



Neighborhood Helping Hands

TO: City of Lovejoy - Residents and Business Owners
FROM: Mayor and Council
SUBJECT: Community-wide Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch Programs

LET PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY!

What is a Neighborhood Watch Group?

The stereotype about Neighborhood Watch Groups is that people think they are little old, nosy ladies that sit in front of their windows all day. Well, if that is the case, we should be thankful for those little old, nosy ladies because they have prevented a lot of burglaries during the day when most people are at work by calling the police. A Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch do not mean prying or nosy neighbors who try to stop criminals all by themselves. As a member, your responsibility is to call the police and report what you have seen – **NOT** to take action yourself. Remember, neighborhoods are made up of people who have the power to protect each other's safety. By reporting any suspicious circumstances to law enforcement agencies, members of a watch group actually increase their own safety. Police cannot fight crime they do not know about. When alert citizens keep them informed, the police are far more effective against crime – and citizens have better protection and safer neighborhoods. Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch is volunteer citizens coming together in a neighborhood communicating with each other and the police to reduce crime in the area they live. It is concerned citizens looking out for each other and helping others who may need it. It is citizens being the “**eyes and ears**” of the police.

How does it work?

Neighborhood Watch works through mutual aid... neighbors watching out for neighbors. A police officer patrolling your neighborhood may not recognize strangers around your house or activity in your neighborhood, which could be considered suspicious. Your neighbors know who you are, what type of vehicle you drive, who belongs in your neighborhood, and who does not. When suspicious activity or a crime is observed, the Neighborhood Watch member calls the police, and then alerts the neighbors. The key to Neighborhood Watches success is **communication** between citizens and the police. Neighborhood Watch is by no means a vigilante type organization. The confrontation of suspicious persons or the apprehension of criminals should be left to the police.

We want to hear from you! Contact Councilwoman Rebekah Holland at r_holland@cityoflovejoy.com to sign up for your subdivision and business.