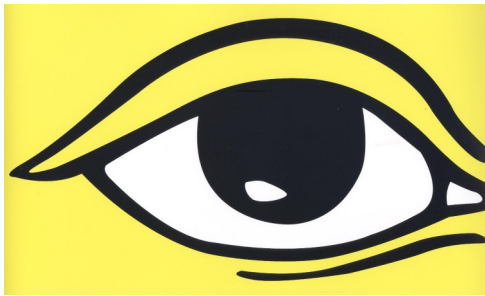


KEEP OUR STREETS SAFE



**TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME®**



Neighborhood Watch



**KEEPING OUR
NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE ONE
RESIDENT AT A TIME**

Everything you need to know about the safety of our
subdivision.

Printed: September 2015



GMCA CRIME WATCH

- **EMERGENCY** **911**
If life threatening or crime in progress
- **NON-EMERGENCY** **313-277-6770**
all other non-emergency crimes/issues
- **FIRE DEPARTMENT** **313-791-3650**
Located at Beech Daly
- **POISON CONTROL** **800-222-1222**
- **DTE ENERGY (Electric)** **800-477-4747**
- **DTE ENERGY (Gas)** **800-947-5000**
- **Garden City Hospital** **734-421-3300**
- **Henry Ford Med Center** **313-982-8261**
- **Oakwood Hospital** **313-593-7000**

Emergency Radio Information

Tune radio to AM 1690 to hear up-to-date information during local emergencies—along with instructions on how to stay safe.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

What is a Neighborhood Watch?

A Neighborhood Watch is a group of neighbors who are willing to communicate with each other and pass along crime and non-crime related neighborhood information. The groups are educated in crime prevention and trained to observe suspicious activity and report the activity to each other and the police.

Neighborhood Watch is:

- A community – police crime prevention partnership.
- Neighbors coming together to help each other not become victims of crime.
- Neighbors coming together to address community issues.
- Learning and practicing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design - Surveying and upgrading, if necessary, your home security and lighting.
- Learning to identify suspicious activity and reporting the activity to other neighbors and the police.
- Members all live on the same street or within line of sight, generally 5 – 25 homes per group.

Neighborhood Watch is not:

- Citizens armed patrol.
- Vigilante groups.
- Encouraging residents to take risks to prevent crimes.
- A program that guarantees that a crime will not occur in a neighborhood.
- A political group.
- A neighborhood association or neighborhood organization.
- A law enforcement entity.

SUSPECT IDENTIFICATION LIST

- SEX
- AGE
- HEIGHT
- WEIGHT
- BODY BUILD (skinny, heavy)
- RACE/NATIONALITY
- EYES (narrow, wide-set, deep-set, color)
- NOSE (long, short, narrow, broad, etc)
- CHIN (pointed, square, dimpled, etc)
- BEARD OR MUSTACHE
- OTHER (moles, scars, etc)
- HAIR (color, long, short, etc)
- EARS (sticking out, etc)
- MARKINGS (tattoos, birthmarks, etc)
- MANNERISMS
- WALKING STYLE
- SPEECH PATTERNS OR ACCENTS
- LEFT OR RIGHT HANDED
- WEAPONS (gun or knife, etc)
- COMMENTS (did they mention anything specific, names, places, dates)
- CLOTHING
 - Hat / Shirt /Coat
 - Shoes / Pants / Socks
- VEHICLE
 - Make / Model
 - Color
 - License Plate #
 - Year
 - Dents/Marks
 - Direction of Travel

Not-so-obvious things to watch for:

- **Strangers & Solicitors**
 - Check ID of all solicitors. They must have a permit from the City to solicit (excludes religious groups)
- **Someone going door-to-door**
 - Pay attention. If they repeatedly try to open locked doors, peer through windows, or enter backyards—call police
- **Vehicles moving slowly, without lights, or appearing aimless or repetitive in any location**
 - Could be looking for places to rob
- **Parked, occupied vehicles containing one or more persons**
 - If its unusual hour they could be lookouts for a burglary in progress
- **Persons quickly changing vehicles**
 - May be attempting to elude police or abandoning a stolen vehicle
- **Someone carrying property at an unusual hour, especially if it does not look newly purchased.**
 - They could be lookouts for a burglary in progress
- One or more individuals walking through the neighborhood looking into automobiles or backyard.
- Any person taking a shortcut through a backyard.
- An abandoned vehicle parked on your block.

What is Suspicious Activity?

Many people are not sure what constitutes "suspicious activity" and when to contact law enforcement. So, what kind of things are suspicious and when should I call?

- Anyone forcibly entering a car or home.
- Someone running from a home or business under unusual circumstances.
- Someone carrying a weapon in an inappropriate setting.
- Anyone ringing your doorbell or knocking on your door without a reasonable explanation for doing so.
- Strange vehicles parked in your area or driving around and around with no purpose
- A clean vehicle with dirty or damaged plates.

Any activity or event you observe that makes you feel uncomfortable. Always obey your intuitive sense that something is suspicious. If you are not sure about calling law enforcement, **CALL ANYWAY !**

Reporting Suspicious Activity:

- Neighborhood Watch is founded on the principle that you and your group members know what activity is normal in your neighborhood. A police officer occasionally patrolling the area is not going to be able to identify a strange person or car as quickly as a resident is. To have a successful neighborhood watch the participants must learn to recognize what activities and behaviors are normal within their groups in order to observe what is abnormal.
- When reporting suspicious activity that is after-the-fact (a cold report) or one that is of a non-emergency nature, use the non-emergency number 313-277-6770. Be aware there is a good chance you will be put on hold using this number. Do not use 911 for a non-emergency call, as you will only be transferred to the non-emergency number.

