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News

Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011 | Posted by [Jim Ratajczak](#)

Changes begin in Sheriff's Dept.

Two months on the job, and Sheriff John D'Agostini is already making good on his campaign promises.

D'Agostini, who was elected as the county's top cop in November 2010, pledged to instill a customer service-style of leadership within the Sheriff's Department during the highly contested race.

In taking steps towards a more customer service-oriented department, D'Agostini has officially eliminated mandatory online reporting for property crimes without suspects or evidence.

"The online reporting was something that was done as a result of the budget cuts," he said. "But a lot of people don't use a computer, a lot of people don't have Internet access. People aren't trained to determine whether evidence exists at a crime scene."

Instead of being told to report a property crime by filling out an online form, county residents can now ask that deputies be sent

"If somebody has something stolen and they want to have law enforcement get out there, they just have to call the Sheriff's Office and ask," said D'Agostini. "If they want a deputy, they'll get a deputy."

Online reporting will still be available, but the Sheriff's Department will closely monitor the service to ward against insurance fraud or abuse.

During the campaign, the D'Agostini also swore to make concealed weapons permits easier to obtain for qualified candidates. Changes to the CCW policy have recently gone into effect.

Residents no longer need to supply three letters showing "good moral character" when applying for a CCW license. Also, personal protection is now an acceptable answer to the "good cause" portion of the application.

Under D'Agostini, the Sheriff's Department has also re-instituted two programs from its past: the reserve deputy program and ride-a-longs for county residents.

"The reserve program will help augment and supplement our patrol," said the sheriff. "We only had two reserves left on the books."

Applications for the program are currently being accepted. For more information, visit the sheriff's Website at [edso.org](#).

As for the ride-a-longs, D'Agostini said they are an important tool with helping civilians get an inside look at law enforcement.

"If somebody wants to come out and see what we do but can't take the time to go through the

Citizens' Academy, they can come to the Sheriff's Office and sign up for a ride-a-long," he said.

For more information on these changes, residents can call the Sheriff's Office at 530-621-6600.

E-mail Jim Ratajczak at jratajczak@mtdemocrat.net or call 530-344-5069.

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