



PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH- CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC

Police departments and sheriff's offices have for a long time recognized the need to make contact with the public using "non enforcement face to face time" as Sgt. Rebecca Lewis, who is in charge of the Sheriff's Office's Community Outreach in the Office of Neighborhoods, would put it.

This activity has taken on several names over the years, Community Policing, Partnerships, and now Outreach. It means making contact with community members in a setting outside of the Sheriff's Office's normal work of enforcing the law or conducting investigations. Sgt Lewis points out that most of the time when a deputy talks to citizens that is the worst day for the citizen. That could be because they are a victim of a crime or they have been pulled over for speeding.

The community is an important element for the Sheriff's Office to enforce the law, apprehend criminals and improve the quality of life in Snohomish County.

Often the Sheriff's Office needs the public's help to identify crimes and criminals. The public can help by adopting good crime prevention practices, being aware of crime around them and making timely calls to 911 when they see crime in progress. Talking with neighbors

about suspicious situations in their neighborhoods helps the community to be on guard against crime.

Having the community's help leverages the resources of the Sheriff's Office in its efforts. The Sheriff's Office does not have unlimited resources and cannot be everywhere (even though many of us would like a deputy permanently patrolling our neighborhood). Community involvement frequently aids the Sheriff's Office immensely.

Doing Community Outreach allows the Sheriff's Office to hear the concerns of the public. Outreach also allows the sheriff's Office to suggest practical crime prevention techniques that the public can use to protect itself from becoming victimized.



Sgt. Ryan Boyer and Sgt. Rebecca Lewis with Cub Scout Pack 36 talking about homeless outreach.



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COMMUNITY OUTREACH- INVOLVING PEOPLE

For more information about the community outreach programs go to the following websites,

Neighborhood Watch-
<http://www.nnw.org/>

National Night Out-
<https://natw.org/>

Coffee with a Cop-
<https://coffeewithacop.com/>



Deputies and members of various local law enforcement agencies pose for a picture during a recent Coffee with a Cop event in Mill Creek

COMMUNITY OUTREACH- HOW WE CONNECT

Activities that the Community Outreach Sergeant conducts all have to do with working with citizens to encourage them to be involved in their communities, answer their questions about the Sheriff's Office, and to educate them about resources they can use to prevent crime and improve their quality of life.

Some of the programs include:

Neighborhood Watch– Neighborhood Watch is a community program that encourages members of neighborhoods to work together to prevent crime. Each watch group can be as formal or informal as the situation requires.

Neighborhood Watch encourages residents to talk to each other and to help each other. It also encourages residents to call 911 when they see crime in progress or see suspicious activity.

By using crime prevention techniques as well as watching out for each other, citizens can take opportunity away from criminals and therefore reduce crime in their neighborhoods.

Coffee with a Cop– The Sheriff's Office hosts *Coffee with a Cop* events periodically throughout the year. The idea of Coffee with a Cop is to allow deputies and citizens to talk one on one about any subject over a cup of coffee.

Meeting at a neutral, relaxed setting humanizes deputies and citizens for each other. There are no agendas or

speeches made at these events. The purpose is to build trust between police and the public so that they can work more together in keeping the community safe.

National Night Out– Held on the first Tuesday of August of each year, National Night Out (NNO) promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood mutual trust and friendship. In Snohomish County, the county hosts NNO at Willis Tucker Park with various county agencies in attendance with information and personnel who can answer your questions. Agencies can include the Sheriff's Office, Snohomish County 911, PUD, Red Cross, Domestic Violence Services, Community Transit, and more. Through the evening, agencies have demonstrations such as K9 operations, the Sheriff's Search and Rescue helicopter, and victim vehicle extraction by a local fire district.

The Sheriff's Office also makes deputies available to neighborhood NNO events to answer questions and talk to residents.

