

# THE SENTINEL

A Newsletter from Dial One

Volume 6, Number 2

Fall 1998

Dear Readers:

We are pleased to present the fall issue of The Sentinel. We created this newsletter five years ago to keep you informed of important safety and security issues.



John Lindberg, President

In this issue, we profile our new service technician, John Matheny. Also, sure to see Page 2 to learn about referral discounts available through Dial One.

Dial One is proud to have been serving the Tri-state since 1979, specializing in security systems, fire alarms, closed-circuit camera systems and card access control systems for residential and business customers.

If you have any comments about this newsletter or suggestions about topics you would like to see covered, please call me at (513) 527-4400.

Sincerely,

John Lindberg

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## Keep Kids Safe When Heading Back To School

It's that time of year again. Parents all over the country are gearing up for their children to go back to school. Starting school is a fun and exciting time of year for many children, but it's also a time to think about their safety. The following back to school safety tips are sure to help parents prepare their children for a new season of pencils and books.

- Be sure your child walks to school in groups with older children or an adult chaperone.
- If your child rides a school bus, be sure to review bus safety. Remember to teach them tips such as: using quiet voices while riding, sitting two children per seat and always remaining seated during travel.
- If your children ride a bicycle to school, stress the importance of always wearing a helmet and the appropriate bicycle safety gear.
- Introduce children to the school safety patrol team. Make sure they know to wait for the patrol member to signal when it is safe to cross the street, and of course, to look both ways before doing so.
- Be certain of the time your child is expected to arrive at school and back home at the end of the day. If you work during the day, have the child call you when they arrive home safely.
- Set up parent/teacher conferences to get to know teachers, librarians, school nurses and other staff.
- Stress the importance of never talking to or riding with strangers.
- Create a password that neighbors or other trusted adults will use when picking up the child after school. Make sure the child knows not to go with anyone who doesn't know the password.

## Alarm Owners May Qualify For Discounts On Insurance

By Eric Diehl, Agent for Farmer's  
Insurance Group

Did you know that, in addition to protecting you and your family, a home security system might qualify you for discounts on your homeowner's insurance?

Many insurance companies offer discounts for homeowners with burglar and/or fire alarm systems. Insurance companies recognize that the risk of losing property because of a burglary or fire is significantly reduced with the installation of alarms, and are willing to give premium discounts to promote their use.

Insurance discounts usually range from five to 15 percent depending on the type of system you have. The largest discounts are usually given for systems that alert the police or fire department in case of an emergency.

If you are considering the purchase of a system or if you already have one installed, contact your insurance agent to see whether or not you are eligible for additional discounts.

## New Service Technician Joins Dial One

Dial One has welcomed a new service technician with six years of industry experience to its team. John Matheney gained valuable work experience installing alarm systems for two years, and has spent the last four years in alarm service.

John's typical day starts with a review of the day's service work orders, which he then schedules into the computer. He has quickly learned Dial One's computer systems, including the scheduling system, parts inventory, and Dial One's computerized alarm system/quick reference system. Then, it's off to a home or business in the Tri-state area to install the alarm system they've requested.

John grew up in Fayette County, West Virginia, and moved to Cincinnati six years ago with his wife, Carmen. He holds a bachelor's degree in



Theology/Mission from the School of Scriptures in Mount Repos, located near Milford, Ohio. "I'm a talker," John says with a laugh. "I think what I enjoy most about my job is meeting people."

At Dial One, John will have the opportunity to install more residential alarms than commercial alarms. He looks forward to meeting the diverse people with whom he'll interact on different assignments.

One of John's hobbies is collecting artifacts from the Civil War. A member of the National Civil War Society, John participates in Society-sponsored battlefield digs.

John chose to work for Dial One because of the opportunities and benefits the job offered. "We are glad to have him aboard, and hope he'll be with us for a long time," says Dial One President John Lindberg.

## Dial One Offers Customer Referral Discounts

Dial One General Electronic Security will offer you one to three months of free monitoring for each new customer you refer to us. If you recommend our services to a friend who hires us to monitor an existing system or install a non-monitored system, we will give you one free month of monitoring services.

However, you can earn three months of free monitoring services if you refer a friend who purchases a Dial One security system that we install and monitor.

The more customers you refer, the less you pay in monitoring charges. To make sure you are able to take advantage of this offer, remind your

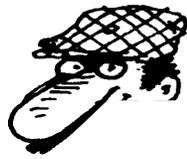
friends to tell us during our initial contact that you recommended us. Then, we'll send you the free monitoring coupons once the installation is complete.

Once you receive your quarterly monitoring bill, simply mail your monitoring coupons with the invoice stub and a check for any remaining charges.

