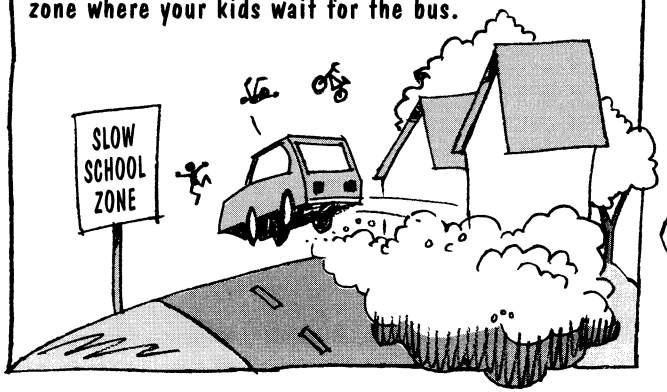
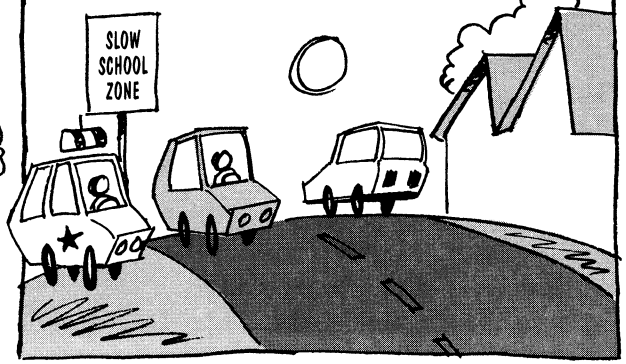
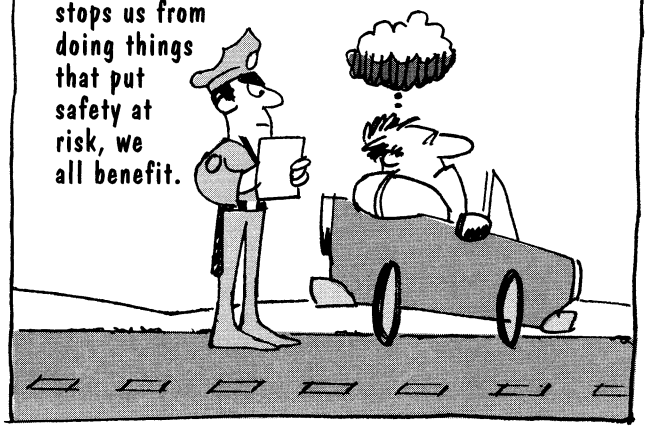
So you speed sometimes and gingerly run an occasional stop sign. No problem. Until a stop-sign runner goes down your street or a driver speeds through a school zone where your kids wait for the bus.



Patrol officers keep this kind of activity in check. They enforce the laws for the safety of everyone -- in cars, on bikes and on foot.



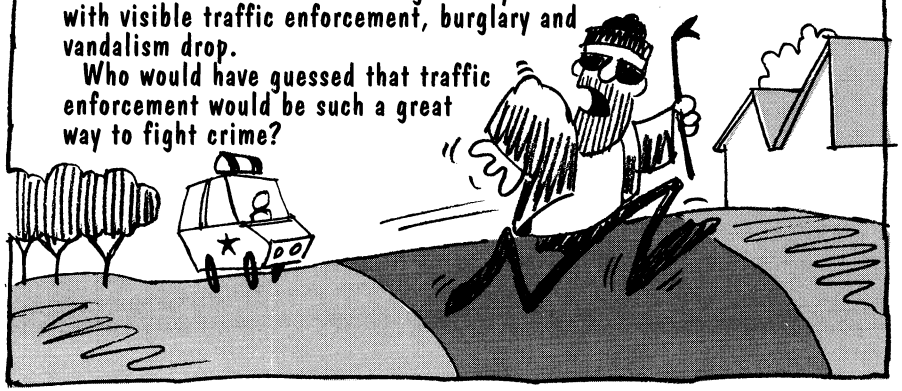
No one likes to get a ticket, but if a ticket stops us from doing things that put safety at risk, we all benefit.



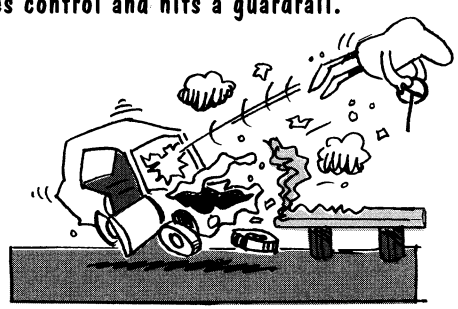
Routine traffic stops for speeding or red-light running often turn out to be not so routine. Uninsured motorists. Suspended licenses. Drunk drivers. Illegal firearms. Drugs. Fugitives. Discoveries like these are all in a day's work for many patrol officers.

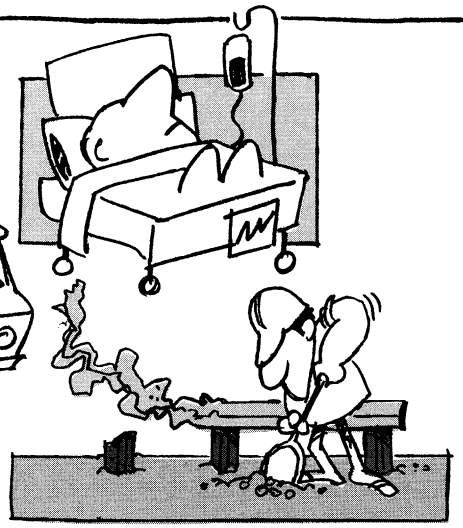
And because the bad element generally steers clear of communities with visible traffic enforcement, burglary and vandalism drop.

Who would have guessed that traffic enforcement would be such a great way to fight crime?



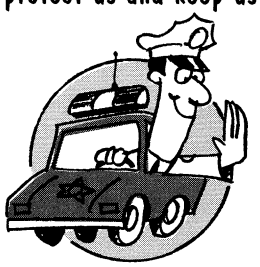
Believe it or not, patrol officers save you money. Say a guy -- an uninsured driver not wearing a seat belt -- speeds down the road, loses control and hits a guardrail.

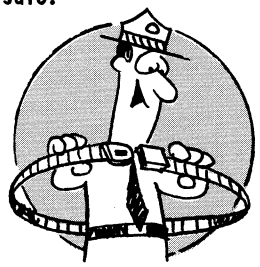




Who pays for rescue and emergency services, his hospital stay, physical therapy and guardrail repairs? Not the guy, but your local government, which is generously funded by You The Taxpayer.

Crashes are expensive. But costs are controlled every time patrol officers enforce the laws designed to protect us and keep us safe.





And patrol officers encourage us to do things -- like wear our seat belts -- for protection when we do have crashes. Thanks to patrol officers, we all save money through stabilized taxes.