



Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

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Sheriff J. Grayson Robinson

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What is Neighborhood Watch ?

Neighborhood Watch is:

1. Citizens and Sheriff's Office deputies working in partnership to reduce crimes and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.
2. A cohesive body of citizens addressing issues that concern the entire community.
3. Neighbors getting to know each other, taking the time to care about each other and working together in a program of mutual assistance.

A comprehensive Neighborhood Watch Program in your neighborhood, whether it is a high crime area or not, will have many rewards to you, your family and your neighbors.

Neighborhood Watch programs are known to instill a greater sense of security, well-being and reduce the fear of crime in your community, as well as create a greater sense of community, by putting the "neighbor" back into neighborhood. The residents that live in an area know the needs of that neighborhood area better than anyone else. By communicating with each other and working together as a team, your community can make a difference.

Contact **Deputy Brian McKnight at 720-874-3750** or **Deputy Amir Stephen at 720-874-3752** for more information and to set up your first meeting.

Organizing a Neighborhood Watch Group

The ABCs of Neighborhood Watch

- Any community resident can join -- young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner. A few concerned residents or a community organization can spearhead the effort to organize a watch group.
- Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for others in their neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions.
- You can form a Watch group around any geographical unit: a block, apartment complex, park, business area, public housing complex, office, etc.
- Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Neighborhood Watch helps build pride and can serve as a springboard for efforts that address community concerns such as recreation for youth, child care, and affordable housing.



How To Get Your Group Started

Contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for help in training members in home security, reporting skills and for information on local crime patterns. Please coordinate your first meeting so that a Crime Prevention Deputy can attend.

Plan your first meeting for a weeknight at someone's home, yard, recreation center, local park, school or church. Don't plan to have other speakers or activities. Think of this as a business meeting. Meetings typically take approximately one hour.

Select a coordinator and block captains who are responsible for organizing meetings and relaying information to members.

Recruit members, keeping up-to-date on new residents and making special efforts to involve the elderly, working parents, and young people. See sample flyer attached.

Work with your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator to put up Neighborhood Watch signs after at least 75% of all households have attended a meeting.

Plan "get-togethers" during

the year to maintain neighborhood relationships. After your first year as an active Neighborhood Watch group, you must meet on an annual basis, submitting a sign-in sheet to the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator in order to be considered an active group.

Annual block parties are a fun activity for the neighborhood once the group has been formed. National Night Out is a great event to consider for the annual get-together during the month of August.

10 steps to starting a neighborhood Watch

Step One:

Define your neighborhood geographically. Start small – 30 to 35 homes – so you and your neighbors can get to know everyone.

Step Two:

Talk to your neighbors. Do they know that a Neighborhood Watch program is fun? What are their issues? What nights are they available for a meeting?

Step Three:

Call the Arapahoe County

Sheriff's Office's Crime Prevention Unit at 720-874-3746 and schedule a mutually agreeable date for the first meeting. Tell the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator about any issue or concern that may be brought up at the meeting.

Step Four:

Ask neighbors to be Co-Captains (one neighbor per 15 homes).

Step Five:

Start a committee with interested neighbors to plan the first meeting. Assign someone to: market/advertise the meeting, make/buy food, meeting logistics (name tags, copy of sign-in sheet, pens). Focus on the "3 F's" which are Food, Fun and Free things.

Step Six:

Advertise the meeting to your neighbors! Invite ALL your neighbors (in your geographical area). Talk to everyone when you get the opportunity. Deliver flyers to each home. Involve the children of your community by asking them to help by delivering the flyers.

Step Seven:

Call to confirm with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office's Crime Prevention Unit representative 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Step Eight:

Set up a welcome table before the meeting begins with the sign-in sheet, name tags, and any applicable material provided by the Sheriff's Office.

Step Nine:

Introduce the Neighborhood Watch Speaker that will present on Neighborhood Watch. The presentation will last approximately 45 minutes followed by 10 minutes of questions. After the meeting, schedule a follow-up meeting with your group (an Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office representative does not have to attend the second and subsequent meetings). Thank everyone who attended and acknowledge those who helped or neighborhood businesses that donated items. Invite neighbors to remain and get to know each other.

Step Ten:

Thank those who helped.

Preventing Auto Theft

- Don't leave your car running unattended. (Did you know that it is illegal in the state of Colorado to leave your keys in a running vehicle? CRS 42-4-1206).
- Always close and secure your garage door. No matter the time of day, Thieves are always looking for the split second they need to take something you worked hard for.
- Do not leave keys in your vehicle. (Even if you lock your car it only takes a second for a car thief to break the window and make off with your car).
- Always lock your doors. A car thief will look for the cars that aren't locked first because those are the easiest targets.
- Report all suspicious persons and activities to the Sheriff's Office immediately.

