



## Olympia Police Department



# Block Watch Quarterly

April-June 2007

### Statewide Shred-A-Thon

Washington's Law Enforcement Group Against Identity Theft (LEGIT) is sponsoring the first statewide shredding event on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM – 2 PM. Consumers and small businesses are encouraged to bring up to 3 grocery bags or 2 bankers boxes of sensitive documents for FREE shredding by local companies who have donated the service.

This is a great way to prevent identity theft and to protect personal information. Additional information about prevention and will also be available.

#### Local Sites

Lacey –  
South Sound Center, 651  
Sleater Kinney Rd

Olympia –  
Key Bank, 2920 Harrison  
Ave NW

### Annual Block Watch Captain's Training

Our annual Block Watch Captain's Training will be:

**Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6 PM – 8 PM**

in the Olympia Fire Department Training Room at their Main Station (100 Eastside St NE). The training will feature speakers Captain Kate McDonald from the Olympia Fire Department and Detective Sam Costello with Crime Analyst Darin Reedy from the Olympia Police Department.

Captain McDonald will be discussing neighborhood disaster preparedness for the first hour of the training. A neighborhood disaster plan is a great addition to any Block Watch group. As part of getting to know your neighbors, you may find there are some with special talents or needs which will be important to note in case a disaster strikes. Captain McDonald will address some of the basic preparation your neighborhood should take.

Det. Costello and Darin Reedy will speak in the second hour about gang awareness. Many communities have seen an increase in gang activity. They'll present some general information about gangs and let you know how you can help.

Both of these topics are perfect for Captains to learn about and bring back to their groups. Other Block Watch members are welcome to attend as well.

Please RSVP to Amy at 753-8049 or [astull@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:astull@ci.olympia.wa.us).

## Officer Profile

**This spring, take the time to review your home security with the following principles from the National Crime Prevention Council in mind:**

**Access control** – Make sure your home has proper locks and windows, and always use them. If possible, install an alarm system for added security. Burglars look for easy access, so lock windows, doors—and crime—out of your home.

**Surveillance** – Well-lighted homes make burglars nervous. Light up outside entrances—front, back, side, basement, and garage. If possible, install motion detector lights to warn off anyone sneaking around at night.

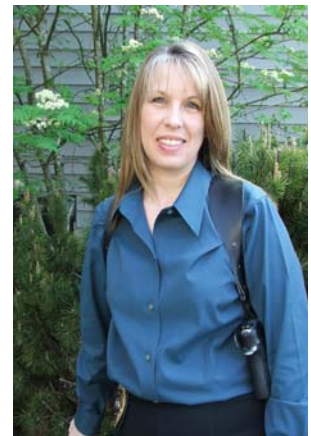
**Territorial Reinforcement** – Keep your placed looking lived in. Set random timers to make it look like you are always home, even when you are not. Schedule routine maintenance and improvements to keep your home a fortress of safety and protection for your family.

**Maintenance** – Trimming bushes and trees will remove a burglar's favorite hiding place. Mowing grass and tending to landscaping will give your house a lived-in look. During home improvements, remove ladders from the house at the end of each day and store your building materials securely out of sight.

Detective Brenda Anderson has been with the Olympia Police Department since 2000. She spent her first two years in a civilian position before becoming a Patrol Officer in 2002.

This year, she was assigned to the Detective Division, where she will increase her investigative skills. She recently completed a class which certifies her to interview children in physical and sexual abuse cases. She really enjoys outsmarting those who have victimized innocent people and bringing them to justice.

Det. Anderson encourages all Block Watch members to continue logging and engraving valuables as a deterrent to thieves and so she can be sure to return them to the rightful owner when she does catch up with the bad guys.



## **Vacation Check Now Available**

The Olympia Police Department Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) are pleased to offer a vacation check program to the residents of Olympia.

This program allows residents to request that VIPS conduct low-level security checks of their homes while they are away. We believe our presence and observation of the residence may deter criminal activity and lead to better over-all safety in our community.

Residents wishing to use the Vacation Premise Check Program must apply **in person** at the Olympia Police Department front office during regular business hours (Monday – Friday/8 AM – 5 PM) to complete an application.

The City of Olympia does not discriminate in employment or the delivery of services and resources on the basis of age, sex, race, creed, color, sexual orientation, or national origin, or the presence of any physical, mental or sensory disability.

