



City Council Corner

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The City of Taylorville has multiple independent neighborhood watch programs operating throughout the City. They operate as individual groups, with varying degrees of approach and participation. What they all share, however, is the common goal of reducing crime in and around their respective neighborhood, through good communication, ownership, and a desire for a better community!

Neighborhood Watch was officially unveiled in 1972 by police leaders in an attempt to unite law enforcement agencies with private organizations and communities as a whole. The initiative has grown into a national presence of nearly 70,000 est. neighborhood watch groups operating throughout the country.

Statistics suggest that communities with an active neighborhood watch program can expect a 35-45% reduction in overall crime, with even higher reductions in property crimes, such as burglary, vehicle prowling, and vandalism. The reasoning for this is simple: No one knows the neighborhood better than those living, socializing, and recreating in the area. Personal knowledge of families, vehicles, and schedules of those in the community can prove invaluable in knowing when something may be “suspicious.”

In addition to providing that ever watchful eye on their community, some groups provide monthly or quarterly meetings to discuss trends, ideas, and crime prevention possibilities. These meetings are a great opportunity for new neighbors to be introduced and for your local police representative to discuss with the group, pending issues or trends in the respective neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch can be an effective tool in reducing crime in an area and a catalyst for assembling neighbors with a common positive goal.

The hours and resources spent on Neighborhood Watch are typically met with substantial dividends to the community in which they are serving! If you are interested in participating with or starting a new neighborhood watch group, please contact the City of Taylorville Police Department at 801-955-2000 for additional information.

Your Taylorville City Council,

Bud Catlin (District 1), Morris Pratt (District 2), Jerry Rechtenbach (District 3),
Dama Barbour (District 4), Larry Johnson (District 5)

(Article information and statistics were provided by Sergeant Tracy Wyant of the Taylorville Police Department)