

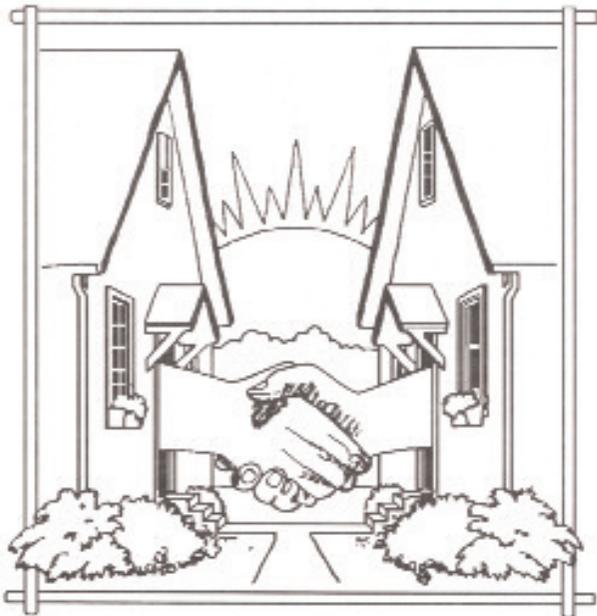
The Neighborhood Crime Watch Program

Crime 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.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Plano Police Department will help you organize a Crime Watch Area. Once the area is organized, officers will send bulletins to Crime Watch Areas on an as-needed basis. This information is sent regarding crimes of a serious nature, or when a suspect's description is available. This information, coupled with the two basic principles of Crime Watch, can help citizens become a part of reducing the overall crime rate in the neighborhoods.



Getting Started

Someone in your neighborhood must be instrumental in generating interest among neighbors. Once these contacts are made, the Crime Prevention Unit should be notified so that a meeting can be scheduled. Meetings can be held in homes, churches, schools, or any place that will accommodate the number of people you are expecting. When contacting your neighbors to discuss the program, it is best to talk with them in person rather than leaving them a pamphlet that tells about a meeting. The response will be better, and you've already taken the first step in getting to know your neighbors.

An officer from the Crime Prevention Unit will hold a meeting to explain the Crime Watch program. The length may vary, depending on the group's agenda. During the meeting, the officer will outline the basic principles of the program, and discuss the responsibilities of the Police Department and the homeowners. Your group is now ready to function as an active Neighborhood Crime Watch Area.



Crime Watch Signs

Your neighborhood may have as many signs as you like. The cost of each sign is eighty-one dollars, and the signs are installed by the Street Department. The funds may come from a homeowner's association, or by collecting from individual households. Signs should be placed where they are visible to a majority of the traffic entering your neighborhood.



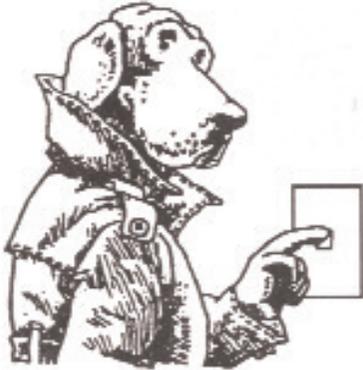
The Communication Network

After your group meets with the police, an Area Coordinator and Block Captains must be designated. The Area Coordinator acts as the liaison between the Police Department and the neighbors. If the Crime Prevention Unit issues a bulletin, the Area Coordinator must copy this information and pass it along to Block Captains. They, in turn, will distribute the bulletin to all other area residents. The information provided in Crime Watch Bulletins can help you and your neighbors be aware of persons or vehicles that may be involved in criminal activity. Bulletins are sent on an as-needed basis. The information must then be distributed by the Area Coordinator and Block Captains for the communication network to be effective.

Block Parties

Block Parties are a great way to get to know your neighbors. If you would like to close off a residential street in your neighborhood, the Crime Prevention Unit can provide the forms you will need. Cones or barricades will be provided by the Street Department to keep vehicle traffic off the street.

Lights on means
lights out for crime.



The Texas "2009 National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for the month of October, 2009. We cordially invite you and your neighborhood to be part of our NIGHT OUT 2009 team.

From 6 to 9 p.m., neighborhoods are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening outdoors on porches, lawns, and front steps. Many neighborhoods throughout Plano will be hosting a variety of special events including block parties, cookouts, and flashlight walks.

For information or questions about these services, contact the Plano Police Crime Prevention Unit at 972-941-2431.

1. Neighborhood Crime Watch
2. McGruff Safe House Program
3. Adopt-A-Cop Program
4. Educational Seminars and Presentations to Citizen Groups and Schools
5. Home Security Assessment
6. Texas State Insurance Inspection
7. Business Crime Alert Program
8. Commercial Educational Programs (*Anti-Theft/Burglary, etc.*)
9. Anonymous Drug Testing
10. Operation H.E.A.T. (*Help End Auto Theft*)



Plano Police Department

Crime Prevention Unit

972.941.2431

www.planopolice.org

Administration

972.424.5678

Neighborhood Crime Watch



It Works!



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