

Catawba County Sheriff's Office

Community Watch



WHAT IS COMMUNITY WATCH?

COMMUNITY WATCH is a Crime Prevention program that involves citizens working with each other and with law enforcement agencies to reduce crime and victimization in their communities. It involves:

1. Citizens protecting themselves and their property by using common sense crime prevention practices.
2. Neighbors getting to know each other, watching out for each other and acting on or reporting suspicious activities.
3. Citizens working with groups, community leaders, and, more importantly, law enforcement agencies to make entire communities safe and free from crime.

CITIZEN ALERT, NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, BLOCK WATCH, or COMMUNITY WATCH: the names may differ, but the idea is the same. Neighbors looking out for each other.

WHY START A COMMUNITY WATCH?

Because law enforcement officers cannot be on every street corner, citizen involvement is necessary to combat crime. On average, there are approximately two law enforcement officers for every 1,000 citizens. You and your neighbors are the ones who really know what is going on in your community. By co-operating with each other and with the police, citizens can help fight crime in the most effective way – preventing the victimization of themselves, their families and friends. You are the key element in fighting crime. **GET INVOLVED!**

COMMUNITY WATCH WORKS

The goal of **COMMUNITY WATCH** is to make criminals aware that every move is being watched and will be reported to the police. Across North Carolina, citizens work together to secure their homes, mark their valuables, identify drug dealers, develop child safety programs, and improve the environment in which they and their families live.

TO START A COMMUNITY WATCH

1. Contact your local Police or Sheriff's Department about setting up a **COMMUNITY WATCH** program. They can assist with information, materials and technical advice. Ask for the Crime Prevention officer.
2. Schedule a meeting with your neighbors in a church, home, community building, volunteer fire department or other location.
3. Invite the Crime Prevention Officer or other law enforcement officer to speak at your original meeting to help get your **COMMUNITY WATCH** program started.
4. Contact every resident in your community and invite them to the meeting. Do this by making door-to-door visits, phone calls, or mailing flyers.
5. Hold your meeting.

NEXTDOOR

The Sheriff's Office has a new way of connecting with your neighborhood watch through social media, called Nextdoor. Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world and it's free! Thousands of neighborhoods already use Nextdoor to build safer homes. You can use the website or the application via smart phone through the App Store and Google Play store. Join your neighborhood watch on Nextdoor to keep crime down in your neighborhood.

WWW.NEXTDOOR.COM



National Night Out

Every year, the National Town Watch Association invites communities to come out and participate in National Night Out Against Crime. Contact your local law enforcement agency for more information.

Catawba County Sheriff's Office
PO Box 385
Newton, NC 28658
Phone: (828) 464-5241
Fax: (828) 465-8471

www.catawbacountync.gov/depts./shf

Crime Prevention Division
(828) 465-8336