



Block Watch Quarterly

July-Sept 2007

Disaster Preparedness

Captain Kate McDonald spoke at the Block Watch Captain's training about getting your family and neighborhood prepared for disasters including earthquakes or pandemic influenza.

She encouraged everyone to make a plan, make a kit and prepare their homes in advance to be sure they can be self sufficient in the case that utility repair and emergency response will be delayed.

A primary concern in disaster situations is contacting family members to make sure they are ok. Besides designating an out-of-state contact, Capt. McDonald also recommended creating emergency contact cards for each family member.

Because Block Watch groups are already organized, they are in a better position to develop an organized response to disasters or receive further training by contacting Capt. McDonald at 709-2719.

WALKING SAFELY

Is walking one of your neighborhood's crime prevention strategies? It should be! Residents are more apt to get to know neighbors and notice suspicious activity if they take the time to stroll through the neighborhood once in a while. However, it is important to walk safely and keep the following in mind:

***Look carefully** before stepping into the street, even at marked crosswalks and traffic signals.*

***Be alert** and obey pedestrian signals.*

***Cross where you are most visible** to motorists and try to make eye contact to make sure you are seen.*

***Wear brightly colored clothing** any time. Wear reflective gear and carry a light in bad weather or at night.*

*In areas with no sidewalks, **walk facing traffic.***

***Walk in groups** to improve safety.*

*Remember that **children may lack the judgment** needed to make safe choices and their size makes them difficult to see.*

Pedestrians always risk the most injury in a car/pedestrian accident, no matter who violated the law. Keep that in mind when you're the one behind the wheel, too.

If motorists in your neighborhood need a reminder of appropriate speeds, contact Amy to reserve the Speed Watch Trailer.

Officer Profile

Gang Prevention

Another presentation at the Block Watch Captain's training was given by Det. Sam Costello and Crime Analyst Darin Reedy. They have been researching an increase in gang activity that has been occurring in Olympia and the surrounding areas. While this activity is not unique to our city, they used this opportunity to talk about the definition, organization and activities associated with gangs and gang members.

Most importantly, they wanted to inform community members about the problem and what they can do to help:

- Report suspicious activity
- Report suspected gang graffiti or email photos to Amy for information
- Make note of groups all wearing the same colors
- Make note of addresses with high traffic
- Be aware of your surroundings

Additionally, keep in close touch with your children and make sure you know who their friends and associates are. Parents have a big role to play in making sure gangs don't become entrenched in our community.

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Sgt. Don Heinze has been with the Olympia Police Department since 1996. He moved here from the Orange County area of California so his family could have a better life.

In his career, he has worked as a detective and in the Walking Patrol but his favorite thing to do is work to identify and eliminate dealers and sources of illegal drugs. Currently, he supervises the Traffic and Walking Patrol officers.

Outside of work, he enjoys coaching his son's high school baseball team.

His message to Block Watch groups is to "...stay diligent. We as a community need to work together to keep our homes and neighborhoods safe. What you do does make a difference."



WSECU SHRED DAY

Saturday, July 28th 10 AM - 2 PM

WSECU Headquarters - 400 E. Union Ave.

WSECU and Shred-it are offering free shredding of up to 3 boxes or 150 lbs of paper at their annual "Shred it and Forget it" event. This event is open to the general public. Refreshments will be served and participants can enter to win a \$100 gift card or personal shredder.