



CALAVERAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



START UP PACKET



What is Neighborhood Watch?

This is an organized effort by concerned citizens to prevent crime and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. In cooperation with the Sheriff's Office, neighbors work to safeguard each other's homes and reduce the risk of crime in their community.

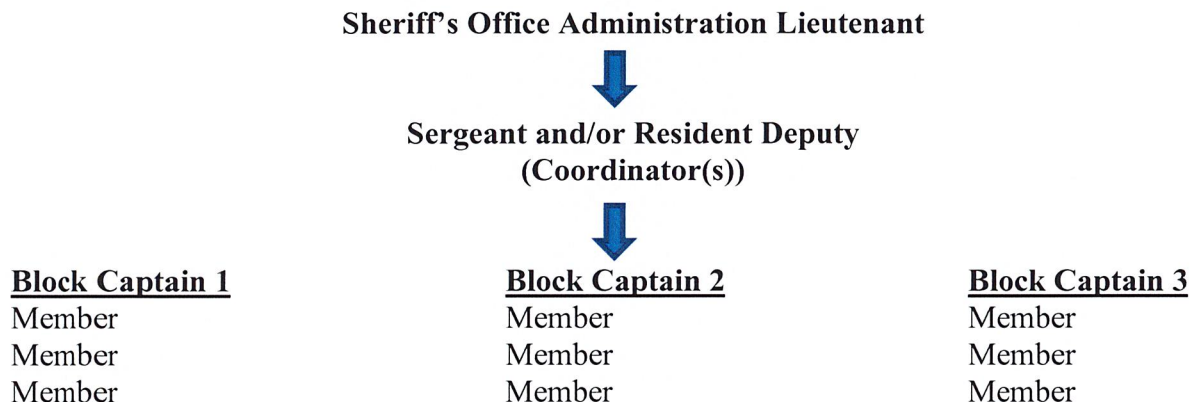
Benefits –

By getting to know your neighbors and forming connections, you make your community safer. You do this by learning to recognize what is normal and what is not. This can help you in protecting your property and family as well as that of your neighbors. Watch groups are also great social gatherings and may be used to form networks to help each other with home improvement projects which can raise property values. This is also a great forum to discuss concerns and/or share ideas. Close friendships have been formed between members of a watch program.

How Neighborhood Watch is organized –

Generally, a watch group consists of a coordinator, block captains, and watch members, but your Watch will be customized to meet the needs of your area. The Coordinator is the liaison between your neighborhood and the Sheriff's Office and can be either a Resident Deputy or Sergeant assigned to your specific geographical area within Calaveras County. The Coordinator is also responsible for sharing information with and being available to receive information from the Block Captains. Block Captains communicate with the Watch Members who live on their blocks or in their neighborhood. Watch Members are the eyes and ears of Neighborhood Watch. The success of Neighborhood Watch depends on neighbors who are alert and who communicate with each other.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



The Next Step –

If you would like to learn more about how to improve your community with Neighborhood Watch, contact Lt Greg Stark (209) 754-6783 gstark@co.calaveras.ca.us to guide you on how to organize an initial meeting to introduce and begin organizing a program with your neighbors.



WHAT ARE THE COORDINATORS DUTIES?

- Sergeants work closely with Resident Deputies to expand the program and maintain current lists of participants and neighborhood residents, including:
 - Name
 - Address
 - Contact Phone Numbers
 - Email Address
- Works with Calaveras County Sheriff's Office resources to arrange crime prevention training programs if requested
- Encourages residents to participate in 'National Night Out'
- Notifies residents via phone tree or email of any safety alerts or notices
- Organize at least one meeting a year (This can be on National Night Out)

WHAT ARE THE BLOCK CAPTAIN'S DUTIES?

- A Block Captain should be designated for every approximately 10-15 houses, and they should be involved with their immediate neighbors
- Acts as a liaison between block residents (members) and the Coordinator
- Maintains an up-to-date contact list for block residents (members) and distributes to participants
- Visits and invites new residents on your block to join Neighborhood Watch, notifying them of meetings, training sessions, etc.
- Touches base with neighbors to discuss crime prevention problems, any needs for assistance, and suggestions for program improvement

WHAT ARE THE BLOCK RESIDENTS / MEMBERS DUTIES?

