



Reasons for Neighborhood Watch

Basic Crime Prevention

Practice crime safety measures that eliminate opportunities for criminals. Encourage others to join in crime prevention efforts. Aid others when they become victims of crime. Work for a better and safer neighborhood through protecting and honoring the rights of others.

Disaster Preparedness

Learn skills to prepare for man-made and natural disasters. Local, state and the federal government do a lot to prepare for disasters but citizens have to be ready to care for each other. Encourage Citizen Involvement in preparation and planning.

Build a Stronger Community

Get to know your neighbors. In our fast-paced world we don't spend enough time learning about our neighbors. Watch groups give community members a reason to get together and talk about making their community a better place. Neighborhood Watch Activities are a fun way for community members to get to know each other while making a difference.

National Sheriffs' Association
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800-424-7827 • Fax 703-683-6541
nw@sheriffs.org

Woodlake Property Owners:

Hello neighbors,

Despite we Texans enjoying a relative higher standard of living from comparative low unemployment, the national economic woes do have an effect on our local law enforcement and crime. Population growth encourages prosperity but, as the influx of those seeking jobs increases, so does the population of those who seek to take unlawful advantage.

Notwithstanding the sense of security we garner from limited access, many on-the-alert and responsive citizens and security cameras, our little community is not immune to crime: Cars and trucks have been broken into and the contents of glove compartments and brief cases left inside, rifled through. One home has been burglarized for electronic equipment and computers, construction materials were taken from a new home site, some adolescents were videoed stealing a basket ball goal from the tennis courts, and most recently, someone tried to steal an air-conditioner (condenser) unit by cutting the power cord from the side to the house.

Since September 11, 2001 several changes have been phased-in to Neighborhood Watch (NW) programs that are intended to incorporate a broader range of focus: overt acts of terrorism, cyber attacks, and disaster and pandemic preparedness and response. Our fortune is the NW program established need only be reenergized and updated. Please assist by completing the survey (attached). Your input and insights are encouraged for us to assess our community needs and address our weak areas. Please return your responses to: Howard Swaim, 7100 Palisades Point: (254) 933 9322, or via e-mail: hlswaim@yahoo.com, or Mark Smith: (254) 913 3169, 4467 Blue Ridge Dr.

Our objective is to assess the degree of interest to improving our NW program. No names are required – your answers and explanations will remain anonymous but will be used to help us evaluate the type/intensity of training, in what area of interest, and to communicate our concerns to the Sheriff – training and training assets or more frequent presence/patrol, etc.

Applications of each or combinations of the following methods and close cooperation with the local law enforcement authority are all measures NW programs employ to improve their community's security and cohesiveness.

The Community Oriented Police Services Program (COPS) was created in July, 1999. The program unit has 4 field deputies and a Sergeant assigned to this section. The C.O.P.S. program was created by Sheriff Dan Smith to help better serve the rural parts of Bell County. <http://www.bellcountytexas.com/Sheriff/13cops.htm>

The C.O.P.S. deputies are not only assigned to patrolling their areas, but they are also assigned the task of promoting neighborhood watch, home safety, and National Night Out. The C.O.P.S. program provides services such as home alarm inspections. If the homeowner qualifies for this service, a certificate from the State Board of Insurance is issued. This certificate is good for a 15% reduction on a homeowners' insurance. In addition, for adding deadbolt locks and auxiliary locking devices to windows, a homeowner can get another certificate good for a 5% home reduction. For more information on this service call 254-933-5532.

An additional service offered by the C.O.P.S. program is vacation watch. This service is a free service. The next time you plan a vacation, simply call the Bell County Sheriff's Office at 254-933-5412 or request the service online through our [Vacation Watch Request Form](#), to place your residence on house watch. While you are out of town, a deputy will go by and check on your residence. **NOTE: This service is for rural homes NOT located within city limits.**

Sources:

<http://woodlake.net/>

WoodlakeOnline.org.

<http://www.bellcountytexas.com/Sheriff/index.htm>

<http://www.usaonwatch.org/>

http://articles.directory.com/Neighborhood_Watch_Program-a571.html#66012

http://www.usaonwatch.org/assets/publications/0_NW_Manual_1210.pdf