

*The Village of Northfield*

# NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH

*“Putting ‘Neighbor’ Back in Neighborhood”*



*Presented by the  
NORTHFIELD VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CRIME PREVENTION TEAM*

A Community Partnership Program





# *Meet Your Crime Prevention Team*



## **TEAM WATCH COMMANDER**

**OFFICER FRED JONES** is your Block Watch *Crime Prevention Watch Commander*. He has been a member of the Northfield Village Police Department since 2008, but has been a law enforcement officer since 1984.

Officer Jones is vested with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and training that makes him invaluable to this department and justifiably qualifies him to command the Block Watch Crime Prevention Team. He is trained in Officer Leadership, Physical Evidence Collection, Blue Print Reading, Cultural Diversity, Crisis Intervention, HIPAA Procedures, Arson Detection, Advanced Confined Space Entry & Rescue, and Haz-Mat Awareness & Operations, to mention just a few. He is a state certified Ohio Peace Officer, Firefighter, Fire Safety Inspector, Arson Investigator, Emergency Medical Technician, and CPR Instructor. He attended the University of Akron, where his course of study was *Criminal Justice*.



# *Meet Your Crime Prevention Team*



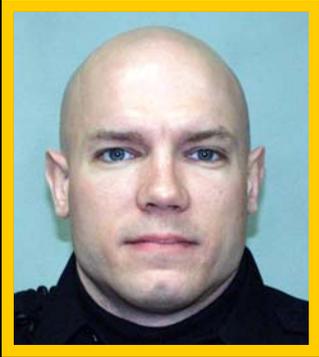
**OFFICER BRIAN ZAJAC** has been a member of the Northfield Village Police Department since 2005. Skilled and well-versed, Brian is very obliging and easily wins friends for the department. Besides his regular shift duties, Officer Zajac is a state certified Field Training Officer, Crash Investigator, Juvenile Officer, Crisis Intervention Officer, and a member of the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force. A truly dedicated professional, Officer Zajac is respected by his peers for his leadership skills and proficiency.



**OFFICER MATTHEW GRAMS** joined the Northfield Village Police Department in 2009. In his short tenure, to date, Matt has routinely shown his value to our department and community. From a family of police officers, Matt knows what is expected of an officer and the positive or negative impact he can have on a community and department. Quiet and affable, Matt projects a community policing mentality wrapped around a strong work ethic.



# *Meet Your Crime Prevention Team*



**OFFICER WARREN OLESINSKI** joined the Northfield Village Police Department in 2010. He previously worked in the private sector. Warren attended the Kent State University Police Academy in Fall 2009, graduating at the top of his class. Warren brings a steadfastness and professionalism to the job that can not be taught. Sociable and insightful, Warren has quickly earned the respect of his fellow officers and has become a reliable source for a sensible opinion or practical solution to a problem.



## *Police Contact Information*

***To Report A Crime - POLICE DISPATCH CENTER***

**Emergency: Call "911"**

**Non-Emergency: Call (330) 467-7112**

***NORTHFIELD VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT***

**Patrol Division & Crime Prevention Team: (330) 467-7139 Ext.19**

***CRIME PREVENTION TEAM E-MAIL***

**Officer Fred Jones: [fjones@northfieldvillage-oh.gov](mailto:fjones@northfieldvillage-oh.gov)**

**Officer Brian Zajac: [bzajac@northfieldvillage-oh.gov](mailto:bzajac@northfieldvillage-oh.gov)**

**Officer Matthew Grams: [mgrams@northfieldvillage-oh.gov](mailto:mgrams@northfieldvillage-oh.gov)**

**Officer Warren Olesinski: [wolesinski@northfieldvillage-oh.gov](mailto:wolesinski@northfieldvillage-oh.gov)**

# *Objectives*

- **Examine the Importance of a Neighborhood Block Watch.**
- **Look at the History of Neighborhood Block Watches.**
- **Discuss the Elements of Starting a Neighborhood Block Watch in the Village of Northfield.**

# *Strong & Healthy Neighborhoods*

- **We all value a sense of security as a vital feature of the neighborhoods where we live.**
- **A sizable number of us (*about one in four*) enjoy building the formal and informal links that strengthen safety.**

Source – The Allstate Survey on Safer More Caring Communities

## ***Strong & Healthy Neighborhoods (Continued)***

- **People are willing to join together to increase neighborhood safety.**
- **Six out of ten belong to a Neighborhood Block Watch where it is available.**

Source – Are We Safe? 2001, an NCPC survey sponsored by ADT.

