

NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH

THE VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



- *NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH*
- *BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAM*
- *CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES*
- *FLYERS & FORMS*

WATCH CAPTAIN GUIDE

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What is the Village of Northfield Neighborhood Block Watch?

The Block Watch is a group of neighbors who are willing to communicate with each other and pass along crime and non-crime related neighborhood information. The groups are educated in crime prevention and trained to observe suspicious activity and report the activity to each other and the police.

It is a fact of life that relationships in many of today's communities have become less personal than they were years ago. Families are more transient, children have more activities that take them and their parents away from home, and there are more families with both parents working. The once-familiar sight of families visiting with each other on front porches while keeping a watchful eye on children and activities in the neighborhood is a rarity in most communities today. This trend away from personal contact in the neighborhood and the decrease in time families spend at home are two of the essential ingredients that make communities ripe for crimes of opportunity, such as burglary.

Neighborhood Block Watch is:

- A community – police crime prevention partnership.
- Neighbors coming together to help each other not become victims of crime.
- Neighbors coming together to address community issues.
- Learning and practicing Crime Prevention through Environmental Design - Surveying and upgrading, if necessary, your home security and lighting.
- Learning to identify suspicious activity and reporting the activity to other neighbors and the police.
- Members all live on the same street or within line of sight, generally 5 – 25 homes per group.

Neighborhood Block Watch is not:

- Citizens armed patrol.
- Vigilante groups.
- Encouraging residents to take risks to prevent crimes.
- A program that guarantees that a crime will not occur in a neighborhood.
- A political group.
- A neighborhood association or neighborhood organization.
- A law enforcement entity.

Crime Prevention Officer

The Block Watch Program has a Crime Prevention Officer (CPO). The CPO is a member of the Northfield Village Police Department who acts as a liaison between the Block Watch Program and the Police Department.

The Crime Prevention Officer's job is to monitor the progress of the neighborhood block watch program as a whole as well as other crime prevention programs and initiatives. The CPO or their designee will speak at engagements that are requested by members of the community or Neighborhood Block Watch functions.

The CPO is available to train your group in Crime Prevention, Workplace Violence, Robbery Prevention, Personal Safety, Shoplift Prevention, Narcotics, and other topics. If you are interested in a specific topic not listed contact the CPO and they can arrange a special topic seminar.

Throughout this manual you will be asked to contact your CPO should you have any questions or need information on other community programs.

Starting a Neighborhood Block Watch

Starting a Neighborhood Block Watch is easy. The following steps must be taken when starting your group:

1. Decide on the number of households your watch program can effectively cover. Keep in mind the geographical layout of the neighborhood and the ease with which neighbors can observe each other's property. Most groups within the Village will involve all the houses on one street facing each other while other groups may be organized around homes whose backyards touch one another, or are on cul-de-sacs. Most groups are around 5 - 25 households.
2. Visit with your neighbors and explain that you are starting a Neighborhood Block Watch program. Determine what would be the most convenient day and time for them to attend a start-up meeting. In order to have maximum attendance, the most convenient day and time for the majority must be taken into consideration. It would be more convenient to have the meeting in one of the homes in the neighborhood, if that home were large enough to comfortably accommodate the number of people expected to attend.
3. Contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) to see when they or their designee will be able to attend the start-up meeting. Try and schedule the CPO's appearance at least one month in advance of the meeting.

So that, if necessary, his regular shift schedule can be changed to assure his availability for your meeting.

4. Once a date and time has been coordinated with the Law Enforcement Officer, develop a meeting announcement flier, make copies, and distribute them to neighbors. When the flier is delivered, stress the importance of having at least one adult from each household attend the meeting. A sample flier is included at the end of this guide. **See Appendix 1.**
5. Block Watch Captain(s) will be required to sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** and an application for a criminal background check.
6. Have your start-up meeting.

Requirements for Starting and Maintaining Your Group

In order for your group to be recognized by the Northfield Village Police Department you must meet the following criteria:

1. Your **group must meet at least twice a year** and report your meeting dates to the Crime Prevention Officer. This is a requirement and failure to do so will result in your removal from the program.
2. Your group should complete Property Inventory sheets. The block captain and Police Department **do not** maintain those records. **See Appendix 5.**
3. After meeting the criteria and holding your 2nd group meeting, your group will be given two Neighborhood Block Watch signs. If no signposts are available in your neighborhood, the Village will install a post to accommodate the sign.



