

Organizing a Neighborhood Watch

- ⇒ Visualize a neighborhood where every time a lawbreaker shows up, so does “the law.” One of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear, a Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation crime feeds upon. It forges the bond among residents, helps reduce burglaries, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.
- ⇒ Form a watch group around any geographical unit: a block, an apartment building, a condo complex, or a business area.
- ⇒ To get started, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 468-3901 to receive information and set a date and time for a meeting and training.
- ⇒ Recruit community members through flyers and telephone calls. Inform them of the first meeting and let them know what a watch group can do for them.
- ⇒ Watch for and immediately report any suspicious persons, vehicles, behavior or activities that are not part of the normal neighborhood routine.
- ⇒ Arrange for continuous crime prevention training through the Unified Police Department. Consider presentations on topics such as Identity Theft, Lady Beware (protection for women), gang violence etc.

- ⇒ Cooperate to clean up and maintain your neighborhood. Adopt a needy site, such as a vacant lot, playground, or park and pick up litter, broken glass and debris.
- ⇒ Remember the slogan: “Be vigilant, not vigilantes!” Watch groups act as extra eyes and ears for the UPD.

Report Crimes

- ⇒ **Call 911 for situations involving immediate threat to life, safety, property, or nay crime in progress.**
- ⇒ **Call 743-7000 to report suspicious circumstances or any other matter you think needs the attention of a patrol officer.**



Unified Police Department



Safeguarding Your Neighborhood

*Safeguarding
Your Own
Neighborhood
Against Crime*



“Complacency provides an environment in which criminals flourish”

**UNIFIED POLICE DEPARTMENT
Sheriff James M. Winder**

www.updsl.org
743-7000

Steps to take for a "Safe Neighborhood!"

Defend Yourself

- ⇒ Pay attention to your surroundings and others nearby.
- ⇒ Carry yourself with confidence to show that you are in control.
- ⇒ Don't walk or jog alone; take a buddy or your dog.
- ⇒ Never get in a car with a stranger.
- ⇒ Stick to well-lit, well-traveled area and paths.

Instruct Your Family

- ⇒ Teach children to walk or play with a buddy and ask parental permission before going with anyone.
- ⇒ Make sure they know no one should touch them on the "Swimsuit" area of their bodies, and to report any such instances even if a family member or friend did it.
- ⇒ Report all instances of suspected child abuse

Safeguard Your Home

- ⇒ Keep all windows and doors closed and locked even when you are home.
- ⇒ Install deadbolt and peepholes.
- ⇒ Leave a front porch light on all night; motion sensing lights add extra protection.
- ⇒ Trim or eliminate shrubbery where criminal could hide

Protect Your Property

- ⇒ Share the cost of an engraving tool with neighbors. This breaks the ice and also allows everyone to get involved while marking their valuable property with a driver's license number or another number unique to you (Not your Social Security number!) This facilitates the return of stolen property.
- ⇒ Make an inventory of your valuables, including serial numbers, make and model, and store them in a safe place. Take photos or video of items for insurance purposes.

Safeguard Your Home

- ⇒ Roll the windows all the way up and always lock your car even if it is parked in the garage.
- ⇒ Never leave the keys in an unattended vehicle, even to let it warm up in the morning.
- ⇒ Use a variety of security devices, such as a steering wheel locking bar, alarm system, ignition interrupt device, glass sensor, or GPS tracking device.
- ⇒ Remove all personal property from your car.



Guarding Against Juvenile Crime & Gang Activity

- ⇒ Report and clean up all graffiti by calling 468-2182.
- ⇒ If possible, take pictures of completed graffiti for officer analysis, but remove it quickly.
- ⇒ Do not confront or intervene in illegal activities of juveniles or gang members. Call the Unified Police Department at 743-7000 for help.



Get To Know Your Neighbors...

- ⇒ Create social events such as a block party, potluck dinners, bar-b-cue's, sporting events, etc. to get to know each other and promote cooperation