

HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM



Presented By:
THE LEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHORT HISTORY OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CONCEPT

“Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and best known crime prevention concepts in North America. In the late 60’s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a crime prevention initiative focused on residential areas and involving local citizens. The National Sheriff’s Association responded, creating the National Neighborhood Watch Program in 1972, to assist citizens and law enforcement.” (p.1 Neighborhood Watch Manual, National Neighborhood Watch Program). Upon forming the program, some communities reduced burglaries by **75%!!!!!!!**

DEFINITION OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

“A Neighborhood Watch program is a group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together and in conjunction with local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve their quality of life.”



BENEFITS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- A reduction in crime.
- A better quality of life.
- A greater sense of security.
- Building community pride and unity.
- Becoming extra “eyes and ears” for law enforcement.



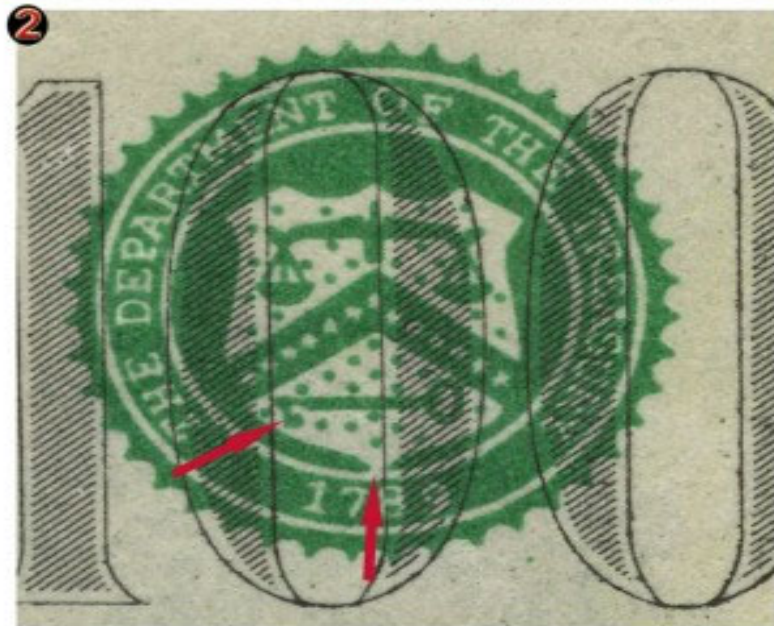
Community Watch IS a crime prevention program that:

1. Teaches citizens techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home and in public.
2. Trains citizens on the importance of recognizing suspicious activities and how to report them.
3. Teaches participants how to make their homes more secure and properly identify their property.
4. Allows neighbors to get to know each other and their routines so that any out of place activity can be reported and investigated.

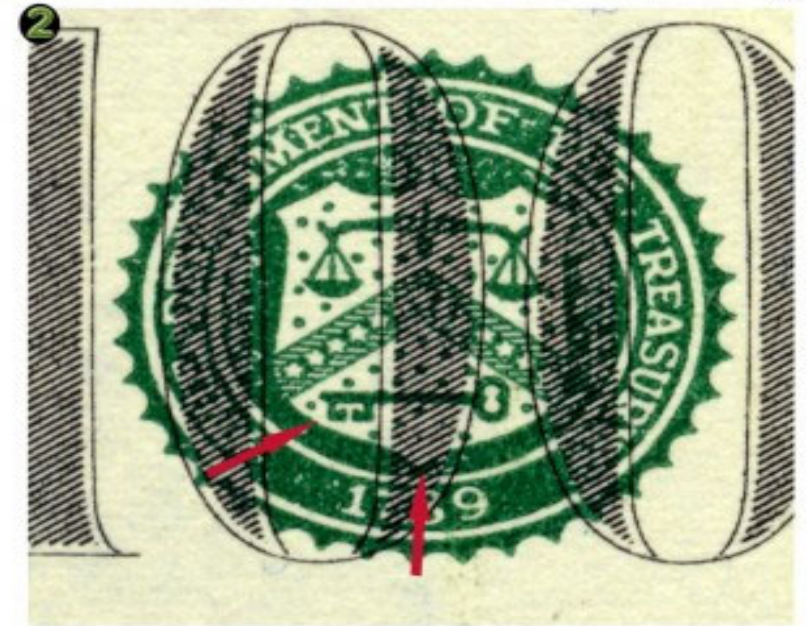
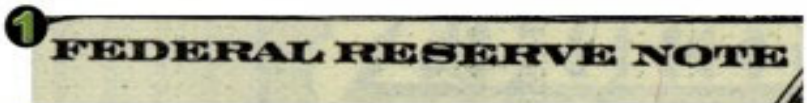


