

## Why is Knowing Your Neighbors Important?

The American Red Cross reminds us: “Disaster can strike at any time! Whether a house fire or a 9.0 earthquake, a single disaster can change your physical, emotional and financial health in a matter of seconds. **In a disaster, your most immediate source of help are the neighbors living around you.**” But there are other reasons why knowing the face over the fence is a good idea.

### Neighbors keep an eye on you!

- Since neighbors live right next to you, they’re the best people to watch over your property when you aren’t around. Neighbors subconsciously learn your habits and can pick up when something isn’t quite right.
- There’s safety in numbers. If multiple eyes and ears proactively look out for one another, it creates a safer community for all.
- It’s important we look out for those who are vulnerable like those with physical challenges or people who live alone. You’ll look out for them and they’ll do the same in return.
- The idea of community brings people together and makes people connected to a larger purpose. Knowing the community of people around you make you feel confident and safe.

Charbonneau has an active community wide Neighborhood Watch (NW) program. Involving community members in watch programs decreases opportunities for criminals to commit crime rather than attempting to change their behavior or motivation. Today's Neighborhood Watch Program is an effective means of crime control and neighborhood cohesiveness. A cornerstone of NW is knowing your neighbors!

REACH OUT TO A NEIGHBOR!  
STAY SAFE!