- A Member is actively involved in Neighborhood Watch, providing contact information, attending meetings and trainings when possible, and watching out for his/her neighbors
- Residents can also live within the community but might not want to participate in Neighborhood Watch activities. They can also choose to provide contact information to the Block Captain and may receive notices/alerts but have no further interest. Some may wish to be omitted from the block list and have no contact with the Block Captain or group. Neighborhood Watch is strictly voluntary, and no one needs to feel pressured to participate.
- Pay attention to what goes on in the neighborhood and report suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office
- Work with the Block Captains and the Coordinator to solve problems in the neighborhood

When calling 9-1-1...
KNOW YOUR LOCATION!

So they can find you!



HOW / WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE

The 911 System is designed to handle the following types of situations: life-threatening **emergencies, medical emergencies, and crimes in progress.**

- Please ***do not*** call 911 if there is no emergency. The 911 operators are specifically instructed to handle only emergency calls. When you call 911, the operator will assess your situation and may instruct you to call back on the non-emergency line (209-754-6500). Please do not let this deter you from calling. Remember, sometimes there are only two to three 911 operators that can only handle so many calls at a time.
- Use the non-emergency number to report something that is ***NOT*** an emergency.
- When you see suspicious activity, **CALL THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE!** The operators are trained to decide whether or not your situation warrants a deputy response. Calls are dispatched on a priority system, with emergencies dispatched first. Even if a deputy is unable to respond as quickly as you would like, it is still important for you to report suspicious activity. If a Deputy is going to respond, the dispatcher will decide when to send them to your location.
- We encourage Block Captains to work with members to problem-solve neighborhood issues and use the phone list as a resource. If additional assistance is needed, please contact your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

SAMPLE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MAP

CEDAR STREET NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

Mike and Cindy
Smith
101 Cedar St
555-3333

Bob and Lucy
Jones
103 Cedar St
555-8888

Linda
Waters
105 Cedar St
555-9999

VACANT
107 Cedar St

Scott
Seasons
109 Cedar St
555-8181



Ann and Jo
Klein
100 Cedar St
555-1111

John
Peters
102 Cedar St
555-1211

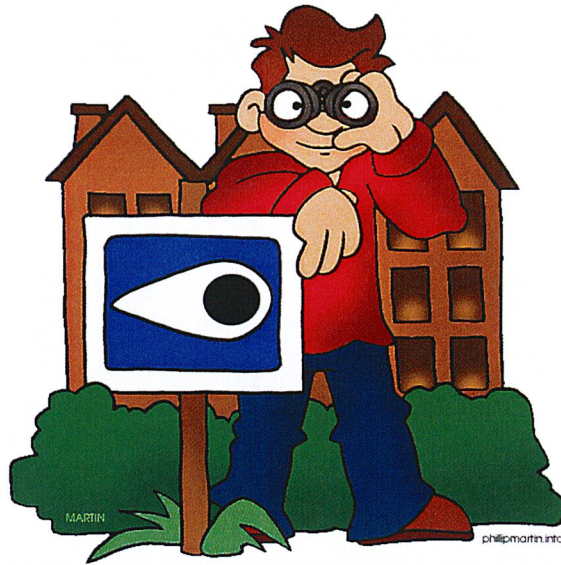
Craig and Mary
Williams
104 Cedar St
555-1344

Hillary
Wing
106 Cedar St
555-6785

Greg
Wilson
108 Cedar St
555-4456



SAMPLE FLYER



Our neighborhood is undertaking a program to reduce the opportunity for residential burglaries and thefts to occur. We can accomplish this by establishing a network for concerned citizens to communicate with their neighbors and the Calaveras County Sheriff's Office.

The security of our residential life begins with our own actions. No police or sheriff's department can effectively protect life and property without the support and active cooperation of the citizens served.

We would like to invite you to attend an organizational meeting for our Neighborhood Watch. The meeting will be held on:

TIME:

DATE:

LOCATION:

By meeting together, we hope to explain the goals of our Watch, illustrate simple home-protection techniques, and discuss ways we can reduce the opportunity for crime to occur in our neighborhood.

