

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 19, 2012

Contact: Laura E. Rowe
SNBT Marketing Officer
laura.rowe@snbt.com
715.735.2380



SNBT Partners with Crime Stoppers of Marinette County



Pictured left to right: Dan Peterson of The Stephenson National Bank & Trust, Detective Dan Miller of Marinette County Sheriff's Department, and Gary Temple Sr of Crime Stoppers of Marinette County.

The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT) has partnered with Crime Stoppers of Marinette County Inc. to bring to our community the latest technology for preventing crime. SNBT's generous donation has made it possible for citizens to begin submitting truly anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers through the Internet, text messages, or mobile applications – aside from the telephone methods currently in place.

“We could not have brought this Text-a-Tip program to the community without the

support of SNBT,” said Gary Temple Sr., Crime Stoppers Board Member. “Their donation of almost \$5,000 is the key to helping us stay current with new technology used to prevent criminal activity in Marinette County.”

“We are happy to partner with Crime Stoppers of Marinette County on this worthwhile project. As an independent community bank, we are committed to the areas we serve, so we did not hesitate when they approached us about funding,” said Dan Peterson, SNBT Executive Vice President. “This is one tangible way to re-affirm our commitment, while supporting law enforcement, keeping our fellow citizens safe, and enhancing the quality of life in our communities.”

Authorities hope the new system will appeal to people who prefer sending text messages instead of making phone calls. “In an era of reliance on mobile-based technology, we may garner more leads through Text-a-Tip than traditional methods,” continued Temple. “To Text-a-Tip, type “Marinette,” along with your tip message, then send it to 274637(Crimes).”

Through this new software program, texts to Crime Stoppers are not traced back to the sender. Messages are routed through Canada, (where it is illegal to divulge a sender's identification) and tips are completely stripped of all identifying information prior to delivery to local agencies. Tips are then sent directly to Marinette Law Enforcement officials, who process

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the information through message encryption, keeping the tipster fully anonymous. The entire process is done within minutes of the tip being sent.

In addition to Text-a-Tip, people can also visit www.tipsubmit.com and file a web tip to Marinette County Crime Stoppers. Marinette County Crime Stoppers will continue to use the telephone hotline by calling (800) 427-5857 or (715) 735-5111. Both methods will utilize the new software, which make obtaining more detailed tips and assisting with paying rewards easier for local authorities. All tip methods are 100% anonymous, whereby the software generates a unique identifying number to keep an informant's identity unknown.

Crime Stoppers Inc. of Marinette County is a non-profit organization comprised of concerned citizens who volunteer to help fight crime. Since its inception in 1991, the Marinette County Crime Stoppers have made a big impact in solving many crimes throughout the county, recovering over \$24,000 in personal property and \$278,000 in narcotics. There have been over 200 arrests made as a direct result of anonymous tips. The Marinette County chapter is part of 49 programs in the state of Wisconsin, 346 in the United States, and 1186 in 24 countries internationally.

The Stephenson National Bank & Trust is a 138-year old independent community bank with \$750 million in Bank, Mortgage, and Trust & Investment assets under management. Offices are located in Marinette and Oconto, Wis. and Menominee, Mich. with a Trust & Investment Office in Marquette, Mich. For more information about The Stephenson National Bank & Trust visit www.snbt.com.

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