

Neighborhood Watch Update May 2021

It has been almost seventeen years since the implementation of the Neighborhood Watch Program for Holly Hills Carriage Homes. During that period, we've had many re-sales of existing units. For that reason, I would like to make you aware or refresh your memory regarding the services offered by the Neighborhood Watch Program.

This program is a cooperative effort between the residents of Holly Hills Carriage Homes and the Williamsburg Police Department (WPD). The police are not able to patrol each area of the city every hour of the day. As residents, we are more aware of what traffic and visitors to the community are normal and are able to determine quickly if something appears to be a problem or out of place. By using our powers of observation, we serve as an extension of the eyes and ears of patrol officers in watching the neighborhood. If you observe some questionable activity in the community, you should contact the Williamsburg Police Department by dialing 911 or 757-220-2331. It should be noted that asking the police to solve neighborhood difficulties such as parking concerns or barking dogs is a poor utilization of their time and resources. Instead, attempt to address these concerns on a neighbor-to-neighbor basis and allow the police officers to respond to more urgent matters.

Our participation in Neighborhood Watch offers several services at no cost to residents:

- Operation Identification will provide engraving tools to place identifying marks or numbers on valuable pieces of property in your home.
- The WPD will conduct a security survey of your home to make sure your property is as safe as possible.
- If you or a member of your family have medical problems, you may complete the File of Life and Heads Up information cards. This information is entered into the police and fire dispatch system to alert emergency personnel of the special needs of any resident and improves the ability of emergency personnel to deliver critical services. See me (Pam Legere) for a File of Life card.
- If you are leaving your home and wish to have regular security checks of the property conducted during your absence, you may participate in the House Check Program. A form to download and complete can be found online at <https://www.williamsburgva.gov/445/House-Check>. The completed form can be turned in to the Williamsburg Police Department at 435 Armistead Avenue. The house check period may last for up to 30 days.

A couple of suggestions from the police department are:

- A well-lit neighborhood is a deterrent to criminals. Therefore, they recommend that porch, garage and deck lights be turned on from dusk to dawn. They further recommend that homeowners use timers on inside lights and a radio when away for an extended period of time so it appears that someone is at home.
- Keeping bushes around doors and windows low prevents criminals from having places to hide.

Each neighborhood in the city is assigned a Police Resource Officer. Our resource officer is Courtney Winkler Tuttle. She is also the School Resource Officer assigned to James Blair Middle School. Courtney can be reached by email at <mailto:ctuttle@williamsburgva.gov>.

Thank you for taking a few moments to review this information about the HHCH Neighborhood Watch program. There is an [Emergency Contact form on the HHCH website](#) which can be downloaded and returned to me. I maintain a file of the completed forms to use in the event of an emergency. I also furnish the police with a copy of each completed form.

If you have any questions or need further information you may contact me at (757) 532-2329.

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City Neighborhood Response Team