

Join a Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries, robberies and improves relations between law enforcement and the community they serve.

The ABCs of Neighborhood Watch

- Any community resident can join.
- A few concerned residents or a community organization can spearhead the effort to organize a Neighborhood Watch.



- Participants learn how to make their homes more secure and watch out for each other. It increases awareness and encourages residents to report suspicious activity.
- You can form a Neighborhood Watch group around any geographical unit: a block, apartment complex or business area.
- Watch groups are not vigilantes! They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns such as beautification and disaster preparedness.

Getting Organized

To form a Neighborhood Watch group, contact the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Section at (904)824-8304. The deputy who is assigned to your area will provide you with information on how to get a Neighborhood Watch started, including:

- Selection of a Block Captain and Co-Captain.
- Establishing an internet or phone tree for effective neighborhood communications.
- Recruiting members and making special effort to include the elderly, working parents and young people.
- Identifying areas of concern that are specific to your neighborhood.



Staying Active

It's an unfortunate fact that when a neighborhood crime crisis goes away, so does the enthusiasm for Neighborhood Watch. The key to keeping a Neighborhood Watch group active is maintaining people's interest over a period of time.

- Organize regular meetings that focus on other issues such as recreational activities for children and emergency preparedness.
- Consider a neighborhood beautification project.
- Social events give neighbors a chance to meet each other. Host a block party, a potluck dinner, picnic or a softball game.

Doing Your Part

Report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office at (904)824-8304.

- Someone screaming or shouting for help.
- Someone looking into windows and parked cars.

- Unusual noises.
- Property being taken out of closed businesses or houses where no one is at home.
- Vehicles 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.
- Abandoned vehicles.
- Be vigilant of suspicious nighttime activity at construction sites.

Reporting Crime

Call the appropriate number, either 9-1-1 for emergencies or (904)824-8304 for non-emergencies.



- Give your name and address.
- Briefly describe the event - what happened, when, where and who was involved.
- Describe the suspect's sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing, and distinctive characteristics such as a beard, mustache, scars or accent.
- Describe the vehicle if one was involved; color, make, model, year, license plate and special features such as stickers, dents or decals.

Important Phone Numbers

Keep these numbers near the phone.

Emergency 9-1-1
 Non-Emergency (904)824-8304
 Anonymous Crime Tip Hotline..(904)824-9099
 Traffic Safety Hotline (904)810-6776
 Crimestoppers 1-866-277-TIPS(8477)

CRIME PREVENTION SECTION

SGT Kim Bucher: 810-6603

kbucher@sjsso.org

Dep Diana Bryant: 810-6694

dibryant@sjsso.org

Dep Ricky Domingo: 810-6747

rdomingo@sjsso.org

Dep Melissa Underwood: 810-3623

mswindull@sjsso.org

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control (904)209-0746

Code Enforcement (904)209-0734



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office
 David B. Shoar, Sheriff

4015 Lewis Speedway
 St. Augustine, FL 32084
 904-824-8304
www.sjsso.org

Neighborhood Watch



- ★ *The ABC's*
- ★ *Getting Organized*
- ★ *Staying Active*
- ★ *Doing Your Part*
- ★ *Reporting Crime*



St. Johns County Sheriff's Office