



we're ALWAYS watching

Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Association Inc., A non profit association dedicated to crime prevention in association with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office - Crime Prevention Bureau:

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Here we are in October again. Halloween, elections, Baseball playoffs and "Crime Prevention" month. With so much happening it is easy to forget or pick which events we attend.

We have our election for President and Treasurer this year. Any qualified person interested in either position may apply to run. This is your organization and needs your help and input.

There are many ways to serve your community and if you don't, it may not get done. With so much turmoil going on in the world be a calming effect in your community. Take action to insure your family stays safe and can walk your neighborhood at night, without needing an escort. Lead the way by example and show others how it's never out of style to serve.

We want and need your assistance to keep the criminals in check. We are successful only if you are involved. Come visit one of our Board meetings and

learn how you can get involved. Give us your ideas on what we need to do to improve "your" organization. Everyone has the potential to do great things. Let it out.

Our speaker at meeting will be from the FBI and talk about their **Innocent Images Task force**. The Task Force is an intelligence driven, proactive investigative initiative to combat the proliferation of child pornography and child sexual exploitation facilitated by the Internet.

Learn how to keep your children safe on internet. **Don't miss this presentation**

Annual Meeting & Appreciation Dinner!

This year marks the first time we will have an Annual Appreciation Dinner for ALL Group's in the current HCNWA. We hope to make this an ongoing event every year from now on. It's our way of simply saying "Thank You" for all the hard work and efforts you put forth to promote our Association within Hillsborough County. Your help to put crime controlling trends in-place to make your neighborhoods a safer place to live and raise a family is needed and appreciated.

The meeting will take place on Oct. 21, 2008 at 7:00PM at HCC – Brandon Campus, located at 10414 E. Columbus Dr., Tampa, Fl. Nothing fancy, just an old-fashioned spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings. We will have Annual meeting, with speaker Scott Earl of FBI, the Sheriff and Command Staff, elections of Officers, trivia questions and door prizes. So, plan on attending and be a part of this celebration. We hope to see you there.

**Remember, Tomorrow Because of You, Hillsborough County
Will be a Little Better or A Little Worse**

Officers

President	Nick Bates	Phone: 295-3364	E-Mail: allstate@gte.net
V.President	Charles Green Sr.	Phone: 986-4099	E-Mail: charles.greensr@verizon.net
Secretary	Ken Atkison	Phone: 880-8233	E-Mail: kengatki05@verizon.net
Treasurer	Lois E. Fedon	Phone: 885-9491	E-Mail: loise05@verizon.net

Board of Directors

John Fears		Phone: 737-2676	E-Mail: mandjfears@aol.com
Amy Shimberg		Phone: 935-8156	E-Mail: amys@tampabay.rr.com
Chuck Kashavsky		Phone: 681-8263	E-Mail: ckashavsky@verizon.net
Marian Fears		Phone: 737-2676	E-Mail: mandjfears@aol.com
Ken Atkison		Phone: 880-8233	E-Mail: kengatki05@verizon.net
Rose Panella		Phone: 662-9862	E-Mail: flrose2@verizon.net
Kaye Shannon		Phone: 932-1066	E-mail: keshannon@tampabay.rr.com

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Board Advisors:

Dist. 1	Deputy Donald Jordan	Phone: 247-8115	E-mail: djorden@hcsso.tampa.fl.us
Dist. 2	Deputy Brian Pulido	Phone: 247-8115	E-mail: bpulido@hcsso.tampa.fl.us
Dist. 3	Deputy Steve Ferreira	Phone: 247-8115	E-mail: sferreir@hcsso.tampa.fl.us
Dist. 4	Deputy Bill Sarver:	Phone: 247-8171	E-mail: wsarver@hcsso.tampa.fl.us

The above represent the make-up of our current Officers & Board of Directors for the Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Association.

“The Window” is a publication of the HCNWA, in Association with the HCSO - Community Relations.....

Send all articles or requests to:

Ken Atkison - Editor - @ kengatki05@verizon.net

Nick Bates - Exec. Editor - @ allstate@gte.net

Remember, this is YOUR publication - so, “Go For It.”

