



The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office



# Neighborhood Watch

VOL. 5, ISSUE 4 • OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2008

N E W S

## What Neighborhood Watch is:

A crime-prevention program that encourages neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activities can be observed and recognized for what they are, then reported and investigated if necessary.

## What Neighborhood Watch is not:

A program designed for participants to undertake personal risks to deter crime.

## SHERIFF'S KEY PHONE NUMBERS

**Emergency:** 911

**24-hour**

**Non-Emergency:**

(503) 655-8211

**Business Number:**

(503) 655-8218

**Sheriff's Office**

**Web site:**

[www.clackamas.us/sheriff](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff)

## Protect kids from strangers with 'Charlie Check First'

Everyone has heard of "Stranger Danger" — but have you heard of "Charlie Check First"?

The concepts of Stranger Danger are fairly sound, but can be confusing and misleading to children. It's also worth considering that 85% of cases, children are abducted by persons known to them — for example, non-custodial parents, other relatives who are doing it for "the good of the child," Daddy's friend, the really nice neighbor, the school employee, the coach, and other adults children think they can trust.

What we have learned about child abduction is that people who kidnap children are often very good at establishing a close, trusting relationship with a child before the child is abducted. Abductors will customarily place themselves in an environment where they are in direct contact with children and can look for victims. Once in this environment, they choose their prey carefully and work to build a relationship with the child by making the child feel special. It is a lot easier to kidnap a willing child than one who fights back.

In other words, "Stranger Danger" will not work if the child thinks they're going with someone they know.

By contrast, "Charlie Check First" emphasizes



a very simple concept that children can grasp easily: "Check First before you go anywhere with anyone (for any reason at any time)."

This simple phrase is easy for children to remember, and effectively keeps them from putting themselves at risk.

Children should be given the names of two "Safety Persons" and a "Safety House." The Safety Persons should be people you trust to watch out for your child.

The Safety House is a place other than your home where your child can go if they need help. Children should also be instructed that they cannot accept candy, toys or anything else without checking first with you or with their Safety Persons. They also should be taught that they absolutely cannot go somewhere with anyone other than their Safety Persons unless they ask first. If you or one of their Safety Persons is not there and your child has no Safety Person to ask, then the answer is "NO!"

*For more info on "Charlie Check First" and keeping your kids safe, happy and healthy, visit [www.SafetyKids.org](http://www.SafetyKids.org). Safety Kids, Inc. was founded by a Crime Prevention professional in 1998, and is dedicated to protecting children from abuse, exploitation, violence and injury. ♦*

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Citizen Volunteer Auxiliary/Neighborhood Watch Program publishes the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS quarterly. To learn more about volunteering for the Sheriff's Office, go to [www.1-800-Volunteer.org](http://www.1-800-Volunteer.org) and look up "Crime/legal" in the Issue area drop down box, with zip code 97045. This newsletter can be found online at the Sheriff's Office Web site, [www.clackamas.us/sheriff](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff). If you need additional copies, you may call the Crime Prevention Unit at (503) 353-4441. To receive further information or to join the Neighborhood Watch Program contact: **Community Service Officer Sara McClurg**, Crime Prevention Unit, (503) 353-4441 or [CrimePrevention@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:CrimePrevention@co.clackamas.or.us).

12800 SE 82ND AVE. • CLACKAMAS, OR 97015  
(503) 655-8218 • FAX (503) 655-8549 • [www.clackamas.us/sheriff](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff)

