



# COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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## Sheriff's Office– A Message from the Director of Community Partnerships

The Office of Community Partnerships was created to promote community involvement and collaboration. Some of our first priorities include:

- Building and revitalizing Neighborhood Watch groups throughout our community;
- Creating opportunities for broader distribution of crime prevention and public safety messages;
- Expanding the Sheriff's Office volunteer program, including Citizen Patrol.

We're excited about these new initiatives. So far we've hosted four Neighborhood Watch training sessions in our precincts, with more than eighty citizens in attendance.

Crime prevention is a responsibility shared by both the police and the public. We'll do our part by providing ongoing training and guidance for people who want to help make their neighborhood safer and stronger. To sign up for an upcoming Neighborhood Watch session call 425-388-7375 or email us at [neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org).

**Sheriff's Volunteers.** We're also busy improving opportunities for people who want to work within the Sheriff's Office as volunteers. While some prefer to work inside the office

doing clerical duties, others serve out in the community as additional "eyes and ears" for deputies. To learn more, contact Volunteer Director Ray Baron at 425-388-3082 or [ray.baron@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:ray.baron@co.snohomish.wa.us).

*Ann Plunkett*  
Director of Community Partnerships,  
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## Neighborhood Watch Training

Future Neighborhood Watch training is scheduled for:

### North Precinct:

First Thursday of the month at 6:30pm

### South Precinct:

Fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30pm





## Sending Text to Crime Stoppers

- *Select text “Messaging” or “SMS” (short messaging service) on your phone’s main menu.*
- *Create (compose) a new message, beginning with the keyword Tip486 (not case sensitive) in the body of the message.*
- *Send the message to the short code of 274637 (Crimes)*
- *Your initial submission triggers an auto response with brief notes and a unique code number that you must remember as it cannot be retrieved later. You and Crime Stoppers may engage in a secure two-way dialog at the time.*
- *You can text STOP to 274637 (CRIMES) at any time to stop communications for that incident. If you do not send stop any further text messages from the same phone do not get a reply but are received.*

## Crime Stoppers– Now Taking Tips Via Text Messaging

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound is a non-profit organization that acts as a neutral buffer between people who have information about crime, but want to remain anonymous, and the police. It collects information about crime that police agencies need, while allowing the people who might hold that information to remain unknown.

In order to make the connection between the police and the community, Crime Stoppers uses the media- TV, radio, newspapers- to let the community know about criminal investigations that the police need more information about.

It traditionally has used the phone number 1-800-CRIME-13.

Recently, Crime Stoppers added the capability to accept information via text message. A text message (or SMS– short messaging service) is a service found on many modern cell phones that allows the user to send short messages to other cell phones.

Through a series of servers, the text message is masked so that Crime Stoppers personnel will not know who sent the message.

Currently, the service is only available in the Puget Sound region– King, Snohomish, Kitsap and Island counties.

Adding text messaging opens a channel of communication for younger people who are more used to the technology. It also may have a benefit for situations where someone who wit-

nesses a crime may not want to endanger themselves by talking on a cell phone.

All information that Crime Stoppers receives is shared with all police agencies, regardless of jurisdiction.

For more information go to:

<http://www.crimestoppers-ps.com/pages.php/1092>

There are several other methods to pass information to the police and the Sheriff’s Office.

Of course you can call 911 for emergencies, police, medical, or fire. In Snohomish County, if you see suspicious activity that you think will cause imminent criminal activity (be sure to ask for “contact” with a deputy).

For non-time sensitive information, you can pass information about suspicious activity or suspects in a crime to the Sheriff’s Office tip line, (425) 388-3845, or on the Sheriff’s web site at, [www.co.snohomish.wa.us/SheriffRpts/AnonymousTips/default.htm](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/SheriffRpts/AnonymousTips/default.htm).

If you suspect or know of drug activity you can pass a tip to the Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force at:

<http://www.srdtf.org/Tips.htm>





## Traffic– New Traffic Unit for Sheriff’s Office

Traffic is probably the biggest complaint that the Sheriff’s Office receives. As a result, traffic safety on county roads, is an important function of the Sheriff’s Office.