“WE’RE ALWAYS WATCHING”



Sheriff's Corner:

Dear Neighborhood Watch members,

First off, let me again thank you for your time and effort to help us make our county a safer, better place to live. I am proud to say we have one of the strongest Neighborhood Watch organizations in the Tampa Bay area. You all deserve a pat on the back for that.

As we enter the fall season, let me tell you about a child safety project we again will do this year as Halloween nears. We call it **Operation No Tricks!** My deputies will be visiting the residences of every registered sexual predator and sexual offender in our county to let them know what they can and cannot do during Halloween.

We want these predators and offenders to make sure they do not violate any of their court-ordered conditions by displaying Halloween decorations or offering candy to entice children to their doors. We will be watching to make sure our children have a safe and fun Halloween.

On the issue of safety on Halloween night, let me share some tips and recommendations to ensure the ghouls and boys out trick-or-treating this year have the best time ever.

Halloween Safety Tips for Kids

1. Stay in your own neighborhood.
2. Go with a friend, a group or an adult.
3. Go only to houses with lights on or with Halloween decorations up.
4. Do not eat any treats until they have been checked by an adult.
5. Watch for cars when crossing the street.
6. Tell your parents about anything that makes you uncomfortable or scared.

Halloween Safety Tips cont'

Tips for Parents

Make sure your child's costume allows freedom of movement and good visibility. It should either be a light color or have reflective strips on it. Kids love to carry flashlights and it can make them more visible. If possible, have children *trick or treat* before dark.

Insist that your children ***trick or treat*** with a friend, a group or an adult. Young children should always go with an adult or responsible teenager.

Insist that your children stay in their own neighborhood and on an agreed route.

Before children eat any treats, check them over. Use your discretion about homemade treats - even with an address label. The safest rule is to throw away anything that is not store-wrapped and in good condition.

Cut fruit into pieces before eating to make sure it is all fruit and has not been tampered with.

Sponsor a party in place of *trick or treating*. Sometimes shopping malls will sponsor a party with each shop owner providing the treats. Use your imagination.

Tips for Treaters

If you want *trick or treaters* to come to your home, keep your outside and front room lights on, and have Halloween decorations.

Give store-wrapped or non-edible (crayons, stickers, small party favors) treats. If you must give homemade goodies, put your name and address on each treat (address labels work well) and give them only to children who know you

Trivia Questions:

1. What day were the most flowers sold?
2. First company to earn \$1 billion in a year?
3. Weigh yourself multiply by 0.0028. What do you get?
4. What has to have 108 stitches on it to be regulation?
5. Where does space begin?
6. What radioactive material is found in every new home built?

Start A Watch Group

Information is available to anyone interested in starting a new or revitalizing an existing watch group.

You may obtain it from www.hcso.tampa.fl.us or www.hcnwa.org or call **813-247-8115**.

Deputy Brian Pulido will send you a packet with everything you need to get started. He can be reached at 813-247-8115. Deputy Pulido will be more than happy to assist in whatever way you need.

You are the key to improving your neighborhood. Stand up and make a difference in how safe an area you live in.

Now is the time to join or help start a watch group in your neighborhood.

Directors Needed:

The Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Association is in need of volunteers to serve on The Board of Directors.

The website for the HCNWA is www.hcnwa.org. Please visit our site to keep up with latest events and to look up information about how to start a neighborhood watch in your area.

Our history and Board members names and e-mail addresses are there for you to learn about and join in making Hillsborough County a better and safer place to live and raise your family.

If there is anything missing or something you think needs to be on our website, please let us know. You may contact one of the Board members or Sheriff's Office with suggestions.

To serve on the Board you need to have been a coordinator in your neighborhood for one year and be at least 21 years of age. Get motivated and come join us.

Cut and use if needed

Membership Renewal Notice 2008-2009 Annual Dues

Due in Oct. each year

Please Remit Twenty Five (25) Cents per Household in Your Community

Date _____

Membership Association Name _____

Number Of households _____ **X \$.25 Per Household = \$** _____.