Once your group has been started your group needs to continue to meet at least twice a year. These meetings can be as formal or informal as you like including block parties, cookouts, or ice cream socials. An officer does not need to attend every meeting; however, to maintain your Neighborhood Block Watch Group status your meetings need to be reported to your Crime Prevention Officer.

Managing the Neighborhood Block Watch Start-Up Meeting

The first meeting is extremely important for your group. The officer attending will provide your group with valuable information about what a neighborhood block watch is and how they function.

Because of the amount of information being covered at the first meeting expect the meeting to last approximately 1 hour. The length will vary depending upon the amount of questions asked by your group. The more involved your group members become in the meeting the more you will learn. The following is a list of recommendations for managing the first meeting.

1. Allow time prior to the actual meeting for neighbors to meet and socialize.
2. Start the meeting on time.
3. Introduce yourself as the Block Watch Captain and introduce any other Block Watch Captain in attendance.
4. Introduce the Police Department Representative.
5. The representative will present a wealth of information to your group including:
 - Expectations of the Neighborhood Block Watch
 - Importance of participation
 - Requirements of program
6. Closing remarks by Block Watch Captain.
7. After the Block Watch Captain position is determined, fill out the application and MOU (memorandum of understanding) and give that to the Crime Prevention Officer. They will turn it in and add you to the database.

Neighborhood Block Watch Participant Responsibilities

Block Watch Captain Responsibilities:

1. Ensure your group meets at least twice a year by coordinating the meetings, cookouts, block parties, etc. and report the meeting dates to the police representative.
2. Attend at least two block captain meetings per year. E-mail, web pages, or newsletters will announce the quarterly meetings.
3. Develop a block map and roster for your group that includes names, addresses, and phone numbers and e-mails for each group member. Telephone trees can help expedite emergency information among your neighbors. Develop a neighborhood chart (which is continuously updated) that includes the names and phone numbers of all members. Each individual listed on the tree knows whom he is to contact should an emergency or other important information need to be disseminated in a hurry. **See Appendix 2 and 3.**
4. Develop an alert plan reflecting the name and phone number of each household - e-mail distribution list or phone tree for notification of suspicious activity. **See Appendix 2 and 3.**
5. Greet new neighbors and invite them to join the program.
6. Inform and distribute to group members any crime related information received from the police department representative.
7. Be the liaison between your Neighborhood Block Watch group and the CPO.
8. Sign application and MOU and return to the Crime Prevention Officer
9. You are responsible to maintain your and your co-captain's accurate information with the CPO, i.e. mail and phone numbers.
10. Attend 1 training per calendar year

Group Members Responsibilities:

1. Be alert to suspicious activities in your neighborhood.
2. Notify Block Watch Captain if your contact information changes.
3. Learn neighbors' names and be able to identify their vehicles and other vehicles usually in your neighborhood.
4. Keep an up to date block map, roster, and other important group information in an accessible and secure location.
5. Implement security measures suggested by your CPO or Block Watch Captain.
6. Notify police and block captain of any suspicious activity.
7. **DO NOT TAKE ANY PERSONAL RISK** to prevent a crime or execute an arrest. It is more important to have a healthy, injury free witness whose recollection of the incident is not tainted by fear, anxiety, or pain. The safety and well being of every person in the group is most important.
8. Attend the Neighborhood Watch meetings.

Reporting Suspicious Activity:

Neighborhood Watch is founded on the principle that you and your group members know what activity is normal in your neighborhood. A police officer occasionally patrolling the area is not going to be able to identify a strange person or car as quickly as a resident is. To have a successful neighborhood watch the participants must learn to recognize what activities and behaviors are normal within their groups in order to observe what is abnormal.

When reporting suspicious activity that is after-the-fact (a cold report) or one that is of a non-emergency nature, use the **non-emergency Police Dispatch Center number, (330) 467-7112**. Be aware there is a chance you will be put on hold using this number. **Do not use 911 for a non-emergency call.** See Page 19 for a complete phone list.