## ***Strong & Healthy Neighborhoods (Continued)***

- **Neighborhood cohesion – neighbors who know and look out for each other – is among the strongest features of safer neighborhoods.**
- **Safety and security is ranked one of the most essential human needs by noted psychologist Abraham Maslow.**

Source – Researchers, Harvard University.

Source – Abraham Maslow's *Hierarchy of Need*, 1943

# *Block Watch Benefits*

- **Unites the community and increases neighborhood cohesion.**
- **Reduces fear of crime in the community.**
- **Improves crime reporting by citizens.**
- **Increases surveillance in the community.**
- **Prevents and reduces crime.**
- **Enhances homeland security.**

## *Block Watch Benefits (Continued)*

*Studies show a Neighborhood Block Watch is effective because...*

- **It brings neighbors together around a common cause – safety and security.**
- **It provides basic skills to all members on preventing crime and reporting suspicious activity or crimes.**
- **It builds a base for correcting neighborhood problems.**
- **It works well with other civic activities.**

# *A Neighborhood Block Watch Works because...*

**A Neighborhood Watch, Block Watch, Town Watch, Campus Watch, or Crime Watch – whatever the name, is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime.**



# *Did you know that...*

- **In Birmingham, AL, 13 out of 15 neighborhoods had experienced high rates of burglary. After Neighborhood Block Watch was instituted, 12 of the 15 had no burglaries.**
- **In Lakewood, CO, burglaries dropped 77% after the Neighborhood Block Watch was implemented.**
- **In Cypress, CA, the Neighborhood Block Watch cut burglaries by 52% and thefts by 45%. The program saved police an estimated \$79,000.**

# ***Block Watch Background***

- **Neighborhood Block Watch is a community-based program supported by the National Sheriffs' Association, every State and County Police Chiefs Association, and all Federal, Regional, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies.**
- **Since its inception in 1972, thousands of communities have established Neighborhood Watches and made a REAL difference.**
- **Today, better than nine out of ten law enforcement agencies offer a Block Watch Program.**

# *Basic Block Watch Components*

- **Planning committee, Block Watch coordinators, Block Watch captains.**
- **Communications: E-mail, phone tree, meetings, special outreach, and partnering with other neighborhood groups.**
- **Neighborhood Block Watch signs posted on the street and in windows.**
- **Partnership with the Northfield Village Police Department.**

# *How to Start a Neighborhood Watch*

- **Every community resident can and should join – young or old, single or married, renter or homeowner, business or household.**
- **Identify different tasks that different residents can take on. There should be roles for everyone who wants to help.**

## ***Block Watch Start (Continued)***

- **Involve your local police agency.**
- **Arrange an organizational and kick-off meeting.**
- **Select leaders.**
- **Train residents in Neighborhood Block Watch basics and in observation and reporting.**
- **Assess neighborhood needs.**
- **Build participation.**
- **Maintain energy.**
- **Celebrate with your neighbors.**

# *Block Watch Start (Continued)*

- **Members learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the Northfield Village Police Department.**
- **Any geographic location can be the base – a street, a block, apartment building or complex, a business district, an office building, park, the Village Hall, or local school.**



## ***Block Watch Start (Continued)***

- **Watch groups are not vigilantes. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and extra hands for helping neighbors.**
- **A Neighborhood Block Watch builds pride and can serve as a springboard for efforts to address such community concerns as recreation for youths, child care, and affordable housing.**

