

DATABASE USED TO REGISTER YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY

Shea establishes Juststolen.net, offering hope to those who need it

HINGHAM, MA If you were to lose your laptop tomorrow, not only would it be a financial drain, but the loss of irreplaceable data could be devastating! All those client files, business contacts, personal photographs of long lost relatives and important emails may be lost for good.

But there is a website that offers hope to those who lose valuable items. JustStolen.net (www.Juststolen.net) was established by police officers to assist consumers and business owners retrieve lost or stolen valuables. The website is a database that members can use to register their personal property. Once items are registered, law enforcement personnel can use the site to find the owners of recovered goods.

Tom Shea, the creator of Juststolen.net, understands the importance of recovering personal property and returning it to its owner. A police officer with the Brookline police dept., Shea said, "When you're filing a police report all you're really



JustStolen.net

doing is filing an insurance claim. There is not much of a chance that you will ever see your property again." Because the majority of stolen items are not recovered in the cities where they are stolen, a distant police dept. would have no idea who the owner was even if they recovered the items. The important thing to do is to register your valuables before a theft or loss happens. When the registered item is recovered by police, all they do is log onto Juststolen.net, enter the description or serial num-

ber of the item and the owner's email address shows up.

Users can register anything they can describe including jewelry, motorcycles, iPods and artwork. According to the website, "The list is only restricted by your imagination." Another feature of the site is the ability to upload photographs.

The website service is free. There is no charge to the user and no charge to law enforcement. The only thing that a user must do is provide a first name, email address and zip code.

The site has been getting attention recently. Boston's WBZ-TV and KCAL-TV in L.A. just ran a story on it, as well as newspaper articles in *Metro Newspaper*, the *Suffolk Journal*, the *Irish Emigrant* and *American Police Beat Magazine*.

Shea said that there are two goals of JustStolen.net, "The short-term goal would be to get your property back. The long-term goal is to find the person responsible for the theft." It seems there is hope for us after all.