



**YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors
OUR RESPONSIBILITY**
get involved today

Columbia Neighborhood Watch

Board of Directors

Irwin Schneider, President

Elaine Heckenkamp, Vice President

Jeff Hempstead, Secretary

Herb Watchinski Jr, Treasurer

Nolanda Dodd

Jacob Novak

Al Barrier

Gary Kesphol

Kathy Newlon

Officer Jason McClintic, Police Liaison

September, 2021

Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting of Columbia Neighborhood Watch will be held on **September 13, 2021** by **Zoom at 6:00 pm.** .

Our President will start the meeting with our accomplishments for the past year in his "State of the Watch" presentation. We will then vote to confirm Board members for 2021-2022. The meeting should last approximately one half hour.

A Watch training session will follow after the Annual Meeting.

**Email us at: col.neighwatch@gmail.com with
ANNUAL MEETING in the subject line for the
Zoom link**

[Link to email](mailto:col.neighwatch@gmail.com)

Inside this issue:

CPD's Liaisons Code Enforcement 2

Need your Help 3

Fall Crime Prevention 4

Prevent Car Break-ins 5

Jokes & Preparedness Fair 6

Captains Outreach 7

Neighborhood Watch Programs 8

We currently have openings on the CNW Board. If you are interested, contact us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com with Board Opening in the subject line. We will then provide you with a Board Prospective to give you an idea of what the duties entails. After reviewing the Prospective, you will be invited to sit in on one of our Board Meetings to observe and make a final decision if you would like the Board to vote on accepting you as a Board Member.

FUN IS NOT ILLEGAL BUT...

IF YOU'RE DISTURBING YOUR
NEIGHBORS YOU CAN BE CITED!



August 2021

DON'T BE A NUISANCE

Under the City of Columbia ordinance 16-301: A nuisance party is a social gathering of ten (10) or more people on residential property. You can be found in violation if you are observed disturbing the peace, fighting, using illicit drugs, parking illegally or engaging in any illegal act listed under the ordinance.



Please visit
CoMo.gov/Police
or follow the QR
code to learn more



We need your help:

GreatNonprofits – the #1 source of nonprofit stories and feedback – is honoring highly regarded nonprofits with their 2021 Top-Rated List. Won't you help us raise visibility for our work by posting a brief story of your experience with Columbia Neighborhood Watch? All content will be visible to potential donors and volunteers. It's easy and only takes 3 minutes!

Go here to get started!

<https://greatnonprofits.org/reviews/write/columbia-neighborhood-watch>

The deadline is **October 31, 2021.**



National Night Out was held on Tuesday August 3rd. There were 9 groups that participated. Police, Fire and Neighborhood Watch Board members went around visiting with the various groups.

Fall Crime Prevention Tips

As the Fall season sets in, temperatures drop and the Sun sets earlier each day. While we are all busy enjoying the weather it is important to remember that this time of year is perfect cover for petty criminals. Here are a few simple tips that will help to keep you from being a victim of theft.

Put on those lights! Criminals don't like bright lights. A carefully placed flood-light on a motion sensor is an economical way to prevent people from lurking in the shadows.

Lock those doors! Most vehicle thefts are spontaneous events. If a thief is confronted with a locked door, it is likely that he will move on to the next car.

Keep your valuables in the house! You would not believe how many people will leave valuable electronics like laptops and GPS units in an unlocked car. Lock your car and take your valuables inside!

Where are your serial numbers? When we solve a burglary one of our priorities is returning property to the rightful owner. That is why it is important to keep those serial numbers listed somewhere. You can use the free service "Reportit.com" to record your property.

Don't be afraid to call! You know what is normal for your neighborhood and what is out of the ordinary. If you see any suspicious activities don't hesitate to call the Police at 311.

5 Tricks to Prevent Car Break-Ins



Whether you're parked outside your home or in a parking lot downtown, theft prevention starts before you even leave your vehicle. Most car break-ins are...

Whether you're parked outside your home or in a parking ramp downtown, theft prevention starts before you even leave your vehicle. Most car break-ins are crimes of opportunity, so follow these tricks to prevent thieves from burglarizing your vehicle.

