

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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I think it is time for Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch to move to the next level in leadership. Things change but do they really change.

I've been a part of Neighborhood Watch almost twenty years. I've seen many changes through three Sheriffs. Each one more proactive than the last. Proactive, that's what Neighborhood Watch is all about.

You the Coordinator, Block Captain, and member of Neighborhood Watch are the backbone of one of the best and most successful Watch groups in the State of Florida. I thank you for what you have done and will do for your Community. Not many know what you do nor do you seek rewards for doing it. You have the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference in our County.

I urge any member of neighborhood Watch to take a step forward and to join the Board and make an even bigger difference in our County. You are our greatest asset and we need you.

I have outlived my usefulness and at this time don't plan on running at the next election. When you can't get things accomplished for whatever the reason it's time for change.

Please volunteer and keep our Neighborhood Watch alive and our neighborhood safe.

Thank You for your service to Community

This will be our second Annual Appreciation Dinner for all active Coordinators and Block Captains in the 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 be held on Oct. 20, 2009 at 6:30PM sharp. It will be at the HCSO Administration Bldg. at 520 N. Falkenburg Rd., On West side of Falkenburg just North of Jail. It will be a Cuban menu. Our Guest speaker will be Comm. Kevin Beckner, also the Sheriff and Command Staff, election of Officers, trivia questions, and door prizes. Please plan on attending and be part of the celebration. We hope to see you there.

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

Officers

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“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”

This publication comes out twice a year, and is for the current Coordinators and Block Captains, and active NW Volunteers in Hillsborough County.....

Share it with a friend, neighbor, or any members of the Community to assist in spreading the word about Neighborhood Watch. “IT DOES WORK”

“WE’RE ALWAYS WATCHING”



Sheriff's Corner:

"What To Do And Who To Call" Message from the Sheriff:

First of all, I would like to send my regards to all our respected Neighborhood Watch members. As the Holidays are fast approaching, I'd like to remind you of some safety measures and tips when reporting crimes or incidents to the Sheriff's Office or other proper authorities. Also included, are a few directory references and phone numbers to call throughout Hillsborough County. As always, please keep yourselves safe.

Please be mindful of our current economic difficulties, and the fact that some property crimes, such as burglaries of both homes and automobiles and personal crimes, such as robberies, are more prevalent during these times.

As always, I remind you to **never** get physically involved in a dangerous, ongoing situation. Best of luck.

Regards,

Sheriff David Gee

The Sheriffs Tips are on the right hand side of this page.

The important Emergency Numbers referred to by the Sheriff can be found on Page 7 of this Newsletter. Please separate from newsletter and keep by phone. If the need ever arises you won't have to start searching for number to call. Remember seconds count in an emergency. Stay safe, stay focused, and as always "You're All Appreciated."

Reporting Information:

***Trust Your Instincts**

Do not place yourself in danger or become physically involved*

Who is reporting the Incident?

What is your phone number?

Location of incident of suspicious / criminal activity

What is the suspicious/criminal activity or incident?

Is it in-progress, just occurred, of delayed?

Are there any weapons visible?

Describe the weapon(s): Gun, Rifle, Handgun, Knife, Baseball Bat, Screwdriver, Pipe, etc.

Description and number of suspects:

Sex, Race, Height, Weight, Clothing Description, Hair Color, Glasses, Build, Etc.

Vehicles Involved

Any vehicle(s) descriptions with direction of travel: Make, Model, Color, and Year of vehicle.

Tag Description: State, Color, Number.

Any damage to or unusual characteristics of the vehicle.

Trivia Questions:

1. What do you call a cross between a yak and a cow?
2. What do you call someone who asks too many questions?
3. lycopersicon lycopersicum is scientific name for "wolf peach". What do we call them?
4. What is recognized by more people than the christian cross?
5. In 1871 Emilio Onra became known as what?
6. Where is whickflaw located? What is it?

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**.

Any Deputy will send you a packet with everything you need to get started. They can be reached at 813-247-8115. They 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 2009-2010 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.

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.

Second Annual Dinner Meeting to say thanks to our coordinators and block captains will be held on the 20th of October at HCSO Admin. Bldg.- 520 N. Falkenburg Rd. beginning at 6:30PM. Sharp. Please join us for this event and share your ideas and thoughts about curbing current crime trends in your area. If you are a Coordinator or Block Captain **JOIN US! RSVP ASAP if not already done.**

If anyone from any Watch Group has an item they would like to see in the Newsletter in coming issues, please e-mail: Ken Atkison at kengatki05@verizon.net, or Nick Bates at allstate@gte.net, and we will be see it gets in The Window.

We'd like to see it grow and become the "speaking platform" for all current members.



GOD BLESS AMERICA

News From the HCNWA

We are in process of realigning our Member groups within the four Districts. This was a result of the HCSO changing the Districts boundaries.