A new unit that will be in operation soon is the Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU). The TEU will be made up of 7 deputies and a sergeant and will operate between 6pm and midnight. It will enforce traffic laws, investigate minor car crashes and conduct DUI emphasis.

The TEU complements two existing traffic units:

- The Motors Unit– deputies on motorcycles who enforce traffic laws, including speeding laws. For safety, this unit operates primarily during daylight hours.
- The Collision Unit– made up of detectives who investigate major car crashes and deaths.

By operating between 6pm and midnight, the TEU can cover county roads during the evening when the commute ends and there is a chance of danger from darkness and drivers who drink.



*Motors Unit Deputy on his motorcycle.*

## DUI– You Can Help

Nationwide, drunk and drugged driving leads to one death every 33 minutes, one injury every two minutes and 1.5 million arrests every year.

Local law enforcement agencies frequently conduct emphasis patrols looking for drunk drivers during the holidays, St Patrick’s day, New Years Eve and other periods when people often may drink too much then try to drive.

You can help by being alert for drunk drivers and reporting them to 911.

Look for erratic driving- weaving on the road, inability to stay in the lane, alternately speeding then slowing down.

When you call, give:

- Vehicle description
- License #
- Nearest cross street
- Direction of travel

Be careful when using your cell phone and driving. If necessary, stop on the side of the road while calling.

If the driver is speeding, don’t speed with them! It doesn’t do any good to endanger other lives in a chase. Leave chasing bad guys to the cops.

## Drunk Drivers– Your Best Defense

*Your best defense against a drunk driver on the road is:*

- *To wear your safety belt, make sure any children in the car are in child safety seats.*
- *Never ride in a car operated by someone who has been drinking - call a cab or ask a friend to drive you home.*
- *Report drunk drivers to law enforcement from a car phone or pay phone.*
- *Keep a safe distance from anyone driving erratically.*



# Sheriff's Office— Odds and Ends

**East Precinct Crime Prevention Coordinator-** In the last issue, we introduced Sgts Darrell O'Neill and Jeff Stemme as the Crime Prevention Coordinators for South and North precincts.

In addition to the coordinators for north and south precincts, Deputy Daniel Johnson is the Crime Prevention Coordinator for East Precinct. You can contact him at:

Phone: (360) 805-6770

Email:

[daniel.johnson@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:daniel.johnson@co.snohomish.wa.us)

**Vacation Watch-** Summer is coming. You and your family might want to take a trip. One of the best ways to protect your home while on vacation is to have a trusted neighbor check on your house picking up your mail and newspapers on your front porch.

While they won't pick up your mail, you can also have a Sheriff's Office Volunteer check on your house while you are gone. Contact your precinct to sign up for this program.

**National Night Out- August 5.** The Sheriff's Office will again be taking part in National Night Out (NNO) on August 5th. This year the Sheriff's Office encourages neighborhoods to sponsor local

events.

In its 25th year, National Night Out

- Increases crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generates support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Sends a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

During NNO, cities, towns and neighborhoods participate in block parties, cookouts, visits from police and sheriff's offices, parades, contests and youth programs.

For more information about how you can participate contact the Director of Partnerships, Ann Plunkett, (425) 388-3253 or [Ann.Plunkett@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:Ann.Plunkett@co.snohomish.wa.us)



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Steve Moller— Editor



1-800-  
CRIME-13

### Tip Lines:

- Phone: 425-388-3845
- Sheriff's Website: [www.co.snohomish.wa.us/SheriffRpts/AnonymousTips/default.htm](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/SheriffRpts/AnonymousTips/default.htm)

### Crime Prevention Coordinators:

**Office of Community Partnerships-**  
[neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org)

**North Precinct-**  
Sgt Jeff Stemme  
Phone- (425) 388-7934  
Email- [jeffrey.stemme@snoco.org](mailto:jeffrey.stemme@snoco.org)

**South Precinct-**  
Sgt Darrell O'Neill  
Phone- (425) 388-5250  
Email- [darrell.oneill@snoco.org](mailto:darrell.oneill@snoco.org)

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