# *First Meeting*

## *A successful first meeting...*

- **Advertise the meeting in advance. Post invitations throughout the neighborhood.**
- **Make it brief (*less than two hours*).**
- **Arrange for a large enough meeting space; one that is accessible to people with disabilities.**
- **Establish purposes and objectives up front.**
- **Select a chair/coordinator; at least a temporary one.**

## ***First Meeting (Continued)***

- **Make it a team effort. Share concerns.**
- **Decide to address one or two important issues to start.**
- **Ask for volunteers and assign tasks.**
- **Agree on a meeting schedule.**

# *Observation*

- **Have a meeting to teach residents the best ways to observe and report crime.**
- **Have as many residents as possible take part in this meeting.**
- **Include young and old, and all those in between.**
- **Remember that everyone sees the neighborhood from a different perspective.**

## *Observation (Continued)*

*Neighbors should learn to keep their ears and eyes open to...*

- **Someone screaming or shouting for help.**
- **Someone looking into windows and parked cars.**
- **Unusual noises.**
- **Property being taken from houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses.**
- **Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination, or with no lights on.**

## *Observation (Continued)*

### *Neighbors should also look for...*

- **Anyone being forced into a vehicle.**
- **A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child.**
- **Abandoned cars.**
- **Any unusual activity in businesses, alleys, isolated areas, and notorious problem spots in your neighborhood.**

# *Reporting Crime*

- **Stay calm.**
- **It is important not to panic even though you might be scared.**
- **Call the police immediately!**
  - **Call “911” if the crime is in progress.**
  - **Call (330) 467-7112 to report a crime that has already occurred (*i.e. graffiti, property damage*).**
- **On the phone, give the police the important information – the location of the crime, the type of crime, whether there are injuries, where the criminal went, etc.**

# *Reporting Crime (Continued)*

- **Write down what you saw and heard IMMEDIATELY!**
- **Tell the police what happened – the when, where, what, and who was involved.**
- **Describe the suspect: sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, distinctive characteristics (*facial hair, scars, tattoos, accent, etc.*)**
- **Describe any vehicle involved: color, make, model, year, license plate, and special features (*stickers, dents, or decals*), as well as direction of travel from the crime scene.**

## *Reporting Crime (Continued)*

- **You may be asked to make a complaint or testify in court. Remember, if you don't help the police, the criminal might hurt someone else.**
- **The police may ask you to attend a lineup or look through a collection of “mug shots” to try and identify the person you saw commit the crime.**

# *Group Activity*



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# *Are You A Good Witness?*

- **The following exercise will help you learn how to know important details that will be helpful when you report a crime.**
- **You are going to be divided into two groups: *Witnesses and Police Officers.***
- **The next slide depicts a crime scene. The witnesses will view the scene and then the police officers will interview the witnesses.**



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# *Activity*

- **For the next five minutes, conduct your witness/police officer interviews.**
- **Once everyone is finished the police officers will share their reports.**
- **Take a few minutes to talk about how to become a good observer.**

# *Leadership Qualities & Duties*

## *Look for people who...*

- **Will sustain the effort.**
- **Get along well with people, listening constructively.**
- **Use good communication, negotiating skills.**
- **Will delegate tasks.**
- **Conduct meetings effectively and efficiently.**
- **Have a long-range vision of neighborhood and community improvement.**

# *Leadership* (Continued)

- **Select leaders (*chair/coordinator, block captains committee chairs*) with an eye toward interest, “people skills,” and commitment. Elections work well for most groups.**
- **Duties of chair/coordinator: Works to sustain and expand program; maintains current list of participants, arranges training, obtains crime prevention materials, coordinates with police and outside partners.**

## *Leadership* (Continued)

*Leaders should not serve forever. Rotate leadership roles periodically.*

- **Even the most energetic and dedicated leaders lose stamina.**
- **New leadership needs to be constantly trained to move up.**
- **Appreciate and reward leaders. Say thanks publicly.**

# *Build Participation*

- **Every neighborhood resident can help.**
- **Young children can pick up litter and take part in specialized child safety programs.**
- **Youths can teach younger children how to stay safe and can organize events for other youths.**
- **Seniors can observe from their homes and make phone calls.**
- **Everybody should have a responsibility – small or large.**

