

# Neighborhood Watch Program

Neighborhood Watch is a program for the citizens, run by citizen. It is a proactive approach to reducing crime, focusing on the residents of each neighborhood working together in cooperation with the Flower Mound Police Department. Citizens are the “eyes and ears” of the community, and the Neighborhood Watch is dependent upon citizen involvement and cooperation. Neighborhood Watch can be a very effective program, but it depends on the residents of Flower Mound to maintain and make the program work.

Very simply, Neighborhood Watch involves:

- Neighbors getting to know each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.
- Educating neighbors to be more alert in recognizing suspicious activities and taking the appropriate actions.
- Implementing other crime deterrents.

The citizens of Flower Mound can play a major role in the reduction of residential crimes through their active participation in Neighborhood Watch. If you’re a potential victim of crime – and you certainly are – then you are a potential member of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

**“Concerned citizens that get involved make a difference in making the world a better place.”**

## **Neighborhood Watch operates under two principles:**

- **Know your neighbors**
- **Report suspicious activity**

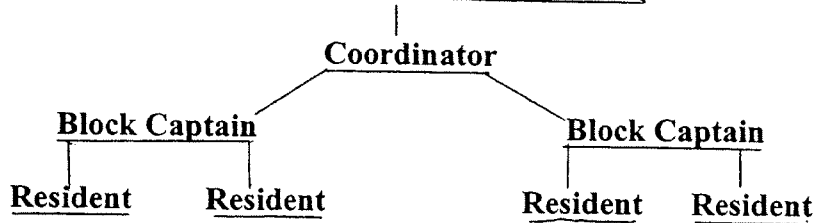
The basic idea is for neighbors to watch out for each other. By looking after a neighbor’s property as if it were your own, you will more likely contact the police if you observe something suspicious. Citizens act as extra “eyes and ears” for the police department so that calls to the police will be made when criminal activity is suspected.

Many neighborhoods suffering from high crime rates have their own apathy to blame, since a neglected residential area’s very appearance invites criminals. Fragile doors, open garages, unlocked doors and windows, dilapidated fences, overgrown yards, littered sidewalks, unmarked residences, and dark streets and alleys proclaim that inhabitants have delegated responsibility entirely to police. However, criminals know that patrol officers cannot be everywhere at once, and calculating risks carefully, they know that their easiest targets lie in areas unwatched by citizens. The best deterrent to residential crime is neighbors who care, as numerous of Neighborhood Watch areas are proving.

# Neighborhood Watch

## Information Relay System

### Flower Mound Police Department



### **FLOWER MOUND POLICE**

- Pass on information to your Coordinator that is important to your neighborhood.
- Help you get your neighborhood organized.
- Attend your organizational meetings.
- Assist with block meetings.

### **COORDINATOR**

- Lead the area of the Neighborhood Watch toward full participation in program.
- Provide Block Captains with tools and means to make the program effective.
- Coordinate activities between the Crime Prevention Officer at the Police Department and the Block Captains and residents.

### **BLOCK CAPTAINS**

- Pass on the information received from the Coordinator to the individual residential households.
- Prepare and maintain a map with their residents' names, addresses, and telephone numbers.
- Meet with their residents on an annual basis (a Crime Prevention Officer must be present at the meeting or it may be a block party)
- Notify the Coordinator if they are no longer able to perform Block Captain duties.

### **NEIGHBORS**

- Your responsibility as a Neighborhood Watch Neighbor is to be a good neighbor by watching out for one another's' property and by reporting suspicious activity to the police.

The good neighbor principal also involves getting to know your neighbor. You should know the three neighbors across the street from your home, one each side, and the three

neighbors behind your residence. Through this acquaintance, you, the neighbor, then become aware if suspicious activity is occurring and report it immediately to the police. (Each citizen can be assured that when they report suspicious activity, their name will be held in strictest confidence.)

## **Neighborhood Watch Goals**

As a Neighborhood Watch program is initiated within a neighborhood, planners and coordinators should attempt to accomplish three goals:

1. Participation by a minimum of 50% of homes in the Watch area.
2. Reduce criminal victimization of participating residents by 50%.
3. Increase reporting of crimes in progress by 200%.

## **Guidelines for Neighborhood Watch Area**

New Neighborhood Watch Requirements:

- Hold an initial meeting with as many residents as possible from the neighborhood.
- A Crime Prevention Officer must attend.
- Outline area of Neighborhood Watch.
- Obtain 50% participation of residents with Watch area.
- Coordinate with Police Department to get signs installed at entrances to the Watch area once all other requirements are met.

Establish Crime Watch Area

- Must have an annual meeting with Crime Prevention Officer present.
- Annually update block captain list and submit to Crime Prevention Officer.
- Maintain 50% participation among residents.