We are also having notepads made up, that will be passed out at the initial setup meetings held by our HCSO Deputies, as well as, being available to all members at our annual and semi annual meetings.

We have received Grant monies from the Community Enrichment program, for power point equipment, that will allow us to do presentations for any group in County. We should be ready in latter part of 2009.

The HCSO Crime Prevention Deputies are continuing to hold start-up meetings all throughout the County. We currently have some 277 registered groups in Hillsborough County and growing larger every month. Neighborhood Watch is alive and with your help will continue to stop crime within our County. Let's all work to build it up to the magnitude it so richly deserves. "It Does Work."

Many groups participated in the NNO Celebration this year on Aug. 4, 2009. If your group was unable to participate, please join us in Oct. 2009, to help recognize "National Crime Prevention Month." Let your District Deputy know you will have an event so they can plan on attending.

It's extremely important to keep Neighborhood Watch functions in the forefront of your daily living style. We are experiencing some of the most drastic economic times in recent history, and remember that crime doesn't take any vacations. It will always be present out there, just waiting to take advantage of those that are not prepared.

"Stand ready" and do your part to make your neighborhood a safer place to live in. **UNITE**" - "Make a Difference"

Promote NW and its merits everyday you can. Let's strive to make Hillsborough County the "Very Best" it can be.

"Be A Volunteer"

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 your Crime Prevention Deputies know. They can be reached at 247-8115. They will perhaps be able to visit your event. Check it out.

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

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..

**Special Message from the Treasurer-
Lois E. Fedon!**

It is Dues time again for our Organization. When submitting your dues notice to your HOA or Property Mgmt. for payment, **please include a copy of the original dues notice.** This will assist your Treasurer in making sure the dues payment is credited to your account. Your group ID number is on that notice.

A few of the Property Managers have not included it with payment and we have to manually look up group name and ID number.

Will NW Help in my Area!

ABSOLUTELY. With the current difficult economic times this country is experiencing, everyone in the Community should consider starting a Neighborhood Watch. It offers an already proven method of curbing crime trends within a given area, and assists the local Sheriff's Office in their daily protection of every citizen. "Get Involved" and start a NW and show the "bad guys" that you're not going to put up with any shenanigans.....

Special Announcement!

HCNWA recently received their power point equipment through a Grant from the HCSO Community Enrichment plan. We will be going throughout Hillsborough County and putting on presentations showing the merits of having a NW in the area.

We have some 288+ registered groups at present time and with this equipment will be able to inform and expand our groups. We will also work with and assist existing groups in spreading the word about Neighborhood Watch. If any group is interested in having such a presentation please e-mail kengatki05@verizon.net .

We will set up a meeting date and time at your convenience. In these times we must promote Neighborhood Watch to insure the safety of our neighborhoods. Please, let us hear from you, soon. Stay Safe....

"WE'RE ALWAYS WATCHING"



Emergency Info Sheet

For any immediate emergency: 911

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Sheriff's Office: 247-8200

Animal Services: 744-5660

Fire Rescue: 272-6600

Code Enforcement: 274-6600

CITY OF TAMPA

Police Department: 231-6130

Animal Services: 744-5660

Fire Rescue: 274-7011

Code Enforcement 274-5545

Public Works: 274-8721

PLANT CITY

Police Department: 659-4200

City Managers Office: 659-4200

Fire Rescue: 659-4200

TEMPLE TERRACE

Police: 989-7110

Fire: 989-7110

Code Compliance: 506-6680

FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL:

632-6859

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE:

1-888-404-3922

TECO:

223-0800



**Keep these important numbers
near your phone for possible use!!**



What Is A Volunteer!

Very simple: An individual that has reached a point in time where he/she has decided to do something about the current events that are happening in their own back yard, or thereabouts. They get the neighbors in the area together and organize into a functional, goal-oriented group of citizens with one main goal in mind, namely; to restore peace & tranquility back into their neighborhoods. Is it easy to get it started? Absolutely not, but, in the long run, it will be very beneficial to all concerned in the area. Many potential buyers look into an area which has a very low or non-existent crime rate before deciding to purchase in that area. Unite, and help maintain property values in your respective area by establishing a NW.

“PERSEVERE”

Background History of the HCNWA:

We were Incorporated in June 1983, and became a 501C-4 Organization in Feb. 1984. We have been in existence for some 26 years.

Our Association has won five "first place" national awards for our participation in NNO. This is quite an accomplishment as every area or city in category one in the United States was eligible. Category one means a population of over 250,000.

Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch was one of the first in the State of Florida.

There were only six groups when we started and now we have over 280 groups.

Thanks to you we are growing larger every year. Keep it up.

**HCNWA
P.O. Box 261152
Tampa, Fl. 33685-1152**

**Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code**