



COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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National Night Out- Developing Police/ Community Partnerships

To learn more about Na-
tional Night Out go to:
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/index.html>

National Night Out— Tuesday, August 5, 2003

Come join us our South Snohomish County community celebration as we come together and take a stand against crime!

On August 5 our neighborhoods and those across the United States are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outside with neighbors and deputies.

For the first time ever, we will be celebrating not only in individual neighborhoods, but at a central location as well!

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office will be hosting a neighborhood celebration for all, with a party at McCollum Park just off I-5 at 128 St SE. Come and join your neighbors in taking a stand against crime.

It will be a fun, free family event, with food, fun activities for all, displays, lots of things to see and do.

We are asking neighborhoods that want to participate (man a booth, help with an activity, sponsor an event) to let us know. We want you there to share in this exciting evening!

What's going to be happening? Here is a partial list of events and participants:

- Swimming pool is open and free for the event;

- Sheriff's Office horse/bike/marine/motorcycle patrols;
- K-9, McGruff, Explorer Post;
- Command Bus, and more;
- Search & Rescue hands-on display and Search & Rescue dog;
- Fire District 1 fire engine and De-Con Unit;
- Community Transit bus and OxyGen;
- Mill Creek PD;
- KRKO live on-site;
- Smokey the Bear, Wildlife displays;
- BMX bikes;
- Speed Pitch; Dunk Tank.

We are still in the planning stage and looking for business, service club, and community support and participation.

Want to help? Contact: Pat Cudinski, CPO; 425 744 6883, pat.cudinski@co.snohomish.wa.us





Lead On America— Helping Commu- nities Fight Drugs

In partnership with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, Lead On America, led by anti-drug activist Susan York, is providing anti-drug education and information to neighborhoods, students and families and is facilitating communication between police agencies and neighborhoods with drug problems.

Lead On America has become a highly organized response team that mobilizes and educates neighborhoods to more efficiently and effectively work with law enforcement.

On May 1 Lead On America launched its own web site that you can use to research information on drugs, their affect on individuals and communities and how you can fight drug activity in your community. Go to:

www.leadonamerica.org

If you would like to talk to one of the Lead On America volunteers call:

(425) 870-6096

Meth— An Update

During the south Precinct's April Crime Prevention Seminar, members of the Snohomish County Drug Task Force talked about Methamphetamine. Also, citizens from the Granite Falls (Gold Bar?) area talked about how they were able to deal with a meth house in their neighborhood.

Task force members gave a demonstration of how to make meth using the "Nazi" method. Throughout the demonstration they pointed out a variety of toxic chemicals that are used in making meth. And meth producers do not take precautions to protect themselves or the people around them. As a result, meth labs contaminate the people, buildings and environment wherever they are located.

Meth making is a multi-step process. To prevent detection, more and more producers are breaking up the process; performing one step in one location then moving to another location for the next step and another location for the next, etc. This makes it more difficult for law enforcement agencies to find the meth making operations.

Task force members pointed out meth is costing taxpayer dollars. When a meth lab is found local and state law enforcement, fire and health agencies will take a minimum of 4 hours to process the site. Last year local governments spent \$1.5 million to process meth lab sites. That is \$1.5 million of local taxpayers' money.

Granite Falls. Members of one Granite Falls neighborhood were able to have a local drug house moved out of

the area in a matter of 6 weeks. In early January, the neighborhood began to notice heavy traffic going to and from one house down the road. Burglaries and car prowls were up in the area. (Task force members pointed out that people who frequent drug houses tend to steal from the houses closest to the drug house.) They began to see a high number of strangers in their neighborhood as well as lots of vehicles from outside of the neighborhood that turned out to be stolen.

After organizing a Block Watch consisting of over 40 residents the neighbors wrote a "nice" letter to the landlord of the drug house advising him of the kind of activity that his tenants were sponsoring.

Drug houses in rental houses are often easier to handle than those in owner occupied houses. Landlords do not want the mess that meth users/producers often leave. So, as in this case, if landlords find out that their tenants are making or distributing meth/drugs they are more than likely to evict the tenant quickly.

