Community Watch

Community Watch works because people want to assume a more active role in making their community safe. It would be impractical to place a law enforcement officer into each neighborhood and very practical to utilize those who live there. Residents within a neighborhood know who belongs there and who doesn't and what activity is suspicious. The most important reason neighborhood watch works, is that citizens began working with, instead of relying on, law enforcement to combat crime in their community.

Here are some ideas:

1. Get to know your neighbors and their routines so that any out of place activity can be reported and investigated. Be suspicious of unfamiliar vehicles and persons in your immediate community, call the police when in doubt and give a good detailed description.
2. Set up a telephone tree/calling guide with your neighbors with name, address, and phone number_
3. Stress the importance of recognizing suspicious activity and how to report it. Place local police department's phone number and emergency service number by your phone.
4. Leave the porch light on at night. A well-lit area deters crime. Spending a few extra cents, a month in electricity is well worth it.
5. Let your neighbors know if you are going on vacation or for an extended period of time. Stop mail and newspaper deliveries, or have one of your neighbors push the mail through your slot and clear newspapers from the porch area. Have one of your neighbors park their vehicle in your numbered parking spot. Set some of your interior lights on a timer.

What Community Watch is Not.......

1. A vigilante force working outside the normal procedures of law enforcement.
2. A program designed for participants to take personal risks to prevent crime.
3. A 100% guarantee that crime will not occur in your

neighborhood. Tony Flores