

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH

What is a Block Watch?

Block Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Block Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between the police and the communities they serve.

Today, community policing allows the police and residents to work together to solve issues involving crime and social concerns in their community. Block watches are one the original foundations of community policing and are referred to as the eyes and ears of law enforcement. Members look out for neighbors and their property and report suspicious activities to the police.

But, block watches are more than looking out for suspicious activity in neighborhoods. Through community mobilization, neighbors, businesses, coworkers and students form an active partnership in the community. Watches allow individuals the opportunity to discover common interests and goals that they share with their neighbors. The residents work to prevent the possibility of crime in their area and develop a sense of community spirit that encourages more activism.

The Benefits of Joining

- **Having the fast track to reporting crime and unsafe conditions.**
- **Notifications about crime trends and scams in your neighborhood.**
- **Being a part of community crime prevention.**
- **Education on how to protect yourself and your property.**
- **Having the means to stop crime in your neighborhood.**

If you are interested in starting a Block Watch program in your neighborhood, call Chief Criminal Deputy Steve Shumate at (360) 964-1738 or email sshumate@co.grays-harbor.wa.us.

For more information on the topic of crime preventions, visit these websites:

National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC.org)

Washington State Crime Prevention Association (WSCPAonline.org)

USA on Watch (USAONWATCH.org)