



The Neighborhood Watch program is national in scope, organized and successfully implemented in thousands of communities throughout the country in the early 1970's. Until that time, traditional law enforcement was primarily reactive, with officers responding to crime after it occurred. This did little to reduce increasing crime rates. Proactive programs such as Neighborhood Watch, D.A.R.E., Code 4, Business Watch, Block homes, etc., began in the early 70's. These proactive programs have been beneficial tools for both law enforcement and communities across the United States in the "prevention of crime."

Champaign's Neighborhood Watch Program supports...

- Organized and coordinated efforts by concerned citizens who are committed to reducing crime in their neighborhoods.
- Cooperation with the local Police Department.
- Proactive and promotion of various crime prevention and home security measures.

Neighborhood Services Department
Neighborhood Coordination Division

102 N Neil St

Champaign IL 61820

(217) 403-7070 • fax (217) 403-7090

www.ci.champaign.il.us

CGTV-Cable Channel 5

neighborhoodservices@ci.champaign.il.us



Neighborhood Watch Program



**Neighborhood Services
Department**

**Neighborhood
Coordination Division**

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?

Statistics show that community crime prevention programs, and proactive law enforcement, are more effective in reducing crime than re-active actions and programs.

Neighborhood Watch

Establishes a formal network for groups to **communicate** with neighbors, the Police Department and the Neighborhood Services Department regarding crime related problems.

Reduces the opportunity for crimes to take place.

Puts **community spirit** back into the neighborhood.

Creates unity between neighbors where folks care about each other and watch out for each other's families and property.

Neighborhood Watch Members

- Watch for and report suspicious persons, noises, vehicles and activities.
- Report criminal activities to the Champaign Police.
- Protect their homes by installing dead bolt locks and other auxiliary locking devices.
- Encourages homeowners to use automatic timers to control doors and lights inside and outside their homes.
- Identify personal belongings by engraving a security number on them.
- Watch members take precautionary measures recommended by the Police Department including, watching for suspicious persons, vehicles and unusual activities, in the neighborhood.

***Working together as a team,
Neighborhood Watch groups,
Neighborhood Services Department, and
law enforcement officers can reduce the
opportunities for crime.***

Neighborhood Watch Signs

Neighborhood Watch Signs help to identify neighborhoods that watch out for each other and who report suspicious activities to the Police.



Neighborhood groups are encouraged to purchase signs for their neighborhoods.

Registered groups can purchase up to four signs at a cost of \$29.00 **each** including installation and replacement by the City.

The Neighborhood Watch group must maintain its Neighborhood Watch signs. Maintenance includes notifying the City if signs need repairs or replacing. After the initial purchase of the signs, replacements are provided for active groups.

ACTIVE GROUPS are groups that update annually. If Neighborhood Groups do not update their membership for two consecutive years signs may be removed.