

Seeking Block Stars!

WRITTEN BY: **JENNIFER MASSEY**,
TUALATIN POLICE DEPARTMENT PIO

Do you care about your neighborhood and the welfare of the people around you? Are you organized and energetic? This might be your calling!

Tualatin Police want to implement the neighborhood watch concept with a new twist. It's very simple and just takes the effort of one "Block Star" to spearhead the concept in each neighborhood. That "Block Star" would act as the leader and contact all of the surrounding neighbors



Tualatin Police Chief
Kent Barker

As we get to know more of our community members on a more personal level, people tend to call us more and report more suspicious activity, because they know that's important to keep their neighborhoods safe. People take more pride in the livability issues in their neighborhood and aren't afraid to speak up if they see someone doing something wrong.

within their area. Each resident would be encouraged to complete a "Neighborhood 6-pack", which is a form with an area for contact information for your surrounding six neighbors. This ensures that each person can get in touch with their close neighbors if they have important safety information to share or if they see things that might look suspicious.

For example: Neighbor A sees that Neighbor C has a moving truck parked in front of their house on a Tuesday afternoon. Neighbor A knows that Neighbor C is out of town and doesn't think that moving truck is supposed to be there. Using the "Neighborhood 6-pack", Neighbor A can look up the phone number and contact Neighbor C to verify if the moving truck should be there. If Neighbor C says that they have no knowledge of any moving truck at their house, then Neighbor A can proceed to call the police. Voila! Community policing at its best!

The "Neighborhood 6-pack" concept is not one that will be monitored by police and the data will not be stored

in any database maintained by local authorities. It is merely a useful tool for residents to utilize in an effort to keep their neighborhoods safe and crime free. If you are more technologically inclined and prefer a structured social network, which makes things very simple, try nextdoor.com.

The neighborhood watch concept is one that has been around for ages and has been known to work time and time again. It is the hope of the Tualatin Police Department that we see more participants in the near future. Remember, police can't be everywhere all at once, so they rely on citizens to report things when they see them. That is where community policing plays such an instrumental role. You can be a part of that! For more information, please contact Jennifer Massey with Tualatin Police Department, jmassey@ci.tualatin.or.us or call 503-691-4846.



Jennifer Massey is the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Tualatin Police Department