Home Security

The CPO's are trained in the practice of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, CPTED for short. The concept of CPTED is that the environment can be manipulated to reduce the fear of and incidence of crime. For example how your yard is maintained, whether lights are on or off all may reduce the fear or incidence of crime.

In general, keep the exterior of your home clear of miscellaneous debris, tools, etc., that could be used by criminals to break into your home or used as weapons. Trim trees up 6' – 8' from bottom. Keep bushes trimmed down to ground level or below window height. Install and use 360 degree exterior lighting. Exterior doors should be solid core with door viewer and deadbolt lock. All windows should have a secondary locking device.

Do not automatically open your door to visitors. If you do not know the person, are not expecting them, or cannot verify their identity: do not open the door, even to talk to them.

Several security recommendations that could be implemented in your home will be made. These recommendations are general in nature. After your group receives the information if you have any specific questions please contact your CPO.

After conducting the home survey and upgrading your home security contact your home-owners insurance company. Some companies provide discounts to Neighborhood Block Watch participants. **See Appendix 4 for Home Survey, Appendix 6 for Vacation Checklist, and Appendix 7 for Police House Check Request.**

Home Security Measures

Develop the habit of surveying your home as you approach it. If you note evidence that someone has broken in, DO NOT ENTER. Go to the nearest telephone and call the police department – **(330) 467-7112**. Should you confront a burglar, the very first rule is: GET OUT OF HIS WAY!! Never get between a burglar and the exit, and never try to stop him. It may cost you your life!

You must be aware of the potential risk of crime in you home in order to prevent it. First...Remember that the key factor in most crimes is opportunity. ***IF THEY CAN'T GET AT IT, THEY CAN'T TAKE IT!*** Then...follow a regular plan of home security to deter the potential burglar or other intruder.

- Use a timer or photo electric cell that automatically turns a living room light on at dusk, particularly if you are going to be away at that time;

- Leave a radio on with the volume turned low when leaving home, even for short periods;
- Always close and lock garage doors;
- Secure automatic garage door transmitter in glove compartment of your car;
- Secure all obvious (and not so obvious) points of entry to your home. Pretend you are the burglar...stand outside your home and plan how you would get in; then install secure locks on all doors and windows;
- Lock up all ladders, ropes, or tools that could help a burglar gain entry;
- Keep all shrubbery trimmed near your doors and windows-don't provide concealment or climbing platforms for the burglar;
- Brightly illuminate all entrances, preferably with vandal-proof fixtures;
- Keep your grass cut, your leaves raked, etc., to indicate a well cared for and occupied home;
- Empty your mailbox or arrange to have it emptied as soon as mail is delivered;
- Install new locks when moving into an apartment or previously owned home;
- Keep extra keys out of sight and in a safe place; never hide a key outside as most hiding places are obvious to burglars;
- Avoid displaying valuable items near windows with open drapes or shades;
- Never leave a note on the door explaining why you are not at home;
- Never leave doors or windows unlocked when leaving home;
- Display only your last name on your nameplate or mailbox;
- Start a "buddy system" with you neighbors in order to watch each other's homes; watch for "movers" or "repair people" at a house where no one is home.

When Leaving Home for Several Days

- Don't cancel your paper or mail deliveries; ask that your neighbor pick them up every day;
- Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that the house be checked periodically;
- Have the drapes periodically opened and closed; and have different lights turned on and off so the house appears occupied;
- Store all your valuables;
- Contact the police and fill out a **House Check Request** form (**See Appendix 7**). This is available at the Police Department or on-line at www.northfieldvillage-oh.gov. Click on **Block Watch Program** and click on **House Check Request Form**. You must bring this form to the police department. It indicates when you are leaving and when you plan to return and other pertinent emergency information. The police will then check on your house each and every shift;
- Consider asking friends or relatives to live in your home while you are away;
- Leave a car in the driveway, or ask neighbors to park in it;
- Ask your neighbor to put some trash in your trash cans.

Despite precautions, if intruders are determined to enter and burglarize your home, they can probably do so. However, burglars usually seek the easiest target-and you can take steps to make your house less vulnerable.

