

ORGANIZATION OF NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCHES

The Pleasant Ridge Community Council's Safety Committee is committed to increasing the number of block watches in our neighborhood this year and next. As the budgetary resources of the Cincinnati Police Department are reduced, the need for citizens to become involved in local crime prevention efforts becomes even more important than usual.

The Cincinnati Police Department's Neighborhood Watch program has been recognized as one of the best in Ohio. The program encourages citizens to get more involved in protecting their community and in helping residents avoid becoming victims of crimes. Residents' role in this program is to become educated in common sense crime prevention techniques and to report suspicious activities observed on their street or block to the police. The Block Watch program ensures that citizens who do report such activities can remain anonymous. It is not a vigilante effort but rather neighbors looking out for themselves and each other.

As a recent example, the residents of one street became worried about activity around a vacant house, and began calling in sightings and license plate numbers, and began talking with our Neighborhood Liaison, Officer George Engleman. Officer Engleman was able to secure the property and check the street every morning for five days. During those visits neighbors gave him further useful information. They also were able to contact the owner of the property and apply pressure to clean and secure the area. Positive progress has been made and Officer Engleman says the residents' input has been critical.

For neighborhood residents interested in forming a block watch, we are scheduling quarterly training sessions for next year. The sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, February 9, 7 pm, Pleasant Ridge Community Center
Tuesday, May 11, 7 pm, Pleasant Ridge Community Center
Tuesday, August 10, Pleasant Ridge Community Center
Tuesday, November 9, Pleasant Ridge Community Center

To find out more about being in a Block Watch program, attend one of the Block Watch trainings. Please R.S.V.P. to Don Trummel at dtrummel@fuse.net or call 841-1256.