

## WHY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

- Over 35.3 million crimes are committed every year.
- Burglary, auto theft, rape, child molestations and arson are the most prevalent neighborhood crimes.
- One in four of all households are victimized by violence or theft.
- Property crimes out number violent crimes nine to one.
- ***90% of criminals are amateurs who commit crimes because of easy targets and opportunities.***
- Criminals tend to see out unsightly and uninvolved neighborhoods to commit their crimes.
- Household burglary is one of the easiest crimes to commit and ***prevent...*** but one of the hardest to solve.
- Vandalism occurs more often in littered and uninvolved neighborhoods. This costs Ohio taxpayers over \$800,000 per year.
- In communities around the state where neighborhoods have banded together with law enforcement and organized crime prevention programs, they have witnessed as much as a 50% reduction in crime.

## *Mansfield Division of Police Needs Your Help in Reporting Crime.*

- Do you have information about:
- Drug Dealers?
- Drug Users?
- Crime Suspects?
- Past Crimes or Future Crimes?
- Location(s) of Stolen Property?
- Wanted Fugitives?

Help your community become a better place to live and raise your family. Call the Mansfield Division of Police at:

Crime Hotline:  
**52-CRIME**  
(522-7463)

Lines available 24 hours a day.  
All calls are strictly confidential.

**“Get involved today”**

**For more information call:**

**Neighborhood Impact Section  
Mansfield Division of Police  
419.755.9724**

City of Mansfield  
Division of Police



WHY GET  
INVOLVED IN  
YOUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
WATCH?



Got a Minute?  
Get the Facts...

**Neighborhood Impact Section 419.755.9724  
Crime Prevention & Education**

# HELP FIGHT CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

## What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in their communities. Networks of neighbors are trained by crime prevention officers on how to protect themselves and their property as well as how to serve effectively as additional eyes and ears of law enforcement.

### *IT INVOLVES:*

- Neighbors getting to know each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.
- Citizens being trained to recognize and report suspicious and criminal activities in their neighborhood, such as burglary, larceny, vandalism, and littering.
- Implementation of crime prevention techniques such as home security, suspect identification, Operation Identification and community clean up.
- REMEMBER-law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once-but you and your neighbors can put that neighborhood "know how" to work.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

### *IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:*

- ◇ Involve yourself and others...don't be part of the problem...be part of the solution.
- ◇ Contact the Mansfield Police Department and explain that you are interested in joining or starting a neighborhood watch group.
- ◇ If you spot something suspicious-call the police immediately.
- ◇ Keep an eye on your neighbor's children and ask them to keep an eye on yours.
- ◇ Participate in Operation Identification and other security programs for your home.
- ◇ Set up a neighborhood clean-up and beautification program. Organize a campaign to clean out debris and brush from parks and wooded areas.
- ◇ Inform others in your neighborhood on the importance of a safe and clean community.
- ◇ BE AWARE-know your neighbors' routines and keep an eye on their home when they are away.
- ◇ BE COOPERATIVE-talk to your neighbors.



### *WHILE AT HOME:*

- ◇ Install good deadbolt locks in your doors, and avoid locks that can be manipulated by breaking glass to reach inside.
- ◇ Install a door viewer (peephole).
- ◇ Trim back shrubbery that hides doors or windows and tree limbs that lead to the second story.
- ◇ Lock all doors and windows. Sliding doors may be secured by dropping a broomstick into the inside track.
- ◇ Demand credentials before admitting a salesman or repairman.
- ◇ Dial the number yourself if a stranger asks to use your telephone. Do not let anyone you don't know enter your home.
- ◇ Teach your children how to answer the door and phone if they are home alone. Also, practice emergency telephoning with them.

### *WHILE AWAY:*

- ◇ When going out, leave one or more lights on, with the stereo playing. Use a timer for long absences.
- ◇ Don't leave your keys hidden around your doorway...that's the first place a criminal will look.
- ◇ Discontinue mail, newspaper, etc., and have your grass mowed if you plan to be away.
- ◇ Make sure your parking spot or garage is not numbered to correspond to your apartment number, so people will not know if you are not home.