Telephone Security

Never give personal information (name, age, address, etc.) to a stranger on the telephone;

- Never let a stranger on the telephone know when you will or will not be home;
- Never let a stranger on the telephone know you are home alone; instruct babysitters never to tell anyone who calls that they are home alone with children;
- Teach children old enough to be left alone never to tell a stranger who telephones that their parents are gone. Teach them to say, "My mom can't come to the phone now. May I take a message?"

- Credit card/Social Security #, etc. Do not give out a credit card or social security number to someone who you do not know or whom you did not call.

When Planning a Trip

Consider having your telephone "put on vacation." (Notify the telephone company approximately two weeks before your trip, and arrangements will be made for an operator or a recording to state that your telephone is temporarily out of order each time it rings);

Use "call forwarding" if available. (Call forwarding can give callers the impression that residents are home when they are actually away, by transferring your incoming calls to another telephone number. Your local phone company can provide you with further information).

Complete a **House Check Request** form (**See Appendix 7**) with the Northfield Village Police Department. This is available at the Police Department or on-line at www.northfieldvillage-oh.gov. Click on **Block Watch Program** and click on **House Check Request Form**. You must bring this form to the police department. It indicates when you are leaving and when you plan to return and other pertinent emergency information. The police will then check on your house each and every shift;

Suspicious Persons

Obviously, not every stranger who comes into a neighborhood is a criminal. Legitimate door-to-door sales and repair people appear in residential areas frequently. Occasionally, however, criminals disguise themselves as these workers; therefore, it is important to be alert to the activities of all nonresidents. You may also check the Village website (www.northfieldvillage-oh.gov) for scams, etc. being perpetrated on residents or in neighborhoods. Alert your neighbors to these scams if you can. Law enforcement officials should be called to investigate persons in the following circumstances, who may be suspects in the crimes indicated:

- Going door to door in a residential area, especially if one or more goes to rear of residence or loiters in front of an unoccupied house or closed business (burglary);
- Forcing entrance or entering an unoccupied house (burglary, theft, or trespassing);
- Running, especially if carrying something of value or carrying unwrapped property at an unusual hour (fleeing the scene of a crime);

- Heavy traffic to and from a residence, particularly if it occurs on a daily basis (drug dealing, vice or fence operation);
- Screaming (rape or assault):
- Loitering around or peering into cars, especially in parking lots or on streets (car theft);
- Loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas (sex offender);
- Offering items for sale at a very low price (trying to sell stolen property);
- Loitering or driving through a neighborhood several times or appearing as delivery person with a wrong address (burglary).

Suspicious Vehicles

Vehicles in the following situations MAY be involved in crimes and should be reported to authorities:

- Slow moving, without lights, following aimless course in any location, including residential streets, schools, and playgrounds (burglar, drug pusher, or sex offender);
- Parked or occupied, containing one or more persons, especially at an unusual hour (lookouts for a burglary or robbery);
- Parked by a business or unoccupied residence, being loaded with valuables (burglary or theft);
- Abandoned in your neighborhood (stolen car);
- Containing weapons (criminal activity);
- Someone, especially a female or juvenile, being forced into a vehicle (kidnapping, assault, or attempted rape);
- Business transactions taking place in it, especially around schools or parks (sale of stolen items or drugs);
- Persons detaching mechanical parts or accessories from it (theft or vandalism);
- Objects being thrown from it (disposing of contraband).

Describing and Reporting of Events, Vehicles and Persons

Practicing to develop skills in providing quick, accurate descriptions is an excellent NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK WATCH meeting activity. In attempting to describe events, vehicles, or persons, write down the details of what you have observed while they are still fresh in your mind, so your descriptions to law enforcement officials will be as accurate as possible.

Describing Events

When describing events, write down:

- What happened;
- When it happened;
- Where it occurred (note the nearest cross street, home address, or landmark in relationship to the event);
- Whether injuries are involved (Be prepared to report visible or suspected personal injury. Be as specific as possible - this could save a life!);
- Whether weapons are involved (this information, whether observed or suspected, is vital to responding officers).

Describing Vehicles

When describing vehicles, write down:

- Vehicle license number and state, make and type of vehicle, color, and approximate age;
- Special designs or unusual features, such as vinyl top, mag wheels, body damage, pinstripes, etc.;
- Direction of travel.