The U.S. Secret Service studies real currency to be able to spot a “counterfeit” more quickly. Study your neighbors to be able to spot any suspicious activity and report it.

COUNTERFEIT



GENUINE



If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck....it's probably a ***DUCK!!!!***



There's no such thing as a "***nosy***" neighbor in the Community Watch Program.

What a Community Watch is NOT:

1. A *vigilante* force working outside the normal procedures of law enforcement



2. A program designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime.



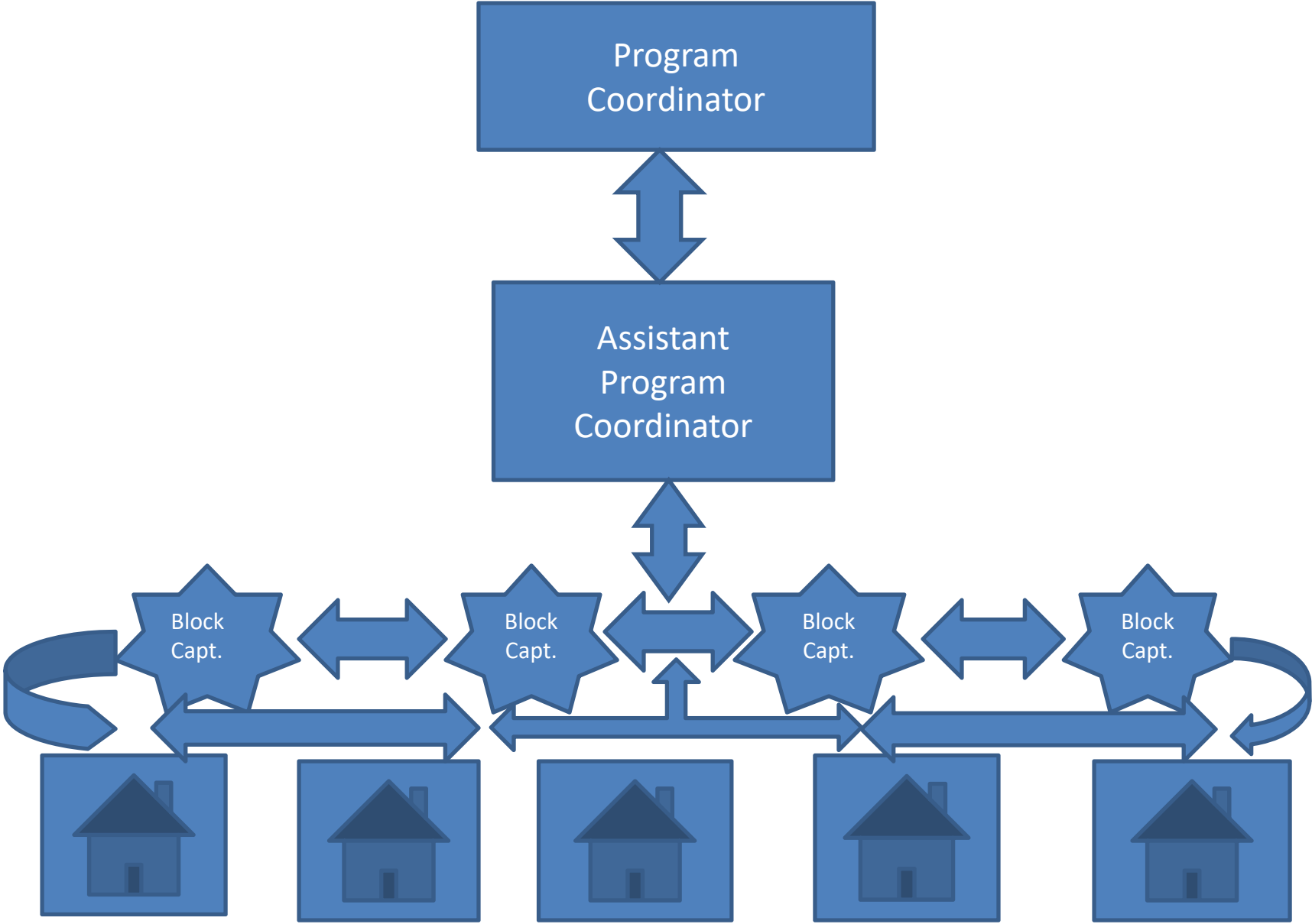
3. A 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood.