So after delivery of the letter the tenants left the house.

No community is immune from hosting a meth lab. As one task force sergeant puts it: "You give me any spot in Snohomish County; I will find evidence of a meth lab within 1 mile of it." Fortunately, there are things citizens can do to remove that lab from their community.



Car Prowls/Thefts– *Protect Your Vehicle from Theft*

Car thefts are up in Snohomish County and Puget Sound. In Washington State, 93 cars are stolen every day at a rate of 1 car every 15 minutes. Washington now has more cars stolen each year than California.

In South Snohomish County, an average of 120 cars per month are stolen. For all of Snohomish County, car thefts are up from 1,600 to 2,300 per year.

Lately, most car thefts are used for joy rides or for drug deals. In the drug deals, a car thief will steal a car in one town, drive it to another town, then abandon the car near the location where the drug deal will take place. After the drug deal, the thief will steal another car to drive home.

Car prowlers often park their car two or three blocks from the target area. They may carry a backpack to hold the goodies that they will steal. In residential areas they will work late at night or early in the morning from midnight to four or five. Car prowlers and car thieves can work during the day in shopping center parking lots or park and rides where it is more common to see strangers and where it might be more difficult for the casual observer to distinguish the legitimate owner of a car from a thief.

Prevention. There are several actions that we can take as a community and as individuals.

Some community actions include:

- Encourage everyone in your block watch to know the vehicles that belong to the houses around them. If they see a strange car in the neighborhood, take down the license number, car description and description of car occupants, call that information to 911 as suspicious activity. You can also approach the individuals, in a non-confrontational way, and ask if they are lost or if they need help.
- At night, keep your outdoor lights on. If you are a night owl, look outside your front windows from time to time. Turn on the lights from the front of the house from time to time.

Some actions you can take as an individual include:

- LOCK YOUR CAR!!!!!!!
- DO NOT keep valuables in your car- wallets, purses, music CD's etc. DO NOT keep you garage remote in your car! Shopping? Put packages in the trunk; move your car to another space.
- Use a stereo with a removable face and take it with you when you leave the car.
- Move steering wheel to its locked position when you park.
- Park where you are seen. Under a street light. Under a camera. Away from landscaping.
- DON'T hide second keys in your car. They will be found by thieves.

Car Prowls/ Thefts- Alarms & Other Devices

We have talked about some basic prevention steps. You might want to consider the following for additional protection:

1. *A device that tells thieves your car is protected. Some devices include audible alarms, window decals, steering wheel lock (like The Club), etchings of the car's VIN number in the windows. When a thief sees or hears these devices they go away to find easier pickings.*
2. *A device that prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot wiring your car. Devices that do this include smart keys, fuse cutoffs, kill switches, starter, ignition and fuel disablers.*
3. *A tracking device that allows police or monitoring company to locate the car if it is stolen*

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau.

<http://www.nicb.org/>



COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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

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*Rick Bart, Sheriff
Snohomish County
3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S 606
Fourth Floor County
Courthouse
Everett, WA 98201*



**1-800-
CRIME-
13**

Sheriff Office Precincts:

- North-
(425) 388-7939
- South-
(425) 744-6868
- East-
(360) 805-6770
- Crime Prevention
Center (128th S.W.)
(425) 710-0232

False Alarms– A Drain On Your Police Resources

Home alarm systems have become popular with many of us as an effort to protect ourselves and our property. In 2002, the Sheriff’s Office responded to 9,896 alarm calls, 95% of which were false alarms. Despite that high percentage, each alarm call involves at least 2 deputies and 911 dispatch staff.

The Sheriff’s Office encourages you to do what you can to prevent your alarm system from sending false alarms:

- Test your alarm periodically to ensure that it is functioning properly. Be sure to notify your alarm

company before you begin testing your system

- Ask your alarm company to inspect/service your system annually.
- Put your pets outside if possible or set your alarm system to accommodate movement inside your home.

For more information on alarms, go to the Sheriff’s Office web site at <http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/sheriff/index.htm> and click on “False Alarm Information.