Describing Persons

In preparing descriptions of persons, it is important to write down the following:

- Sex;
- Race;
- Age;
- Height (estimated from eye contact level measured against your height);

- Weight;
- Hair (color and length);
- Hat;
- Facial Hair (beard/mustache);
- Shirt/tie;
- Coat/jacket;
- Trousers;
- Shoes;
- Any peculiar or distinguishable mannerisms, physical disabilities, disfigurements, scars or tattoos;
- Voice characteristics;
- Direction of movement.

Operation Identification (O.I.)

Operation Identification is the name given to a program of marking personal property indelibly with a unique identifying number to permit positive identification if the items are lost or stolen. Citizens mark property with a distinguishing identification mark or number that will assist law enforcement officers with recovering and returning stolen property. Participation in Operation Identification is not mandatory for a Neighborhood Block Watch group; however, participation is **highly** recommended.

Registered Sex Offender Information

Most persons convicted of a sex offense must register with the Summit County Sheriff's Office. How long the offender has to register depends on many different factors and laws. The public has a right to obtain the registration information. Information on Registered Sex Offenders can be obtained by going to www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff/ and clicking on "Registered Sex Offenders."

Common Neighborhood Concerns

Graffiti:

Graffiti is defined as any writing, word, symbol, figure, design or other inscribed material written, sprayed, painted or otherwise applied to any exterior surface of a building, wall, fence, tree, sidewalk, curb or other permanently fixed object without the authority or consent of the property owner.

The Police Department works in coordination with the Village Service Department. We are presently meeting our goal of removal from public property within 48 hours of reporting.

Studies prove that graffiti removed within 24-48 hours results in an almost 0% chance of reoccurrence, graffiti left for 30 days results in a 200% chance of reoccurrence.

The police make very effort to have private property owners remove graffiti from their property within 10 days of notification.

Victims are encouraged to file a police report.

We will help private property owners who are elderly, have extenuating circumstances or are constant victims.

Juvenile Loitering:

The Village of Northfield has a 10:00 p.m. Minors Curfew. Ordinance 648.09 states:

"No minor under the age of eighteen years of age shall be upon or about any public street, highway, alley, park or other public place within the Municipality between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. of the following day, Sunday through Saturday, each day of the week, unless such minor is accompanied by his or her parent, guardian or legal custodian, or unless such minor is accompanied by a responsible adult of good repute not less than twenty-one

years of age, or unless such minor has in or her possession a written note of explanation from his or her parent, guardian or legal guardian, or is going to or returning from a school, church or civic function.”

It is not a violation if the person under the age of 18 is accompanied by a parent, guardian or other adult person over the age of 21 years of age who is authorized by a parent or guardian of such juvenile to take the parent’s place for a designated period of time and purpose.

Additionally, the Village passed a “Minors, Daytime Curfew and Loitering” ordinance in 2006. Ordinance 648.095 states, in part:

“It is unlawful for any of the following persons under the age of eighteen years to remain, loiter or wander upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds, public places, public buildings, places of amusement, restaurants, vacant lots, or any unsupervised place during regular school hours while school is in session:

- A. Any person who is subject to compulsory education or compulsory continuing education; or*
- B. Any person who is subject to compulsory education and is currently registered in a work-study program with the school they are currently enrolled in and are gainfully employed; or*
- C. Any person who is subject to compulsory education and is presently suspended or expelled from school; or*
- D. Any person who is subject to compulsory education and is being home-schooled; or*
- E. Any person who is subject to compulsory education and who has either withdrawn or dropped out of school and is not gainfully employed.*

It is not a violation if the minor is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other adult person having the care and custody of the minor or in the event the minor is on an emergency errand directed by a parent, guardian, or other adult having care and custody of the minor. Additionally, it is not a violation of this ordinance if the minor is going directly to, or coming from his or her gainful employment or an authorized appointment (e.g. dentist, physician, etc.); or when the minor is deemed by the court to be an emancipated juvenile.

As stated, neither curfew ordinance prohibits juveniles from participating in legitimate activities. They do, however, prohibit them from aimlessly wandering and hanging around. If you are concerned about a group of juveniles hanging around your neighborhood call the police dispatch center at (330) 467-7112, and based on priority and availability an officer will be sent to investigate.

Parents also have a responsibility under the law. When parents knowingly permit their child to violate the ordinance, charges may be filed against the parents.

