



September 2008

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Information condensed and taken from "Neighborhood Watch – An implementation manual for citizens from Melbourne Police Department" – 650 N. Apollo Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935 (321.409.2200)

The **Neighborhood Watch Program** is total resident participation and involvement in a police-community cooperative battle against burglaries or other neighborhood crimes. Its primary purpose is personal and property protection for you and your neighbors. As an extension of the eyes and ears for your police department, your involvement will directly affect the crime rate in your neighborhood.

CB Neighborhood Watch Captain:

Block Captains:

Watch Members – Including Chairperson and Captains

After your Neighborhood Watch Block is implemented, it is important to keep your group active in maintaining people's interest. Communicating and cooperating with your neighbors and the Melbourne Police Department is key.

How Block Watch Works:

Each year, 10 million serious crimes – more than half of the nation's total – go unreported. That's why the City-wide Awake Block Watch program was initiated.

The Block Watch program is simply you and your neighbors working together and with your local police to reduce criminal opportunity on your street.

Block Watch operates to educate participants in the principles of deterrence, delay, and detection. The program depends on a communication network organized with three levels of participants – the resident, block captains, and co-captains, and a local law enforcement representative.

The police department needs your help to function effectively. But your neighbors are there. They know you and your family, what type of car you drive and when you will be away. Your neighbor could be the first to spot a burglar in your window or a strange car in your driveway.

Vigilante actions are in no way condoned by the Block Watch program. No one is asked to take personal risks or be a hero.

GET INVOLVED WITH NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

By participating in a program where "**We Look Out For Each Other**," you can make a real difference in attacking crime in your community through your Neighborhood Watch involvement.

BENEFITS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

The eight most important benefits of being involved in your own Neighborhood Watch program are:

1. Neighborhood policing by you and your neighbors, together with your own police or sheriff, creates a greater sense of security, well-being, and reduction of fear or crime because you know you and your neighbors will "...**LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.**"
2. Reduce the risk of being a crime victim.
3. The Neighborhood Watch program trains you how to observe and report suspicious activities occurring in your neighborhood.
4. Knowing your neighbors is an important feature and benefit of this program. ..."**WE LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER.**"
5. You have greater access to criminal activity information.
6. Participants get on-going training in how to protect themselves.
7. Posting Neighborhood Watch signs on your street and labels or decals in your windows tells a criminal that (a) you are not an easy target, (b) they are probably being watched and (c) you have taken the steps necessary to deter crime in your neighborhood.
8. Address issues of mutual interest by getting together with your neighbors on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, or whatever you wish)

HOW AND WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKS

The key to success in any Neighborhood Watch program are the Participants' "willingness to **"Look Out For Each Other"** and the ability of each individual Participant to observe and recognize what is suspicious, then immediately reporting it.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

Neighborhood Watch begins with you knowing your own neighbors. By knowing what is usual and customary it is then very easy to tell what is unusual and out of the ordinary.

"NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INSTITUTE FAMILY DATA SHEET IS AVAILABLE FROM NNWI IN PACKAGES OF 30 SHEETS.

How Do Neighborhood Watch Groups Protect You?

- **Neighborhood Watch is a basic crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense.**
- **Neighborhood Watch gives citizens an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of their community.**
- **Neighborhood Watch has helped to restore America's "Front Porch."**
- **Neighborhood Watch emphasized cooperation between community members and law enforcement.**

The Role of the Community in Neighborhood Watch

Ask anyone whose home has been burglarized...the shock and helpless anger accompanying the discovery that an intruder has entered one's home will not easily be forgotten. The damage may be minimal or major, the losses slight or catastrophic. The incident may or may not have involved injury to a family member – yet one hard fact remains: another statistic has been added to the ever-growing list of burglarized homes. The burglar won again – and has no doubt vanished, leaving no real clue to lead his arrest.

Is Your Neighborhood Ready to Resist Crime? Or Is It a Target for Burglars? It's Up to You!!

Neighborhood Crime Prevention: A Joint Responsibility

The prevention of crime – particularly crime involving residential neighborhoods – is a responsibility that must be shared equally by law enforcement and private citizens. The fact is, the impact on crime prevention by law enforcement alone is minimal when compared with the power of private citizens working with law enforcement and with each other.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Areas Show Crime Drop

Throughout the United States, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH programs.

Taking Positive Steps

Victim responses to a home burglary generally follow a similar pattern: Initial fear and anger give way to an obsession with seeing the intruder caught and making sure the home is never targeted by criminals again.

Since the establishment of NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, however, thousands of homeowners who want to take intelligently planned action to decrease crime statistics in their areas have discovered that they have a ready, willing and highly qualified partner in their local law enforcement agency.

The Growing Need for NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

It is a fact of life that relationships in many of today's communities have become less personal than they were years ago. The once-familiar sight of families visiting with each other on front porches while keeping a watchful eye on children and activities in the neighborhood is a rarity in most communities today.

Burglary – A Target for NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

While it is one of the most prevalent and difficult crimes facing law enforcement today, it is, at the same time, the one major crime that CAN be effectively resisted by each citizen taking POSITIVE ACTION at home.

Contrary to popular opinion, burglary is not a crime restricted to urban areas; it also occurs in suburban and rural areas at an alarming rate.

Making it Tough for the Burglar

Alert program participants in communities across the country are making things hard for potential criminals by:

- Arranging for home security inspection by crime prevention officers
- Upgrading locks, security hardware, and lighting; and installing alarms
- Training family members to keep valuables secure and to lock doors and windows
- Asking neighbors to watch for suspicious activity when the house is vacant
- Marking valuable property with an identifying number (Operation I.D.)
- Encouraging home builders to use effective door and window locks and to provide outside lighting
- Organizing block parent and block WATCH groups to assist children, the elderly, and other especially vulnerable persons
- Meeting in neighborhood groups with trained crime prevention officers to discuss needs and crime prevention strategies
- Developing neighborhood “fan” or telephone tree systems for quickly alerting each other about criminal activity in the area
- Encouraging the development of signals for use in adjacent residences when someone needs help
- Arranging for ongoing programs where crime prevention experts can present home and neighborhood security tips at regular scheduled meetings.
- Obtaining and studying informative materials from the National Sheriffs’ Association, the National Crime Prevention Council and local agencies.
- Identifying the area’s participation with decals and metal road signs warning, ‘NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH – our neighbors are watching to report suspicious activity to our law enforcement agency.’
- FINALLY.....
 - Contact as many of your neighbors as possible, asking them:
 - If they feel at risk of being burglarized or being the victim of other crimes,
 - If they have taken any steps to protect their homes; and
 - If they would be willing to attend a meeting to organize a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH group in your area.

You may be surprised to learn how many of your neighbors’ lives have already been touched by crime!

Starting a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH Group

SCHEDULED CYPRESS BENDS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING: 20 October 2008 at 7 p.m. at our cabana pool area – hope to see you there...☺