

Citizen participation in crime prevention is essential.



The Neighborhood Watch Program enables police and residents to work as partners to prevent crime and improve neighborhood livability.

Most

crimes are crimes of opportunity. The Neighborhood Watch program teaches us how to close the opportunity gap and take responsibility for our own safety. The Neighborhood Watch program establishes a formal network for concerned citizens to communicate with other neighbors and police regarding crime-related problems and neighborhood livability issues. The community's active involvement in crime prevention efforts is essential to fighting crime, protecting property, and ensuring neighbors remain safe.

Neighborhood Watch members become the "eyes and ears" of the police department and, consequently, are more aware and alert of the activity on their block. This program does not require frequent meetings, ask anyone to take personal risk to prevent crime, and leaves the responsibility of apprehending criminals where it belongs- with law enforcement personnel. The key to this program is getting to know your neighbors and sharing with them the responsibility of protecting your neighborhood. When neighbors care about one another and where they live, their neighborhood becomes safer and more livable.

The following programs and resources are offered through the Albany Police Department.

Detailed descriptions can be found at www.cityofalbany.net/police

Citizen's Police Academy: a course for citizens to develop awareness and understanding of the role of law enforcement in the community.

Raidsonline.com: obtain up-to-date local crime incidents happening in your neighborhood.

Report a Suspected Drug House Form: an organized method of documenting drug activity to submit to the police department.

Graffiti Removal Program: assists and educates property owners in the removal of graffiti in a timely manner.



Speed Watch Radar Trailer: a self-contained speed monitoring radar trailer, placed at the roadside, displaying the speed of on-coming vehicles. Citizens may request placement locations.

Ride-Along Patrol Observation: a unique opportunity to experience firsthand what it is like to patrol the city of Albany.

Safe and Secure Seniors Independent (SASSI): a free home security and fire safety inspection for residents 55 years and older.

Please call 541-917-7680 for more information or to discuss crime or livability issues in your area.



NEIGHBORHOOD

Watch

A Community Approach to Crime Prevention



1117 Jackson St SE, Albany, OR 97322
541-917-7680
www.cityofalbany.net/police



Neighborhood Watch participants learn how to:

- Communicate regularly with their neighbors using block maps, telephone trees, newsletters, crime summary reports, and e-mail groups.
- Recognize and report suspicious and criminal activity.
- Increase home and vehicle security.
- Increase personal safety of residents.
- Make neighborhoods less attractive to criminals.



Components of Neighborhood Watch

- **Communication:** Establishing on-going communication between residents is important to build trust and relationships that will help increase safety.
- **Attitude:** Successful crime prevention, personal safety, and neighborhood improvement are based on your attitude and willingness to make such issues a priority.
- **Relationships:** When people care about one another and where they live, their neighborhood becomes safer and more livable.
- **Habits:** Neighborhood Watch is a process of learning and implementing safety and common sense prevention tactics into everyday life.
- **Awareness:** By becoming aware of what is going on in your neighborhood you will be more likely to recognize suspicious activity and crimes in progress.
- **Action:** Through collective action, neighborhoods can often accomplish what an individual thought impossible.
- **Decreasing Opportunities for Crime:** The idea behind Neighborhood Watch is to make your home and person less inviting to criminals.
- **Barriers:** Implementing effective security mechanisms and personal safety policies are barriers to victimization.
- **Ownership:** Who owns and cares about your neighborhood? The best way to take control is to take responsibility!



Organizing a Neighborhood Watch Group

- ✓ Talk to your neighbors. Assess their interest in organizing a group. Neighborhood group size should include only the number of homes you can easily manage, usually 2-3 blocks.
- ✓ Select a date and time to hold your first meeting. Typically, a Monday through Thursday evening is convenient for most neighbors.
- ✓ Determine a location. Most often someone in your neighborhood is willing to host the meeting in their home. If not, the local library, a church, school or restaurant offers a meeting place at no cost.
- ✓ Contact the Albany Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator at 541-917-7680 and schedule your organizational meeting. They will facilitate your first meeting, discussing group organization procedures, methods of working together to deter crime and addressing neighborhood livability issues.
- ✓ Advise neighbors of when and where the meeting will be held. Meeting notice door hangers will be made available for use.
- ✓ Once your group has organized, Neighborhood Watch signs are available for purchase.



Neighborhood Watch Leader/Co-Leader Responsibilities

The Leader and Co-Leaders are selected at the initial organizational meeting. Their role is to help maintain the group over time. The on-going tasks require minimal effort; however, the continued success of the group and crime prevention depends on the commitment of the Leaders to ensure the basic concepts are carried out:

- Arrange Neighborhood Watch meetings based on individual neighborhood needs. Group meetings may be necessary only a couple times per year.
- Prepare and maintain the Block Map, Block Profile, Crime Summary and Telephone Tree.
- Distribute copies of the above documents to neighbors and the Albany Police Department Liaison.
- Collect money for Neighborhood Watch signs and work with the Albany Police Department for sign placement.
- Serve as the primary contact person between the Police Liaison and the neighborhood group.
- Receive the Albany Police Neighborhood Watch Newsletter and disseminate among group members.
- Encourage neighbors to report crimes and suspicious activity to the Albany Police Department. Share information with neighborhood group to prevent further crimes.
- Contact new neighbors and provide Neighborhood Watch information and materials.
- Facilitate problem solving to resolve neighborhood issues.



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**