code which addresses this issue-at-hand are asked to call Sheriff's Office employee, Patrica Bittman, at (419) 774-3551.

OFFENSES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS:

ORC Section 5589.08

[Operating traction engines upon improved highways] of the Ohio Revised Code reads:

No person shall drive over the improved highways of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, a traction engine or tractor with tires or wheels equipped

¹ Amish and Mennonite Transportation Report. Clark County, Wisconsin; June 2003.

OFFENSES RELATING TO HIGHWAYS:
(Continued from Page 2)

with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains, or other projections of any kind extending beyond the cleats, or no person shall tow or in any way pull another vehicle over improved highways of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, which towed or pulled vehicle has tires or wheels equipped with ice picks, spuds, spikes, chains, or other projections of any kind. "Traction engine" or "tractor", as used in this section, applies to all self-propelling engines equipped with metal-tired wheels operated or propelled by any form of engine, motor, or mechanical power.

No municipal corporation, county, or township shall adopt, enforce, or maintain any ordinance, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with this section, or require of any person any license tax upon or registration fee for any traction engine, tractor, or trailer, or any permit or license to operate. Operators of traction engines or tractors shall have the same rights upon the public streets and highways as the drivers of any other vehicles, unless some other safe and convenient way is provided, and no public road open to traffic shall be closed to traction engines or tractors. PENALTY: A MINOR MISDEMEANOR

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS:

In our checking with the Ohio Attorney General's Opinions Section, they were able to locate five (5) formal opinions in which the Attorney General rendered advice about the provisions of ORC #5589.08. These opinions, among other things, discussed the circumstances in which a tractor may or may not be driven on an improved highway or road when the tractor has cleats on its wheels that are meant to protect the road surface, and does not have "spikes" extending beyond the cleats. In 1927, the Attorney General (AG) was asked to comment on several types of cleats that were being used on tractors in Morrow County, and he advised that he thought several of the cleats that had been described to him by the Prosecuting Attorney, who had requested the opinion were, in fact, in violation of the statute. The AG based his opinion on the fact that the cleats were as likely as "spikes" to damage the road surface due to the way in which the cleats were designed and installed on the tractors' wheels.

Additionally, no formal opinion was located which permitted Amish or Mennonite farmers to travel upon the improved surface of a road with tractors having "spiked-steel wheels."

HOME SECURITY

[Awareness and Prevention]

The most effective way to prevent crime is through common sense, awareness, and basic safety precautions. Citizens of Richland County should remember that safety is each person's responsibility. Below are some safety tips for everyone to follow:

AT HOME

- Keep your doors locked. Don't let strangers inside. If a stranger comes to your door and asks to use your phone, have them wait outside and make the call for them.
- Don't give out personal information about yourself or other family members over the telephone.
- On home answering machines, simply request for the caller to leave their name and phone number.
- If your subjected to a threatening or harassing phone call, hang up right away. Should such calls continue, call your local law enforcement agency and phone company.

WHILE DRIVING

- If your vehicle breaks down or runs out of gas, tie a white cloth to an exterior door next to the roadway to alert police. Remain in your vehicle (doors/windows locked) until the police arrive. If a stranger stops to help, ask them to call the police.
- When parking at night, park in well-lit areas if possible. Upon return, have your keys ready as you approach your vehicle. Don't overload your arms with packages; instead, make several trips to your car to deposit the packages.
- Don't pick up strangers. If you see or are approached by a stranger or stranded motorist wanting help, call the police for them instead of stopping to help. If you find yourself in a suspicious circumstance involving another motorist, motion or tell the other driver to follow you to the nearest police station or sheriff's office.

