

Community Watch Resumes Patrols

Honeoye Falls's Community Watch members will begin regular patrols in Honeoye Falls early in the Summer. This is the first season volunteers will be walking the village, meeting residents and discussing safety issues. The patrol will be equipped with communications to contact the Emergency Communications Department (**9-1-1 Center**) if the need arises.

In the Summer of 2007, Honeoye Falls, in conjunction with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, will begin a Community Watch Patrol with citizen volunteers. Designed to be a quality-of-life patrol, teams of two citizens walk the village wearing distinctive orange vests.

From all perspectives the effort has been well received by village residents, the Sheriff's Office (Zone "B") and prospective team members.

Background and Perspective

Crime prevention has been a focus in community law enforcement for many years. Honeoye Falls's version of Community Watch goes beyond passively "watching" for criminal activity from our homes. The program is designed to have community members patrol the village wearing easily identifiable vests and having the ability to contact Sheriff's patrols if needed. Additionally, patrol members will report all kinds of issues relevant to village living.

When several residents expressed concerns at a village board several years ago, the concept was developed. Training will be conducted by the Sheriff's Office, equipment needs to be purchased, and rules/procedures are to be developed. After all this is in place we will have the first deployment of patrol members.

Community Watch Needs Your Involvement

If the Community Watch patrols are to become fully active, we need your assistance! Some members walk, some make telephone calls and others handle administrative duties. Some members commit two hours a month and others 10-15 hours.

The message is that members can be as active as they want to be. It all starts with the submission of an application to the village.

Each new member is required to complete a training program that lasts 2 hours. Sessions are scheduled as needed. Remember that members function only as citizens – observing and reporting. Members are trained to avoid dangerous situations and report their observations through **9-1-1**.

Quality-of-life depends on all residents assuming some responsibility for maintaining order in the community. If you can't join us, here are some tips to assist in the effort.

1. If you see or hear anything suspicious, call **9-1-1**. If you don't want a deputy to come to your house, tell the telephone operator the problem and that you do not want to be contacted.
2. Learn more about crime prevention, fire prevention, and general safety in and around the home. We live in a beautiful small community that is part of a much bigger community. We need to be careful to lock doors, secure sheds, protect items in our cars and use good safety practices.
3. Talk with a community watch member, from another community to find out about the program. You can contact the village office for further information.

Monroe County Sheriff's Office (Zone "B")

Sheriff's Road Patrol Deputies patrol Honeoye Falls from "B" Zone headquarters. Questions about crime prevention can be directed to the Community Services Unit at **359-7106**.

Check out the Sheriff's Office Web Site

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office maintains an excellent web site with information on crime prevention, crime reports organized by zone, and historical material on the MCSO. The site is located at the address: www.monroecountysheriff.info.

By selecting "B" Zone you can review activity in the community and area.

Activities Planned for the Community Watch

A number of activities are planned for Watch members. These include:

- Ride-along session with a deputy. Watch members have the option of riding with a deputy on patrol.

Crime Prevention Information

Contact the Community Service Unit at Zone "B" Headquarters – **359-7100**

The Honeoye Falls Community Watch Program appreciates the guidance provided by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the Zone "B" Patrol Personnel.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. How much time does it take to be a community watch member?

- A. After the initial 2-hour training session, members are asked to patrol at least two, two-hour shifts per month.
- Q. How would I schedule the patrol time?
- A. There is a coordinator that functions as a single point of contact for scheduling patrol times.
- Q. What equipment do I need?
- A. The village provides vests, flashlights, cellular telephones, a patrol guide and fanny packs. You should wear comfortable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather conditions.
- Q. Isn't it dangerous to patrol as a member?
- A. Absolutely not. As citizens, we walk our streets now. As a community watch member, you are to observe and report. Nothing more! By being visible, you are demonstrating your commitment to report your observations through established public safety channels so community issues can be addressed.
- Q. How do I find out more about the program?
- A. First, talk with a current member. Second, call the Village Office (**624-1711**) for an application.
- Q. Shouldn't this be left to the Sheriff's Road Patrol Deputies?
- A. Police agencies realize that without community involvement it is very difficult to be effective. "Community policing" revolves around law enforcement and the community working together. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Zone "B" Road Patrol and the Village of Honeoye Falls residents have successfully utilized this model on a number of occasions.

Get Involved with Your Village

Here is how you become a member:

1. Contact the village office [**624-1711**] and ask for an application package.
2. Complete the simple application forms and return them to the village office.
3. Attend the 2-hour training and orientation session.
4. Work your first and/or second patrol with an experienced member.

That's all there is to volunteering as a community watch member. So please get your application in today.

Here are three web sites of particular interest. They present excellent information for the average citizen.

www.usaonwatch.org

This is the National Sheriffs' Association site. It outlines information on crime prevention and related matters.

www.fema.gov

This is Federal Emergency Management Agency site. It details preparation and response information and updates.

www.dhs.gov/dhspublic

This is the Homeland Security site. There are links to every state emergency management office, terrorism updates, and information on the Citizen Corp. concept and much more.



Village of Honeoye Falls

Community Watch Program

Participate
In the Safety of your Community

Honeoye Falls Community Watch

“The police are the public and the public are the police. The police being the only members of the public that are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen, in the interests of community welfare and existence.”

Sir Robert Peel 1829