Coupons will expire one year after the date of issue. They are not transferable, and only one customer may receive credit for each new referral.

Dial One thanks all of its customers who recommended its services to others during the last quarter.

## Randy's Reminder



## Burglary Blunders

### When Power Goes Out, Don't Rely On A Cellular Phone



In today's technological age, many people are using cellular or wireless phones as primary sources of communication.

These devices are very convenient in keeping people connected while they're outside the office, or putting them in touch with friends or family. However, these types of phones usually need to be charged for one to two hours each day. This can be a problem in the event of a power outage. Unless they've been previously charged, cellular or wireless phones will not continue to work since they plug into an electrical outlet. You can always go out to your car and charge the phone using the cigarette lighter, but who wants to go out in the rain?

Remember to keep a standard, plug-in, wall phone on hand for this situation. Since these phones do not require a transformer, they will be useful in a situation where there is no electrical power.

### Fancy Footwork

A 33-year-old man attracted the attention of police officers while walking down a street several hours after robbing a local credit union. In the time between the robbery and the arrest, police said, the man had broken into an apartment and taken a business suit for a change of clothes, and decided that he ought to change his shoes, as well. In his haste, the shoes he came away wearing were fuzzy pink slippers. Said police Sgt. Joe Vargas, "He couldn't give us a logical reason for wearing the slippers." While the questioning continued, the apartment burglary report came over the police radio, mentioning the slippers. The man was promptly arrested and charged with robbery.

### A Little Too Comfortable

In October, Lyman Ray Post oak Jr., 44, was found guilty of armed robbery in Oklahoma City. The ruling presumably came about as a result of two foolish decisions Post oak made for himself. First, he chose to act as his own lawyer during the two-day trial. Second, Post oak chose to wear his jail-issued orange coveralls in front of the jury, telling the judge he felt more comfortable in jail clothes. The jury gave Post oak a 125-year sentence.

### Don't Lose My Number

In Great Britain in 1997, a young man decided to blackmail a well-known supermarket chain by threatening to contaminate the foods on sale there. He sent a note demanding 30,000 British pounds to be deposited into his bank account and provided his bank number to make sure the store got the correct account number. Not surprisingly, he was soon caught and convicted.

### How Ironic

Hours before the inaugural address of Mexico City's new mayor, which was expected to announce stern measures to deal with rampant crime and police corruption, the mayor's top assistant was mugged in a taxicab. The man was forced to give up his wallet and briefcase, which contained the mayor's speech. And in June, an armed robber snatched the purse of the executive director of Crimestoppers of New Orleans outside her office.

### True Confessions

Police in Pennsylvania informed their suspect that they were going to give him a lie detector test. They proceeded to place a metal colander on his head, connect it with wires to a copy machine and place a piece of paper with the message "He's lying" face-down inside the copier. Throughout the phony test, police officers pressed the copy button whenever they thought the suspect was not telling the truth. Believing the "lie detector" was working, the suspect confessed.

## How To Reach Us:

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If you have any questions or suggestions that you would like us to address in this newsletter, let us know. You can write to:

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## Preventing Crime At ATM Machines

"I need to stop and get some money."

Nearly everyone is familiar with using Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs). They are part of our everyday lives. We stop before we head out to a restaurant or the movies, or if we just need some cash in our pocket. ATMs often are used because they are more convenient than going to a bank. But this added convenience also brings additional risk. A few simple precautions can make stopping at an ATM a safer experience.

It is best to make your ATM transactions during daylight hours. If you must stop at night, choose your bank wisely by selecting one with a well-lit ATM area. Many businesses such as grocery stores are open late and have ATMs located inside. Use these machines to protect your personal safety.

Record your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and keep it in a



Remember to be aware of your surroundings when using an ATM machine

safe place, away from your ATM card. Before you approach an ATM machine, have your card in hand, PIN number ready and all deposit slips or other materials completed. If you must wait in line, be courteous and give space to the person in front of you.

While you're making your transaction, stand directly in front of the screen to block account information from people standing in line behind you. When

your transaction is complete, gather your money, card and receipt and head directly to your car. It's a good idea to count your money in the safety of your vehicle.

If you drive up to the ATM, make sure all car doors are locked and every window except the one you're using is rolled up. Keep the car running, and use good judgement if you notice loiterers or other suspicious people in the area. Don't take unnecessary chances; drive to another ATM machine if you're uncertain of the area's safety.

Try not to focus entirely on the computer screen when making the transaction. Scan your environment periodically and be aware of what's happening around you. If someone approaches your car, end the transaction and leave the area immediately. Report all crimes to the local police department and your bank.