



Neighborhood Watch helps to build pride and serves as a springboard to successfully address other community concerns

Our nation is built on the strength of our citizens. Every day, we encounter situations calling upon us to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement. Not only does neighborhood watch allow citizens to help in the fight against crime, it is also an opportunity for communities to bond through service. The Neighborhood Watch Program draws upon the compassion of average citizens, asking them to lend their neighbors a hand.



For more information and material on how to begin a Neighborhood Watch program, contact:

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

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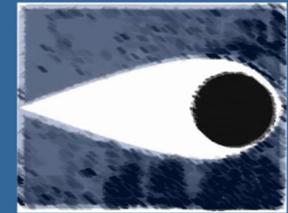
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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



A partnership between the Urbana Police Department and the Urbana Community



What is Neighborhood Watch?

- Teaches techniques to reduce the risk of being a victim of crime
- Teaches citizens how to recognize suspicious activities and how to report them
- Teaches how to make homes more secure
- Encourages citizens to know their neighbors
- Provides an opportunity for neighbors to come together and discuss issues as a group
- Brings citizens together with law enforcement to deter crime and make communities safer



Neighborhood Watch Programs began in 1966. As of 2016, over 40% of neighborhoods have an established Watch Group

Neighborhood Watch CAPTAINS

- Keep updated list of names, addresses, phone numbers etc.
- Schedule meetings and encourage neighbors to attend
- Recruitment of new members
- Serves as a liaison between UPD and the watch group
- Distribute information provided by UPD

Neighborhood Watch MEMBERS

- Attend neighborhood watch meetings
- Compile and communicate areas of concerns and ideas
- Report suspicious activity
- Conscience awareness of neighbors and neighborhood activity
- Keep updated neighborhood telephone numbers and addresses in a secure location
- Follow the guidelines provided by the CAPTAIN and UPD

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Teach watch members about having an effective watch group
- Attend initial meeting with neighbors
- Attend follow up/meet and greet meetings
- Provide start up training
- Maintain records of all watch groups
- Follow up with concerns
- Provide statistics and crime patterns/trends

What are the Benefits of Having a Neighborhood Watch?

- Deters criminal activity
- Creates a greater sense of security and reduces fear of crime
- Instructs residents on how to observe and report suspicious activities
- Builds bonds with neighbors
- Creates a healthy working relationship between the community and law enforcement
- Neighborhood Watch signs are posted which helps deter criminal activity
- Addresses quality of life issues and mutual interests in your community
- Works collaboratively with other civic and community activities

How to Get Started

- Form a small planning committee
- Decide on a date and location for an initial meeting. Make sure the location is accessible to people with disabilities
- Recruit as many neighbors as possible by using brochures, handouts etc
- Select a block captain
- Establish a means of communication with watch members
- Prepare a neighborhood map showing names, addresses and phone numbers of participating households and distribute to members
- Gather facts about crime in your neighborhood and identify areas of concern
- Contact the Urbana Police Department to attend the meeting in order to discuss your neighborhood's concerns and needs with the group

