

SEE SOMETHING



SAY SOMETHING

SARATOGA NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

GETTING STARTED

**** WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH? **** The purpose of Neighborhood Watch is to organize neighborhoods to serve as the eyes and ears of local law enforcement. A neighborhood of people who know one another, as well as the typical behaviors and happenings that take place on their block, are better able to identify and report unusual activities to law enforcement. Furthermore, Neighborhood Watch is a great way to maintain a healthy and vibrant neighborhood. This document serves as a guide for residents interested in organizing a Neighborhood Watch group. Neighborhood Watch is a “do it yourself” type of program and the way you organize your group is ultimately up to you and your neighbors.

**** 1 - GAUGE INTEREST ****

Spend some time assessing the interest of some of your neighbors in starting Neighborhood Watch, identify others who can help organize and get your Neighborhood Watch off the ground.

**** 2 - MAKE A MAP ****

Decide on the boundaries of your Neighborhood Watch area. Is it a block or a street or maybe a homeowners association? Smaller groupings of homes can be easier to manage, but you can make a larger neighborhood manageable by breaking it into zones or blocks of 10 to 20 homes with designated captains or leads for each area that are responsible for serving as the representative of that area as well as communicating with the residents in that smaller division.

**** 3 - GET TOGETHER ****

Set a date to bring your neighborhood together to socialize and get consensus on concerns, goals, and neighborhood boundaries.

**** 4 - BRING IN THE EXPERTS ****

Invite the Sheriff's Office to a Neighborhood Watch meeting and learn about how to identify suspicious activity and report it and tips for keeping your family and home safe.

**** 5 - REGISTER WITH THE CITY ****

Register your group with the City to receive resources and information, including Neighborhood Watch signage. Register online at www.saratoga.ca.us/stayingsafe

**** 6 - STAY CONNECTED ****

Maintain a roster for your neighborhood so folks can communicate with each other. Consider using online tools, like Nextdoor.com Private Groups or email groups, to stay connected.

Keep your neighborhood active by coordinating regular activities. These activities don't have to be focused on crime prevention, they can be fun and social. The real goal is to keep people engaged and strengthen connections in your neighborhood.

Ideas to stay connected include sharing information through a neighborhood email group or newsletter, organizing a block garage sale, getting the neighborhood ready for a disaster through the City of Saratoga Community Emergency Response Team, holding a National Night Out event, getting together for a block party, or hosting walking/exercise groups. The possibilities are endless!

**** NEED HELP OR MORE INFO ****

If you need help organizing or want more information about Neighborhood Watch, get in touch with the City or visit www.saratoga.ca.us/stayingsafe



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