Hide Valuables

If you have valuable items that you must leave in your vehicle such as a laptop, briefcase or shopping bags, keep them out-of-sight. Most thieves are opportunistic, so if they see something that is valuable, they may try to smash the window and take it. Cover up valuables with a blanket, leave them in the trunk or place them under the seats.

Look Doors and Windows

This may seem obvious, but make sure all doors and windows are locked and up. This includes the sunroof. Break-ins can happen quickly and an unlocked door or cracked open window makes your car an easy target.

Park Near Others

If you are leaving your vehicle in a parking lot, park near other people and in an area where there's plenty of people coming and going. If possible, park in a spot that is well-lit.

Be Alert

Be on the lookout for anything suspicious where you leave your car. Are there people lingering around the area that shouldn't be there? Trust your instincts and never leave your car in an area where you feel it is unsafe.

Use Anti-Theft Measures

If your vehicle has an anti-theft or security system, use it! Consider window tinting if your area allows it. Never keep your keys in the sun visor or under the wheel well as thieves know to look in these spots. After-market devices such as a mechanism that can lock the steering wheel can also give you some extra peace of mind when it comes to keeping your vehicle safe.

Jokes:

A REPEAT OFFENDER was brought before the judge, who said, "Haven't I seen you in here several times before? And didn't I tell you I never wanted to see you in here again?" The offender replied. "Yes your honor, that's exactly what I told the officer, but he insisted I come anyway!"

I JUST SAW a burglar kicking his own door in. I asked him what he was doing, and he said he was working from home.

Columbia Neighborhood Watch will be having a booth at the **PREPAREDNESS FAIR**. Come on down on Saturday September 11th and see us at the Court House.



CAPTAINS OUTREACH:

We are working on a Captains Outreach program to assist and inform Block Captains. It is being headed by Al Barrier and Gary Kespohl. They are doing some calling of Captains, but the program is in the development stages and is expected to kickoff early next year.

AmazonSmile app

Want to help make a difference while you shop in the Amazon app, at no extra cost to you? Simply follow the instructions below to select "Columbia Neighborhood Watch" as your charity and activate AmazonSmile in the app. They'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us, At no expense to you.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "Columbia Neighborhood Watch" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

New in the Amazon app

Your app purchases can generate donations for us, at no extra cost to you!

amazon
smile



Who Watches Neighborhood Watch Programs?

When you see a Neighborhood Watch sign, what does it actually mean?

Boris the Burglar may not be a household name, but his face has been plastered across cities, towns and suburbs throughout the U.S. since the early 1970s. And if you've ever wandered around a neighborhood marked with orange-and-white signs bearing the image of a man dressed like a villain out of a 1950s noir film, then you've seen him too. These signs are often labeled with the words "NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH."



But just what, exactly, are neighborhood watch programs? The National Neighborhood Watch established guidelines so that local neighborhood watch groups could register with the National Neighborhood Watch and properly set up programs in communities across America.

Although neighborhood watch programs originally started in order to respond more effectively to burglaries, the concept of neighborhood watch has evolved over time so that local residents serve as the '[eyes and ears](#)' of law enforcement by keeping a watch out for suspicious behavior in their neighborhood and reporting potential criminal activity to police.

Do Neighborhood Watch Programs Prevent Crime?

It's not entirely uncommon to see reports in local newspapers of neighborhood watch groups that have helped police apprehend suspects. But could neighborhood watch groups be helpful in not only reporting and solving crime, but also preventing it from happening? A paper [published in 2006](#) found that 15 out of 18 studies on neighborhood watch groups showed some evidence that neighborhood watch groups reduce crime. Proponents of neighborhood watch also argue that their groups prevent crime. The first line of deterrence starts with the classic neighborhood watch signs.

"You're walking through the neighborhood, and it's got a big sign that says "We report suspicious activities". So, yes, the signs are a deterrent – bottom line. If I was going to break into a house, why would I break into a house in a community where I know people are watching?"

How Are Groups Organized?

So how exactly are neighborhood watch groups organized? Traditionally, neighborhood watch groups would recruit members and schedule meetings in conjunction with local law enforcement to discuss community concerns. Some might even hand out information on crime prevention to their neighbors. You can find more information on organizing neighborhood watch groups in the official [training manual](#).