

Neighborhood Watch

Villamar is in the process of establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program. Neighborhood Watch was started in 1972 by the National Sheriffs' Association in an effort to draw upon the average citizen and their neighbors to make their community safer. It unites members of our community, law enforcement agencies and different organizations in an effort to reduce crime and improve our community. It is a very successful program that has enhanced the safety of communities all over our country. We know that in the final analysis we are each responsible for our own safety. Neighborhood Watch offers programs and advice that helps us do this both as an individual and as a community. A sample of some of the areas our Neighborhood Watch Program will offer advice and programs on are:

1. Scam prevention
2. Identity theft
3. Crime alerts
4. How to identify suspicious people and vehicles
5. How to make your home safer from intruders
6. How to make your vehicle safer from break-ins
7. How to be safer in stores and parking lots
8. Tips on closing down your condo during the off season

These are just a few areas we will be covering in our program. There are many ways we can enhance the safety of our residents and community. Villamar has had a few incidents of break-ins, theft from cars and even car thefts.

We want to make our community safer so that a typical "bad person" will go somewhere else to commit a crime because they think they will have a better chance to get away with it elsewhere. The board has already taken steps to improve our safety by replacing the old lights with high wattage LED lights. The next time you are out at night notice the difference. High efficiency LED light bulbs are also cheaper to operate than the old style. They are discussing ways to enhance the lighting further. Better lighting is the number one way to provide better safety at night.

Neighborhood Watch is a pro-active program. We must be involved in it individually for it to work. No one will be on active patrol, we will not have a vehicle as part of it or any uniformed personnel. **It is an observe and report program. We are never to detain, question or chase someone. Never touch anyone.** If we see a suspicious person we are only to observe them and report it to the police. All of this will be covered in meetings. We would like to have someone from each building to be a building "Captain" to get information and alerts out and work with the residents of their building.

More information and sign up sheets will be available at our annual meeting. Also our board will decide whether Neighborhood Watch is to be board sanctioned or be a stand alone program. They will make this decision after discussing it with our insurance company and legal representative. No way do we want the Association to be exposed to any liability for which we are not covered.

If you have any questions prior to the Owners' meeting please feel free to contact me at:

Ph: 614-306-8512

Unit #109

Thank you,

Rob Starrett