



## Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

## Neighborhood Watch

### Public Safety Services Division – Crime Prevention Unit

1411 Paul Kirkwold Drive • Arden Hills, Minnesota 55112

Phone: 651-266-7332 • Fax: 651-266-7337

www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

Neighbors and Deputies working together for safer communities

## Neighborhood Watch

*Making communities safer – One neighbor at a time.*

### History

The Neighborhood Watch program was launched in 1972 by the National Sheriff's Association as a vehicle for citizens to organize themselves and to work with law enforcement. The concept traces its roots back to the days of colonial settlements when night watchmen patrolled the streets.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office manages the Neighborhood Watch program for the communities that contract with the Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services. The Contract Communities include Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Little Canada, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, and White Bear Township.

### What it IS -

Neighborhood Watch is an association of neighbors who contribute to the safety and security of their neighborhood by working together with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

Together, the Sheriff's Office and neighborhood volunteers work to implement the principles of crime deterrence and detection, while encouraging the active reporting of crimes and suspicious activity.

### What it IS NOT -

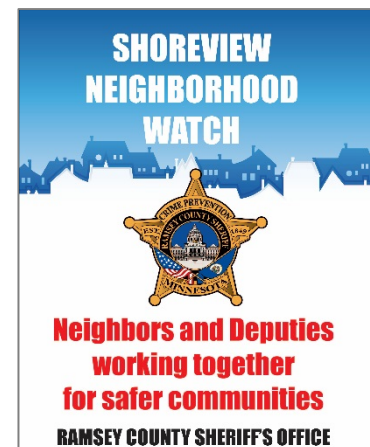
Neighborhood Watch is not a vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of law enforcement.

It is not designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime.

Participation in the program is not a 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in your neighborhood.

### Neighborhood Watch works because it is designed to:

- Teach residents simple techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized at home or in public.
- Train residents how to recognize and report suspicious activities.
- Help residents to make their homes more secure.
- Encourage neighbors to get to know each other so that any out of place activity can be recognized, reported, and investigated.
- Develop a cohesive body of concerned citizens to address issues involving the entire community.
- Improve public safety by fostering cooperation between the Sheriff's Office and the residents of our Contract Communities.



## Neighborhood Watch is simply Neighbors and Deputies working together

When neighbors know each other's names, normal patterns, and look out for each other, it is likely that they will report any activity that doesn't fit with regular schedules. Involved neighbors mean that when you are away from home you can feel more secure about your property.

Criminals know when a neighborhood has Neighborhood Watch signs posted, that neighborhood is not an easy target. Residents have taken the necessary steps to deter crime in their neighborhood and are watching out for each other. Convicted burglars have reported avoiding neighborhoods that have Neighborhood Watch signs posted.

Involved neighbors are more likely to have open communication lines with each other, deputies, and the whole community. Information sharing on crime prevention, crime trends, and law enforcement issues is a key element to the Neighborhood Watch program of the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office.

## What is required of members?

**Sign Up** - You will be asked for your name, postal address, phone number, and email address. These items are not shared with the public and are used for official contact purposes only.

**Participate** - Members attend two neighborhood meetings per year.

- **Social meeting.** Groups are highly encouraged to participate in Night to Unite for the social meeting requirement.
- **Business meeting** to discuss prevention tips, trends, and other concerns. Groups usually invite a Sheriff's representative to this meeting so that questions can be asked and answered.



**Neighborhood Watch Block Captains** (or an alternate) are asked to attend quarterly meetings hosted by the Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit. Captains then share crime prevention tips and other information learned at the meeting.

Captains are also asked to maintain a current list of their Neighborhood Watch members, to share concerns of their neighborhood with the Sheriff's Office, and to share information with neighbors.

## How to Start a Neighborhood Watch

1. **Talk to your neighbors.** See who in your neighborhood is interested in forming or participating in a Neighborhood Watch.
2. **Contact the Sheriff's Office** Crime Prevention Unit to schedule an informational meeting.
3. **Invite neighbors** and community members to attend the meeting.
4. **Elect a Block Captain.** This person is the contact person between your neighborhood and the Sheriff's Office.
5. **Ask your neighbors to sign up** for the neighborhood watch program.

**Thank you for working for safer neighborhoods!**



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**Remember – when you See Something, Say Something, Call 9-1-1**