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SNBT Partners with Crime Stoppers to Unite two Counties



Dan Peterson, SNBT President & CEO stands center between the Marinette and Menominee County Crime Stoppers representatives. Marinette County representatives: Deputy Fred Popp, law enforcement advisor; Gary Temple Sr., board member. Menominee County representatives: Sgt. Brian Helfert, law enforcement advisor; Jerry Christians, board member.

The Stephenson National Bank & Trust (SNBT) has again partnered with Crime Stoppers of Marinette County Inc. to extend crime fighting technologies into Menominee County, Mich.

“The TipSoft™ software program that SNBT helped fund last year has been widely successful. So far, the response has exceeded our expectations, and we have solved many cases from people utilizing text tips,” said Gary Temple Sr., Crime Stoppers Board Member.

Due to its popularity in Marinette County, Wis, the organization sought the help of SNBT to bring new enhancements to the program that would provide the same features in Menominee County as well.

One of the expenses associated with the TipSoft™ program, which allows residents to submit truly anonymous tips to Crime Stoppers through the Internet, text messages, or mobile applications, is its communications services called Crime Scene Information (CSI). It provides 24/7 communication services, local line transfer, statistical reports, web tip monitoring, and message service. SNBT again offered to donate nearly \$2,000 to cover the cost of this enhancement. Now that the new technology is in place, both Marinette County and Menominee County residents can send anonymous tips regarding criminal activity in either community.

“We were amazed to learn that the Upper Peninsula has no Crime Stoppers program. So, we took it upon ourselves to resolve that. With the guidance from Wisconsin State Crime Stoppers Association, and the support from Menominee County Sheriff Kenny Marks and Menominee Chief of Police Brett Botbyl, we were able to bring the program across the border.”

“This ongoing partnership with Crime Stoppers of Marinette County has been a worthwhile project,” said Daniel J. Peterson, SNBT president and CEO. “This is one tangible

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way to re-affirm our commitment to our local communities, while supporting law enforcement, keeping our fellow citizens safe, and enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhoods.”

According to Temple, they were pleased that the process of bringing the Crime Stoppers program to another state. Through this community-wide effort, the Crime Stoppers organization is growing, they have added three Menominee volunteer citizens to the Board of Directors, along with law enforcement advisors from Menominee, Marinette, and the City of Peshtigo.

“After one year of offering the Text-a-Tip program, we remain very grateful to SNBT,” said Temple. “They made it possible for us to stay current with new technology and now with the TipSoft™ program in both Counties, it is even easier for citizens to submit a tip any time of day or night through this modern means of communication.”

To Text-a-Tip, type “Marinette,” along with your tip message, then send it to 274637(Crimes). 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 continue to use the telephone hotline by calling (800) 427-5857 or (715) 735-5111. Both methods 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. Texts to Crime Stoppers 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 the information through message encryption, keeping the tipster fully anonymous. The entire process is done within minutes of the tip being sent.

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.