CHANGES IN CONCEALED FIRE-ARMS CARRY: (Effective 03/14/07)

BILL SUMMARY

- Provides that the General Assembly finds the need to provide uniform laws throughout the state regulating the ownership, possession, purchase, other acquisition, transport, carrying, sale, or other transfer of firearms, their components, and their ammunition, and, except as specifically provided by the U.S. or Ohio constitutions or by state or federal law, a person may, without further license, permission, restriction, delay, or process own, possess, purchase, sell, transfer, transport, or keep any firearm, part of a firearm, its components, and its ammunition.
- Requires the court to award costs and reasonable attorney fees to any person who prevails in a challenge to an ordinance, rule, or regulation that is in conflict with the provision described in the previous dot point.
- Specifies that the provisions described in the preceding two dot points do not apply to either (1) a zoning ordinance that regulates or prohibits the commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition for firearms in areas zoned for residential or agricultural uses or (2) a zoning ordinance that specifies the hours of operation or the geographic areas where the commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition for firearms may occur, provided that the zoning ordinance is consistent with zoning ordinances for other retail establishments in the same geographic area and does not result in a de facto prohibition of the commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition for firearms in areas zoned for commercial, retail, or industrial uses.
- Removes the requirement that when a concealed carry licensee knowingly transports or has a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle the loaded handgun either must be in plain sight or in a case that is in plain sight.
- Requires BCI special agents and certain peace officers in addition to those currently specified to successfully complete a firearms

requalification program.

- Specifies that the prohibitions against a person possessing a firearm in a liquor permit premises, school safety zone, or courthouse or carrying a concealed weapon also do not apply to any person who is subject to and in compliance with the firearms requalification requirements unless the appointing authority of the person has expressly specified that the exemption does not apply to that person.
- Eliminates the fee distinction for a license to carry a concealed handgun or renewal license based on the number of years a person has been a resident of Ohio and increases the fee by \$10 for an application made on or after the effective date of the bill.
- Requires a sheriff to accept a completed affidavit for a temporary emergency license and the accompanying information and fee at any time during normal business hours, and prohibits a sheriff from requiring an appointment or designating a specific period of time for the submission or acceptance of this information or the provision to any person of an application form or renewal application.
- Directs a sheriff to accept an application for a concealed carry license at least 15 hours a week, the hours of which must be posted.
- Prohibits a person who is illegally in the United States from obtaining a concealed carry license, a license renewal, or a temporary emergency license.
- Specifies that a renewal application may be filed not earlier than 90 days before the expiration date of the license and not later than 30 days after the expiration of the license.
- For a license issued on or after the effective date of the bill, extends the validity of a license by one year, so that a license issued on or after the effective date of the bill expires five years after the date of issuance.
- States that an appeal of a conceal carry license denial must be brought in the county served by the sheriff who denied the application.

CHANGES IN CONCEALED FIREARMS

CARRY: (Continued from Page 4)

- Increases the penalty for a concealed carry licensee who fails to inform a law enforcement officer who has stopped the licensee that the person has a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle from a misdemeanor of the fourth degree to a misdemeanor of the third degree.
- Increases the penalty for a person who knowingly has a loaded handgun in a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, a drug of abuse, or a combination of them or in violation of state OVI law from a felony of the fifth degree to a felony of the fourth degree if the loaded handgun is concealed on the person's person.
- Makes other changes to the Concealed Carry Licensing Law.

OCJS GRANT AWARDED

On March 1, 2007, the Richland County Commissioners signed and accepted a sub-grant award agreement with the Ohio, Office of Criminal Justices Services (OCJS) on behalf of the Sheriff's Office for its' implementation of a "Support Personnel Overtime Project" which will occur between the dates of 2/1/2007 and 8/31/2007. Funding was made available from Federal funds received by the State under the 2006 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). Total JAG funds awarded were **\$15,785.00** to be combined with a local cash match of \$1,753.90, thus, making the Project total equal the sum of \$17,538.90.

Funds involved will be used to pay support personnel in the Records Section overtime wages to help reduce the Sheriff's Office input backlog of "incident" reports and "arrest" cards waiting to be placed in the in-house computer system for crimes management which is utilized for sending data to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and Ohio Incident Based Reporting System (OIBRS).

The Sheriff's Office participates in both the NIBRS/OIBRS that is a voluntary crime reporting

program in which Ohio law enforcement agencies can submit crime statistics directly to the State and Federal government in an automated format. This process has replaced the FBI,UCR/Summary reporting process in many areas of the state. OCJS has upgraded its' repository and crime mapping solutions to provide better usage of the data. The upgraded repository provides advanced queries and reports for improved analysis.

