



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:

## President's Message

**Identity Theft** has become the **fastest growing crime in America**. It accounts for over 40% of consumer fraud complaints. In this day of instant information from the web you can find out anything about anyone. Google's search engine alone has over **8 billion** web pages full of information. Some good, some bad but all accessible to anyone willing to take time to look. In as little as one hour you can be targeted and become a victim.

Over 10 million consumers a year become victims of identify theft. Over 50% target people they know and 33% of those target immediate family or relatives. Your name, social security number, DOB, and other info including credit card numbers can be found.

Next issue we will do articles on preventing and list ways to help you fight back. Till then remember to shred all personal information before throwing in trash. Looking through trash is still a low tech way of getting your identity stolen and very effective.

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Here are a couple of facts on Identity Theft:  
# estimated \$52 billion lost to ID theft in 2004

# \$15,607 average loss when done by friend or Friend or family member.

No matter who it happens to we all pay in higher fees, higher prices, and higher penalties.

Safeguard all your personal information and shred anything you throw away in personal data on it. A shredder is cheap security to protect your identity.

## Annual Meeting and Agenda

On Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM the Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Association will hold it's Annual meeting. It will be held at the Riverhills Church of God located at 6310 E. Sligh Avenue.

All Coordinators, Block Captains, members of Watch Groups and general public are invited to attend.

The special speaker will be Special Agent Al Dana of The FDLE. He is an expert on crimes against children. See a short bio inside on Special Agent Dana.

At the end of the meeting there will be drawings for Cash prizes (\$100) as well as gift certificates. You

must be present to win. So invite a friend and join us to learn more about how to protect your children and let's all "Take A Bite Out Of Crime".

We know your time is valuable so help us use it wisely. Be there to help make a difference in Hillsborough County. After all, you are the Key!!!

As usual, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office will have District Commanders on hand to answer all your questions. We look forward to seeing you and we hope you'll join us for the evening. Remember our motto;

"We're Always Watching"

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

### Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Nick Bates</b>	<b>Phone: 295-3364</b>	<b>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:allstate@gte.net">allstate@gte.net</a></b>
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### Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Board Advisors

<b>Dist. 1</b>	<b>Deputy Alan O’Keefe</b>	<b>Phone: 247-8115</b>	<b>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:tokeefe@hcsso.tampa.fl.us">tokeefe@hcsso.tampa.fl.us</a></b>
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<b>Special Advisor</b>	<b>Deputy Ben Tillis</b>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>E-Mail: <a href="mailto:btillis@hcsso.tampa.fl.us">btillis@hcsso.tampa.fl.us</a></b>

This Space is for reporting all the Watch Groups Information. Anything your group is doing or has received an award for can be reported here. Just sent all articles to Ken Atkison Editor at [kengatki05@verizon.net](mailto:kengatki05@verizon.net)

As you can see none were received for this issue. Make sure your group’s information is included in next issue.

“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](mailto:KENGATKI05@VERIZON.NET)  
NICK BATES - EXEC. EDITOR - @ [ALLSTATE@GTE.NET](mailto:ALLSTATE@GTE.NET)

“WE’RE ALWAYS WATCHING”



## Sheriff's Corner

### Sex Predators and Offenders

With the recent kidnapping and murders of local girls this past year, the subject of sex offenders and predators has really come into the limelight. Here are a few ways that the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office stays current with our Sex Predator and Offender information.

Every Monday our crime analyst checks the Florida Department of Law Enforcement website, to match their current list with ours. There is an average of 58 changes each week. This includes those moving into the county, out of the county, and changing addresses within the county. This includes those moving in and out of jail.

As of Sept. 12, 2005, there were 1356 predators and offenders in the entire county, 717 of which are our jurisdiction and the rest live in the city limits of Tampa, Temple Terrace, or Plant City. Of these 717, 664 are offenders and 53 are predators.

Whenever a sexual predator moves, F.D.L.E. notifies us. Our analyst makes a map of a 1.5 mile circle around their new residence. Letters and flyers are sent out to all of the registered schools and daycare centers within this 1.5 mile radius. The map also goes to our Communication Center and they initiate reverse 911 calls to all phones within the circle.

Each quarter we receive a list from F.D.L.E. of those predators and offenders who did not respond to their annual mail-out of registering and updating their current information with the state. This list is divided among our district offices, so that deputies can personally contact each offender and update their information. If the person is not living at their last-listed address, a warrant is requested for their arrest.

We also conduct periodic sweeps of all sex predators and offenders living in the county, to make sure that they are living where they are registered. So far, a total of five sweeps have been conducted, resulting in about 100 arrests and dozens of warrants.