FIVE STEPS TO FORM A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- ❖ **Step 1:** Enlist as many interested neighbors as possible who are willing to help.
- ❖ **Step 2:** Contact your local law enforcement agency and set up a meeting.
- ❖ **Step 3:** At the meeting, discuss community concerns and set up organizational structure.
- ❖ **Step 4:** Hold regular meetings for training and information sharing.
- ❖ **Step 5:** Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!!!!!!!!!!!!

Organizational Chart



JOB DESCRIPTIONS

LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON:

- A member of the Lee County Sheriff's Office Community Police Division who will assist with questions and concerns.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

- Pulls together the entire Community Watch Program and ensures the goals of the program are met.

- Oversees all Crime Prevention Programs, regular meetings, and projects throughout the year.
- Arranges and schedules speakers, demonstrations, and training for the meetings.
- Ensures smooth communication among all persons in the Organizational Structure.
- Coordinates with Block Captains on recruitment of new members moving into the community.

ASSISTANT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

- The Assistant must be able to fill in for the Program Coordinator when necessary.
- The Assistant should have a working knowledge of the Program Coordinator's duties so as to assist with tasks the Coordinator is unable to perform.

BLOCK CAPTAINS:

- The heart and soul of the Community Watch Program.
- Must live in area they represent.
- Block Captains are to work closely with the Program Coordinator keeping the information from their block/area up to date.
- Must prepare a block/area map indicating individual homeowners with pertinent information (names, addresses, phone #'s).
- Keep homeowners informed about meetings, topics/training, and special projects.

- Greet new residents, moving into their area, and invite them to join the program.
- Keep residents enthused and encourage them to report any/all suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office.

INDIVIDUAL HOMEOWNERS:

- The “**eyes and ears**” of the program.
- Responsible to report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.
- Support the Community Watch by attending the meetings and getting involved.



- Designate willing homeowners as “Safe Houses” for children to run to when they feel threatened or in any danger. These homes should be identified by some form of placard or sign placed in a conspicuous location.
- Encourage homeowners to look out for each other while neighbors are on vacation.
- Community Patrol: Volunteers who walk or drive through the neighborhood. Sophistication based on funding....

SECRETS TO SUCCESS

- ✓ OWNERSHIP: The Community Watch will grow and thrive as long as community members take ownership of the program. It cannot be seen as a Sheriff's Office program. Homeowners must get involved and take ownership.
- ✓ INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION: Citizens must participate in planning, communications, management, implementation, maintenance, promotion, and publicity.

WHAT TO REPORT?

- Suspicious activities (anything that feels uncomfortable or looks out of place).
- People watching vehicles.
- Illegal activities.
- Unusual events or incidents.
- Dangerous situations.

QUESTIONS????????????



See More Crazy Pictures & Videos on Owned.com