Signature

Address

Phone number





**CALAVERAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

SAMPLE SIGN-UP SHEET AND MEMBER LIST

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL



TIPS FOR INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN NW:

1. Stop Thinking of Neighborhood Watch Only in Terms of a “Crime Program”
Neighborhood Watch can be a way of life! Watch activities are only limited by your imagination. Neighborhood Watch can be a tool for improving the quality of life on your block.
2. Consider the Size of your Watch
It is easier to organize and motivate small groups of people rather than larger groups.
3. Ask Questions
Find out what neighbors want. What common themes connect with you?
4. Plan a Visible Activity
(e.g. ribbons on street posts, luminaries, etc.....)
Such an activity can be done by a small number of people, but it can raise awareness among neighbors that something is happening.
5. Do Something Fun!
This doesn't have to be something elaborate. Do something easy...Even if it only draws a few neighbors, it will help to get the ball rolling. (e.g., Serve donuts and cider to neighbors after Trick or Treating, have a potluck, plan a “Know your neighbor party”, etc....)
6. Do Something Easy
If your area has a lot of problems that need to be addressed, start with something easy that you know can be resolved quickly (e.g., have streetlight repairs). This will show your group that they can get results. Your Coordinator can help you develop a problem-solving plan.
7. Create an Upbeat and Exciting Newsletter to Re-Introduce Neighborhood Watch
Hand out the newsletter as you go door-to-door to update your phone tree.



8. “Term Limit” Block Captains

Few to no one wants to be the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain for life! Consider limiting the position to a two-year term and work to identify someone who will take over at the end of that time period.

9. Plan a Meeting with a Cool Guest Speaker

Consider what topic might be of interest to many people in your neighborhood and arrange for a guest speaker. (Your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator can assist with this). Once you have people gathered, take the opportunity to announce your next Neighborhood Watch activity!

10. Identify a Need in the Neighborhood and Organize a Response to It

The goal is to bring people together for a common good. You might do a yard clean-up for an elderly neighbor or plant flowers in a common area.

11. Create a Strategic Plan

If your Neighborhood Watch does not have goals that provide direction, the result will be a flurry of activities that have little purpose. Ultimately, this will lead to inactivity. A Strategic Plan can provide direction and longevity for your Watch.

12. Don't Go It Alone

There are lots of people for you to turn to for help with Neighborhood Watch! Don't hesitate to call them!

