



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

With all the financial issues going on in our Country, public transportation is once again becoming a hot topic. Many of us have lost our jobs or have had to cut back in one way or another. Saving money where we can is not only practical but necessary. As jobs, savings and financial security are being lost or greatly depleted many of us are changing lifestyles.

Any time we face tough times the American can-do surviving skills take over. We will cut back on expenses, change driving habits, try to find other sources of income and make plans for hopefully short term solutions. Unfortunately, others will try to take short cuts by turning to crime. We need to be ever vigilant to insure our neighborhoods stay safe. As most government agencies cut back on employees the HCSO needs our eyes and ears even more.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
HCNWA-Semi-Annual Meeting	1
Officers and Board of Directors	2
Sheriff's Page	3
2008-2009 Dues Form	4
HCNWA News	4
Watch Patrol News	5
Misc. & Mailing Label	6

We must learn who our neighbors are and if unknown persons are seen in area doing suspicious things we need to report it to HCSO.

We need to be proactive and ever vigilant to insure a good outcome after the nation's current crisis is ended. Let's all pray it is a quick and lasting recovery. In the meantime we need to do all possible to keep our neighborhoods safe.

HCNWA Semi-Annual Meeting

On Tuesday April 21st at 7:00PM, the Hillsborough County Neighborhood Watch Assoc. will hold its Semi-Annual meeting at HCSO Training Facility at 1409 N. Falkenburg Rd, across from HCSO Jail. We hope you can plan on attending.

This will be the first time the meeting is held in the new HCSO building, and we are looking forward to a great turnout.

All Block Captains, group members, and general public is invited, as we try and show that we definitely appreciate the fine work our HCSO does everyday for our protection. Try and be there!

Our speaker will be a spokesperson from TBARTA. As

usual we will have door prizes, trivia questions, and snacks. **Join Us!**

The Sheriff's Command Staff will also be on hand, to answer any questions from attendees. Bring a friend, a neighbor, a fellow NW participant and enjoy an evening of information and idea sharing. We can make our neighborhoods a safer place to raise our family's in. "It will work - With your Help"

Let's show all that Neighborhood Watch programs are alive and well-established within Hillsborough County!

"COME ON OUT"

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

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Dist. 4	Deputy Brian Pulido	Phone: 247-0950	E-Mail: bpulido@hcsotampa.fl.us

We are still in need of Directors in our Association. If anyone is interested, please contact any of the above named Directors and get the needed information. We would like to have at least 10 to 12 Directors, so please consider this and help us to make a big difference in how we organize and combat crime in Hillsborough County. After all, this is "Your" home and you want it to be as safe as possible. Help us help the HCSO to combat our increasing crime stats, and work as a TEAM to show the "would-be" violators that "WE" are watching them. Join us and "Make A Difference."

"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)
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 "WE'RE ALWAYS WATCHING"

If anyone has any articles they would like to see in this newsletter, simply get in touch with the Editor - Ken Atkison and we will attempt to get them put in. This is YOUR publication - so, go for it



PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET:



Message from the Sheriff.....

Greetings to all our valued Neighborhood Watch members. As you know, protecting our children is/has and will be one of my top priorities. From making sure they wear seat belts to keeping watch over them at school bus stops, the Sheriff's Office will do what we must to safeguard our future: our children.

That brings me to an issue where we need everyone's help in keeping our children safe. **Cyberspace**. There are predators out there on the Internet waiting for an innocent victim. As parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers and mentors, we owe it to our children to teach them the wonderful tools available through the Internet.

We also are obligated to show them how to stay safe in **Cyberspace**. Here are some ideas, suggestions and things to monitor when children go surfing:

PARENTAL CONTROLS

- Never let your children have their "own" password – you must be able to check their e-mails and e-mail address book.
- Review your recycle bin.
- Review the document file.
- Review your "history" file to find out what sites your child has visited.
- Perform a "find" function on your computer to locate:
 - .jpg – image files, .mpg – movie clips,
 - *.avi-movie clips
- Review your child's diskettes – they may not be "games." Check for hidden diskettes because subjects send images of themselves or pornography and tell children to save the images to diskettes and hide them.

INTERNET SAFETY TIPS

- KEEP YOUR HOME COMPUTER IN A COMMON AREA - not in the child's

bedroom.

- Supervise your child's computer activities:
 - Websites visited – chat rooms - instant messages
 - Advise your children NEVER to give out their:
 - age, name, address, phone number
 - parent's name or workplace
 - name of their school
 - password
 - Your child should be warned NEVER to:
 - agree to telephone anyone or
 - agree to meet in person or "real life."
 - Advise your child NEVER to send a picture of themselves to anyone.

SIGNS OF RISK

- Your child spends large amounts of time online advising you it's for schoolwork.
- Your child receives lots of calls from people you don't know.
- Your children become uneasy when you enter the room or quickly change computer screens.
- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from people you don't know.
- Your children have a free website e-mail address that can be accessed from any computer without your knowledge.

