

WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH IS NOT

- A vigilante force working outside the procedures of law enforcement
- A program designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime
- A 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood



KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Getting to know your neighbors, their families, their habits, the vehicles they drive, their telephone numbers, (both at home and at work), any medical problems they may have, and what kind of pets they may have is probably one of the most important aspects of a successful Neighborhood Watch Program.

Knowing these aspects of your neighbors' lives will allow you to respond accurately and quickly to any emergency situation, and might prevent a crime or save a life.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

The Bloomington Police Department Public Affairs Unit consists of the Public Affairs Officer (a sworn police officer) and the Media Relations Specialist (a civilian employee).

The Public Affairs Unit works closely with Neighborhood Watch groups throughout the city, most importantly as a resource for information for these groups. The unit assists in the establishment of new Neighborhood Watch organizations.

A representative of the unit will attend an initial organizational meeting of the group to explain the program and offer advice on how to get started properly.

The Public Affairs Unit does not run individual Neighborhood Watch programs. It serves only to help get the programs started and a leadership group in place.

The unit maintains contact with leaders to make sure crime issues upon which the programs were started are being addressed appropriately. Group leaders are encouraged to contact the Public Affairs Unit with questions and concerns.

The unit can also assist in arranging special programs for group meetings and providing information on a variety of police- and non-police-related programs.

E-mail alerts are also sent out on various topics, including scams being reported in the area, and crime statistics.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



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305 S. East Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701**

**Public Affairs Unit
(309) 434-2355
(309) 434-2534
police@cityblm.org**

BENEFITS OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- Teaches citizens techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized
- Trains citizens on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and how to report them
- Teaches citizens how to make their homes more secure and to properly identify their property
- Allows neighbors to get to know one another and their routines, so they can report any "out-of-place" activity
- Creates a body of concerned citizens addressing issues that concern their community
- Provides greater access to information on criminal activity in your neighborhood
- Allows Neighborhood Watch signs to be posted in your neighborhood
- Reduces the fear of crime and improves the quality of life



TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LEADERS

Neighborhood Watch organizations are led by a small steering committee, usually consisting of a president or chairman, block captains and a few residents of the neighborhood. Regular meetings are held to maintain interest and to make sure neighborhood issues are being addressed adequately. The leaders' responsibilities include:

- Maintaining contact with the Police Department Public Affairs Unit
- Evaluating success of efforts undertaken to address specific crime issues
- Forwarding to the membership crime-related information provided by the Police Department
- Maintaining and updating Neighborhood Watch maps and contact lists used internally by the organization
- Educating new residents of the neighborhood about the watch program and its benefits
- Planning and coordinating meetings of the Neighborhood Watch
- Helping arrange special programs for meetings
- Working to establish and maintain contact with leaders of other Neighborhood Watch groups
- Coordinating the group's participation in other crime prevention programs

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PARTICIPANT

A participant is anyone who is in the Neighborhood Watch Program, through their respective watch group or Neighborhood Association.

Participants' responsibilities include:

- Learning your neighbor's' names and being able to recognize them and their vehicles without hesitation
- Keeping all Neighborhood Watch information in a safe, accessible place
- Attending as many Neighborhood Watch meeting as possible
- Making note of security advice suggested by the Police Department
- Properly identifying all valuable property
- Keeping an eye on your neighbors' homes and reporting any suspicious activities to the Bloomington Police Department and Neighborhood Watch block captains
- Writing down descriptions of any suspicious persons or vehicles and reporting them
- Teaching children crime prevention
- Not taking any risks to stop a crime in progress (just be a good witness)
- Having your mail and newspapers picked up or stopped when you are away from home for more than a few days
- Notifying block captains when you are away