# Answers to Common Traffic Questions

## If it seems the posted speed limit is too high:

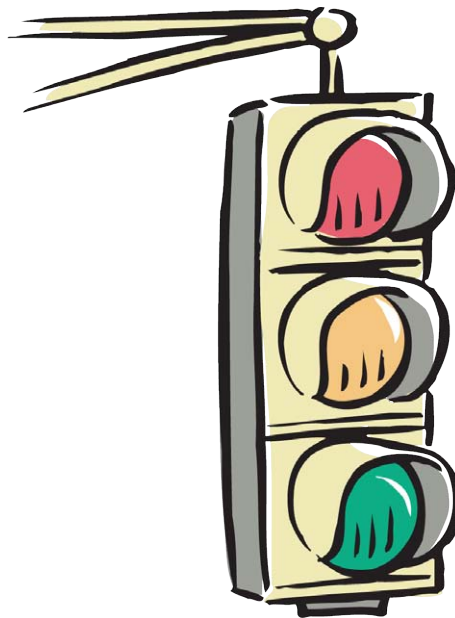
You may contact **Mike Hattan** with Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section (503-742-4703; MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us) and request a review of the speed zone. While the county manages the speed zones for all county roads, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has to approve all speed zone requests per State law. A full speed-zone investigation — conducting the study and having ODOT review it — usually takes four to six months.

## If speed bumps or other traffic-calming treatments are desired:

Contact **Richard Nys** at Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section (503-742-4702; RichardNys@co.clackamas.or.us) to let them know your interest in speed bumps or other traffic-calming treatments.

Some major roads cannot have speed bumps. Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section will provide studies and administration for traffic-calming projects. The traffic-calming devices are paid for by the citizens of the local community.

There are several ways to fund the traffic-calming devices. Mr. Nys can provide you with that information. There is also information online at [www.clackamas.us/transportation](http://www.clackamas.us/transportation).



## If you wish to have a radar speed sign placed on your street:

Contact **Richard Nys** at Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section (503-742-4702; RichardNys@co.clackamas.or.us) to make this request. Your request will be placed on a waiting list; radar speed signs are placed in desired locations in the order in which requests are received. The sign will remain in place at each location for about three weeks.

## If you wish to file a traffic/speeding complaint:

These may be filed online at [www.clackamas.us/sheriff/trafficcomplaint.htm](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/trafficcomplaint.htm). Another option is to call the non-emergency Sheriff's number at 503-655-8211.

Complaints are addressed in the order in which they are received. If you wish to receive a traffic study for a particular area, you can request one from the Clackamas County Traffic Department by contacting **Mike Hattan** (503-742-4703; MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us). In most cases, a recent study already exists; if not, the Traffic Department can arrange for one. These studies will provide data on the volume of traffic and speeds traveled.

## Traffic Engineering Contact Personnel:

### County Traffic Engineer:

Joseph Marek — 503-742-4705  
JoeM@co.clackamas.or.us

### Traffic Calming:

Richard Nys — 503-742-4702  
RichardNys@co.clackamas.or.us

### Traffic Engineering Complaints:

Mike Hattan — 503-742-4703  
MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us

### Traffic Signal Timing:

Bikram Raghubansh — 503-742-4706  
BikramRag@co.clackamas.or.us

Continued next page

## Answers to Common Traffic Questions (cont.)

### **If you spot a drunk driver swerving all over the road:**

Call 911 and report the vehicle's make, model, color and license-plate number if possible. Report the name of the street being traveled, closest cross-street or exit, and direction of travel.

### **Isn't "road rage" a crime?**

In Oregon, profane language and obscene gestures by drivers do NOT constitute criminal activity. Of course, if someone is engaging in risky or reckless driving, call police immediately.

### **If you wish to know if a traffic signal is planned for a particular intersection:**

Contact **Bikram Raghbansh** at Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section (503-742-4706; [BikramRag@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:BikramRag@co.clackamas.or.us)) to ask about planned traffic signals.

The Traffic Engineering section determines its list of priorities for new traffic signals based upon the number of warrants, as described in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which you can read online at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>. Criteria include the amount of traffic, pedestrian activity, and intersection crashes.

Traffic signals are very expensive — about \$175,000 for the equipment alone, without any road improvements.



### **If you wish to have a stop sign installed at an intersection:**

Contact **Mike Hattan** with Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section (503-742-4703; [MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us)) to make your request.

There are warrants for the installation of stop signs that the county must follow; these are described in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which you can read online at <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.