# *Block Captain Duties*

- **Relays information to members.**
- **Recruits seniors and youths.**
- **Convenes and chairs block meetings.**
- **Recruits newcomers to sustain and enhance participation.**
- **Coordinates check-ins on shut-in residents.**
- **Helps identify block problems and arranges attention to them.**
- **Notifies chair/coordinator of changes in resident information.**

# *Resources & Partners*

- **Talk to other Neighborhood Watch groups working to prevent crime and drugs. Find out what has worked in their areas.**
- **Look to local PTAs, tenants' groups, community service clubs, social clubs, church groups, public and mental health associations, homeowners' association, etc. for help and ideas.**

## *Resources & Partners (Continued)*

- **Partners may change depending on the issue.**
- **They should have the same or similar goals on the issue in common.**
- **Make partnership a two-way street. Share your information, resources, and expertise.**
- **Consider special partnerships for one-time projects.**

# *Use Community Resources*

*Many people and groups are willing to help you.  
Look to...*

- **Religious institutions and assisted living facilities for meeting space, copying services and access to volunteers.**
- **Service clubs and businesses for partnerships in fundraising.**
- **Government agencies for information, equipment loans, program support.**
- **Libraries for research materials, videos, and meeting space.**

## *Use Community Resources (Continued)*

- **Printing companies for free or discounted services.**
- **Neighborhood restaurants for free or discounted refreshments for work crews.**
- **Parent groups, volunteer centers, and labor unions for advice on organizing and recruiting.**
- **Local news media for publicity.**

# *Citizen Patrols*

- **Citizen patrols travel the neighborhood, usually in the evening, alerting police to concerns.**
- **If you want to develop a citizen patrol, talk with local police about how patrols work in your area. (*i.e. Playgrounds, park areas, apartment complexes.*)**

## *Citizen Patrols (Continued)*

- **If you do implement patrols, share patrol duties and consult regularly with your Crime Prevention Officers, who will help train patrols.**
- **Remember, citizen groups are not meant to be vigilante groups.**

# *Operation Identification*

- **Operation Identification is a burglary/theft prevention program that involves indelibly marking and/or engraving property with traceable ownership identification.**
- **It has four purposes: to deter crime, to provide positive identification, to help with prosecution, and to aid in property recovery.**
- **Encourage residents to participate in “*Operation Identification.*”**
- **Contact your Crime Prevention Officer about getting involved.**



# Community Programs

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Take Me Home

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D.A.R.E.

Drug Abuse  
Resistance Education  
*Summit County Sheriff*

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Juvenile Diversion

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Safety Town

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Vacation | House Watch

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Halloween Fright Night

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Shop With A Cop

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In our quest to promote a community-oriented policing environment, the Northfield Village Police Department have enhanced our visibility through a variety of community-based programs. Community-oriented policing is not a program whose purpose and life run their course and slowly fades. It is an ongoing, committed effort to establish, develop, maintain, and enhance an atmosphere of two-way communication between a community and its police department, whereby a collaborative partnership is created.

The Northfield Village Police Department currently offers a variety of community-oriented programs for the purpose of promoting a positive relationship between the police department and the community, which is vital to the welfare, safety, and security of our community and its residents.

In addition to our structured programs, our officers are continually available to the many community-based organizations and to the entire Nordonia Hills School District for speaking engagements and presentations that continue to be both instrumental and invaluable for our positive interaction with the community.

The programs to the left are those we have either initiated through our own efforts and continue to maintain, or those developed elsewhere in which we actively participate. Several of the programs are highlighted in the following slides.



