Notes from GNEKNA NW meeting; Jan 2025

* A successful first meeting...
  + Advertise the meeting in advance. Post invitations throughout the neighborhood.
  + Make it brief (less than two hours).
  + Arrange for a large enough meeting space, one that is accessible to people with disabilities.
  + Establish purposes and objectives up front.
  + Select a chair/coordinator, at least a temporary one.

Organizing Your Neighborhood Watch Program;

* Select leaders (chair/coordinator, block captains, committee chairs) with an eye toward interest, “people skills,” and commitment. Elections work well for most groups.
* Duties of chair/coordinator: Works to sustain and expand program; maintains current list of participants, arranges training, obtains crime prevention materials, coordinates with police and outside partners.

Leaders should not serve forever. Rotate

leadership periodically.

* Even the most energetic and dedicated leaders lose stamina
* New leadership needs to be constantly trained to move up
* Appreciate and reward leaders. Say thanks publicly.
* Operation Identification is a burglary/theft prevention program that involves indelibly marking and/or engraving property with traceable ownership identification.
* It has four purposes: to deter crime, to provide positive identification, to help with prosecution, and to aid property recovery.
* Contact your local law enforcement agency about getting involved.
* Encourage residents to participate in Operation Identification.

Neighborhood Coordinator

Coordinates activities of Block Captains and Block Watchers, Recruits neighborhood residents into the Watch program. Acts as a liaison with the police department and the neighborhood, distributes information – use web, Facebook and email

Plans and conducts crime watch meetings as needed and develop ways that work for each group. Develops communication systems and maintains a phone/email tree this may vary from group to group. The Coordinator or President should have copies of all this for tracking and to have as a backup should something happen.

2. Block Captain

Host a Crime Watch meeting for the people on their block, Recruit neighborhood residents into the Crime Watch program by visiting each home, apartment, and/or business in their block, announcing the meeting and encouraging neighbors to participate.

Contact neighbors who have not responded to fliers, emails or participated in the program,  Distribute Crime Prevention materials to those residents who were unable to attend meetings. Be a liaison between the residents and the Neighborhood Coordinator, assist Neighborhood Coordinator by communicating with law enforcement.

Representatives

Promote and distribute a copy of all scheduled Crime Watch meetings, upcoming events, and special activities to everyone on their block.

3. Block Watchers

Acts as eyes and ears for their neighbors and reports suspicious activities.  Studies crime prevention materials furnished to them. Checks neighbors' homes when they are out of town. Cooperates and assists the Block Captain.

Participates in Operation Identification

How Much Time Do I Have to Spend? As much or as little time as you want.

How Can I "Sell" the Idea of a Neighborhood Watch to My Neighbors?

Tell your neighbors that: Neighborhood Watch is a return to the "old-fashioned" days when neighbors took care of neighbors and communicated with police.

The program helps reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim. It helps a community become stronger and more unified. It generates a concern of neighbors for each other. For instance, during bad weather, whether hot or cold, neighbors can check in on other neighbors.

Neighborhood Watch lets neighbors know that someone will be there in case of a

personal crisis such as a fire, flood, or crime. There is greater access to criminal activity information. Having a Neighborhood Watch sign posted lets criminals know that the neighborhood is not an easy target. Convicted burglars have reported avoiding neighborhoods that have these signs.

It gives neighbors an opportunity to have block parties, covered dish suppers, or a street dance. It's an opportunity to beautify the neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch provides a forum for programs and an opportunity to meet officials in the community. It is a network of different neighborhoods working together.

Survey; this helps define the needs

Discuss the concerns you have about your area such as the following (check all that apply): \_\_\_\_\_need for neighborhood association and sense of community \_\_\_\_\_over-turned garbage cans \_\_\_\_\_broken glass \_\_\_\_\_child safety \_\_\_\_\_elderly neighbors \_\_\_\_\_animal abuse \_\_\_\_\_animal noise issues \_\_\_\_\_loud music/noise \_\_\_\_\_peeping toms \_\_\_\_\_prowlers \_\_\_\_\_code enforcement issues \_\_\_\_\_auto/property vandalism \_\_\_\_\_garden/garden supply theft \_\_\_\_\_hazardous traffic issues \_\_\_\_\_vehicle thefts/burglaries \_\_\_\_\_vacant buildings \_\_\_\_\_accumulation of hazardous junk in yards and alleys \_\_\_\_\_residential burglaries \_\_\_\_\_parking violation \_\_\_\_\_other

Sample letter of invitation Use a letter of invitation in conjunction with flyer to promote the first meeting.

Dear Fellow Resident,

Neighborhood Watch is a very effective program to prevent many crimes such as burglaries, assaults and drug dealing. Neighborhood Watch promotes awareness that will help ensure the safety of you, your loved ones, and your neighbors. I want to see if there is interest in starting a Neighborhood Watch group for our block (neighborhood?).

I hope that you will join me at my house on [date] at [time] at [address]. Together, we can help keep crime off our block (out of our neighborhood?) for good. Sincerely, [name] [phone number]

The best thing about Neighborhood Watch is that it is so easy. Looking out for your neighbors takes very little time, and it benefits everyone.

What to do:

Exchange basic information with trusted neighbors: home and work telephone numbers, daily routine of your family, planned vacations or visitors, scheduled deliveries and repairs, and your alarm system.

