

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In addition, it provides citizens with the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life. Neighborhood Watch groups focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime.

Charbonneau's Neighborhood Watch program will have oversight and instruction from the Clackamas County Sheriff's office. The reason for the effectiveness of this program is rather simple: 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.

How does it work?

Criminals are opportunist, the goal of Neighborhood Watch is to reduce crime; this is achieved by creating 3 layers of defense:

[1] The first layer being at the STREET LEVEL – Street warning signs put ALL on Notice that a Neighborhood Watch Program is in Force

[2] The second layer being at the HOME LEVEL —Decals reinforce the fact that a Neighborhood Watch Program is in effect; the decals are placed inside the window as a deterrent. (Optional)

[3] The third and final defense is at the PARTICIPANT LEVEL – If the PARTICIPANT sees a crime in progress, he/she will be trained to dial 911 to increase the likelihood the perpetrator will get caught.

It is important to remember: The aim of neighborhood watch includes educating residents of a community on security and safety and achieving safe and secure neighborhoods. **However, when a criminal activity is suspected, members are encouraged to report to authorities, and not to intervene.**

Does your HOA have an active Neighborhood Watch program?

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