Because of the input backlog, reporting discrepancies occur in data submitted by the Richland County Sheriff's Office, thus, causing errors in the NIBRS/OIBRS data. At the time of application, there was a backlog of 400 incident reports and 12,000 arrestee cards waiting to be entered into the Sheriff's Office in-house computer system. Currently, sheriff deputies generate an average of 600 incident reports, per-month of which 95% of them involve data that is submitted to NIBRS/OIBRS.

In addition to reducing its input backlog, the Sheriff's Office will be:

- Performing audits of its' current information system and UCR Program to detect any reporting discrepancies.
- Redesigning in-house software screens and tables to make them user-friendly.
- Acquiring three (3) new licenses for H.T.E.'s – Cognus software that interfaces with the existing software that will allow more records clerks to perform queries and reports for crime analysis.



Beginning with the SPRING issue of the 2007 Quarterly Township Newsletter, it will now be posted on the sheriff's office website at www.sheriffichlandcounty.com. Mailings of past newsletters have exceeded 75 in number with additional requests being made monthly.

ADAMS WALSH CHILD PROTECTION & SAFETY ACT

The Adam Walsh Act that became Federal law on 7/25/2006, creates stricter requirements for sex offender registration -- to prevent offenders from slipping through the cracks and hurting our children.

The stated purpose of the Act is to protect the public, in particular children, from violent sex offenders via a more comprehensive, nationalized system for registration of sex offenders. The act states that the attorney general will issue guidelines and regulations in interpretation and implementation of the legislation.

The act calls for state conformity to various aspects of sex offender registration including:

- Information that must be collected, duration of registration requirement for classifications of offenders, verification of registry information, access to and sharing of information, and penalties for failure to register as required.
- The act states that failure of a jurisdiction to comply with the federal requirements within three years of the implementation of the act will result in a 10 percent reduction to Byrne law enforcement assistance grants.

The attorney general will establish a Sex Offender Management Assistance grant program to offset costs to states in implementing provisions of this law, for fiscal years 2007, 2008, 2009. The act authorizes appropriations, but no amount specified.

VEHICLE CRASHES



End of the year data for 2006, indicates there were a total of 4,155 vehicle crashes that occurred in Richland County resulting in a **17.69% decline** in

comparison to the year 2005. Examination of 2006 crashes, showed there were 8 Fatal crashes (7-Rural plus 1-Urban), 627 Speed-related crashes, and 203 Alcohol-related

crashes. In comparing to 2006 over 2005, Fatal crashes increased by 14.29% (or up by 1), speed-related crashes declined by 25.5% (down by 216 crashes), and Alcohol-related crashes declined by 9.78% (down by 22 crashes).

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

[High Visibility Enforcement Overtime]

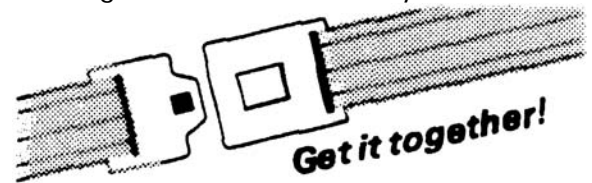
• Prom Season Blitz

Richland County Sheriff's Office, working under a Grant provided by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Governor's Highway Safety Office, will be participating in an overtime blitz during the months of April and May 2007. Deputies will be working the following site areas and dates:

April 13th & 14th, 2007; April 20th & 21st, 2007; and April 27th & 28th, 2007 in: Jefferson, Madison/Mifflin, and Washington Townships at US Routes 42 & 30 and State Routes 13 and 430.

May 4th & 5th, 2007; May 11th & 12th, 2007; and May 18th & 19th, 2007 in: Jefferson, Madison/Mifflin, and Washington Townships at US Routes 42 & 30 and State Routes 13 and 430.

A National Mobilization period will also begin May 21st, 2007 and run through June 3rd, 2007. This mobilization known as "Click It or Ticket" has proven to be a positive response message among persons who are not swayed by the message that safety belts save lives. People who refuse to "buckle up" seem to be more likely to do so if they believe they will be stopped, given a citation and pay a fine. This mobilization consists of high visibility enforcement by law enforcement and advertisement to change the thinking of drivers to 'buckle up'.



SAFETY BELTS SAVE LIVES

Remember, "Click It Together, Or Get A Ticket"