Watch Coordinator _____ Phone # _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone & E-Mail: _____

HCNWA Invoice # _____

Please remit to: HCNWA c/o Treasurer, P.O. Box 261152, Tampa, Fl. 33685-1152 (813-885-9491)

Make checks payable to HCNWA. Please write your community name on the check so we can properly credit your account. Your early attention to this notice will be most appreciated. HCNWA Federal tax # 59-232-4347

Thank you! Lois Fedon, Treasurer

Magnetic Business Cards:

The HCNWA has magnetic business cards with important phone numbers on them made to hand out. They will be available at meeting.

The cards have those numbers that are most important to have available for quick use. This idea was suggested by several Board members and we felt the time was right to implement it.

We hope all current area Neighborhood Watch groups will avail themselves of these items and we look forward to having you join us at the meeting.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions as to how we can improve our meetings or Neighborhood Watch please step forward and let us hear from you. We're always looking for good ideas. See you at the meeting.

**HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION**

Will hold the first-ever Dinner/Meeting on the 21st of October at HCC - Brandon Campus at 10414 E. Columbus Dr. Tampa, Fl. 33619 beginning at 7:00PM. Please join us for this event & share your ideas and thoughts about curbing current crime trends in your area. **JOIN US!**

If anyone from any Watch Group has an item they would like to see in the Newsletter in coming issues, please e-mail either Ken Atkison at kengatki05@verizon.net, or Nick Bates at allstate@gte.net, and we will be happy to oblige. We'd like to see it grow and become the "speaking platform" for all current members.



“Why do I Volunteer?”

That’s a very pointed question. It would most likely require a lot of soul-searching and a lot of analyzing to come up with an answer that would even come close to being the actual reasons. Could it be from a personal aspect of wanting to be recognized by many, or possibly could it be because you wanted to feel that you were contributing something to the already in-place process. We know that “crime” does not ever take a holiday, that it’s present everyday and only grows by leaps and bounds if left unchecked.

We realize that our Hillsborough County is growing in population and growth, and we also know that something, or someone, **MUST** step forward to assist in curbing the “crime” growth in our different Communities. Our HCSO cannot handle the “crime” statistics alone. They need our help, each and everyday. That’s where your “Neighborhood Watch” comes into play. We need to continue to form our Watch groups and become more involved in our respective areas daily. We need to stay involved in the County’s many active programs toward curbing crime trends

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the titled question is, **WE ALL** need to simply participate. Get involved, ask questions, talk to other groups, seek advice from our HCSO Crime Prevention Bureau, go online to the different web-sites and stay abreast of crime deterrent methods that have proved to be successful. Don’t be “reactive” to crime trends, be “Pro-active.”

Your HCNWA current Officers & Board members are always available to assist your Group in any way they can. It only takes a phone call or an E-mail and they will respond. You just need to not get complacent about the way things are going in your respective areas. Vow to get involved & help in making your area the place you chose to raise your family in with as little crime present as possible.

TOGETHER – We Can Make A Difference!

FIGHT-CRIME-FIGHT-CRIME-FIGHT-CRIME

OCTOBER NITE OUT

If your watch group is planning a function for "October Nite Out" our local answer to "National Nite Out" please let Deputy Pulido or Deputy Sarver know. They can be reached at 247-8115. They will be happy to visit your event.

October is Crime Prevention Month so help fight crime by showing support for Law Enforcement and get involved.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.HCNWA.Org

Alert to Coordinators:

Please be advised we need Coordinators to notify us if there is a change in your address or if a new Coordinator will be taking over your Watch Group. You or the new coordinator need to call your Deputy or the HCNWA Treasurer so they can make the change.

There have been a few occasions where the Coordinator left without letting us know and we have no way of reaching the Neighborhood Watch Group. When this happens we eventually have to remove the Group from our master list.

Please notify us of any changes. Don't lose the listing for your Neighborhood Watch Group. Thank You..

Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code