
January 2016

Columbia Neighborhood Watch

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YOUR Community, YOUR Neighbors
OUR RESPONSIBILITY
get involved today

Neighborhood Watch Board Members

- Irwin Schneider, President
- Bill Pauls, Vice-President
- Sandy Perley, Treasurer
- Jeff Hempstead, Secretary
- Ronald Barthels
- Elaine Heckenkemp
- Deborah Smith
- Mary Wonzy, Ex-Officio member
- Officer Amy Bishop, Ex-Officio member/police advisor

Columbia Neighborhood Watch is still seeking more board members. If you would like to be considered for one of the openings, please email us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com.

Welcome to our new board member: Deborah Smith

Check our website at <http://www.columbianeighborhoodwatch.org> for upcoming training sessions, starting in March!

Members Trained in 2016: 0



Mission Statement

The mission of Neighborhood Watch is to provide information and assistance which encourages neighborhood involvement to be effective watchful neighbors, with the goal of reducing crime.

Message from Columbia Neighborhood Watch Secretary, Jeff Hempstead:

Columbia Neighborhood Watch is in the process of updating and becoming more visible in the community. In 2009, when the CPD did away with the crime prevention unit and cut funding to Columbia Neighborhood Watch, the group struggled for about five years. Lack of funds and low interest of members being on the Board of Directors led to a stagnation of the program. When I joined the board in late 2013, there were only four board members volunteering to run the program. Since then, we gained board members and one of the new members at the time, Bill Pauls (currently the vice president), got the City Council to give a yearly \$5,000 grant to the organization. This was a tremendous help. We were able to purchase the signs we install in the neighborhoods, get handouts, and place notices in the newspaper of our training events for new members.

Over the past year we have been updating our roster of captains, which contained errors and omissions. We now have the list nearly complete and will be contacting the captains with new information. We are having our website redesigned, so that it will be easier to navigate and include more information. We are trying to increase the visibility of Neighborhood Watch through different ideas that the Neighborhood Watch Board has generated. This process is not easy with all of us being volunteers and with other obligations. One new thing that we have implemented is having Neighborhood Specific Training Events for individual groups, Neighborhood Associations and Home Owner Associations.

All in all, we are moving along. The process is slow with just volunteers doing the work, but we are improving and getting neighbors helping neighbors and looking out for each other, which leads to a better community and lower crime in that area.

Visit us at www.coumbianeighborhoodwatch.org or contact us at col.neighwatch@gmail.com.

Jeffrey Hempstead, Columbia Neighborhood Watch Board Secretary

Winter Traveling and Driving Tips:

1. **Make sure your tires are properly inflated.**
2. **Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent your gas line freezing up.**
3. **Do not use your cruise control when driving on slippery surfaces to include wet surfaces and ice.**
4. **Look and steer where you want to go, if you start to slide.**
5. **If you become snow bound, stay with your vehicle and call for help.**
6. **Drive slow and give yourself extra time to get where you are going.**
7. **If the roads are snow or ice covered, STAY HOME, if at all possible.**

Cold Weather Tips:

1. **Wear layers to help yourself stay warm.**
2. **Don't forget to bring your pets inside – they get cold too.**
3. **If you use a space heater, be sure to put it at least 3 feet away from anything flammable. Remember to turn it off when you leave the house.**