



# Neighborhood Watch Program



## Reasons for NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

### **Basic Crime Prevention:**

Practice crime safety measures that eliminate opportunities for criminals. Encourage others to join in crime prevention efforts. Aid others when they become victims of crime. Work for a better and safer neighborhood through protecting and honoring the rights of others.



### **Disaster Preparedness:**

Learn skills to prepare for man-made and natural disasters. Local, state and federal government do a lot to prepare for disasters but citizens have to be ready to care for each other. Encourage citizen involvement in preparation and planning.



### **Build a Stronger Community:**

Get to know your neighbors. In our face-paced world we don't spend enough time learning about our neighbors. Watch groups give community members a reason to get together and talk about making their community a better place. Neighborhood Watch Activities are a fun way for community members to get to know each other while making a difference.



### **Getting Started!**

- Talk with your neighbors about starting a Watch Group. If the majority of homes on your street are interested, contact The Benicia Police Department.
- The Police Department will help to pick a date for the initial meeting and provide informational material.
- Select a Block Captain(s) who will be responsible for organizing meetings and relaying information to members. The Block Captain will also act as the liaison between the community and the Police Department. We can help you with information and materials to help make your meetings a success. The Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator, Patti Woodside, can be reached at (707) 746-4268 or [pwoodside@ci.benicia.ca.us](mailto:pwoodside@ci.benicia.ca.us)

### **Next Steps:**

- Report Emergencies (see "Reporting an Incident" flyer for what to watch out for and how to report emergencies)
- **Keep your Neighborhood Watch Group Active**
- Organize Regular Meetings – Crime related issues, Neighborhood issues, Get to know one another
- Host Social Events – Block Parties, Potluck Dinners, Sporting Events, Picnics . . .
- Participate in National Night Out! The first Tuesday in August or October each year, National Night Out is a great opportunity for neighbors, Police Officers, and Fire Fighters to get together!
- Adopt a park or school playground. Pick up litter, repair broken equipment, paint over graffiti . . .

**If you and your neighbors are committed to partnering with the Police Department and reducing crime in your neighborhood, contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator today!**

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