## **Organizing a Neighborhood Watch Program**

A Neighborhood Watch is an organization of concerned citizens working together as good neighbors to reduce the crime in their neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch programs take many forms, but in all cases, organizing by blocks is the cornerstone of all citizens' crime prevention programs.

The person who decides to form a Neighborhood Watch is known as the "Coordinator." The coordinator will decide the size of the area that will be organized into the Neighborhood Watch. Generally, a Neighborhood Watch is designed to include an entire community. However, a portion of a neighborhood, such as Wellington Phase I, may be designated as the Watch area.

### **Step 1 – Talk with neighbors and friends.**

- Ask for their participation in a small group to take the first steps in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program.
- Explain the need for and the value of a Neighborhood Watch.
- Define the boundaries of the area to be organized.
- Begin recruiting block captains for the Neighborhood Watch area.
- Enlist a Co-coordinator if necessary to share the responsibilities.

### **Step 2 – Contact Flower Mound Police Department Crime Prevention Officer.**

- Explain that you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch and ask for help.
- Discuss the size and boundaries of the area considered for the program.

### **Step 3 – Planning the first Neighborhood meeting:**

- Schedule the date of the first Neighborhood Watch meeting through the Flower Mound Police Department. Programs are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The coordinator will be responsible for securing a location for the meeting. The location can be at a school, church, private residence, or other facility agreed upon by the coordinator and the Crime Prevention Officer.
- Design a simple notice announcing the meeting. Recruit volunteers from the neighborhood to hand deliver an invitation to every home in the area. **Do not** place any flyers or invitations in mailboxes unless the appropriate postage is affixed. **(It is a violation of federal law and rigidly enforced by the postal inspectors).**

### **Step 4 – The first meeting.**

- Coordinator should run the meeting.
- Coordinator introduce themselves and explain the purpose of the meeting
- Coordinator introduce the Crime Prevention Officer
- Crime Prevention Officer will:
  - Explain the Neighborhood Watch Program.
  - Explain a Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings.
  - Does not require anyone to take any personal risk in preventing crime.
  - Leaves responsibility for apprehending criminals with the police.
  - Explain the roles of the Coordinator, Block Captains, and residents.
  - Discuss criminal activities or problems within the proposed Watch area.
  - Discuss effective Crime Prevention techniques for neighborhood safety.
  - Explain suspicious activity and how to report it.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEMBER**

HOW TO REPORT A CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY:  
(MOST IMPORTANT) EMERGENCY CALLS **9-1-1**  
(IMPORTANT) NON-EMERGENCY CALLS (972) 539-0525

- Your Name
- Your Address
- Stay on the line until police have all information

### **REMEMBER:**

- Nature of Incident
- Location of Occurrence
- Description of Offender(s)
- Nature of Injuries
- Method of Escape (vehicle, walking, running)
- Direction of Travel. If a vehicle is involved, get the license plate and description, if possible.

More than 7 million residential burglaries are committed annually – one every 10 seconds. With this in mind, closer cooperation between the police and the citizens they serve is a must. The Neighborhood Watch Program can play an important role in the future of our communities.

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH INSTRUCTIONS

An alert and cooperative neighborhood is the greatest single defense against crime. By getting to know your neighbors and their vehicles, suspicious people, vehicles and/or sounds will alert you to the possibility of criminal activity. Promptly reported to the police, your alert cooperation may save a neighbor from the trauma of burglary, vandalism or assault.

Please fill out this form in cooperation with your neighbors. Explain the significance of a Neighborhood Watch Program as a precaution and defense against crime in your area. The property and lives you can save may very well be your own.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ _____ HOME PHONE WORK PHONE (AUTOS) LIC# MODEL/MAKE YEAR _____ SPECIAL INFORMATION _____ _____	NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ _____ HOME PHONE WORK PHONE (AUTOS) LIC# MODEL/MAKE YEAR _____ SPECIAL INFORMATION _____ _____	NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ _____ HOME PHONE WORK PHONE (AUTOS) LIC# MODEL/MAKE YEAR _____ SPECIAL INFORMATION _____ _____
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## **Notes on Neighborhood Watch Program**

A program for the citizens, run by the citizens.

We provide assistance and information.

Is an information sharing system.

Works on the old telephone tree principal. (today they can set up a community email address with everyone on it so that everyone gets info over the internet)

Information flows both ways.

Must have a Coordinator and Block Captains (each captain should be responsible for no more than 10 other residents – otherwise becomes too tedious)

Must have 50% participations.

Once they meet the above objectives and provide the list to the PD, we will put up signs at the entrances to the neighborhoods. Only at each entrance, if they want more signs they have to buy and arrange for having them put up themselves (Bridlewood did just that).

Must have yearly meeting with PD Officer in attendance. (A block party can be used)