Lastly, we have a relatively new Sex Offender/Predator Unit. They help coordinate these Sweeps and follow-up with anyone unable to be located.

I encourage our neighborhood watch groups to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity related to sexual predators or offenders to our office. Together, we can keep our neighborhoods and our children safe.

David Gee, Sheriff

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**Special Agent Al Dana** of the FDLE will be our speaker on the 25<sup>th</sup>. He has spent the last 24 years of his career investigating Crimes against Children.

He is a nationally recognized expert and is a Court Qualified Expert in investigating Child Sexual Exploitation.

Special Agent Dana currently serves as a consultant for Hillsborough County Multi-Disciplinary Child Death Review Team, Statewide Child Abuse Rapid Response Team, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club of Tampa, and The Missing Children's Reunification Team. He is also Coordinator of CART (Child Abduction Response Team).

Special Agent Dana has written articles on "Interviewing Child Molesters" and Child Prostitution.

In 2002 Special Agent Dana was named State Law Enforcement Officer of the year by the Florida Missing Children Clearinghouse.

A short Q&A session will follow.

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### HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

To qualify as a neighborhood watch group you Must:

1. Have 50% of homes in area participate in program.
2. You also need 50% participation in operation Identification.
3. Establish a phone chain (very important).
4. Signs are purchased thru Sheriff's Office and County will furnish poles while supplies last.
5. Must have active coordinators and block captains.

**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 either [www.hcso.tampa.fl.us](http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us) or [www.hcnwa.org](http://www.hcnwa.org) or call 813-247-8115.

Everything you need is included in packet. Deputy Jason Napoli at 813-247-8115 in Community Relation Section 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 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](http://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.

We need Board members. 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.

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Cut and use if needed

**Membership Renewal Notice 2005-2006 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**

### PATROL REFLECTIVE VESTS

At our Semi-Annual meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> at Riverhills Church of God we reported that vests would be given to all groups of Neighborhood Watch who have completed a short training session by the Sheriff's Office.

We have the VEST in stock and as soon as training is completed your watch group will be given two Vests to wear. They are fluorescent and have NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH on them to identify you as a member.

This will comply with State Statute concerning harassing Neighborhood Watch Patrols. Anyone violating the Statute is subject to arrest.

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### HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Will hold its Annual Meeting October 25, 2005 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the River hills Church of God at 6310 E. Sligh Avenue. That's about 2 miles east of King High School on Sligh Ave. Door prizes (\$100 plus gift certificates) Will be drawn at the end of the meeting. Good luck to all those that attend.

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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 @kengatki05@verizon.net, or Nick Bates @allstate@gte.net, and we will be most happy to oblige. We'd like to see it grow and become the "speaking platform" for all current members.



GOD BLESS AMERICA

The following is a short poem taken from the Newsletter of Sept. 1998, and your Editor felt it very fitting to bring it back - "One More Time".

### Volunteer is not a four letter word!

Many will be shocked to find  
When the judgment nears,  
That there's a special place in Heaven  
Set aside for Volunteers  
Furnished with big recliners  
Satin couches and footstools  
Where there's no committee chairman  
No group leaders or car pools  
No eager team that needs a couch,  
No bazaar and no bake sales:  
There will be nothing to staple  
Not one thing to fold or mail  
Telephone lists will be outlawed  
But a finger snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners  
And rare treats fit for a king  
You ask, "who'll serve these privileged few  
And work for all they're worth?"  
Why, all those who reaped the benefits  
And Not Once Volunteered on earth!

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On a more somber note; we would like to take a moment and acknowledge the passing of Jeanne Lauer.

Jeanne was a past President of the HCNWA and a member for 10 plus years. She was a pioneer in The HCNWA and will be missed by us. Those who knew her and worked side by side with her know the many hours she put into making our Association the crowning jewel it is today.

To her family and many friends we simply say:  
We're deeply saddened by your loss.

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Win Cash prizes for knowing answers to these  
Four questions at the meeting.

How much does a typical gold bar weigh?

Which TV show was first to be in reruns?

What is punctuate pruritus?

What did US carmakers do for the first time?  
In 1977?

Decision of the judge is final!

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**Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Association:**  
**P.O.Box 261152**  
**Tampa, Fl. 33685-1152**  
**E-mail: [www.HCNWA.Org](http://www.HCNWA.Org)**

"We're Always  
Watching"

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 Napoli or Deputy Bridwell 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](http://www.HCNWA.Org).

### Alert to all 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 need to call your Deputy or the 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..

HCNWA

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

