

What are the Benefits of Crime Watch?

- You will be more aware of the types of crimes in your area and how to prevent them from happening to you.
- You will learn about crime prevention techniques to make your family, property, and neighborhood safer.
- You and your family will feel safer, which may be almost as important as actually being safe!
- You will meet more neighbors and develop friendships.
- You will have neighbors who will look out for your property when you are away and vice versa.
- You will have a sense of accomplishment from doing something about crime. You may even be able to prevent a crime.
- You may just turn your neighborhood or apartment complex back into that old “Beaver Cleaver” kind of neighborhood where everyone knows each other.

How can I become a Crime Watch participant? Crime Watch doesn't take a lot of time or money. Contact your Block Captain or area Chairperson to find out specifically what Crime Watch can do for you and what you can do for Crime Watch.

Some basics are: a) keep informed, b) attend Crime Watch meetings, c) read the Crime Watch materials provided to you, and d) if your neighborhood has “Crime Alert” voice mail, call it regularly to keep informed, learn about crime prevention and share the information with your neighbors. Volunteer: Offer your help whenever you can. Many neighborhood groups need help with copying or distribution of materials, telephone calls, meetings, refreshments, etc. Contribute: Crime Watch doesn't cost a lot, but some costs are usually involved, such as printed materials, voice mail, or meeting costs. Some groups ask for a small amount of dues from members; many others rely only on contributions from their neighbors. Even a small contribution may make a huge difference in your Crime Watch group. Give if you can.

How can I prevent crime? These proven crime prevention measures will go a long way toward keeping you from becoming a crime victim: • Keep your home's doors, garage, and windows shut and locked at all times. • Improve your outdoor lighting. • Don't leave lawn equipment or toys outside or in an open garage. • Keep car doors locked and windows shut while driving and when parked. • Don't keep valuables in plain view inside your car. • Check behind you when turning into your neighborhood or apartment complex and again before turning into your alley or driveway. If someone is in close proximity, drive past your home to a well lit and populated area to call 911. • Take vacation precautions: Ask someone to pick up mail and newspaper daily. Arrange to have your lawn mowed or leaves raked. Even better, have someone stay in your home while you are away, if this is possible. Sounds simple, doesn't it? But it works!

Crime Watch Overview: • Know your neighbors. • Be observant. • Be aware of what is suspicious. • Always report any suspicious activities and crimes to 911 and then inform your Crime Watch Chairperson. • Be knowledgeable about area crime and the related prevention tips. • Take simple crime prevention measures to avoid unnecessary crimes. • Attend area crime watch meetings. • Volunteer with your area Crime Watch organizations.