



Olympia Police Department



Block Watch Quarterly

Summer 2008

Department of Corrections Participates in National Night Out

On August 5th, 2008 the Department of Corrections (DOC) joined forces with the Olympia Police Department and participated in the 25th annual National Night out for Crime. This year two teams visited numerous Block Watch parties on both the east and west side of Olympia City limits. The turn out for these events was remarkable.

As a supervisor, for a Department of Corrections Field Unit in Thurston County, I was surprised on how many people thought that "DOC" was about prisons only. The people I spoke with were not aware that DOC also employed Community Corrections Officers (Probation and Parole) whose responsibility is to monitor offender behavior in the community, holding them accountable for their actions and at the same time assist them in becoming productive members of society. I shared with community members, that since 1990, Washington State Community Corrections Units in Thurston County has grown from one field office to four. Currently there are approximately 40 community Corrections Officers employed in this area whose responsibility is to supervise high risk felony offenders. These Block Watch parties were perfect opportunities for us to educate the community that we depend on and appreciate their assistance in providing us with information and resources in dealing with the offender population. I explained how DOC also relies on partnerships with local Law Enforcement, to assist us. We share intelligence, resources and partner up to execute searches and arrests on felony offenders who are not abiding by their conditions of supervision.

I also spent a great deal of time explaining that DOC recognizes the challenge that not only must we hold offenders accountable we also have a responsibility to assist them with transitioning back into the community once released from jail or prison. That's why offering programs such as Stress and Anger Management, Nurturing Fathers, Chemical Dependency, Job Readiness and other self help programs is so important. "If we do not prepare offenders to return to their communities by giving them tools to cope, it will only be a matter of time before they re-offend and end up back in our prison system."

If you have any questions about the Department of Corrections feel free to contact me at 360-407-0174.

Tracy Grunenfelder
Department of Corrections Supervisor

OPD Profile



Officer John Tupper has been with the Olympia Police Department for 22 years. He has worked a variety of specialty positions, including Detectives and Walking Patrol.

Currently, he works day shift in the northwest part of town. He enjoys the core duties of a patrol officer - policing his assigned area and arresting those who violate the law.

Officer Tupper is also the president of the Olympia Police Guild.

Recent Property Crime Statistics

The following statistics pertain to property crimes reported in Olympia from July 2nd to August 5th.

Residential Burglaries

- 16 reported during this time period
- 69% were unsecured or had no signs of forced entry
- Small items were taken, especially jewelry

Auto Thefts

- 13 reported during this time period
- 82% were taken between 1 AM - 6 AM
- 10 were recovered

Vehicle Prowls

- 62 were reported during this time period
- 53% were unsecured or had no signs of forced entry
- Stereos were taken more often than normal

Vehicle prowls are the "crime of the year" in Olympia. Please remember to lock your car and remove valuables. Additionally, **record the serial numbers** of any electronic equipment attached to your vehicle.

Back to School Already?

To help your child travel to and from school more safely –

- Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, and parks where there aren't many people.
- Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with crossing guards when they can.
- Encourage children to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and to wait at bus stops with other children.
- Teach children not to talk to strangers, go anywhere with them, or accept gifts from them without your permission. Tell them that if they see a suspicious stranger hanging around or in their school they should tell an adult.
- Help children memorize their phone number and full address, including area code and zip code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

- from www.NCPC.org.