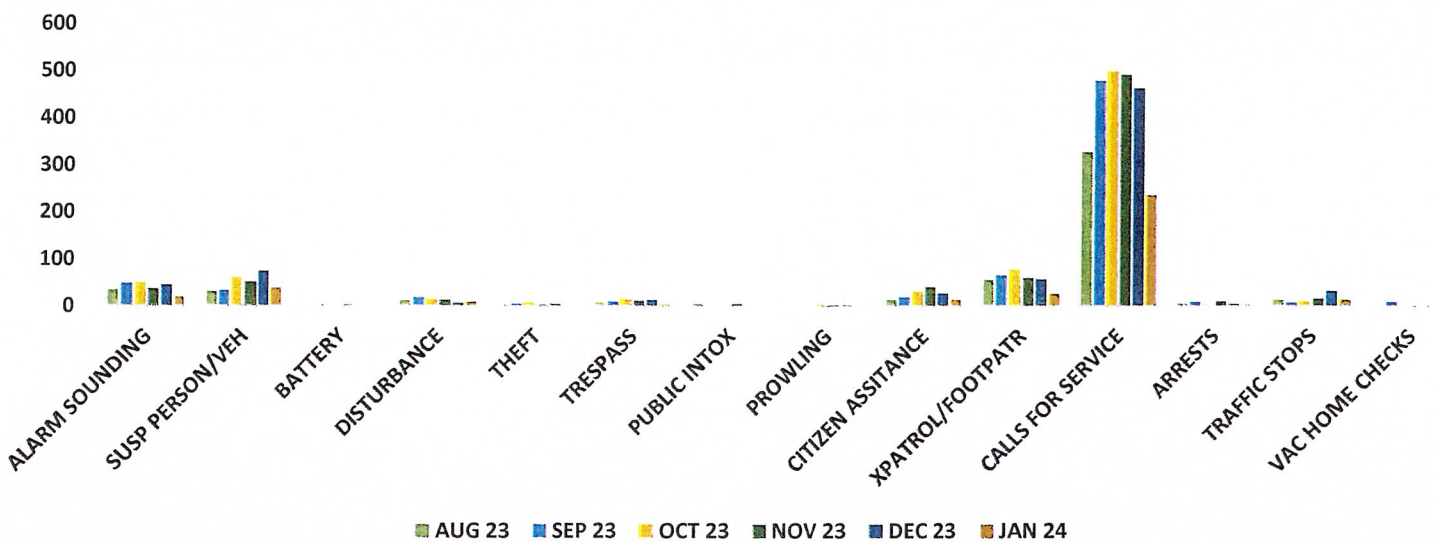


NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING



MURPHYS

08/15/23 - 01/15/24



- ALARM SOUNDING – 232
- ARRESTS – 32
- BATTERY – 6
- BURGLARY – 24
- CALLS FOR SERVICE - 2491
- CITIZEN ASSISTANCE – 146
- EXTRA PATROL/FOOT PATROL - 341
- DISTURBANCE – 71
- PROWLING - 9
- PUBLIC INTOX – 11
- SUSPICIOUS OR PARKED VEHICLE – 287
- THEFT – 19
- TRAFFIC STOP – 92
- TRESPASS – 57
- VACATION HOME CHECK - 9

TOTALS: 08/15/23 – 01/15/24

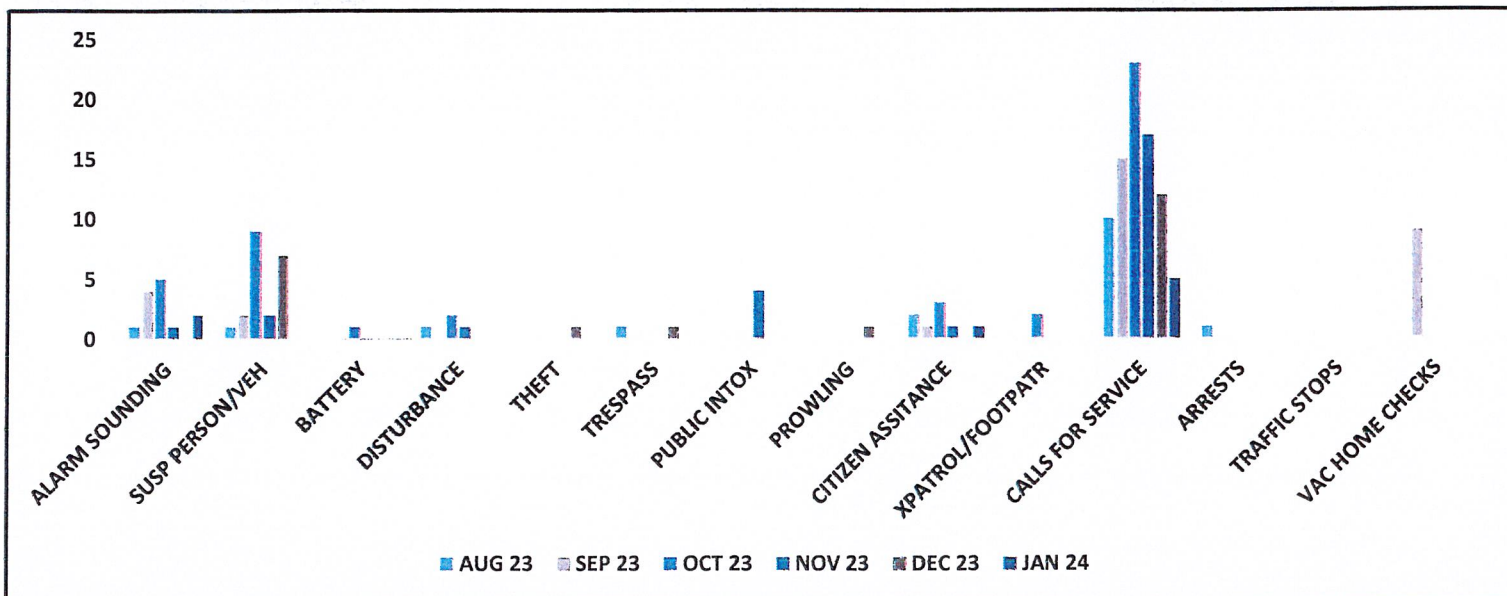


NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETING



FOREST MEADOWS

08/15/23 - 01/15/24



- ALARM SOUNDING – 13
- ARRESTS – 1
- BATTERY – 1
- BURGLARY – 0
- CALLS FOR SERVICE - 82
- CITIZEN ASSISTANCE – 8
- EXTRA PATROL/FOOT PATROL - 2
- DISTURBANCE – 4
- PROWLING - 1
- PUBLIC INTOX – 4
- SUSPICIOUS OR PARKED VEHICLE – 21
- THEFT – 1
- TRAFFIC STOP – 0
- TRESPASS – 2
- VACATION HOME CHECK - 9

TOTALS: 08/15/23 – 01/15/24

