

# BELLA TRAE AT CHAMPIONS GATE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION FAQ's:

**Q: What is the National Sheriffs' Association role in the USAOnWatch/Neighborhood Watch program?**

A: The National Sheriffs' Association is the founder of the [UOW/Neighborhood Watch program](#), serves as the primary contact, and oversees the program. We invite you to learn more about the [National Sheriffs' Association](#) online.

**Q: Is the National Sheriffs' Association a government agency?**

A: No. The National Sheriffs' Association is non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among those in the criminal justice field.

**Q: How do I join a Neighborhood Watch in my community?**

A: Contact either the Bella Trae property managers or personnel, or any of your local block captains listed on the Bella Trae website, and they will assist you in obtaining the simple, confidential, Sheriff's office registration form from the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

**Q: Who can participate in a Neighborhood Watch?**

A: Members of local communities and representatives from businesses, government agencies, and a variety of organizations can participate in a [Neighborhood Watch](#) once they have established a partnership with their local law enforcement agency.

**Do I have to wear one of those silly T-Shirts and patrol my neighborhood with a flashlight?**

No, we communicate through email and telephone trees.

**How many residents are required to be at the meetings?**

We would like to see as many as possible at the meetings. By meeting your neighbors you will learn what is normal and what is not in the neighborhood, and be able to identify suspicious activity quickly.

**Q: Who Trains Neighborhood watch volunteers?**

A: A crime prevention officer assigned by your local police department or sheriff's office supplies initial training of volunteers. In addition, you will find all of the materials you will need on starting and operating a Neighborhood Watch on this website: <http://www.usaonwatch.org>

**What do I do if I see suspicious or criminal activity?**

It's simple, pick up the phone and dial 911. Give details to the 911 operator of the situation, and a Deputy will be dispatched to investigate the incident. If you are a victim of a crime, make sure you have it documented with a report, then let your Block Captain know so they can inform the liaison of the Neighborhood Watch program.

**Q: What is the difference between Citizens Patrol and Neighborhood Watch?**

A: Citizens Patrol is mainly groups of volunteers who donate their time to work with law enforcement departments. In some cases, Citizens Patrol is directly started and funded by law enforcement agency for the specific purpose of assisting that agency with basic functions such as providing administrative help or assisting with patrolling areas with nonviolent crimes. Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods to local law enforcement. Neighborhood Watch Groups are more than the eyes and ears for police. The defining difference between Neighborhood Watch and Citizen Patrol is their involvement with law enforcement. While both assist law enforcement their roles are different. Neighborhood Watch reports suspicious activity in their neighborhood to law enforcement. Citizen Patrol works closely with law enforcement to assist their efforts.

## CONTACTS:

Osceola County Sheriff's Office: DIAL 911 or *non-emergency* (407) 348-2222

Bella Trae Property Manager: RICHARD DRAKE, (407) 396-9820

Bella Trae Neighborhood Watch Coordinator: GREGG RAINONE, (407) 619-5511, [GRainone@aol.com](mailto:GRainone@aol.com)

Osceola County Animal Control: (407) 343-7101