



Thurston County Sheriff's Office

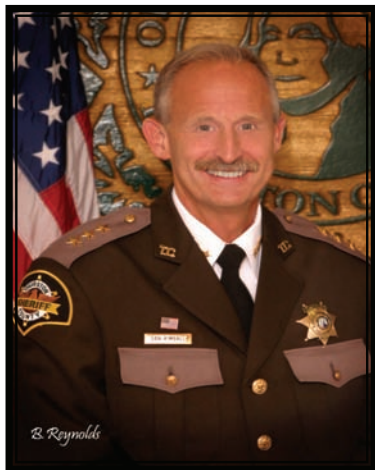
"Creating a Safer Community Together."

Volume 2, Issue 1

A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF DAN KIMBALL

As we move forward in 2008, I thought it would be nice to provide a short recap of some of the major Sheriff's Office achievements for 2007, as well as goals and objectives for the new year. As I suspect you are all aware, we face many significant challenges; however I am confident that by working together we are more than capable of addressing them.

First, we finalized the process of converting several administrative and supervisory positions into **six deputy sheriff** positions for the patrol division. This was done at



no additional cost to the taxpayers. These new deputies were hired and trained and are now out working on a shift, improving our coverage throughout the community. We cancelled the helicopter program and used the money saved to bring on two K-9 units, which are now out patrolling in your neighborhoods. We also made important improvements in the area of technology, putting in place on-line reporting options for citizens for some crimes as well as creating the first Sheriff's Office electronic newsletter. These were major steps forward in improving our efficiency and effectiveness as an agency, as well as our ability to communicate with the people we serve.

Another major achievement of 2007 was our ability to manage and reduce our average daily jail population in the county jail. Much of this was attributable to our participation with other criminal justice stakeholders in the utilization of the county assessment tool for inmates. This

team did an incredible job of improving efficiencies within the jail inmate population and thus helping to reduce jail overcrowding issues and related expenses.

For 2008 and beyond, we face some significant challenges. As of July 1st of this year, sheriff's deputies will be taking over the investigation of almost 1,000 county road accidents a year, as the Washington State Patrol ceases to investigate these incidents. Our county commissioners have given us authorization to hire five additional deputy sheriffs to help off-set this new workload. This new responsibility will have a significant impact on the workload of deputy sheriffs, but I am confident they will do their very best to provide high quality service in this area.

Also in 2008, we will be continuing to work with others as

the building of the Accountability and Restitution Center (ARC) moves forward. This is a major project aimed at addressing incarceration rates and associated costs into the foreseeable future.

As I said earlier, these are just a few of the highlights of 2007 and some of the issues we face for 2008 and beyond. There are many other great accomplishments from this past year, too numerous to list in this limited space. It must be noted that all of the great things that happened at your Sheriff's Office in 2007 were achieved as a result of the work of creative, hard working employees, both commissioned and non-commissioned, as well as from the assistance and feedback of the people we serve - namely you. I am excited about 2008 and what the future holds for our community!

-Dan

Please visit our website:
<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff>

"Explorers Wanted"

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that we will again be having a Law Enforcement Explorer Post at our agency. Our previous post was disbanded several years ago, but as part of Sheriff Kimball's vision, he has decided to restart this very valuable program.

Law Enforcement Exploring is a worksite-based program for young

men and women who have completed the eighth grade and are 14 years of age, or are 15 years of age but have not yet reached their 21st birthday.

Law Enforcement Explorer posts help youth to gain insight into a variety of programs that offer hands-on career activities. For young men and women who are interested in careers in the field

of law enforcement, Exploring offers experiential learning with lots of fun-filled, hands-on activities that promote the growth and development of adolescent youth.

The governing entity for LE Explorers is called "Learning for Life". It is a subsidiary of Boy Scouts of America and they work out of the BSA office.

Learning for Life provides program support and training opportunities for Explorers and the Post Advisors and administrators.

If you are interested in additional information about the TCSO Explorer Post, please contact Lt Greg Elwin at (360) 786-5657.

Thurston County Responds to December Floods

By: Keith Eisner, Emergency Operations Center

While residents of Lewis and Grays Harbor counties received the brunt of the record flooding in December, Thurston County families were hard hit in the Rochester/Grand Mound area. Trailer parks, individual homes, farms and businesses were swamped with water. When the water receded, residents faced the daunting task of returning to homes coated with mud, ruined flooring and insulation and threatened water systems.

Thurston County residents reported more than \$9 million dollars in uninsured structural damages and \$2.3 million in personal losses for a total of \$11.7 million.

County offices and departments reacted quickly to the disaster. The county's Emergency Management Division activated the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) on Pacific Avenue. A team of call receivers answered questions and concerns from the public. EOC staff also kept the general public informed through media releases to local newspapers, radio stations and television. Working with ROOF (Rochester Organization of Families), the Red Cross, and other community groups, the EOC helped provide fresh drinking water, overnight shelters, firewood, and other services.