Installation of stop signs must be carefully evaluated to ensure they are installed where they will help control conflict in an intersection.

### **If you wish to file a parking complaint:**

Call the Sheriff's non-emergency number at 503-655-8211. This will be considered a low-priority call — ranked below calls such as assault, robbery, burglary, theft, etc.

### **If you wish to request extra patrols to catch speeders or reckless drivers:**

Call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number, 503-655-8211. Be prepared to provide the details of your complaint, street names, and the times of day and days of the week when the problem is the worst.

### **If individuals are parking on both sides of a narrow street, making it difficult to pass:**

Be sure they are truly closer than the 18' allowed. You can call complaints in to the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number, 503-655-8211. If a deputy cannot clearly determine which driver parked last (and thus which driver is responsible for parking too closely to another car), neither driver will be cited.

You can also petition your neighbors to prohibit parking on one side of the street so that it's only lawful to park on one side of the road — which should keep the roadway passable. **Mike Hattan** with Clackamas County's Traffic Engineering section (503-742-4703; [MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:MikeHat@co.clackamas.or.us)) can help with this. A no-parking petition does require 100-percent consensus among residents of the affected area. If approved, the county will provide and install "No Parking" signs on one side of the roadway. ♦

# House-proof against burglars, mark your belongings — and protect your valuables

**R**esidential burglaries are common in Clackamas County — and they may be on the rise due to our poor economy.

Burglary, by definition, is when someone enters or remains in a building unlawfully with the intention of committing a crime therein. In the majority of cases, the burglar's intent is to steal something of value.

Most of us have many valuables that are attractive to would-be burglars. The most commonly stolen items are jewelry, tools, electronics, guns and money. Other things that are sometimes targeted are credit cards, personal information such as bank statements, prescription drugs, metal and sporting goods.

The best defense against this sort of crime is to secure your house — making it as unattractive to would-be burglars as possible:

- Make sure your exterior doors are solid core with good-quality deadbolts.
- Windows should always be closed when you are away from home.
- Putting a dowel behind windows or installing a secondary lock will add further security.
- Consider installing an alarm, and make sure to use it — even if you think you will be gone for a short time.
- Good lighting is a key factor in home safety. Motion-sensitive lights are a great investment. Timers on interior lights are also a good way to make your home look occupied.
- Trim shrubs and trees that could potentially



provide cover for a burglar trying to break into a window or door. Plant hostile vegetation, like rose bushes, below ground floor windows.

- Consider investing in a safe, or get a safety deposit box where you can keep valuables and money out of the reach of burglars.
- Lock up your tools and guns.

If you're the victim of a burglary, you still might get back your belongings — but to improve your chances, take the time to document your valuables. The deputy who takes your police report will need as much detail as possible about your stolen goods to better your chances of recovery. It is a good idea to create a list of all your valuables and keep this in a safe place. Keeping pictures or video of your valuables is also a great way to document your most important belongings — especially items such as jewelry.

You should also record serial numbers from your electronics and tools. Mark your tools with an ID number. A good ID number to use is your driver's-license number. If your goods are recovered, this will lead them right back to you.

If you decide to use your driver's license as an ID number, format it so that it is less likely to be altered by adding the characters OR to the beginning and DL to the end. (For example: OR111111DL.) ♦



## New feature on Sheriff's Web site: 'Can You ID Me?'

The Sheriff's Office often receives excellent surveillance photos of crime suspects — but all too often, we can't identify the subjects. Many stores and other businesses have great surveillance cameras and are able to provide the Sheriff's Office with great footage of criminal suspects — but unless a witness or someone at the Sheriff's Office knows who they are, we may never identify them.

Here's where you come in.

We now have a new feature on our Web site, "Can You ID Me?" in which we ask for the public's help in helping us catch unidentified criminals.

Please take a few minutes and check out the surveillance photos posted there — you never know when you might be able to help solve a crime. Here's the link to the new site: [www.clackamas.us/sheriff/IDMe.jsp](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/IDMe.jsp)