



STROUDSBURG NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

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Stroudsburg Neighborhood Watch is dedicated to helping build and maintain a community in which residents feel safe and secure.

What is Neighborhood Watch? It is a program designed to increase the safety and sense of community in neighborhoods by involving citizens in a united crime prevention effort. Members learn how to:

- Make neighborhoods less attractive to criminals
- Recognize and report suspicious and criminal activity
- Communicate regularly with neighbors using specific Neighborhood Watch tools
- Build community ties to strengthen their sense of pride in the neighborhood.
- Increase home and vehicle security
- Increase personal safety of residents

When citizens take the responsibility to build and maintain livable and cohesive neighborhoods, those neighborhoods are less vulnerable to crime. Under Neighborhood Watch, involved neighbors collaborate with our local police – the Stroud Area Regional Police Dept. (SARPD), neighborhood associations, schools, area businesses, and others to create a united, secure, and peaceful community.

Why is a neighborhood watch necessary? You may have noticed an increase in crime in the Stroudsburg area that has crept into our neighborhoods. Such crime includes alcohol and/or drug related incidences, assault with deadly weapons, gang style graffiti, robbery, burglary, etc. You may have also realized SARPD has their hands full trying to cover the entire Stroud area (Stroudsburg Borough, Stroud Township, and East Stroudsburg) with limited resources. This adds up to one thing – it is up to citizens to get involved to maintain a safe and secure community.

What do members do? We understand not all citizens are available to participate at the same level, but statistics show a decrease in crime for communities with active Neighborhood Watch organizations. Patrol is one aspect whereby citizens are extra eyes and ears of the local police and report suspicious activity without confrontation. Some members might patrol often either walking or in vehicles, while others may participate by looking out their window or providing help at special events.

Equally important is the social aspect of developing a strong and cohesive community with the goal of maintaining the quality of life. Neighborhood Watch also provides a means for training citizens on how to protect themselves and their property from assault, robbery or burglary. We make the neighborhood less attractive to criminals. The main point is that concerned citizens should know their neighbors, get involved and not be afraid to report suspicious activity.

Public meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday every month at 7:00 pm. For more information or an application contact Barb Scanlan at 856-6578 (scantrunfo@yahoo.com) or Jeff Silvernale at 426-6492 (jsilvernale@vertellus.com).