

Press Release

September 25, 2007

The Thurston County Sheriff's Office is proud to announce a new program in our community. The Community Outreach Deputy is a position created by Sheriff Dan Kimball to help address many of the needs of the community that have gone without attention for some time.

In January of 2003, the Sheriff's Office was faced with drastic budget cuts that led to the elimination of some programs and the layoffs of some Deputies. One of the most visible programs cut was the Crime Prevention position. At that time, the Crime Prevention Deputy worked with Block Watch, Operation ID, Homeowners Association meetings, and various other programs in our neighborhoods.

Community Outreach is Crime Prevention revisited with a bonus. With Community Outreach, we will not only get back to traditional crime prevention programs such as those mentioned above, but we will expand our involvement in the community.

We are in the process of developing several programs to meet this goal. The Sheriff's Office is preparing a *community outreach newsletter*, in which we share with the community who we are, what we do, and what we plan to do in the future. This will also serve as a conduit, along with our *expanded web site*, for community members to work together with us to help create a safer community by providing their feedback and suggestions. We have also become partners with the Cities of Lacey and Olympia police departments in the *Multi-housing crime reduction program*, a program designed to work with rental property managers and owners to address areas of concern in and around their properties.

For the children, we have become national partners with the “Child Project”. This program utilizes iris recognition to help identify children should they end up someplace they shouldn’t be and need to be reunited with their families. The Child Project is administered in cooperation with the National Missing Children’s Organization and is commonly referred to as the Iris Scan program. We offer this opportunity at school and public events throughout the county.

The Deputy assigned to the Community Outreach position is Deputy John Snaza. Deputy Snaza is a 15 year law enforcement veteran with varied and widespread experiences. A charismatic and engaging speaker, Deputy Snaza will work hard to bring to fruition the vision of the Thurston County Sheriff’s Office, ***Creating a Safer Community Together.***

If you have questions about the Community Outreach position, please contact Sgt Greg Elwin at (360) 786-5657. If you would like to speak to Deputy Snaza about some of the specific programs we are involved in, he can be reached at (360) 786-5855.