There are no guarantees in life; however, following these simple safety suggestions will help to reduce the chances that you may become the victim of an auto thief.

Reporting **SUSPICIOUS** activity?

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office cannot combat crime efficiently and effectively without the assistance of concerned citizens. You are the eyes and the ears of the Sheriff's Office; we depend on you to report criminal activity in the community. Citizens report 99% of all crimes.

People often hesitate to call the Sheriff's Office for fear of being labeled a nosy neighbor, or because they assume that someone else has already called. It has been observed that in neighborhoods where the number of suspicious activity calls increased, crimes such as burglaries, have decreased. This is a direct result of the participation of concerned neighbors.

The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office encourages citizens to report suspicious activity. Suspicious activity can be any person, act, event, vehicle or situation that appears questionable. Trust your instincts! If it "just does not seem right to you," that is when you should call the Sheriff's Office.

For example:

"See it"-- If you see suspicious activity, report it. The Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office relies on early and accurate information from citizens in reporting suspicious activity. You and your neighbors can be the first to spot a burglar in or around a home, or a strange car in a driveway.

"Hear it"-- Listen for suspicious activity. Unusual sounds, barking dogs, or even the sound of motion sensor lights activating can be results of prowlers or suspicious vehicles. Everyone should get in the habit of looking outside their windows, especially if noises wake you at night.

"Report it"-- Remember, you are the eyes and ears for your community. Report suspicious activity immediately. Anything that seems slightly out of place or does not look right could be criminal activity. When calling, be sure to report the reason for your call, your observations and the location of the activity.

If you see suspicious activity or need to report a crime, call (303) 795-4711 or 911 for emergencies.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training October 3, 10, 17, 24

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.

The CERT course is taught in the community by a trained team of first responders who have completed a CERT Train-the-Trainer course conducted by their state training office for emergency management, or FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI), located in Emmitsburg, Maryland. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations.

Help serve your community and country by joining the Arapahoe Community Emergency Response Team. Classes will be held at the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The first four Saturdays in October. Attendees will be involved in hands-on activities and casual attire is suggested. Contact Becky Trayler at 720-874-4186 or btrayler@co.arapahoe.co.us to guarantee your reservation.



2009 Citizens Academies

Citizen Academy

April 9-May 7, 2009

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday April 18, and May 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The graduation is on May 7.

September 1-29, 2009

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday September 12, and 26 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Participation in the academy requires a commitment of two nights a week, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., for the 5-week period, and two Saturdays. There is no fee for the academy, but each academy is limited to 30 individuals, 21 years of age or older.

Academy Activities Include

- History of Law Enforcement
- Building Tours
- Arrest Control Techniques
- Firearms Demonstrations
- K-9 Demonstration
- Crime Lab
- Investigations
- S.W.A.T.

If you are interested in attending one of these academies, please contact Deputy Brian McKnight at 720-874-3750 or bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us

You will be sent an academy application. All participants must complete an application of intent and pass a criminal background check. Applicants will not be allowed to participate unless a release of liability has been signed and turned in prior to the start of the academy.

Once an academy is full, applicants will be placed on an eligibility list for the next academy.



Evaluations from past students

“Every night in class was a learning experience”

“Every family should have a member attend the academy”

“Absolutely outstanding”

“The Academy far exceeded my expectations in so many ways”

“I just wanted to pass along my thanks to you and your co-workers for the opportunity I had in learning about the Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Dept. I looked forward to Tuesday and Thursday nights and really enjoyed all of the demonstrations, interactive activities, discussions, and guest speakers you provided in your classes.”



Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office

Community Resource Section

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MISSION STATEMENT

*Committed to Quality Service With an Emphasis on Integrity,
Professionalism and Community Spirit*

Additional Resources

Crime Mapping

Crime mapping geographically represents criminal activity based on search criteria that you enter, i.e. date range, address, and type of crime. Additionally, crime mapping helps the Sheriff's Office to more effectively understand why crimes happen, become more intelligent in policing, and successfully design crime reduction and prevention responses. Crime mapping does not display calls to the Sheriff's Office that do not lead to a determination that a crime has been committed, nor does it include some less serious crimes such as shoplifting. To protect victim's privacy, complete addresses are not displayed.

Sex Offender Info.

Search for registered sex offenders using our map-based or text-based search.

Sheriff Citizen Notification

Interested in timely information regarding Sheriff's Office activities, criminal bulletins, and public safety information in the county.