

## Citizens on Patrol

The Chartley Homeowners Association Citizens on Patrol Program is composed of Chartley residents who volunteer their time to patrol our streets in an effort to reduce crime within our community and to make Chartley a safe community. **Our task is to keep our eyes and ears open to anything suspicious or even out of the ordinary and to report such things to the police.** For example, things such as groups of people standing on a corner for a period of time, people taking unauthorized shortcuts through a homeowner's yard, strange vehicles parked on a street for an unusual length of time, vehicles with expired license plates, strange vehicles cruising our streets, particularly at very slow speeds, or vehicles going way above the speed limits, are issues that we need to observe and report. Being observant about such things as young children playing in the streets or leaving their bicycles unattended can also help prevent a tragic situation or help prevent bike theft. When we see anything out of the ordinary or suspicious, we **do not become involved** other than to immediately call 911 and report the situation to the police. **We let the police check it out and resolve the situation.** Because of the efforts of our volunteers, crime within our community has consistently been lower than surrounding communities.

Our goal is simple...to keep crime where it belongs...outside of Chartley. We do that by keeping both a visible presence, with signs, rooftop lights, the wearing of COP T-shirts, etc., as well as an unseen presence on our streets, and by constantly staying in contact with Chartley residents who frequently advise concerning things they see within our community. We are **not** police officers nor are we EMS personnel or firefighters, but we do coordinate our activities with all these organizations. We also meet, and are in constant communication with, other COP groups in the area to discuss ways of dealing with reported crimes and to alert each other about questionable activities in the respective communities.

We actively plan and organize the NNO event every August, and are active in every event that CHA sponsors throughout each year. This includes, but is not limited to, the annual Clean Stream Day, our Annual Yard Sale, Clean Up Day, Electronics Disposal Day, the Reisterstown Festival Parade, etc...and we are always on our streets for Halloween to make sure that children have a safe and enjoyable evening. We try to check on elderly or infirm residents when necessary and particularly during inclement weather conditions. We actively track all crimes both within the community as well as countywide looking for patterns and trends that may help us in preventing such crimes from occurring within Chartley. We try to keep our residents informed both as to the activities of our COP Program as well as informing them of crimes that have taken place. Whenever we start to see a crime pattern develop within our community, we notify our COP Volunteers and send an email alert to those residents for whom we have an email address to allow them to take any necessary precautions to avoid becoming a victim.

All COP programs are dependent on resident volunteers to make it effective. Unfortunately, attrition due to job relocation, illness, death, aging concerns, etc. always takes a toll on any volunteer program. As a result, we are always anxious to recruit new volunteers to help maintain the level of safety and security within our community that all want and deserve. During the coming year, we will continue to maintain a presence on our streets, provide our residents with information related to crime activity, participate in all CHA activities, and continue our work to make a difference within our community. We

would like to invite all Chartley residents to “Make a Difference” and join CHA’s COP Program today. For further information contact Dave Powers at (410)-833-3734 or by email at [davidlpowers@verizon.net](mailto:davidlpowers@verizon.net)