Nearly all studies found that Neighborhood Watch areas were associated with lower levels of crime.

—United States Department of Justice

Neighborhood watch programs work because they make life difficult for potential criminals in a number of ways. Depending on the scope of the program, watch associations can do everything from encouraging homeowners to get security inspections and upgrade locks, security hardware and lighting to organizing phone trees for quick neighborhood alerts. Watch groups also ward off potential criminal activity by keeping the neighborhood well-marked with watch signs and stickers on homes—the kinds of things that makes thieves think twice.

—National Sheriff's Association

Burglaries nationwide decreased more than 30 percent throughout the 1990s, thanks to communities taking a more active role in stopping crime before it starts. "People expect to live in their neighborhoods and have peace and quiet," says Russell Mitchell, neighborhood watch coordinator for the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in Syracuse, New York and a member of the National Neighborhood Watch Advisory Committee.

—National Neighborhood Watch Program

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING

Brochure is Provided by:

Nassau County Sheriff's Office
904-225-0331
Emergency: 9-1-1
Visit us online at www.nassauso.com

NASSAU COUNTY SHERIFF
Sheriff Bill Leeper

WARNING

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

OUR NEIGHBORS ARE WATCHING TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Neighborhood Watch
Tips & Facts

October 2013

What is suspicious activity?
—Anything that feels uncomfortable or looks out of place. Such as:

- A stranger loitering in your neighborhood or a vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly.
- Someone peering into cars or windows.
- A high volume or traffic going to and coming from a home on a daily basis.
- Someone loitering around schools, parks, or secluded areas.
- Strange odors coming from a house, building or vehicle.
- Open or broken windows or doors at a closed business or unoccupied residence.
- Someone tampering with electrical, gas, or sewer systems without an identifiable company vehicle or uniform.
- Persons arriving or leaving from homes or businesses at unusual hours.
- Multiple persons who appear to be working in unison and exhibiting suspicious behaviors.
- Signs of forced entry or tampering with security or safety systems.

You may hear it called
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH,
Home Alert, Citizen Crime Watch
or Block Watch. The idea is the same:

Neighbors looking out for each other!

Two Things to avoid in Neighborhood Watch

1. **Racial Profiling**— A young African American walking in a predominately white neighborhood is not cause for a phone call to Sheriff's Office. Instead look out for incidences such as a lot of traffic at an empty house down the street at all hours of the day; this is worth a call to the police.
2. **Taking matters into your own hands**— Neighborhood watch is a community effort in partnership with the local Sheriff's Office. Neighborhood Watches are the eyes and ears for the police for their communities. Follow the communication phone chain and allow the police to do their work. Neighborhood Watch does not condone vigilante actions.

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

- **Neighborhood watch programs create a great sense of safety in the community** – Residents in your area will feel much more comfortable walking around the neighborhood at night when they know that thieves and muggers are being deterred knowing that they are constantly under the surveillance of the neighborhood watch.
- **They help a community build a closer bond** – Residents of the neighborhood will grow closer and more trusting of their neighbors through a neighborhood watch. Local residents will be able to meet neighbors they would never have had the chance to meet before, and may make new friends in the process.

- **It helps prevent more than just crime** Your neighborhood watch can be helpful if there is an accident in your home and you become injured. They can also contact the fire department if there is a fire in your home.
- **They are proven to work** – FBI neighborhood watch program statistics show that communities that have a program are 43% less likely to have crime committed in their area. This alone should be enough motivation to start one in your area.