

To: ALL CITIZENS OF GLENARDEN
From: Chief Philip O'Donnell
Glenarden Police Department

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Neighborhood Watch works if people want to assume a more active role in making their community safer. Since it is impractical to place a police officer on every corner of every neighborhood, it is more practical to have help from the people who live there. The neighborhood residents know who belongs there and who doesn't and what activity is suspicious. The main reason Neighborhood Watch can be successful is that citizens can begin working with, instead of relying on, law enforcement to combat crime in their community.

Business Watch Program is currently being organized. Business Watch applies the concepts of Neighborhood Watch to the business community.

What Neighborhood Watch Is

A crime prevention program that:

- Teaches citizens techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home and in public
- Trains citizens on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and how to report them
- Teaches participants how to make their homes more secure and properly identify their property
- Allows neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activity can be reported and investigated
- A cohesive body of concerned citizens addressing issues that concern the entire community

IS NOT

- A vigilante force working outside the normal 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

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM BENEFITS

A Neighborhood Watch Program can put the neighbor back into neighborhood by creating a sense of community. It brings law enforcement and the citizens together to reduce crime.

Reducing the risk of being a crime victim: Participants are taught how to take preventative measures that decrease the likelihood of becoming a crime victim.

Being better prepared to respond to a suspicious activity: Members are trained on how to report suspicious activities that are occurring and what the police need when a crime is being reported and why.

Greater access to criminal activity information: Members are informed of crime trends and patterns so they will be better prepared to spot it in their neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch sign posted in the neighborhood: Criminals know that an area with a Neighborhood Watch sign is not an easy target. This shows that the community has taken the necessary steps to deter crime and are probably being observed.

Knowing your neighbors: Neighborhood Watch promotes getting to know your neighbors and their regular patterns so that each of the members will be able to report any activity that doesn't fit with the regular schedules.

Reducing the fear of crime and making the neighborhood more liveable: Neighborhood Watch can increase the number of arrests and convictions by serving as a network for law enforcement and the community to effectively communicate about criminal activity in the neighborhood.

Allowing other issues of community concern to be addressed: Other issues of community concern can be addressed, such as Fire Prevention, First Aid, and City Planning.