

Preston Village Neighborhood Watch

Coming together to help protect our community

What is The Preston Village Neighborhood Watch and what does it do?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with the Police Department to reduce crime. The goal is to train citizens to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods and to use crime prevention strategies to fight crime.

REMEMBER: Neighborhood Watch members only serve as the extra “eyes and ears” of law enforcement. They should report their observations of suspicious activities to law enforcement; however, citizens should never try to take action on those observations. Trained law enforcement should be the only ones to ever to take action.

What to Report:

- Suspicious activities of people or vehicles
- Illegal activities
- Unusual events or incidents
- Dangerous situations

What is Suspicious Activity?

Suspicious activity can refer to any incident, event, individual or activity that seems unusual or out of place. *(If you're familiar with what is “normal” on your block, then you can easily spot what is suspicious)*

Examples of suspicious activity may include, but are not limited to:

- A stranger loitering or an unknown vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly
- Someone peering into cars or windows
- Unidentifiable person tampering with electrical, gas, or sewer systems without company badging
- Signs of forced entry such as Open or broken doors and windows or tampering with security systems

What does The Preston Village Neighborhood Watch **NOT** do?

- A neighborhood watch does not replace local law enforcement
- Having a neighborhood watch does not guarantee safety
- This is not a “service” offered by the HOA to provide security
- We are not a vigilante group, or armed patrol, and we do not take action in dangerous situations

Roles and Responsibilities

Neighborhood Watch **Organizers** (3-5 People)

- Setup and manage the neighborhood watch program
- Coordinate actions and information between Preston Village homeowners / Preston Village HOA / Preston Village Neighborhood Watch / Cary Police Department

- Designate program structure / guidelines / manuals / requirements / training / change control / voting
- Continually expand / research / update / improve the program to stay ahead of threats
- Obtain and distribute crime prevention materials / pamphlets / signage
- Register and maintain accounts with national groups / databases / applications
- Present collected data to the neighborhood and authorities in a useful manner / report
- Coordinate neighborhood-wide meetings and events
- Coordinate with other surrounding Neighborhood Watch groups
- Participate in campaigns for recruitment / awareness / visibility

Neighborhood Watch **Block Captains** (25+ People)

- Oversee and manage your block's division of the Neighborhood Watch (approx. 20 homes)
- Evaluate and determine patrol schedules and routes with Organizers / Spotters
- Work with Organizers to create and distribute safety and security training and information
- Coordinate block-wide meetings and events
- Facilitate unity of your block and Spotters
- Participate in campaigns for recruitment / awareness / visibility

Neighborhood Watch **Spotters** (as many people as possible)

- Patrol areas on foot or by vehicle
- Report any suspicious activity (*even when not officially on "patrol"*)
- Participate in campaigns for recruitment / awareness / visibility

Neighborhood Watch **Technology Team** (?)

- Investigate various websites and resources to use
- Data entry, input names and contact info
- Liaison to www.prestonvillage.com, www.nextdoorprestonvillage.com , etc....

Issues to Discuss

- Why is there a spike in crime in Preston Village?
- Burglars posing as solicitors and other tactics
- Weak spots and security concerns in our homes and neighborhood

Action Items

- Designation of an initial team, and begin recruitment plan
- Setup a contact tree and emergency notification system
- Testing and use of neighborhood watch apps / portals / private Facebook groups
- Testing and use of apps and/or text messaging notification systems
- Security surveillance and monitoring
- Mapping of neighborhood and designation of "blocks"
- Neighborhood watch signs
- How to verify and track outside contractors
- Create an information and recruitment flyer

Meeting Schedule

- Schedule a follow-up meeting for next week:
2:00pm on Sunday February 8th at the picnic shelter?
- Schedule a recurring monthly meeting:
2:00pm on the First Sunday of every month at the picnic shelter?

Home Security Tips

- Setup a monitored alarm system... Do not rely on a yard sign to keep you safe
- Keep your garage door closed when not in use
- Don't leave newspapers in the driveway
- Don't leave valuables in plain sight through your home or vehicle windows
- When answering the door, use caution and only open the door if necessary and after verifying your safety
- Keep bushes and trees trimmed
- Exterior lighting can help deter burglaries at night
- Lock your doors and windows at all times, not just while away

Information Resources

- National Neighborhood Watch – A Division of the National Sheriff's Association
<http://www.nnw.org/>
- Neighborhood Watch Manual written by the National Sheriff's Association
https://www.bja.gov/Publications/NSA_NW_Manual.pdf

Smartphone Applications to Review

- Neighborhood Watch NOW
<http://nnw.org/neighborhood-watch-now>
- Neighborhood Watch App
<http://nwapp.org/>
- Nextdoor App
<http://nextdoor.com/>

Contact Information

- For Emergencies, always call 911 first!
- For NON-Emergency Police response (24 hours a day, 7 days a week): **919-469-4012**
- Contact the Preston Village Neighborhood Watch at:
NeighborhoodWatch@PrestonVillage.com

Town of Cary Information and Resources

Crime Prevention Assessments

The Cary Police Department offers crime prevention assessments to Town of Cary residents and businesses at no cost. These assessments provide crime prevention tips and recommendations on how to remedy possible security vulnerabilities. If interested, contact our Community Services Officer at (919) 469-4324 and a Crime Prevention Specialist will visit your home or business to conduct this assessment.

Information Regarding Peddlers and Solicitors

Section 20-3 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Cary:

(a) Intent.

The purpose of this section is to regulate the door-to-door offering for sale and selling of goods, wares, merchandise, food, periodicals and services and the solicitation of orders therefor in residential areas of the town, and to thereby promote the public safety and welfare.

(b) Permit required.

It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell, offer for sale, or solicit orders for goods, wares, merchandise, food, periodicals or services by going from door-to-door ("peddle" or "solicit") within the town without having first secured a peddler/solicitor's permit from the town as provided for in this section, unless it is done with the prior request or invitation of the residents or occupants of the premises visited. Additionally, it is unlawful to peddle or solicit unless the following requirements are met:

(1) Such peddling/soliciting shall be permitted only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. during Eastern Daylight Time and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during Eastern Standard Time.

(2) The peddler/solicitor permit issued for that person shall be carried and displayed at all times while conducting such solicitations in such a manner as to be clearly visible to a reasonable person of adequate vision.

(c) Penalty.

Peddling or soliciting without a permit or otherwise in violation of any of the provisions of this section, including failing to surrender a revoked permit, shall constitute a criminal misdemeanor. (Code 1976, § 5-4; Code 1982, § 11-3; Ord. No. 79-5, § 1, 5-31-1979; Ord. No. 96-003, § 1, 3-14-1996; Ord. No. 96-004, § 1, 4-11-1996; Ord. No. 02-001, § I, 1-10-2002)