

# Citizens On Patrol (C.O.P.) Volunteer Program

The Citizens on Patrol are a group of Volunteers who, after completing the required training, patrol the city during the daylight hours in a designated "Citizens On Patrol" marked unit.

Equipped with the necessary tools, not only do they patrol the city, they perform a variety of tasks, including:

- ◆ House Watch or Vacation Checks.
- ◆ Assist the Community Services Team (CST) with Crime Prevention Programs and other city events.
- ◆ Lead Parades, walking, and biking events.
- ◆ Report suspicious activity



# Take a Stand Against Crime

## Join a Neighborhood Watch



For more information about starting a  
Crime Watch Group or other  
Crime Prevention/Community Services  
Programs, contact the  
**BARTOW POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**  
Community Services Team  
(C.S.T.)  
(863) 534-5034



## Neighborhood Crime Watch



## BARTOW POLICE DEPARTMENT



**Joe Hall**  
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*"A Century of Service"*  
[www.cityofbartow.net](http://www.cityofbartow.net)

**N**eighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear.

Neighborhood Watch fights isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

#### **WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?**

- ◆ Because it works. Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Watch Programs.
- ◆ Today's transient society produces communities that are less personal. Many families have two working parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a prime target for burglary.
- ◆ Neighborhood Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

## **HOW DOES A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH START?**

A motivated individual, a few concerned residents, a community organization, or law enforcement agency can spearhead the efforts to establish a Watch Group.

Together they can:

- Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, and possible community problems.
- Contact Bartow Police Department for help in training Watch Members about home security, how to report suspicious activity, and to provide information on crime statistics and current crime trends.
- Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors' interests; establish the purpose of the program; and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed.
- Select a coordinator.
- Ask for block captain volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to members.
- Recruit members, keeping up-to-date information on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people.

At the completion of two (2) meetings, coordinate with Bartow Police Department about installing Neighborhood Watch signs in your neighborhood.

## **WHO CAN BE INVOLVED?**

Any community resident can join - young and old, single and married, renter and homeowner. Even the busiest of people can belong to a Neighborhood Watch; they too can keep an eye out for neighbors as they come and go.

## **I Live in an apartment building, can I start a Neighborhood Watch?**

Yes, Watch Groups can be formed around any geographical unit; a block, apartment building, townhouse complex, park, business area, public housing complex, or office building.

## **WHAT DOES A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH DO?**

- It encourages neighbors to help neighbors.
- It provides an extra set of eyes and ears for observing and reporting suspicious activity and crime.
- It educates citizens on home security by holding regular meetings.
- It provides a link between law enforcement and citizens making you and your community safer.

## **WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A WATCH MEMBER?**

- **BE ALERT!**
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Report suspicious activities and crimes to the local police.
- Learn how you can make yourself and your community safer.

