



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Volume 2, Issue 4.....October/November/December 2005

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:

- ➔ **Halloween Safety Tips**
- ➔ **Holiday Shopping Safety**

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.

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

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office – Neighborhood Watch News

- 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. 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, 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. Security officers and 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.*
- **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.*
- **Don't carry a purse!** *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.** *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.*
- **"Why did they break into my car and steal my stuff!?"** *Because you had stuff that was visible in your car to steal!*
- **Car alarms.** *Car alarms are a great deterrent against your car being broken into.*
- **Make one trip to your car – when you leave.** *If you make more than one trip with purchases to your car, consider moving it to another location on the other side of the mall or area.*
- **Guard your receipts!** *Put your receipts in your wallet, purse or pocket – not in the bag. 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 your credit card behind after making a purchase.*
- **Keep alert!!!!**

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 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, and print off a copy or you can call the Neighborhood Watch News Info Line at (503) 353-4444. To receive further information or join the Neighborhood Watch program contact:

Deputy Sheriff Mark Koberstein
Community Safety Action Team
Direct: (503) 353-4441
Email: markkob@co.clackamas.or.us