



# COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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## Inside This Issue

**Speed Limit Around School Zones–  
Flashing Beacons Mean Slow Down** page 1

**Holiday Shopping–  
Protecting Yourself From  
Theft** page 2

**Holiday Shopping– More  
Safety Tips** page 2

**ID Theft– Protect Your  
Identity During the  
Holidays** page 3

**Shopping Safely Online–  
page 3**

**PACE– Holiday Party Guide  
page 4**

## Speed Limit Around School Zones– Flashing Beacons Mean Slow Down

The Snohomish County Public Works department has installed flashing beacons at 40 public elementary schools in unincorporated Snohomish County.

Winter months bring more difficult driving conditions including darkness, rain and fog. Driving slowly becomes more important in winter around school zones to prevent accidents to children going to and from school.

The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) funded a study that determined that almost 1/3 of drivers drove 35mph or faster in some school zones. The study also found that flashing beacons at school zones dramatically reduced the number of drivers driving over the speed limit.

The beacons remind drivers that the speed limit around school zones is 20 mph when children are present. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission has found that beacons tend to reduce the average speed by 7 mph.

In the morning, the beacons activate 30 minutes before school starts and stop 15 minutes after school begins. In the afternoon, they begin 15 minutes before students are released and 30 minutes after they are released.

Also, as its workload allows, Sheriff's Office deputies will patrol school zones at the beginning and the end of school.

Public works suggests that at the beginning of the school year, parents within walking distance of school walk to school with their children so that each knows the route the child will be taking. This way, parents can be comfortable with the route their child is taking to school and parents can educate their child on how to safely cross intersections.



*The beacons and signage will look like this one located near Martha Lake Elementary School.*

## School Buses

*Remember, on a two lane road, you must come to a full stop when a bus driver activates their flashing lights and "stop" sign if you are behind it or approaching it.*

*On five lane roads, only vehicles going in the same direction as the bus need to stop.*

## Holiday Shopping- More Safety Tips

*If you have one of those "wonderful" remote car locks for your car, be careful in the mall parking lot.*

- *When you leave your car, lock it the old fashioned way, with the key in the lock, don't use the remote. The bad guys use scanners to pick up your remote's frequency, and then open your car with their own remotes.*
- *Keep your keys safe. If you lose your keys, you lose your car. With your remote, the bad guys can use the panic button to easily find your car.*



## Holiday Shopping- Protecting Yourself From Theft

The busy holiday shopping season has returned. When you are at the mall looking for those precious gifts, take the following precautions to protect yourself from becoming a victim:

- Don't display large sums of cash in public. Be discreet about the money or other valuables you are carrying.
- Be alert in public restrooms. If anything seems amiss or if a group of people is loitering in the area, leave quickly and find another facility.
- Stay alert in crowds to protect your valuables. A thief can use the cover of the crowd to make a quick getaway after stealing your wallet or shopping bag.
- Don't keep your keys in your purse. If your purse is stolen, the thief will have your address and keys to your home. Keep your keys in your pocket without an ID.
- Try to park as close to the entrance of the mall or store as possible. In a parking garage, park on the level that leads directly to the mall, so you can avoid elevators or stairwells. Stay alert for people standing behind parked cars or pillars. At night, park under a light whenever possible.
- Consider using the mall's valet parking service if it offers one.
- Make a note of your parking spot so that you don't have to wander around the parking lot after shopping.
- Have your keys in your hand before leaving the mall and walk purposely to your car. Make sure nobody is in the car before entering, and lock the doors immediately when you get inside.
- If you are leaving a mall alone at night, request a security escort to your car.
- Don't leave packages visible on the seats or floor of your car. Use the trunk.
- If you take packages to your car trunk and want to go back to the mall, move your car. Most newer vehicles have a trunk release inside the car (in the glove box or by the driver). If the thief sees something that you have just purchased that he wants, he can easily break a window and open your trunk.
- At an Automated Teller Machine (ATM), choose one that is located inside a mall, grocery store, or well-lighted location. Withdraw only the amount of cash you need. Shield the ATM keypad from anyone who is standing near you so they cannot view your transaction or obtain your PIN. Do not throw your ATM receipt away.



