

From the Office of the Sheriff:

August is here and with it comes the Dodge County Fair. For me, the fair means an end to the summer or the start of another school year. The Sheriff's Department plays an active roll in the fair.

When you visit the fair, you will see many deputies on the grounds to ensure your safety and work closely with the fair board to ensure events are executed for your enjoyment. Though these deputies are wearing their uniforms they are paid by the Dodge County Fair Board and do not receive any compensation from the Sheriff's Department. These employees volunteer for this assignment and do it above and beyond their normal shift. This arrangement is a win-win for all involved as it allows us to liaison with all of you who attend the fair as well as places us in a position to reduce potential problems which may occur during fair week.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for those whom attend. An issue every year is traffic, traffic control and traffic patterns. You can help us by entering and exiting the fairgrounds based upon where you come from. For example, should you live in Beaver Dam, we would recommend using the west side gate off Fabisch Road. Should you be from Horicon, please use the east side gate off High Point Road. We also encourage those familiar with the area to turn south on Fabisch or High Point towards CTH W. This will alleviate the heavy traffic of STH 33. Should you need to access STH 33 please be very careful as you pull out, deputies will be there during peak times to assist..

Please adhere to the instructions of the parking lot attendants. They are just doing what they are told. They will also be able to direct you to the closest handicap parking. And for exhibitors, parking up and around the barns and exhibits is very limited. When you do park your car, take note as to where you park and **MAKE SURE YOU TAKE YOUR KEYS!!!** Many hours are spent each day by the deputies assisting those in finding their cars. And yes, your keys are very secure when you lock them in your car but it is coming more difficult for us to gain entry for you. Lock all your valuables in the truck or place them out of sight of those walking by.

For the parents of small children. Keep a good eye on those loved ones as many come up missing and are very frightened when they can not find their parents. Make a note as to what your child is wearing that day so when we ask you, you can tell us. How about your name and cell phone number in your child's pocket? For your teenagers, agree on a time and prominent location to meet.

We will be trying to improve our community service role this year. We are working on a venue to provide short seminars on a variety of topics such as prescription medication fraud, elderly abuse, and others. As always, we co-locate with the EMS and will have several items of interest on display in the Public Safety Area located at the north side of the grandstand. Please stop by and say hello, it is manned during the entire fair.

The deputies do not make the rules nor are they in charge of the main stage. We assist and execute the plans according to guidance provided by the entertainers and the fair board. Should you have any questions or comments feel free to share them with the fair board representatives located in the trailer directly behind the large grandstand. See you at the fair. tnehs@co.dodge.wi.us.