

CAPE HAZE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Cape Haze is viewed as an upscale area and thus a potential target for thieves. Recent events have made it clear that we need to be more thorough and vigilant in protecting our properties. While the Charlotte County Sheriffs Office (CCSO) and the hard working deputies are doing a great job, they can use additional support from the citizens of Cape Haze.

It has been reported that individuals have been seen visiting various properties in our community to see if they are occupied, presumably to set up another visit in order to rob them. This follows a more general trend with crimes against property being reported as having climbed significantly.

Thus, we are re-activating our Neighborhood Watch program of "Neighbors Looking Out for Neighbors" in conjunction with the CCSO. In this program we will act as another set of eyes and ears for the sheriff's deputies. It is important to point out that this is not a vigilante program and we have no arrest or even confrontational power. Our role will be to see, be seen, observe and report on suspicious activities. The basic theory is that if a potential criminal knows that we are watching they will go elsewhere. Further, we can provide data and intelligence to our deputies that might aid them in their activities protecting us.

As a first step, we are going to have a representative of the CCSO explain the overall program. This initial meeting will be held at the Community Center on Saturday November 14th as part of our Special Members meeting that day at 4 PM.

Next we will have a training session and will then go live, as soon as possible, with our patrols. Since most crimes occur during daylight hours we will schedule our two person patrols to match the hours of risk.

I hope you will attend the meeting and sign up for this very worthwhile program.

Thanks,

Bill Dahms, 941-828-0447, k2ykw@comcast.net