

2014 Briarwood Patio Homes Security Briefing Overview

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At the Annual Meeting, I recommended that we renew our Neighborhood Watch program, which was previously started but has fallen into disuse. I reviewed the history and usefulness of the program as well as the data from a useful website we all can use.

The History of the Neighborhood Watch Program

Started in 1972 by the National Sheriff's Organization, Neighborhood Watch is the cornerstone of all crime prevention programs. It enlists the active participation of residents, in cooperation with police, to reduce crimes in the community through education and promoting cooperation toward mutual community safety.

Education

Neighborhood Watch is a critical communications tool for our community. It helps the GVPD inform you about crime in Golden Valley and how criminals are operating. There are many misconceptions, often supported by stories from other parts of the country, about how criminals operate. Neighborhood Watch educates you about local crime trends and criminals. The more you know about crime, the better you'll be able to recognize suspicious activity in your neighborhood and report it by calling 911. That gives police the opportunity to check out what may or may not be a crime and perhaps prevent a criminal from making another victim in our community. .

Cooperation

Neighborhood Watch also gives the GVPD the opportunity to answer your questions and learn about your concerns so we may serve you better. Neighborhood Watch window stickers and street signs warn criminals that they are in an active Neighborhood Watch area and that neighbors are watching out for each other and will call the police.

To begin, work with the GVPD to arrange an introduction meeting between neighbors and the GVPD. The GVPD will talk about crime in Golden Valley, how local criminals operate, what to recognize as suspicious, how to use 911, how to protect yourself and your home, and what a difference Neighborhood Watch can make.

The Benefits to Neighborhood Watch

The GVPD keeps Watch members informed about crime and trends that may affect the community. Once the GVPD receives a copy of your block map, Neighborhood Watch street signs will be posted in your neighborhood. Provided by the Golden Valley Crime Prevention Fund, these signs warn criminals that your Neighborhood Watch group immediately reports all suspicious activity and communicates with the police.

All Neighborhood Watch members also receive the *Neighborhood WatchBlog* e-newsletter, which provides information about safety and security issues, prevention programs, and available resources.

Does Neighborhood Watch Reduce Crime?

Yes. Background: Neighborhood Watch is a community crime prevention program that was launched by the National Sheriffs' Association in 1972 to encourage citizens to look out for each other, work on neighborhood problems, and make themselves safer. Today, more than 40 percent of Americans live in areas covered by Neighborhood Watch groups.

Research Findings

- Overall, 53% of the 36 studies demonstrated positive effects of Neighborhood Watch, defined as a reduction in crime of nine percent or more
- The meta-analysis found that Neighborhood Watch was associated with a relative reduction in crime of about 16 percent, considered a “small favorable effect”

Source: Trevor Bennett, Katy Holloway, and David P. Farrington, “Does Neighborhood Watch Reduce Crime: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis,” *Journal of Experimental Criminology* (2006), Vol. 2, pp. 437-458.

Risk Assessment – What Does our Neighborhood Look Like?

In short, a brief review of the crime activity plots suggests that we are in a small pocket of reduced crime, but that a time scan review reveals that the North Minneapolis crime activity is growing toward us. We need to be more cautious and aware of our surroundings in the coming five years, as ignoring early signs of crime and gang activity usually leads to a rise in crime and then it is too late to stop the trend. See the data for yourself at:

<http://www.raidsonline.com/?address=Golden%20Valley,MN>

Next Steps:

Joe Yenkosky will:

1. Receive permission to further research what needs to be done to renew our Neighborhood Watch Program and report back to the Board and at the August 5th Briarwood National Night Out event.
2. Contact and organize with the Golden Valley Police Department before that date
3. Send out a flier to all residents (after Board approval of content) that suggests a June 2014 date for each of us to make basic contact with our neighbors. This is important because we only protect what and who we know and care about. This will include a set of cards to facilitate contact and conversation.
4. At the next National Night Out and Annual Meeting, Joe will outline progress and further steps toward our community program.