Meanwhile rescue teams from the Thurston County Sheriff's Office deployed in boats and helicopters, rescuing more than 60 stranded flood victims. Deputies also patrolled flooded areas and kept an eye on flooded roads. Development Service staff immediately began inspecting homes, while Public Health workers provided help and information about well water safety, flood clean-up and other issues. Free disposal of flood-related debris was made possible by the Water & Waste Management Department.

One week after the flood, the county set up a community

meeting in Rochester to listen to the concerns of flood victims and to answer questions about flood relief. This was followed by a second community meeting the next week. The county also worked with Lewis County to set up a forum for the Hispanic communities of both Lewis and Thurston counties. This meeting, conducted almost entirely in Spanish, was held in Centralia and drew over 100 community members.

We thank all county workers and members of the public who worked long, hard hours to help those in need.

Thurston County Sheriffs Office Responds to Rochester Floods

By: Lt. Greg Elwin

The devastating flood in December 2007 had a wide-ranging impact on all parts of our county. Nowhere was that impact felt more than in the Rochester and Chehalis tribal areas of southwest Thurston County. Although our neighbors in Lewis, Gray's Harbor and Mason counties also experienced tragedy and loss, the impact in our county was what we all pulled together to battle.

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office Dive/ Rescue Team, worked with fire and EMS personnel to prepare for and execute rescue responses during both the initial flooding and during the recovery efforts. TCSO Command staff were also assigned to the Emergency Operations Center. Additional TCSO personnel from our Ma-

rine Services Unit, Traffic Division, and several of our volunteer groups participated in all aspects of the response.

Dive/ Rescue was in the flood zone for several days. On the first day, we worked with Rochester Fire District #1 staff to prepare stand-by rescue teams. That changed overnight.

By the second day, the calls for rescue began coming in and we activated our full 12 person team. The team was split into separate strike teams and directed to areas in and around the region. During that day, we continued to work with Rochester Fire/ Rescue as we completed rescues of people, pets and belongings. These people were taken by boat and helicopter to an evacuation zone. All told, our team was responsi-

ble for the safe evacuation of 46 persons, 5 dogs, 3 cats, and numerous personal items.

During the following week, TCSO personnel continued to assist residents and other governmental entities as the recovery and clean-up efforts began. Our substation was converted to a victim relief center.

I am proud of the people that work for me as they faced difficult situations and performed their duties at a very high level. I am also proud to be part of an agency that responded to the needs of the citizens, and in many ways,

went outside the boundaries of traditional law enforcement to help with the greater good. And finally, it is very rewarding to be involved in an effort that brings together so many different entities to help the citizens that we are here to serve.



Sheriff's Dive/ Rescue Lt Greg Elwin helps a victim to shore.

Thurston County Sheriff's Office Introduces New K-9 Unit

By: Lt. John Price

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office is very excited to announce our new K-9 program!

A K-9 program is not new to TCSO; there is a very rich history of K-9 usage in Thurston County, and after a several year absence, this new program is better than ever. Working police dogs can be trained in several different specialties. The most common is as a "Police dog generalist", where they primarily track suspects, conduct article searches, and perform general protection work. Police dogs can also be trained in drug and bomb detection.

The goal for our program was to have two K-9 teams trained and certified by the end of 2007. Since there are a variety of dog breeds used in police work, some research had to be done to determine the best type. The prevailing opinion in the K-9 community is that the German Shepherd makes the best overall dog for police work. This is based on characteristics such as loyalty, sociability, and physical ability.

The K-9's are only as good as the handlers who work them.

We developed an exhaustive application and selection process, and upon completion of this process, two excellent Deputies were selected; *Matt Brennan* and *Rod Ditrich*.

After much consideration, we selected two dogs from a broker in Ohio. These dogs are imported from Europe, and come from breeding programs that are specific for developing working dogs. I'd like to specifically thank Corporal John Munson of the Pierce County Sheriff's Office. Cpl. Munson is our Master Trainer and has been extremely helpful in the selection of our dogs, training, and ongoing advisement. One of our dogs received its name through a contest by the Boys and Girls Club of Thurston County. Deputy Brennan's partner is Enok and Deputy Ditrich's partner is Rex.

Rex and Enok are trained as "Police dog generalists". The dogs and handlers trained for over 400 hours and are now certified through the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission and the WA State Police Canine Association.

Sheriff Kimball authorized a com-



Deputy Matt Brennan with K-9 Enok, Master Trainer John Munson, and Deputy Rod Ditrich with K-9 Rex

munity fund drive to pursue citizen participation and support. This fundraising was done in cooperation with the Thurston County Deputy Sheriff's Association, and it illustrates the agency's excellent relationship with the community. The fundraising effort has resulted in nearly ten thousand dollars in money, goods and services, all of which went to directly support the program. We wish to thank all of the people who have generously donated to this cause. Your efforts are much appreciated by all of us!

