



Block Watch Quarterly

Jan-March 2008

Burglary - *What the Numbers Tell Us*

Last year, Olympia experienced the lowest number of burglaries in the past 5 years, with a total of 299 commercial and residential burglaries combined.

This year has started with a reverse in that trend. In January alone, there were 24 residential and 26 commercial burglaries.

What has caused this increase? We can speculate that some career burglars may have been released from prison or come to our area. We *know* that in over 50 percent of the residential break-ins, the residence was unsecured or no evidence of forced entry was found.

What are the police doing to reduce this number? Patrol officers are cruising through the affected areas more frequently. They may make traffic stops or conduct field interviews to either detect or deter those who are in the neighborhood to conduct criminal activity.

What can you do to reduce this number? It's time to review the basics of home security.

- **Most importantly, lock doors and windows.** Locks should be of good quality and deadbolts need to be installed with 3" screws. Windows should have secondary locks.
- **Catalog your valuables.** Record serial numbers and photograph or video property. Serial numbers can trace stolen property when it is located or pawned. Unique items may be the key to solving a case.
- **Try to make it seem like someone is home when you're away.** Use timers for lights and radios. Don't leave blinds or curtains closed all of the time.
- **Increase visibility around your home.** Keep shrubbery trimmed back from windows and maintain outside lighting.
- **Consider additional security** such as an alarm system or dog.
- **Know that the majority of burglaries occur during the day.** Neighbors who are home in the daytime are a great asset.
- **Stay alert for suspicious people or vehicles** and report them to police.

Staying alert and knowing your neighbors really make the difference. Three arrests were recently made in the SW area due to a neighbor who observed and reported suspicious activity. Those suspects were then tied to at least one other burglary in the area.

Officer Profile

Officer Kim Seig is the School Resource Officer for Capital High School. Her duties include criminal investigations but she also spends a lot of time working with students and staff in other ways, including advising and teaching. Kim began her career with the Vancouver (WA) Police Department after graduating from college with a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology. During her four years there she specialized as a Firearms Instructor. She came to the Olympia Police Department in 2004 and worked in Patrol until her current assignment. She also is one of the Advisors for the Explorer Post, which gives youth a chance to volunteer with the Police Department and learn about Law Enforcement as a career. To further her knowledge of issues facing children, she has received training in Child Abuse and Sexual Assault investigation. One of her favorite parts of her job is the interaction with the people she meets on a daily basis.



Ford Vehicle Prowls

Since September 2007, Olympia and Lacey Police have investigated over seventy (70) vehicle break-ins involving Ford trucks. The suspect(s) would punch the door locks and take valuables from the victim's vehicle.

On 02/13/08 Olympia Police Detectives assisted by Lacey Police Detectives and Lakewood Police contacted two suspects believed to be involved in these thefts. Through the Detectives' investigation the below two suspects were arrested. Two vehicles used by the suspects during these break-ins were seized and towed to the Olympia Police department.

Two search warrants were served at two separate locations, the first at 14518 69th Ave. Ct., Lakewood, Washington. The second was at 2015 Ashwood Lane S.E., Olympia, Washington. Detectives recovered over a hundred items from numerous victims at these locations. Both suspects were booked into the Thurston County Jail.

Olympia Police Detectives will be cataloging the recovered evidence and attempting to identify the property owners. Victims of these Ford break-ins are asked to contact the Olympia Police Department by e-mail at victimhelp@ci.olympia.wa.us.

Olympia Police and Lacey Police Detectives will continue to investigate this case with numerous charges expected.

Arrested: PERSHING, Jason Ross DOB/070971
Lakewood, WA

Charges: Pierce County Warrant
U.P.C.S. No bail

VERT, Anna Renee DOB/032186
Lakewood, WA

Charges: No Bail Forgery Warrant Pierce County
Theft 1st Degree/Possession Stolen Property 2nd Degree

There were 49 vehicle prowls reported in Olympia during the month of January, 2008.