# Police Department Activity Summary

Month	Calls for Service	Traffic Stops	Citations Issued	Misdemeanor Counts	Felony Counts	Total Criminal Arrests
January	751	258	116	25	0	25
February	665	187	95	16	0	16
March	689	175	97	6	7	13
April	572	171	78	10	1	11
May	555	156	96	4	10	14
June	621	140	59	14	3	17
July	631	145	85	11	4	15
August	540	146	73	17	8	25
September	525	143	78	6	1	7
October	553	119	65	4	7	11
November	426	98	59	5	0	5
December	550	95	37	9	0	9
<b>2011 TOTAL</b>	<b>7078</b>	<b>1833</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>168</b>



# *Juvenile Crimes & Complaints*

In 2011 the Northfield Village Police Department made 21 juvenile arrests and wrote 12 juvenile traffic offenses. This reflects a decrease in both criminal offenses and traffic violations over the previous three years. Seven cases were directed to our Juvenile Diversion Program, where the juveniles performed 88 hours of community service within the Village. Eight cases were transferred to Summit County Juvenile Court or other law enforcement agency.



## CRIMINAL OFFENSES

- Criminal Mischief – 4
- Curfew Violation – 4
- Disorderly Conduct – 2
- Domestic Violence – 1
- Obstructing Official Business – 3
- Possession of Drugs – 1
- Prohibitions – 2
- Theft Offenses - 4

## TRAFFIC OFFENSES

- Assured Clear Distance (ACDC) – 1
- Driving Under Suspension – 1
- Driving Without Headlights – 1
- Failure to Yield Turning Left – 1
- Loud Stereo – 1
- No Operator's License / Canceled OL – 1
- Seat Belt – 1
- Speeding – 2
- Stop Sign – 2
- Tinted Windows - 1



# Mayor's Court Activity Report

Month	Traffic	Criminal	Convicted	Dismissed at CC	Dismissed	Transfer to Other Court	Warrants Cleared
January	126	22	33	4	24	4	9
February	85	20	40	0	14	2	15
March	105	6	27	1	10	0	12
April	58	7	33	1	14	0	5
May	97	9	13	1	6	3	14
June	68	11	36	4	35	1	9
July	47	13	22	3	13	5	14
August	103	14	25	1	7	0	7
September	66	6	27	0	9	1	9
October	72	5	26	2	7	0	7
November	54	5	16	0	4	2	4
December	29	8	10	1	1	0	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>111</b>



# Domestic Violence & Disputes

In 2011 the Police Department responded to 15 Domestic Violence calls and 28 Domestic Disputes. This reflects an increase in Domestic Violence calls from 2010 (up 4) and a substantial hike in Domestic Disputes (up 19).



Month	Domestic Violence	Domestic Disputes
January	2	3
February	0	1
March	2	2
April	2	6
May	1	1
June	1	2
July	1	3
August	2	2
September	1	2
October	0	1
November	1	2
December	2	3
<b>2011 TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>



# *OVI / Driving Under the Influence Arrests*

In 2011 the Northfield Village Police Department arrested 18 persons for Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (OVI) of Alcohol and/or Drugs. Of those arrested, seven refused to be tested.

The Northfield Village Police Department employs the INTOXILYZER 5000 instrument for breath testing.



## ■ HIGHEST BAC CHEMICAL TESTS

March 23,, 2011

**BAC – 0.288%**

*Arrest by Officer Fred Jones*

May 29, 2011

**BAC – 0.219%**

*Arrest by Officer Matthew Grams*

February 4, 2011

**BAC – 0.207%**

*Arrest by Officer Warren Olesinski*

February 27, 2011

**BAC – 0.185%**

*Arrest by Ryan Katezel*

# *Questions & Answers*



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# *Lest they be forgotten ...*



*Twinsburg Officer*  
**JOSHUA MIKTARIAN**



*Shot and killed in  
the line-of-duty  
July 13, 2008.*



**He was 33 years old.**

*Boston Heights Officer*  
**JARROD DEAN**



*Struck and killed in  
the line-of-duty  
January 19, 2009.*



**He was 24 years old.**

*Elyria Officer*  
**JAMES KERSTETTER**



*Shot and killed in  
the line-of-duty  
March 15, 2011.*



**He was 43 years old.**

*Cleveland Heights Officer*  
**THOMAS PATTON II**



*Suffered fatal heart attack  
chasing a suspect on  
March 13, 2010.*



**He was 30 years old.**