



# NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



## CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Volume 1, Issue 2.....October/November/December 2004

**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.

### **Inside this issue:**

- ➔ Safety Tip from the SO
- ➔ Halloween Safety Tips
- ➔ Holiday Shopping Safety

### **A Safety Tip from your Sheriff's Office:**

*Burglaries in the County are on the rise. A limited number of people are believed to be responsible and have become very bold about their activities. Be watching for cars with two or more people, male or female, cruising through your neighborhoods. Be especially concerned if they get out of the car and approach a house, leaving one person in the car. These folks are breaking into homes, stealing from sheds and outbuildings, stealing items in plain view in cars, etc. The only thing that seems to be stopping them is Neighborhood Watch and a good alarm system.*

*Keep your eyes open and call the Sheriff's Office to report any suspicious activity.*

### **Key Sheriff's Phone Numbers**

**Emergency:**

**911**

**24-hour Non-Emergency:**

**(503) 655-8211**

**Business Number:**

**(503) 655-8218**

**Sheriff's Office Website:**

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

The NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS is presented to you quarterly by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Citizen Volunteer Auxiliary/Neighborhood Watch Program. To learn more about volunteering for the Sheriff's Office, go to [www.volunteerhere.com](http://www.volunteerhere.com) and look up the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

If you are a current Neighborhood Watch Captain and would like copies for your community, you can go to the Sheriff's Office Website, [www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff](http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/sheriff), and print off a copy or you can call the Neighborhood Watch News Info Line at (503) 722-6750.

To receive further information or join the Neighborhood Watch program contact:

Deputy Sheriff Mark Koberstein  
Community Safety Action Team  
Direct: (503) 722-6754  
Email: [markkob@co.clackamas.or.us](mailto:markkob@co.clackamas.or.us)

## Halloween Safety Tips

### Children Should:

- Cross streets only at corners.
- Never cross between parked cars.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Be aware of motor vehicles that may be turning into or backing out of driveways.
- Never go into a stranger's house.



### Parent's Should:

- Know the route their children will be taking.
- Make sure children are accompanied by an adult.
- Set limits on when children should return home.
- Consider purchasing Halloween treats other than candy. Stickers, erasers, crayons, pencils and sealed packages of raisins and dried fruits are good choices.
- Make sure trick-or-treaters will be safe when visiting your home. Remove lawn decorations and sprinklers, toys and bicycles or anything that might obstruct your walkway. Provide a well lit outside entrance to your home. Keep family pets away from trick-or-treaters.
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism.
- Instruct children NOT to eat treats until they return home and parents have had a chance to inspect those treats.

### Costume Safety Tips:

- Costumes, masks, beards and wigs should be flame resistant.
- Costumes should be light, bright and clearly visible to motorists.
- Make-up is safer than a mask, which can obscure vision.
- Avoid oversize and high-heeled shoes that can cause a child to trip.
- The child's name, address and phone number should be placed on trick-or-treat bags in case of an accident or lost child.
- Children should carry a flashlight to easily see and be seen.

- Trick-or-treat bags should not be too large; they can obscure vision or cause a child to trip.
- Costumes should have reflective strips.

### Halloween Hazards:

- Dangerous roadways
- Dangerous dress, i.e., loose costumes, unsafe shoes, bulky trick-or-treat bags, masks which reduce vision, sharp or pointed toy weapons, dark costumes.
- Open flames.
- Treacherous "treats" - razor blades in apples (all fruit should be washed and cut into small pieces before eaten), tacks or poison in popcorn (discard unpackaged popcorn).
- Do not allow children to carve pumpkins.

## HOLIDAY SHOPPING SAFETY



The holiday shopping season seems to start earlier every year. Even while the candy bowls are still full for Halloween, the stores have passed right over Thanksgiving and are putting up the Christmas displays!

This is also the beginning of the crook's holiday shopping season, too!

Here are some tips to make your holiday shopping a bit safer:

- **Shop at places that you are familiar with.** *A crook has a predatory nature and can tell when you are in unfamiliar surroundings.*
- **Try to go when it is daylight.** *Crooks are sniveling little cowards. They don't want to be seen. There are crooks during the daytime, to be sure, but you can see them coming if you are alert.*
- **If shopping at night, park where there is light.** *You want to be able to see someone approaching you and the security officers &*

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*police want to be able to see anyone messing around with your car.*

- **Don't walk like a victim.** *Walk with your head up, looking around. Be assertive. Crooks don't want to be seen, but even more important, they don't want to get hurt! Look like you could rip someone's head off! Let the crook decide if he wants to take the chance to rob you or take your purse!*
- **Walk where you are comfortable.** *If you see an area that makes you nervous, don't go there. Simple. Don't go there.*
- **Park where you are comfortable.** *Same principle. If the place you want to park makes you nervous, don't park there. Something is alerting you that this is not a good place. It could be the lack of lighting. Or the car with 4 guys in it close by. Or the group of people in the bushes. Or whatever. Trust your instincts. Park somewhere else.*
- **Don't carry a purse!** *This might sound odd, but if you don't have a purse, it is very difficult for a crook to steal it! This is the time of year when we wear coats. Use the pockets. Get a coat with an inside pocket for your wallet. If you must carry a purse, strap it diagonally across your body.*
- **Don't attract attention to yourself.** *Most crooks would not steal from a bag lady, because it is obvious they don't have anything. If you look well-to-do to yourself, you look well-to-do to the crooks. Dress casual and comfortable. Don't wear large amounts of jewelry.*
- **Don't shop alone.** *Go with your family or a friend. You are less likely to be assaulted if you are not alone.*
- **"Why did they break into my car and steal my stuff!?"** *Because you had stuff in your car to steal! Not rocket science, you know. You don't see many cars broken into that have nothing to steal in view, do you?*
- **Car alarms.** *Car alarms are a great deterrent against your car being broken into. Crooks don't want to be observed and car alarms make people look towards the alarm that is going off. Car alarms with panic buttons are also a good idea.*
- **Make one trip to your car – when you leave.** *If you make more than one trip with purchases to your car, it is very probable that a crook is somewhere watching. If you make a lot of purchases and have to put some of them in your car before you are done shopping, consider moving your car to another location on the other side of the mall or area. Purchases need to be out of sight in the trunk. SUV's and Vans are at a distinct disadvantage. Blankets or the pull over covers are a sure sign that there is something in that vehicle valuable enough to hide. The crooks know that most SUV and Van owners don't use the pull over covers on a day to day basis.*
- **Guard your receipts!** *Most stores have gone to carbonless receipts for credit card transactions. This has helped cut down on the use of carbons taken out of the garbage can by crooks. Put your receipt in your wallet, purse or pocket – not in the bag. Watch to make sure that the clerk has rung up the transaction only one time and that only one receipt was produced. Keep your credit card in a specific place in your wallet. Replace it each time you use it. Make this a habit and you will eliminate leaving it behind after making a purchase. When dining, don't just leave your credit card receipt on the table for anyone to pick up. Take it to the cashier and hand it to a real person!*
- **Keep alert!!!!** *Don't daydream or forget that there are people out there who want to steal from you or hurt you. Stay aware of your surroundings. Don't walk like a victim – make the crooks think twice about approaching you.*