We are very proud of the efforts of the handlers and the dedication they have shown in this difficult and demanding assignment. Both K-9 teams are now working patrol, helping their handlers, and other members of law enforcement in their mission. We believe that police canines are a great asset to the community, and we hope to continue the program's success.

www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff

Puget Sound Energy Downed Power Line Warning

Downed power lines are DANGEROUS

Downed and dangling power lines are one of the risks of the winter storm season. Assume any downed line is an energized power line. That means it is "live" and can electrocute you if you touch it, even if you touch it with a tree limb or pole. Do not try to move downed lines with fiberglass, wood or metal poles, or with ladders or rope.

First, call Puget Sound Energy

at 888-225-5773 and 911 if there is immediate danger. Do not attempt any action until utility crews have given you the OK or removed or repaired the line.

The area around a downed line can also be energized and dangerous. The danger area extends approximately 30 feet from the line. Our wet winters with water on the ground make the danger worse because water conducts electricity. If you have gotten into the danger area, stay out of water and walk by shuffling, keeping both feet on the

ground and touching at all times, or hopping with both feet together. Continue shuffling or hopping until you are at least 30 feet from the downed line.

If a power line falls on a vehicle, do not approach, touch it, or touch anyone inside. Both you and they could be seriously shocked or electrocuted. If a power line falls on your car while you are driving, slowly drive on until you are completely clear of it (but do not drive over it). Stay in the vehicle until you are clear of the area, or have been as-

sured by trained personnel that the area is safe.

The hardest part about dealing with downed lines is standing back and letting trained professionals deal with it. But your life – and others' – could depend on it.

This article was provided by Puget Sound Energy's Public Education Office.

Thurston County Sheriffs Office New Online Citizen Reporting Program

At the beginning of January, the Thurston County Sheriff's Office launched our new **Online Citizen Reporting Program**. This program allows people in the county jurisdiction to file certain police reports from any internet access. Once the report is filed and reviewed by our Records Division, you will be able to print a report with a TCSO case number for your records.

Types of incidents that may be filed online are:

- Lost property
- Identity theft
- Harassing phone calls
- Theft from a vehicle (under \$1,500)
- Theft (under \$1,500)
- Vandalism (under \$1,500)
- Hit & Run

If there is any *known* suspect information, a report *cannot* be filed online. A deputy must take the complaint, either in person or over the telephone. In addition, people can report Drug Tips, Traffic Problems, and Suspicious Activity (clear) online as well.

There are certain parameters in the program that may cause the report to be rejected. In that instance, you would then be directed to call to have a deputy respond, rather than doing it online.

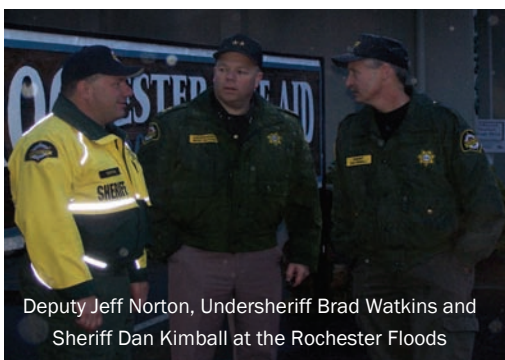
Online reporting is simply another option for you. If you still desire in person or telephone contact with a Deputy, you will always still have that option.

To file an online report, log on to: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff/citizen-reporting/index.html>

Sheriff's Deputies Adopt a Family For Christmas

By: Deputy Bryan Goheen

For Christmas 2007, Lt. Gordon Phillips' shift adopted a family through The Department of Children and Families, a division of DSHS. Virtually everyone on the shift donated money or time to make the program work. Adopting the family consisted of shopping for our assigned family, wrapping the presents and delivering them. I, along with Deputy Simper and 3 Social Workers from Child Protective Services delivered the family their presents on 12-19-07. It appeared the family enjoyed receiving the gifts and they very much appreciated it. The family consisted of a single mother with 1 and 2 year old children.



Deputy Jeff Norton, Undersheriff Brad Watkins and Sheriff Dan Kimball at the Rochester Floods

2000 Lakeridge Dr. SW
Building 5
Olympia, WA. 98502
360-786-5500

Community Outreach Deputy John Snaza
Phone: 360-786-5855
E-mail: snazaj@co.thurston.wa.us



A victim sits on his vehicle moments before being rescued by TCSO Dive/ Rescue Team.

For more images from the TCSO flood response, log on to:

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/sheriff/community-outreach/flood-pictures.htm>