

Neighborhood Watch

A Leader's Guide to Getting Started

Special points of interest:

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What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is simply a program of neighbors who want to make their street safer. It is the citizens and the police working together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. It is important to note that police officers who patrol your neighborhood will often be called away because of emergencies. They may not recognize someone as a stranger in your yard— but your neighbors would! The residents are the eyes and ear of the community.

How Does It Work?

The purpose of the Neighborhood Watch program is to create an alert neighborhood by using simple crime prevention methods. The program works through mutual aid - neighbors watching the property of other neighbors. This has several advantages, including the fact that the neighbors know who you are, what type of car you drive, and when you will be away. It does not promote vigilantism.

Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

There are several benefits to starting and participating in a Neighborhood Watch, some of those are:

- Reducing the risk of becoming a victim of a crime
- Being better prepared to respond to suspicious activity
- Being informed on issues that impact your community
- Becoming acquainted with your neighbors
- Reduction in crime

How to start a Neighborhood Watch

- Define your Neighborhood - Do this geographically and make sure to start small. About 20 - 25 homes so you can get to know everyone.
- Talk to your Neighbors - Do they know a Neighbor Watch program can be a lot of fun? What issues are they having, seeing, hearing? When are they available for a meeting?
- Email the Chandler Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit - Schedule a mutually agreeable date for the first meeting. The initial meeting will last approximately one hour and is typically scheduled after work, Tuesday or Wednesday night.
- Advertise the meeting - Invite all of your neighbors (in your geographical area). Talk to everyone when you get the opportunity, deliver flyers to each home. Remember that 50% of your designated area must attend the initial meeting to be able to be officially activated and obtain two street signs for your community.



Group Meetings

Neighborhood Watch meetings are conducted on weeknights at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m., as a rule. Select the most convenient day(s) for your group and your division representative to set up a date and time for your first meeting. Please plan well in advance.

The first meeting of a new Neighborhood Watch Group will include discussions with a member of the Chandler Police Department on the topics of Neighborhood Watch Concepts, Home Security, and calling 9-1-1 emergency number versus 480-782-4130, the non-emergency reporting line.

The Neighborhood Watch program consists of meetings scheduled at least once a year with the Chandler Police Department. Other meetings may be arranged at the discretion of the group.

You are encouraged to have more than the required one meeting per year, and you are not limited to topics presented by the Chandler Police Department. Poll your neighbors to determine what is of interest to you particular group (for example, fire prevention or CPR).

Neighborhood Watch Leader Responsibilities

As a leader you are vital in the success of the program! The leader's involvement and enthusiasm will get the other neighbors involved. The goal is to get as many neighbors involved as possible. However, not everyone will want to be participate and this is okay. Make sure they know about the Neighborhood Watch program, all your events, and that they are always welcome to come to the meetings and social gatherings.

The following is provided to assist you in better understanding your role as a Neighborhood Watch Leader.

- Maintain a list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of your Neighborhood Watch Members. We ask that you keep it updated.
- Make a plot map of your street with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of your group members. Provide copies for group members and send one to the Chandler Police Crime Prevention Unit.
- At least one event must be held every year. The event can be a meeting, block party, potluck or any activity that gets the neighborhood together where you can get to know each other.
- Keep attendance sheets and event information and email the information to the Chandler Police Crime Prevention Unit to receive credit and ensure active participation.
- Register on the Nextdoor App to stay in contact with your neighbors through out the year and count this as a meeting.

The First Meeting

We recommend meetings be on Tuesday or Wednesday after work as there is less conflict than on the weekend and it gives people the opportunity to get home, have dinner and gather their family before going to the meeting. The meeting should be no longer than one hour.

Schedule the Chandler Police Crime Prevention Unit to attend and give an overview of what the Neighborhood Watch Program is about as well as give information about the different programs that the police offer. Chandler Police is not required to attend your annual renewal meetings unless you would like them to address issues that are on-going in your neighborhood. After the first meeting, leaders can request to receive a call-for-service report for your neighborhood from the Crime Prevention Unit. It is up to leaders to stay informed and distribute information to the Neighborhood Watch group. Only one meeting per year is required in order to stay active.

Please know that you are not required to register your Neighborhood Watch group with the Chandler Police Department.

Chandler Police Mission:

To Provide a Safe Community Where People Can Live, Work, and Thrive.

