
How Can I Help?

What are my responsibilities as a Watch Member?

- Be Alert!
- Know your neighbors and watch out for each other.
- Report ALL suspicious activities and crimes to 9-1-1.

What activities should I be on the lookout for as a Neighborhood Watch Member?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked cars.
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights.
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle.
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.
- Report these incidents to the Roanoke Police. Talk about concerns and problems with your neighbors.

How should I report these incidents?

- Call 9-1-1.
 - Give your name and address.
 - Explain what happened.
 - Briefly describe the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, distinctive characteristics, i.e., scars, marks, tattoos.
 - Explain the color, make, model and license plate of the suspect vehicle, if known.
 - If you would like to remain anonymous, please advise the 911 Dispatcher during your call.
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Where can I go for more information?

- Visit the city's Neighborhood Services web site at www.roanokeva.gov/neighborhoods to learn more about neighborhood organizations and watch groups, and how citizens can work together to make their neighborhoods places they are proud to call - home.
- Contact your Neighborhood Watch Organization leader or Roanoke Police Department listed below for additional information.

Attend the next meeting of the



Help Take a Bite Out of Crime . . .

City of Roanoke Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit
348 Campbell Avenue SW
Roanoke, VA 24011
Phone: 540-853-2132
Fax: 540-853-1278
Email: police@roanokeva.gov

. . . and join a Neighborhood Watch !



Join
A
Neighborhood Watch
and . . . TAKE A BITE OUT OF

CRIME



Join the
Greater Huntington Area
Neighborhood Watch
TODAY



A Neighborhood Watch - Getting Started -

Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Building Watch, Crime Watch what-ever the name, it's one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear

Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, and improves relations between police and the communities they serve.

Why Neighborhood Watch?

It works. Throughout the country, dramatic decreases in burglary and related offenses are reported by law enforcement professionals in communities with active Neighborhood Watch programs.

Today's transient society produces communities that are less personal. Many families have two working parents and children involved in many activities that keep them away from home. An empty house in a neighborhood where none of the neighbors know the owner is a prime target for burglary.

Neighborhood Watch also helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.

How does a Neighborhood Watch start?

A motivated individual and a few concerned residents:

1. Organize a small planning committee of neighbors to discuss needs, the level of interest, and possible community problems.
2. Contact the Police Department for help in training members in home security and reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns.

3. Hold an initial meeting to gauge neighbors interest; establish the purpose of the program and begin to identify issues that need to be addressed.
4. Ask for block captain volunteers who are responsible for relaying information to members.
5. Recruit members, keeping up-to-date information on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people.
6. Work with Roanoke Police and Neighborhood Services to install Neighborhood Watch signs.

Who can be involved?

Any community resident can join: young, old, single and married, renter and homeowner. Even the busiest of people can belong to a Neighborhood Watch. They too can keep an eye out for their neighbors as they come and go.

I live in an apartment. Can I start a Neighborhood Watch?

Yes, Watch Groups can be formed by anyone.

What does a Neighborhood Watch do?

A Neighborhood Watch is neighbors helping neighbors. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors.

Members meet their neighbors, learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and their neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the Roanoke Police.

As neighbors begin to meet neighbors, they begin to care about one another, and in turn, look out for one another...



What are the major components of a Watch Program?

1. **Meetings.** These should be set up on a regular basis such as bi-monthly, monthly, or six times a year.
2. **Citizens / Community Patrol.** A citizens patrol is made up of volunteers who walk or drive through the community and alert police to crime and question-able activities. Not all neighborhood watches need a citizens patrol.
3. **Communications.** These can be as simple as a weekly flier posted on community bulletin boards.
4. **Special events.** These are crucial to keep the program going and growing. Host talks or seminars that focus on current issues such as "hate" or bias motivated violence, crime in schools, teenage alcohol and other drug abuse, or domestic violence. Adopt a park or school playground and paint over graffiti. Sponsor a block party, holiday dinner, a volleyball or softball game which will provide neighbors a chance to get to know each other.
5. **Addressing other aspects of community safety.** For instance, start a block parent program to help children in emergency situations.

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