

Town of Chevy Chase Neighborhood Watch Program

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a community-based crime prevention program enlisting the active participation of residents in the Town of Chevy Chase working in cooperation with the Montgomery County Police Department. Neighborhood Watch seeks to reduce crime in our community by educating and organizing residents to report and identify suspicious activity in their neighborhood. The Neighborhood Watch Program is built upon a foundation of communication among neighbors in order to identify common community concerns. The goal of Neighborhood Watch is to make our Town safer and improve the quality of life for residents.

Any Town resident 18 years or older can volunteer -- single or married, renter or home owner. For more information, contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 or by email at townoffice@townofchevychase.org; or Scott Egloff, resident coordinator, at 301-890-6000 x 215 (w) or 301-674-8866 (h) or by e-mail at scottegloff@sportautomotive.com. Information is also available on the Town web site: www.townofchevychase.org

Our Neighborhood Watch Program will help residents learn:

- How to recognize and report suspicious activity
- How to make homes more secure and properly identify property
- Techniques to reduce the risk of being victimized

Our neighborhood Watch Program will not:

- Be a citizens' vigilante group
- Be a program that encourages personal risk
- Violate an individual's right to privacy
- Guarantee that crime will not occur in a neighborhood

Responsibilities of Neighborhood Watch Resident and Town Coordinators:

- Coordinate overall plan for program with Town officials, volunteers and local police
- Recruit, train and distribute information to Block Captains
- Maintain an updated list and street map of all participants in program
- Meet with Block Captains to discuss relevant issues and strategies to address them
- Town of Chevy Chase coordinator will support NW Program and assist Resident Coordinator and local police to carry out their responsibilities

(A more detailed list of the specific roles and responsibilities of the Town Coordinator and the Resident Coordinator is attached)

Responsibilities of Block Captains:

- Contact all neighbors on the block and obtain: phone numbers that the resident wishes to share: (cell, home and office); and email addresses for adult residents.
- Compile a list of contact information. While obtaining information, be sure to get the OK of each neighbor to distribute the list. Write OK next to the names. If a list is distributed to neighbors on a block, remind neighbors to keep the list in a secure place and not share with others.
- If appropriate, distribute the list preferably at a block meeting during which you will discuss: concerns about the block (crime, lighting, etc), the importance of notifying neighbors while away so that mail, papers and delivery items can be taken in. Encourage residents to have a peep hole at the front and back doors, and other common safety tips for around the house.
- Create an address list on email for forwarding all crime alerts to people on the block
- Identify a substitute block captain for periods when you will be away and unable to perform your duties. Provide this person's contact information to the Resident Coordinator.
- Work with adjoining Block Captains to work on common concerns
- Call the Town Office when you have a problem on the block such as street lights out, uncollected trash, graffiti and problems with signs (missing, bent, etc)
- Greet new neighbors who move into the neighborhood and provide them with NW information. Obtain their contact information
- Attend meetings scheduled by the Resident Coordinator.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Become involved
- Meet your neighbors
- Notify your Block Captains and a few close neighbors if you will be away for an extended period
- Notify police and your Block Captain of suspicious activity
- Attend neighborhood meetings and participate in neighborhood activities
- Hold a NW block gathering once a year

Town of Chevy Chase Neighborhood Watch Program

Important Telephone Numbers

(if unsure whether emergency or non-emergency call 911)

Emergencies
(Call 911)

- immediate fear for your personal safety or safety of others
- serious crime in progress: robbery, homicide, domestic violence, and assault
- any type of fire or medical emergency
- vehicle crashes involving personal injury or major property damage
- gunshots or person with a gun
- sexual assault that has occurred or just happened

Police Non-Emergency
Number:
301-279-8000

- minor auto crashes (no property damage or injury)
- loose or barking dogs
- noise complaints
- illegally parked vehicles
- suspicious activity not deemed an immediate threat
- property crimes not in progress (vandalism, stolen cars, graffiti, garage theft)
- abandoned autos
- other non-life threatening situations

Neighborhood Watch Mont. Co. Police Liaison

Officer Dana Stroman
Cell: 240-876-1277
2nd District Police: 301-652-9200

Resident Coordinator

- Recruits Block Captains and Co-Captains.
- Organizes and chairs meetings with Block Captains.
- Communicates with Block Captains to ensure appropriate coverage.
- Sends information to Town office on crimes/suspicious activities reported by Block Captains.
- Obtains and distributes crime prevention materials.

Town Coordinator

- Serves as liaison between MCPD Community Services Officer and Block Captains.
- Communicates with off-duty police on NW issues/updates.
- Collects crime statistics and reports them to Block Captains as necessary.
- Maintains up-to-date list of Block Captains.
- Serves as liaison to Council.
- Provides administrative support to NW program.