BLOCK CAPTAINS

There are many streets in our subdivision and we plan to have Block Captains to cover all areas of our subdivision. They are responsible for approximately 35-50 homes on specific streets within the subdivision. When a crime or suspicious activity happens, you will call your specific Block Captain to report details of the event. If it a crime in progress and you have called 911 first, call your block captain after so that they are aware of the event.

Block Captain Responsibilities:

- Ensure your group meets at least twice a year by coordinating the meetings, cookouts, block parties, etc. and report the meeting dates to the police representative.
- Attend at least two block captain meetings per year. E-mail, web pages, or newsletters will announce the quarterly meetings.
- Develop a block map and roster for your group that includes names, addresses, and phone numbers and e-mails for each group member. Telephone trees can help expedite emergency information among your neighbors. Develop a neighborhood chart (which is continuously updated) that includes the names and phone numbers of all members. Each individual listed on the tree knows whom he is to contact should an emergency or other important information need to be disseminated in a hurry.
- Develop an alert plan reflecting the name and phone number of each household - e-mail distribu-

RESIDENTIAL TARGET HARDENING

How can you help keep your home from being burglarized.

- Maintain the appearance of occupancy
- House numbers should be at least 4" to 6" high, reflective and visible from the street
- Good exterior lighting all around residence perimeter creates a psychological barrier. Consider motion activated light fixtures.
- Trim shrubbery away from windows, doorways and porches. Shrubby and other barriers provide concealment for burglars.
- Exterior doors should be of solid construction with secure frames and locking hardware. Use a deadbolt with at least a 1" to 1-1/2" bolt throw. Treat door from garage to inside the house as an exterior door.
- Windows within 18 feet of the ground should be treated as first floor windows. Windows should be working and retro-fit with cost effective locking hardware.
- Insure that all exterior doors (including overhead garage door) are LOCKED when you are not home.
- Install a "Charlie Bar" or commercial locking device for sliding doors.
- Inventory and photograph your property.
- Keep your garage doors closed after leaving (door up and empty means you aren't home)
- Join or start a Neighborhood Watch group.

VACATION SECURITY CHECKLIST

your planned absence, don't tell everyone about your plans. Don't leave notes on the door for neighbors, deliverymen, or on Facebook, etc.

- If, upon returning from your trip, you spot evidence of a break-in, do not enter the house. Call the police at once! The burglar may still be inside.
- Make a list by serial number, date purchased, and price of expensive items, and keep the list in a safe place, not in your home. While doing so, mark valuables with an engraving tool.
- Doors and windows should be equipped with dead-bolt locks, rather than spring bolt locks. Thieves look for what police term "targets of opportunity." There are many things you can do to avoid becoming one of the victims, especially when you are going to be away from your home for an extended period.

PLAN AHEAD BEFORE LEAVING ON VACATION!



BLOCK CAPTAINS (continued)

- tion list or phone tree for notification of suspicious activity.
- Greet new neighbors and invite them to join the program.
- Inform and distribute to group members any crime related information received from the police department representative.
- Be the liaison between your Neighborhood Watch group and the police department..
- Attend one of the Block Captain training modules if offered throughout the year.
- You are responsible to maintain your and your co-captain's accurate information with the City Police, i.e. mail and phone numbers.
- Attend 1 training per calendar year if offered

A list of block captains is found in your current newsletter. Routes are broken down by street. If you are unsure which route you belong to, please contact the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

If your street isn't represented by a Block Captain, please consider volunteering to be one so your street is covered.

RESIDENT PARTICIPATION

Group Members Responsibilities:

- Be alert to suspicious activities in your neighborhood.
- Notify Block Captain if your contact information changes.
- Learn neighbors' names and be able to identify their vehicles and other vehicles usually in your neighborhood.
- Keep an up-to-date block map, roster, and other important group information in an accessible and secure location.
- Implement security measures suggested by your City Police Office or Block Captain.
- Notify police and block captain of any suspicious activity.
- **DO NOT TAKE ANY PERSONAL RISK** to prevent a crime or execute an arrest. It is more important to have a healthy, injury free witness whose recollection of the incident is not tainted by fear, anxiety, or pain. The safety and well being of every person in the group is most important.
- Attend the Neighborhood Watch meetings.

VACATION SECURITY CHECKLIST

Thieves look for what police term "targets of opportunity." There are many things you can do to avoid becoming one of the victims, especially when you are going to be away from your home for an extended period.

- Arrange for your local law enforcement agency to check your house periodically, if they offer this service in your community.
- Double check second floor and basement windows, areas which are often forgotten.
- Make sure that exterior areas will not give your absence away. Arrange to have mail and deliveries either stopped or picked up by a neighbor.
- Leave a car in the driveway. Have outside lights turned off and on with a home timer. Arrange to have the lawn cut and the bushes trimmed.
- Have several timers attached to lights in various locations throughout the house. One timer can be programmed to turn one light on and off several times during the evening. Several timers performing the same function can give a very "lived-in" look to a home.
- This same practice with home timers can be utilized with TV's and radios, giving an added sound element to the "lived-in" look.
- Ask your neighbors to check your home regularly, and leave a number with them where you can be reached. Ask neighbors also to use your garbage cans. Spotters for burglars sometimes work for trash collectors. Ask neighbors to also pick up handbills or circulars.
- While it is advisable to notify police and a neighbor of