

Neighborhood Watch

What It IS! And What It ISN'T!

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention partnership where community members serve as an additional set of “eyes and ears” for law enforcement, plus work together with each other to ensure the well-being of their neighborhood. Though no program is perfect, it is a free and easy tool residents can use to make their neighborhood less attractive for criminal activity and mischief as well as improve their quality of life. Keeping this in mind, it is important to also mention that Neighborhood Watch is not designed for individuals to take personal risk or put themselves in danger. Nor is it a vigilante group working outside law enforcement or allowing citizens to “take the law into their own hands.”

How Can We Play Our Part?

Neighborhood Watch works when residents take an active interest in the safety of their own households, those of their neighbors, and their entire community. It works when residents report crime and suspicious activity to law enforcement or another appropriate agency in a timely manner. It works when neighbors maintain ongoing communication with each other and check in to see how they're doing or if they might need help. And it works when individual households address their own needs or family issues (and ask for help when necessary) to make sure they are not creating additional problems for the neighborhood.

If I Need to Call for Help, When Should I Use 911?

*****Due to our community's proximity to neighboring counties, if you are calling 911 from a cell phone to report activity in The Springs, it is critical to first confirm you are speaking to DAVIDSON COUNTY dispatch. *****

- When your or someone else's life or safety is in immediate danger or there is a medical emergency
- To report a fire
- When you are witnessing a crime in progress or one about to be committed
- When you are involved in or witness a car accident, especially if someone is hurt, dizzy, or unwell

When Should I Use the Non-Emergency (336) 249-0131?

- When you are reporting activity or circumstances that are suspicious, out of place, or just don't feel right
- When you are reporting or giving information about a crime that has already happened and the suspects are no longer at the location
- When you have an animal control concern

Remember that if circumstances change after your initial call, it is okay (and encouraged) to call back and update information that will be helpful to the responding officers or help ensure their safety.

When I Do Call, What Should I Say?

Dispatchers are trained to ask vital questions, some of which might seem irrelevant, but there are significant reasons for each one. It is important to remain calm, answer as thoroughly and accurately as possible without putting yourself or anyone else in any danger, and follow the dispatcher's instructions. This will allow you to get the assistance you need as quickly as possible while also helping ensure your safety and the safety of those responding.

When you call, some details you may be asked to provide could include:

- Why you are calling (the nature of the problem)
- Where the problem is occurring (address, name of the community, closest major cross streets, etc.)
- Your name and number (the number from which you are making the call or the best number to reach you)
- Suspect information (if known) including name, gender, race, age, height/weight, clothing description, or any unique identifying characteristics such as tattoos, scars, facial hair, glasses, hat, etc.
- Vehicle information (if known) including make, model, color, license number and state, direction of travel, or any unique characteristics such as bumper stickers, body damage, etc.
- Any additional information that may be important to responding officers (number of people involved, weapons seen, direction of travel or flee)
- **It is important to remain on the line until the dispatcher tells you it is okay to hang up.**