

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, any medical problems they may have, etc.) is 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.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Homes that appeal to burglars...

- Homes with open garage doors, windows, or unlocked doors (it's like a welcome mat).
- Homes with nice trash (a large flat screen TV or new generator box left on the curb for trash pick-up may attract a burglar's attention).
- A home that looks unoccupied (newspapers piled up and an overflowing mailbox, lights always off, no vehicles in the driveway, overgrown grass all make your home more appealing).
- A home where the burglar can be easily hidden (high hedges or fence that blocks the sight of doors and windows and lack of outside lighting are all a bonus for a burglar).

Prevent vehicle break-ins

- Lock your car.
- Leave valuables at home or lock them in your trunk.
- Completely roll up the windows in your vehicle.
- Do not leave anything (including coins, purses, wallets, cell phones, GPS, etc.) in plain sight.
- Park in well lit, well-traveled areas.
- Do not leave garage door openers in plain view.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



**Bloomington Police Department
305 S. East Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61702**

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

**Website: www.cityblm.org/police
Follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/cityblmPD**

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

Report Suspicious Activity

Your assistance is critical, because no one knows what goes on in your neighborhood better than you. If you observe any suspicious activity, please call the non-emergency number for the Bloomington Police Department at **(309)-820-8888**.

*Please call **911** for any immediate public safety threats.

Crime Alerts via e-mail

BPD offers our residents Raids Online Crime Mapping at www.cityblm.org/police RAIDS Online allows users to sign up and receive *FREE* electronic e-mail reports of criminal incidents that have occurred within a certain distance of their home, workplace or business.

Drug Sales and Gang Activity

To provide information about drug sales, or gang activity that does not require an immediate response, contact BPD's Crime & Intelligence Analysis Unit at (309) 434-2963 or at ciau@cityblm.org. You may leave information anonymously.