

From the Sheriff:

I will begin this week by apologizing to Mr. Rammelt, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Dodge and Jefferson County. Mr. Rammelt wrote a letter to the editor criticizing my recent purchase of a Sheriff walk-around. I chose to rebut the letter when I should have just ignored it. My tone was inappropriate and as a community servant I must be willing to accept this type of criticism. Should anybody have any questions, negative or positive criticism regarding the Sheriff's Dept. feel free to contact me direct. The identification of our shortfalls will lead us to improvement in our services.

With that being said, the Sheriff's Department has just received the first 30-days report of one of our new traffic enforcement initiatives. This initiative asked the employees to work four-hours more per month w/o overtime compensation in an effort to increase law enforcement visibility. The first 30-days show that we worked 72 additional hours, traveling 1,580 miles, generating 47 traffic arrests and 111 traffic warnings. These numbers exceeded my expectations. Those numbers also show the deputies logged a mere 22 miles for each hour worked generating traffic contact every ten miles or every 27 minutes.

With the hunting season upon us the Sheriff's Department will begin to field numerous calls reporting trespassers. The Sheriff's Dept. has the responsibility to investigate these complaints not the Dept. of Natural Resources. If you call the DNR they will forward you to the Sheriff's Dept. State Statute 943.13 spells out the Trespass to Land definition. Both land owner and potential violator need to understand the statutes. Landowners should post their land with "No Trespass" signs or "Private Land" signs. Signs must be 11 square, installed two per 40-acres, visible and signed by the land owner or leasee. Citations and conviction can be difficult. Land owners who have given permission in the past must withdraw that same permission. If you give permission to others to cut firewood, express that to them and no access for any other reasons.

For those that observe a violation, stay calm and gather necessary information. Vehicle descriptions, back tag numbers, and clothing description. I do not advise confronting trespassers that have weapons to discuss a potential violation. These types of incidents can go south very quickly resulting in the original landowner (victim) becoming the arrested person.

For those who may find themselves violating 943.13, "I did not see a sign" is not a defense. If you are legally hunting on another's property it is your responsibility to understand the lot lines. With violations costing \$200.00 and change, it is better to be safe than sorry. If you are pursuing wounded game, make contact with the owner and seek the necessary permission to track your game. A great resource for hunters is a Plat Book, available at the County Clerk's Office in Juneau. You can read and educate yourself on all State Statutes by accessing them at [www.wisconsin.gov](http://www.wisconsin.gov).

New this month to our website is a link to numerous Sheriff's Dept. forms that we routinely use. This will allow you access to forms and complete them w/o having to drive to Juneau. Examples include traffic statements, business contact forms, and many others. The site also describes the form and its application. As we move forward we will continue to identify ways to enhance our level of services to the citizens of Dodge County. We are proud of our web-site and thank all of those who continue to access it. Please access [www.dodgecountysheriff.com](http://www.dodgecountysheriff.com) and click on links to view available forms.