If you have questions about any of the above programs, want to start a Neighborhood Watch, or have concerns about your neighborhood contact Sgt. Rebecca Lewis at

Rebecca.Lewis@snoco.org

CRIME PREVENTION- YOU ARE KEY

You are an important element in helping the Sheriff’s Office fight crime. The habits that you develop in prevention helps to deter criminals from committing crime therefore reducing crime in the county. Being aware of what is going on in your surroundings and making a timely call to 911 when you see criminal or suspicious activity helps deputies to apprehend criminals and to deter their activity.

Crime prevention does not have to be an onerous activity. Developing simple habits and setting up your house to be unattractive to criminals goes a long way to keeping your family and your possessions safe.

Most criminals are opportunists. As a rule they do not target specific houses. They look for houses or victims that seem easiest to take something of value with the least risk.

Criminologists have developed a “crime triangle” to explain when a crime occurs. When you have Desire (motivation), Ability, and Opportunity is when you have a crime. For most of us, we cannot control a stranger’s desire or ability. We can control opportunity.

That’s where actions such as locking doors and keeping valuables out of sight comes in to preventing crime.

Burglars also do not want to be caught. So making your house look risky will help deter a potential burglar from considering it.

Signs outside of your house stating you have an alarm system, having a radio or TV on while you are away, answering knocks on your door (even if you don’t open the door) all will deter most burglars.

Crime prevention professionals have also developed a concept called Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) to help people change their surroundings to enhance



prevention and reduce crime. It centers on:

- **Natural Access Control**– Denies easy access to a crime target and creates a perception of risk to offenders.
- **Natural Surveillance**– Directed at keeping intruders under observation by maximizing visibility with building orientation, windows, entrances and exits.
- **Territoriality**– Creates or extends a sphere of influence that makes it clear the space is owned by someone who will guard it and creates an environment where strangers or intruders stand out more easily.

By considering these concepts, you should have the capability to better defend yourself and your property.

REPORTING CRIME- YOU ARE CRITICAL

Our deputies cannot be everywhere. Help from citizens who witness crime in progress or suspicious activity aids deputies every day.

Calling 911 when you witness or become involved in an emergency involving an immediate threat to life or property or an in-progress crime helps deputies to respond in a timely manner.

Calling the non-emergency number, (425) 407-3999, when you discover that a crime has been committed in the recent past can help deputies with ongoing investigations.

For more about 911 check out the Snohomish County 911 web site at <https://sno911.org/index.php>

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT- RESOURCES THAT CAN HELP

Here are some resources that can help you with a variety of problems,

Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office– The Sheriff’s website has a wealth of information about how you can prevent crime.

For more information about the Office of Neighborhoods go to,
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/311/Office-of-Neighborhoods>.

For information on how you can prevent crime the Sheriff’s Office has a series of one page Tip Sheets on a variety of subjects,
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

Also, archived copies of this newsletter, “Partners in Crime Prevention,” are available covering crime prevention and the functions of various parts of the Sheriff’s Office,
<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=43>

Opioids have become a major problem in Snohomish County negatively affecting our quality of life. For more information about treatment, or how you can help or get help, go to the Snohomish Overdose Prevention website,

<https://snohomishoverdoseprevention.com/>

Residents in neighborhoods often see traffic problems such as speeding, running stop signs, or reckless driving. You can file a complaint about a traffic situation online at,

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/formcenter/sheriff-4/traffic-complaint-form-116>

Scams and Fraud– Online scams and fraud have become a big problem in modern life. For information on how to detect scams and how to avoid them, go to the AARP Fraud Watch Network,

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>

National Crime Prevention Council– For more tips and recommendations on how you can prevent crime, check out the National Crime Prevention Council’s website,

<https://www.ncpc.org/>

OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER

<https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/311/Office-of-Neighborhoods>

Homeless Outreach-
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Community Outreach-
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SHERIFF’S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

NEWSLETTER INFO

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 If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org



Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office: 425-388-3845
<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/303/Anonymous-Tips>
 Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477