

**NEWS RELEASE**

**February 14 , 2006**

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SHELTON, WA 98584  
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 747**

**TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN**

**RE: DAMAGE TO COUNTY ROAD SIGNS FROM VANDALISM, THEFT, AND OTHER OCCURRENCES**

The Department of Mason County Public Works would like to make the public aware of the materials and labor cost spent on vandalism, theft, and other damages to County road signs. In 2003, the cost was nearly \$33,000.00; 2004 close to \$41,500.00 and last year it rose to an all time high of \$45,800.00 – our worst year for vandalism to date. The costs do not include the effort resulting from signs being pulled from the ground and thrown into the brush, which is a common occurrence; but the effort to replace these signs has not been separately documented.

In effort to reduce repair to vandalism damage, our sign replacement program began replacing damaged wooden signposts with steel posts concreted in place. The initial installation cost is slightly higher, but signs supported by steel posts are significantly less subject to repeated vandalism and repairs are less expensive than the wooden posts.

Reducing damage to signs is particularly important for public safety. Signs such as stop signs and curve signs that are critical to the safety of the motoring public and will also, play a part in reducing the costs Mason County spends in the following years. If you are a witness to any unlawful activity against such county property and would like to report it, please contact the Mason County Sheriffs Department at (360) 427-9670, Ext. 313 or Public Works Department at (360) 427 9670 Ext. 450 or from Belfair at (360) 275-4467 Ext. 450.

A reward shall be paid to any person or persons who shall furnish information or testimony leading to the arrest and conviction or fine of any person of any offense against such county property, including but not limited to those offenses set forth in RCW 9A.48.070 through 9A.48.090, whether or not the offense be a felony, gross misdemeanor, or misdemeanor. The amount of such reward is hereby set at two hundred fifty dollars. No more than one two-hundred-fifty-dollar reward will be allowed for any one case. In cases of more than one person providing sufficient information to result in the arrest and conviction of any person or persons for acts of vandalism against county property, the reward will be apportioned as the board of county commissioners deems appropriate. Funds for payment of rewards will be provided by the County Department of Public Works. (Ord. 46-89, 1989: Ord. 908, 1978).

**BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Chairperson

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