



# COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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**E-Mail eSubscribe**  
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See page 4 to find out  
how you can continue to  
receive this newsletter.

## Crime Prevention Officers– *Budget Cuts Last Two Positions*

I am sorry to announce that due to the county budget cuts for 2005 we have had to let Pat Cudinski and Bob Alton go as Crime Prevention Officers. Both Pat and Bob have given many years of service to the public in the important function of crime prevention. Their talents and dedication will be sorely missed by this Sheriff's Office and by the County. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their excellent service.

As a result of these cuts I have asked Lt. Jeff Miller, South Precinct (425-744-6868), Lt. Dallas Swank, North Precinct (425-388-7934) and Lt. Jeff Brand, East Precinct (360-805-6773), to take on crime prevention functions as best as they can. This will be in addition to their regular duties. I have asked that they at least keep in contact with our existing block watches.

Also, I have ask Volunteer Steve Moller to continue the newsletter. I want to keep you informed of current crime trends and how to protect yourself from them.

Distribution of the newsletter will change, however. This will be the last newsletter that will be distributed via the mail. From now on, we will continue to post the newsletter on our web page. To receive the newsletter via email please use the county's new eSubscribe service. To

find out about eSubscribe please read the article on page four.

Crime prevention is an important function of any police department or sheriff's office. I will be exploring ways to reinstate crime prevention positions to the Sheriff's Office. In the meantime we will try our best to keep in contact with you and to continue to educate the public on crime prevention techniques.

I ask you for your continued involvement in your community and with the Sheriff's Office. You continue to be our eyes and ears. Your help in educating, warning, and communicating with your neighbors remains as important now as it has in the past.

Thank you for your efforts.

*Rick Bart  
Snohomish County Sheriff*



## Animal Control Facts

- *Animal Control Officers frequently have more calls per day than most deputies*
- *New animal complaint hotline:  
(425) 388-3440*
- *Pet/Animal Licensing Information:  
(425) 388-3627*
- *If you have lost your pet call the animal shelter nearest you:*
  - *PAWS-  
Lynnwood  
(425) 787-2500*
  - *Everett Animal Shelter-  
Everett  
(425) 257-6000*
- *If you have found a lost pet call The Auditor's Office-  
(425) 388-3627*

# Animal Control– New Hotline for Complaints

As of the first of February, the Snohomish County Auditor's Office is taking over Animal Control. The affect will be to consolidate pet licensing, pet services and enforcement under one office.

The Auditor's Office has instituted an animal services hotline- **(425) 388-3440**, that will take animal complaints including dogs running loose in neighborhoods, vicious dogs, animal neglect and abuse, unlicensed pets, and livestock at large. The hotline will be manned by License staff during normal working hours (9am to 5pm). You can leave a message if you call after hours.

If you have a life threatening problem with an animal, such as a dog bite, call 911.

The new hotline will help reduce the number of call that 911 handles. About 7,430 animal complaint calls were handled by 911 in 2003. This included more than 1,150 barking dog complaints and 336 complaints of alleged animal cruelty or neglect. Almost 800 people reported leash law violations. By moving animal complaints to the hotline, 911 should be able to handle other serious emergency calls more quickly.

Despite steadily increasing complaints, the county has had only 4 Animal Control Officers. Also, despite the expected load of calls the Auditor is not adding staff to provide this service. The Auditor's Office expects to be able to handle the calls due to recent

upgrades in automation.

Also, as of February 1, you will be able to file animal complaints on the auditor's web site. When this feature is available, go to <http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Auditor/Divisions/Licensing/>, then click on Animal Services, then click on On-line Complaints.

The Auditor's Office licenses pets for the unincorporated portion of Snohomish County. For more information on licensing your pet go to the licensing link on the Auditor's web page.

Another service that the Auditor's Office performs is re-uniting lost pets with their owners. For pets found with a Snohomish County Regional Pet License, citizens may contact 425-388-3627, 24-hours a day and access the lost pet IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system to reunite the pet with its' owner. Finders of lost pets may also access pet owner information through the Auditor's web page:

<http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/Departments/Auditor/Divisions/Licensing/Pet/LostOrFoundPets.htm> then click on the found a lost pet link.





## ID Theft– *Phishing for Your Personal Account Information*

The basic premise of ID Theft is to obtain an innocent victim's credit card number, bank account number, social security number, etc. so that the thief can take on the victim's identity to buy goods and services. The thief buys, the victim pays.

Thieves can accomplish ID Theft by stealing mail, taking credit card receipts from dumpsters, look over your shoulder at ATM machines or several other simple and high tech methods.

One of the newer methods is called *phishing*. A criminal will send you an email (he or she has sent out thousands of these spam like emails) that requires your immediate attention. It may claim that your account might be closed, that someone has gained access to your account and to protect yourself you need to click on the following link and verify your account information.

When you click on the link, a web page comes up that may look like the web page of a legitimate company or organization. This might be your bank, internet provider, phone company, or a government agency. Then you may be asked to provide your account number, social security number, passwords, or other personal information. When you have provided this information, the thief can then use the information to wipe out your bank account or charge your accounts for things or services. The thief plays while you pay.

To protect yourself from this type of ID Theft the Department of Justice suggests a three phased approach:

1. **Stop.** Do not immediately click on the link, no matter how upsetting or exciting the claim by the email. Take time to look at the claim before you plunge into that link.
2. **Look.** Take a close look at the email to determine if it makes sense. Be especially suspicious of emails (or web sites) that want numerous pieces of your personal information. Legitimate businesses do not approach you for your personal information. If you have an account with a business, they already have the account number.
3. **Call.** If you are suspicious of an email that seems to come from a company you do business with, call them. Use a phone number that you have used before or you know belongs to the company. For example, the 1-800 number of your credit card company is usually on the back of the card. Do not use any email addresses, web sites, or phone numbers from a suspicious email.

Finally, if you have received a phishing email send copies of the e-mail to the Federal Trade Commission at [uce@ftc.gov](mailto:uce@ftc.gov) and the Anti-Phishing Working Group at [reportphishing@antiphishing.org](mailto:reportphishing@antiphishing.org).

### 5 Ways to Protect Yourself from Phishing

1. *Never respond to requests for personal information via e-mail or in a pop-up window. If in doubt, call the institution that claims to be the sender of the e-mail or pop-up window.*
2. *Visit Web sites by typing the URL into your address bar.*
3. *When transmitting personal information, check to make sure the Web site is using encryption.*
4. *Routinely review your credit card and bank statements.*
5. *Report suspected abuses of your personal information to the proper authorities.*

From: <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/email/phishing/video1.msp>

#### For More Information:

[www.antiphishing.org](http://www.antiphishing.org)  
<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt127.pdf>



# COMMUNITY POLICING in Snohomish County

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*Steve Moller– Editor*



1-800-  
CRIME-13

## **eSubscribe– The New Way to Receive “Community Policing in Snohomish County”**

eSubscribe is a free service offered by Snohomish County that allows you to receive an email alert when new information is made available on the Snohomish County website. You need only to provide your email address and to choose which information alerts are important to you.

To subscribe, go to <http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/>, then click on the “eSubscriber Services” button at the lower left hand corner of the page. Follow the instructions, enter your email address, then check off the box next to “Sheriff Community Policing Newsletter”.

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