



Block Watch Quarterly

Apr-June 2006

Tips for Keeping Block Watch Active in Your Neighborhood

Here are some ideas provided by a Community Liaison from Buffalo, New York:

1. Produce a neighborhood newsletter. Include Crime Prevention as well as other neighborhood news.
2. Develop a block club logo and use it on letterhead, T-shirts, etc., for neighborhood identity and unity. Engage youth in the design process.
3. Invite interesting speakers to meetings (judges, law enforcement, community leaders, business leaders, faith based leaders, etc.)
4. Hold a candidates night during election time.
5. Participate in National Night Out.
6. Learn about emergency preparedness and develop a neighborhood disaster plan.
7. Involve seniors in activities – they are the backbone of neighborhoods.
8. Organize activities that are fun and beneficial to the neighborhood - clean-ups, garage sales, block parties, etc.

Identity Theft

A recent survey by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that 3.6 million households have been the victim of at least one type of identity theft during a six month period in 2004. Washington State is ranked 8th in the nation for ID Theft victims according to the Federal Trade Commission (2004). This crime is particularly hard to investigate because victims may not discover the crime for a period of time and transactions occur in multiple jurisdictions.

Good Advice for Everyone:

- Order your credit report annually (it's free!) – annualcreditreport.com
- Password protect all accounts
- Don't give out personal information to anyone unless you're absolutely sure about who you're speaking with
- Monitor bank, billing & credit statements for discrepancies

If your identity is stolen or information is used fraudulently:

1. Call local police
2. Close all affected accounts
3. Place Fraud Alert with credit reporting agencies
4. File a report with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
5. Keep your case organized – log contacts & communication; retain copies of all written correspondence

Credit Reporting Agencies:

- Equifax Credit Bureau (800)525-6285/www.equifax.com
- Experian Information Solutions (800)397-3742
www.experian.com
- Trans Union Credit Bureau (800) 680-7289/www.tuc.com

Federal Government Agencies:

- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
(877) IDTHEFT/www.consumer.gov/idtheft
- Olympia Area Post Offices (800) 275-8777
- US Postal Inspection (800) 773-7226
- Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline (800) 269-0271

The Federal Trade Commission and the National Crime Prevention Council have great websites with more information about Identity Theft and other crime prevention topics. Go to www.consumer.gov and www.ncpc.org.

Officer Profile

Personal Safety

Improving weather and warmer rain will entice some of us to exercise in the great NW outdoors. Whether you jog, bike, walk or skate, practicing these tips will help keep you safe and increase your peace of mind.

Be alert! Keep your eyes up and headphone volume down.

Use the buddy system.

Plan your route ahead of time. Avoid isolated areas, especially if alone.

Know a nearby safe area you could go to if followed or threatened.

Carry a cell phone but leave other valuables at home.

Wear a helmet when biking or skating.

Trust your instincts!

Sgt. Paul Johnson has been in law enforcement since 1976. He began his career as a corrections officer in the old Thurston County jail. After becoming a police officer, he specialized in the investigations field, particularly focusing on crimes against children and narcotics. He also spent time on foot patrol. In 1985, he was named Officer of the Year.

Sgt. Johnson has high expectations of himself and the officers he works with. He seldom takes credit for work well done, preferring that others get recognized.

After four years supervising the Detective Division, Sgt. Johnson recently returned to patrol. He oversees a squad of officers on day shift.

Sgt. Johnson has 2 sons, one of whom has also become a police officer. The other attends college in Eastern Washington, working towards a nursing degree.

Sgt. Johnson can be reached through the main office number – 753-8300.



Did you know...

...nearly 2 in 20 Thurston County 8th grade students said that they had been binge drinking within the past 2 weeks*

...nearly 3 in 20 Thurston County 8th grade students said in the past month they had ridden in a car or vehicle with someone who had been drinking*

“Start talking before they start drinking”

*statistics from the 2004 Healthy Youth Survey

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