## ID Theft— *Protect Your Identity During the Holidays*

ID thieves need to steal personal information to commit ID theft. Once a theft is made it's downhill all the way for you the victim. According to the Attorney General's Office, Washington State is Number 8 in the nation for ID Theft

Here are some ways to avoid becoming an identity theft victim:

- When you make purchases with your credit card, put the receipt in your pocket. Do not carry it in your shopping bag.
- Do not give your Social Security number, mother's maiden name or account numbers to strangers who contact you, especially by phone, Internet or mail.
- Pay attention to what time of month your bills arrive. If they don't arrive on time, call the creditor and verify your address.
- Put strong passwords on your credit card, bank and phone accounts.
- Don't carry your Social Security card. Leave it in a secure place such as a safe bolted to the floor in your house or a safety deposit box.
- Don't carry credit cards or ID cards you don't need.
- When ordering new checks, pick them up at the bank instead of having them mailed to your home.

- Tear or shred charge receipts, copies of credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, bank checks and statements, expired charge cards and credit offers you get in the mail.

### Shopping Safely Online

- **Know who you are dealing with.** Confirm the seller's phone number and physical address.
- **Know exactly what you are buying.** Read the product description closely. Look out for words indicating product is in less than mint condition. Watch out for products with "too good to be true" prices.
- **Know what it will cost.** And pay with credit card. Be sure the transaction is through a secure web page.
- **Check out the terms of the deal, such as refund policies and delivery dates.**
- **Keep a paper trail.** Print and save the product description and price, the online receipt and any correspondence.
- **Never email your personal information.**
- **Check the privacy policy.**

### Auto Theft Prevention Checklist

- All car doors locked
- All windows are rolled up
- All personal belongings have been removed or stored in the trunk
- You have taken your removable stereo with you (if you have one)
- Your vehicle is parked in a well-lighted area
- Your vehicle is parked in a high-visibility location (avoid isolated areas)
- Anti-theft device on (Club, alarm system, kill-switch)

**WINTER WARNING—** During the winter months, many people like to warm up their cars in the morning. Don't do this! A running car is an invitation to a car thief.



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Snohomish County Sheriff  
M/S 606 - 3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
Everett, WA 98201

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Speed Limit Around School Zones–  
Holiday Shopping– *Protecting Yourself From Theft*  
Holiday Shopping– *More Safety Tips*  
ID Theft– *Protect Your Identity During the Holidays*  
Shopping Safely Online–  
PACE– *Holiday Party Guide*

page 1  
page 2  
page 2  
page 3  
page 3  
page 4

Rick Bart, Sheriff  
Snohomish County  
3000 Rockefeller Ave.  
M/S 606  
Fourth Floor County  
Courthouse  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3393

[www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Sheriff/](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Sheriff/)

Steve Moller– Editor



1-800-  
CRIME-13

### Tip Lines:

- Phone:  
425-388-3845
- Sheriff's Website:  
[www.co.snohomish.wa.us/SheriffRpts/AnonymousTips/default.htm](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/SheriffRpts/AnonymousTips/default.htm)

## PACE– Holiday Party Guide



With the holiday party season upon us we want to remind everyone not to drink and drive. If you will be hosting a party here are some tips to ensure that your guests do not become involved in an alcohol related crash:

- Ask guests to appoint a designated driver before the evening begins.
- Offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages for the designated drivers or for those who choose not to drink alcohol.
- Prepare plenty of food so guests will not drink on empty stomachs.
- Invite guests who are compatible

so that no one feels left out - lonely or unfriendly people often drink to excess.

- Avoid too many salty snacks-they tend to make people thirsty, so they drink more.
- If preparing an alcoholic punch, use non-carbonated base fruit juice - alcohol is absorbed into the bloodstream faster with a carbonated base.
- Never serve alcohol to someone under the legal drinking age, and never ask children to serve alcohol to guests.