250 East Chicago Street
Chandler, Arizona 85225
Emergency: 9-1-1
Non-emergency:
480-782-4130

Crime Prevention Unit
Phone: 480-782-4960
Fax: 480-782-4930

As stated previously, you are required to have only one meeting per year with the Police Department. We do recommend, however, that your group remain active throughout the year with activities that benefit your neighborhood. There is nothing like a shared sense of community to help ensure the safety of your home and family.

- Hold block parties or potluck dinners. Get involved in the City of Chandler annual Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods Events.
- Encourage group participation in taking action to resolve neighborhood problems (for example, speeding vehicles or a lack of lighting) through the Police Department and other City departments.
- Plan activities to involve neighborhood member in events such as the For Our City Day and get involved in painting house numbers on curbs, alley and graffiti cleanup, taking care of yard work for elderly or disabled residents– a clean, tidy neighborhood discourages criminal activity.
- Join the Nextdoor app and stay in contact with your neighbors.
- Organize a yard sale to make money to pay for supplies for neighborhood activities (e.g., paint, yard maintenance tools, electric engravers, party supplies.)

What is Getting Arizona Neighborhoods Involved?

Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods (G.A.I.N.) is a statewide annual event designed to encourage Neighborhood Watch Programs and bring together communities throughout Chandler for a common goal– to let criminals know that citizens of Chandler are seriously united in the fight against criminal activity. For more information please visit chandlerazpd.gov/community programs or email G.A.I.N.Event@chandleraz.gov to be added to the email list to stay informed throughout the year.

What is For Our City Day?

For Our City Day is a collaboration with hundreds of residents who gather to assist with neighborhood projects in the community. The impact of this program is only possible because of volunteers. There are many other community programs throughout the year. Please visit chandleraz.gov and click on neighborhood preservation under the residents tab.

How to Have a Powerful Neighborhood Watch Group

The Neighborhood Watch Leader is “a leader” but not the only one doing the work. The Neighborhood Watch group only works in those neighborhoods where the people are active. Groups that have more than half of the neighborhood involved and meet regularly have the most impact on crime.

Active, effective groups learn that sharing information about what is happening in their area, getting to know one another, and helping each other are vital ingredients for making the Neighborhood Watch group dynamic.

What kind of things can you do to make your neighborhood a safer place?

- Secure your home and property by installing deadbolts on all doors and auxiliary locks on windows.
- Trim the plants in your yard so that your neighbors can see your home and so that no one can hide behind or under them.
- Make sure your house numbers are visible from the front and back of your home.
- Light up your property at night - use 60-watt bulbs in front and back porch lights and carport areas. Consider using motion sensor lights.
- Make your house look like someone is home. Don't leave clues that you are gone. Consider leaving lights on a timer.
- Implement “Operation Identification”.
- Get active in your neighborhood. Share information about what is going on in your area.

Neighborhood Watch Coordinators

Crime Prevention Officer, Noah Dueker
Noah.Dueker@chandleraz.gov
480-782-4962

Crime Prevention Specialist, Blanca Quezada
Blanca.Quezada@chandleraz.gov
480-782-4960

Operational Support Bureau
Sergeant Greg Howarth
Greg.Howarth@chandleraz.gov
480-782-4964

Chandler Police Department, *contact us*

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency (call or text): 480-782-4130

Silent Witness Hotline: 480-782-4440

Records: 480-782-4001

Alarms: 1-855-302-4533
<http://www.famspermit.com/Chandler>

Extra duty officer: 1-877-636-8300
<https://odm.officertrak.com/Chandler-AZ-PD>

Chandler Police Department Website

www.chandlerazpd.gov

City of Chandler, *contact us*

Abandoned Vehicles on Street: 480-782-4130

Barking Dogs Hotline: 480-782-2275

Building, Construction, & Permits: 480-782-3000

Code Enforcement: 480-782-4320

Community Resources
& Diversity: 480-782-2214

Graffiti Hotline: 480-782-4322

Housing & Redevelopment: 480-782-3200

Housing Rehabilitation Hotline: 480-782-4323

Mayor & Council: 480-782-2200

Neighborhood Resources: 480-782-4300

Parks & Recreation: 480-782-2727

Solid Waste: 480-782-3510

Speed bumps & Signs: 480-782-3454

Street Light Repair: 480-782-3460

Tax & Utility Services: 480-782-2280

Water Conservation: 480-782-3580

City of Chandler Website

www.chandleraz.gov

Daily Tips:

- Be observant. Report Suspicious activities to 911, non-emergency line at 480-782-4130 and Neighborhood Watch Leader.
- Educate children about crime prevention. Stress the importance of 911 and helping law enforcement
- Do not confront suspicious individuals. Call 911.