SAFEGUARDS:

- Talk openly to your child.
- Set rules with your children for computer use.
- Limit access to the computer only when you're home.
- Some commercial online services offer "parental control features" to block areas you feel are inappropriate for your children.
- Know your child's "internet friends" as you know their other friends.
- Make sure your children's schools have supervised Internet Services and an acceptable use policy.

IF YOU FEEL YOUR CHILD IS A VICTIM OF THE INTERNET.....CONTACT:

HCSO – (813) 247-8200 If you'd like a Crime Prevention Program about Internet Safety for a Group or School – call (813) 247-8115 or online at <http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us>

Thank you for taking the time to review some of the safeguards we offer for safe Cyberspace surfing. Think of it as Cyber Neighborhood Watch. As always, you all have my heartfelt thanks for showing you care about our children. Stay safe and stay in touch.

David A. Lee

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 or www.hcnwa.org or call 813-247-8115.

Everything you need is included in packet. HCSO – Crime Prevention Bureau in the Community Relations Section will be happy to assist all possible. Call them at 813 247-8115

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. **“Get Involved.”**

News In Brief:

Due to the changes in school starting times recently, it may be possible for our member groups to take advantage of the “National Nite Out” program, which is always scheduled for the first Tues. of August. Please take the time to explore this possibility by going onto their web-site at www.nationalniteout.com and get the information about this program. It is nation-wide! Take a look!

Your Board of Directors hopes that many of our members attended the Neighborhood Conference on the 21st of March at HCC on Dale Mabry Hwy., sponsored by the Office of Neighborhood Relations. There was many great seminars offered this year, and much information was available to all attendees.

The Board wants to remind **ALL** our members, that our summer season is upon us, and that breeds storms. Keep that watchful eye to the sky, and have a needed plan in-place if evacuation becomes necessary. **Be pro-active!**

Reminder: Let’s all take a look around us and determine if our neighborhood is as safe as we would like it to be. If not, then - **“GET INVOLVED.”**

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

Invoice # _____

Other HCNWA News in Brief:

New HCNWA Project - Scheduled for later in 2009!

In Jan. 2009, the HCNWA placed a Grant request into the HCSO - Community Enrichment Program for monies toward the purchase of portable power point equipment.

If successful, this will allow your HCNWA members to go out into the various areas of the Community and put on presentations about the importance of Neighborhood Watch groups. We can present both pros and cons of starting a NW group, and offer helpful hints about achieving success. This will enable our members to see, first-hand, exactly the trials and problems being incurred by our registered groups in establishing a NW group in their respective areas of the County, and hopefully, assist them in making "it work."

We will keep our Coordinators abreast of our success with this project, and if we are fortunate enough to receive the Grant from HCSO, we hope to be up and running by Sept. 2009.

This will also assist in freeing up our current Crime Prevention Deputies for other, more important duties. We all know that "crime don't take vacations," that's why we (NW) need to stand ready to defend our rights of a safer, more livable neighborhood, in which to live and raise our families. **Wish us Luck in this endeavor!**

"Get Out & Volunteer"



We are collaborating with the HCSO - Crime Prevention Deputies to create a Master File of all Neighborhood Watch groups within Hillsborough County - for ease of keeping proper track of same, as well as, make a means where communication can be accessed easier for updating key needs of each groups. This should prove very helpful in assuring proper record-keeping. More to follow, as we progress on this program.

Registered Groups in HCNWA!

Our official record, as of Feb. 10, 2009 is (254) registered groups within HCNWA. We are looking at increasing our numbers in the future, with the assistance of our NW Deputies in Crime prevention.

In the future, we will go out among our member groups and put on presentations about the importance of maintaining a NW program within your Community.

If any member has any suggestions or ideas about how we can achieve this, please feel free to contact any Officer of the HCNWA. They would be very happy to hear from you, and will definitely take your thoughts toward this initial goal. So, if you have the time and wish to make your area safer, and more livable in peace, please avail yourselves of this opportunity. **This is YOUR group!**

HCSO - VCPP and You!

In March of 2005, the HCSO put a program in-place, whereas citizens could avail themselves of personal training and become active in patrolling the streets in a designated area. Initially, the VCP patrolled in the Westchase and Apollo Beach areas. The program has expanded now to include the Bloomingdale and TNC areas. It has over 70 Volunteers, who currently patrol and acts as the "extra eyes and ears" of the HCSO Street Deputies. If any members are interested in looking into this program, please contact the HCSO - VCPP at 247-0944 for further information. It's a very worthwhile program, and is proving itself on a daily basis. Why not consider it!

"Make a Difference - 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 HCSO - Crime Prevention know They can be reached at 247-8115. They will be happy to try & have a Deputy from HCSO attend your planned event.

October is Crime Prevention month, so help fight crime by showing your support.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.HCNWA.Org .

Trivia Questions:

1. What law inspired one of the two prongs on electrical plus being larger the other?
2. Forks originally had two tines. What were they called?
3. What distinction does Millard Fillmore have as past President of U.S?
4. Where will you find the opening to a cave in which a bear hibernates?
5. What History making event happened for the first time live on TV in 1963?

EXTRA CREDIT

6. The Pentagon uses on average how many rolls of toilet paper a day?
7. Shortest war in history lasted how long and who was involved?

HCNWA

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