Report any unusual or suspicious activities to the Coffeyville Police by calling 911. Don't hesitate to call; there is a direct connection between an increase in calls for service and a reduction in crime!

Make note of the descriptions of suspicious persons and vehicles. Write down license plate numbers and directions of travel. Take note of the color of the vehicle, what the suspicious persons was wearing, time of day, etc. Give as much specific information as possible.

Keep neighbors informed of houses that will be unoccupied for extended periods of time. Look after neighbors' houses when they are away. Volunteer to collect their mail, newspapers and other deliveries. A stack of several newspapers is a good indication to a burglar that no one is home!

Consider an email, Facebook or voice mail system, Request Neighborhood Watch Signs. Signs alert criminals to the fact that they are entering a Watch neighborhood.

Consider establishing a regularly scheduled email newsletter. LET THE POLICE APPREHEND CRIMINALS. NEVER PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER.

What Are Suspicious Activities?

If you detect any suspicious activity in your neighborhood or anywhere, call the Police Department. Do not worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove to be unfounded. It is better to think of what could happen if you didn't act.

Suspicious Vehicles

1. Certain moving vehicles - slow-moving vehicles without lights which seem to be following no deliberate path. This is suspicious in any location, but especially in school areas, parks and playgrounds. The occupants of the car may be "casing" for sex offenses, drug pushing or for places to rob.

2. Certain parked, occupied vehicles - may contain one or more persons. This situation is especially significant if observed at an unusual hour in a commercial area. The car may indicate a lookout for a burglary in progress.

3. Vehicles being loaded with valuables - suspicious if parked in front of a closed business or vacant residence - even if the vehicle is a legitimate-looking commercial vehicle.

4. Abandoned vehicle - possibly stolen.

5. Vehicle containing weapons - suspicious under most circumstances - may be used for criminal

activity.

6. Other unusual activities involving vehicles:

Persons attempting forcibly to enter a vehicle, Person’s "stripping" a car, especially at night or in parking lots. Apparent business transactions in a vehicle, especially if around schools or parks, involving juveniles; Possible drug sales, Dome lights left on for extended times, ajar doors, broken windows. Person being forced into vehicles - especially if females or juveniles

How Do I Report Suspicious Activity or a Crime?

1. Call the Police. Dial 911 for emergencies or dial of the non-emergency number at  **Non-emergency Dispatch Number:**[503-390-2000](tel:1-503-390-2000) .  **Business Phone Number:** [503-390-3713](tel:1-503-390-3713)

If you are not sure if the incident qualifies as an emergency, call 911 when in doubt!

2. Identify yourself by your name and address and relay the information. Example: I am Jane Smith of 1415 S Elm, a member of Neighborhood Watch. There is a suspicious female entering into my neighbor's house at 1417 S Elm. She is out of town and her son is the only one who is supposed to be at the house.

3. Give the exact location of the crime or activity.

4. Use active, present tense verbs. There is a burglary in progress or there is suspicious activity

in progress and there is someone there now.

5. Remain in contact with the dispatcher until all of the necessary information has been obtained.

6. Do not personally confront the situation. Await the arrival of a Keizer Police Officer.

In an emergency, when reporting an incident to the Keizer Police Dept., you may be asked to repeat the address. This is to ensure that the address is correct and understood. While the dispatcher is asking you questions, which may seem indirectly related to the actual incidence of the crime, such as your name and address, a patrol car has already been dispatched to the scene of the emergency. The additional information may be required in order to determine the need for more emergency equipment.

Care Enough to Call

If any of the above situations deemed suspicious are observed, the citizen is advised to

call the Keizer Police Department and report:

1. What has happened 2. Where it happened 3. When it happened 4. If anyone was injured

5. License number of suspicious vehicle 6. Description of suspicious vehicle

7. Description of suspicious persons 8. In what direction the suspicious vehicle/suspicious person went

What response to expect in regard to your call: If the crime is in progress, e.g., the burglar is still in your home or your neighbor’s home, your call will be answered immediately. When making your call, BE SURE TO USE THE WORDS “IN PROGRESS!”

If the crime has already been committed, e.g., you have come home and found your home has been burglarized, a slower response should be expected. The first priority in answering calls is for crimes in progress. Once these calls have been answered, the officer will go to the requested location.

What Else Do Neighborhood Watch Organizations Do?

Identify Property; The Identifying property with personal marks deters burglars, assists in arrest and prosecution of criminals, and facilitates the return of stolen property.

Guidelines:

Mark valuables by inscribing your initials and a number. An example number could be the last four of your DL number. Jane Smith may have the DL number K99016009. So, she could put: JS6009. DO NOT use your social security number.

Complete two copies of a property list. Provide a description of the item, its make, model, size, color, serial number, purchase date and amount.

Photograph, in color, all valuables that cannot be marked (China, silver, furs, jewelry, etc.) and file with the property list.

List and file credit card companies, phone numbers and account numbers with the property list.

Keep one copy of the property list at home, and another in a safe deposit box or other secure location.

Participate in Neighborhood or Block Sponsored Events; Suggested events

* + Have everyone in the neighborhood display their outdoor lights
  + Organize "front porch vigils"
  + Block parties
  + Cookouts or pot luck meals
  + Request a visit by local police, rescue squad, fire department, etc.
  + Parades
  + Flashlight walks

Contests and games, Youth programs, Softball games, Live music

Keep Your Crime Watch Active!! Keep Up the Good Work!