Motor Vehicle Theft:

Motor vehicle thefts in the Village are, for the most part, far and few between. Unfortunately, when one of these rare thefts does occur, it usually entails the victim having left the keys in the car. Remember to always pocket your keys and lock your car doors even if “just for a minute” such as warming your car in the winter time, or paying for gas while the car is running. Do not leave your car running at the curb of a business while you run in “for just a moment to drop something off or pick something up.” It invites theft.

Break-ins to Motor Vehicles (BMV)

It's important to removal ALL valuables or perceived valuables from your vehicle. Criminals target areas of opportunity. If your neighborhood removes these items from your vehicles you reduce the chance of criminal activity in your neighborhood.

Narcotic Complaints:

If you have a narcotics complaint you have several options of reporting the information:

- Call the police dispatch center, (330) 467-7112. If a patrol car is free when you report drug activity, an officer will respond. However, drug deals are completed quickly and are often over before an officer can arrive.
- Call the Detective Bureau 24 hour line, (330) 467-7139 Ext. 14. You will get a recording if the detective is unavailable. Leave as detailed a message as possible including tenants suspected, date of birth of suspects, addresses, apartment numbers, suspected dates and times the activities occur, etc. This line does not have caller ID so if you wish to be contacted leave your name and a phone number where you can be re-contacted by the detective, otherwise your tip is anonymous.
- File a report at the Northfield Village Police Department, located at 10455 Northfield Road, Northfield Village, OH 44067.

- Fill out a ***Drug Information Report (See Appendix 9)***, available at the Police Department or on-line at www.northfieldvillage-oh.gov. Click on ***Block Watch Program*** and click on ***Drug Information Report Form***. You may bring it to the police Department, FAX it to (330) 468-2538, or mail it to the Northfield Village Police Department, Attn: Detective Bureau, 10455 Northfield Road, Northfield Village, OH 44067.

Note: Your reports are very important, but it is vital that citizens understand that their reports usually cannot be the primary cause for a drug arrest. Unless you have special training or experience with drugs or drug users, the courts will say an arrest based only on citizen testimony is not justified. Since few citizens can meet the strict legal standards, officers who do have the training and experience must make their own observations and collect evidence the courts will accept. These reports, however, do let the police know there is a problem, and they provide a reason for police to undertake an investigation of a person or location.

Traffic Violations:

One of the most common concerns voiced by the citizens of Northfield Village is neighborhood traffic complaints. Most neighborhood violators are your neighbors. The Neighborhood Block Watch encourages group members to be responsible for their neighborhoods. With that in mind, the police department has initiated a program so community members can have an impact on traffic problems such as speeding, reckless driving, and stop light violators.

- ***Traffic Complaint Form (See Appendix 8)*** – This is a report form that provides citizens with the opportunity to make a traffic complaint against a known driver or a vehicle identified with a license plate. These reports are available at the police station, or on-line at the department’s web page, www.northfieldvillage-og.gov. Click on ***Block Watch Program*** and click on ***Traffic Complaint Form***. You may bring it to the police department, FAX it to (330) 468-2538, or mail it to the Northfield Village Police Department, Attn: Traffic Enforcement Detail, 10455 Northfield Road, Northfield Village, OH 44067.

The complaint will be reviewed by an officer, who will then have the final decision whether to issue a verbal or written warning to the registered owner or a citation if sufficient and verifiable evidence to support such citation issuance.

Other Community Partnership Programs

The following are partnership programs available to the community. If you have any questions about these or other community partnerships contact the CPO for more information.

Explorer Program – The ***Sagamore Hills Police Explorer Program*** is open to Northfield Village teens 15 and older. Explorers learn law enforcement tactics, crime scene investigation, and ride with officers. Explorers can participate in the program until they turn 21 years of age. Several officers on area police departments started as Explorers. For more information, contact the Sagamore Hills Police Department at (330) 468-0900.

Crime Free Multi-Housing – This is a crime prevention program explicitly for apartment complexes in the Village. It is part of the Neighborhood Block Watch. It is a partnership between the apartment complexes, their management teams, The Block Watch Group in their respective ward, and the Northfield Village Police Department.

Business Watch Program – This is a crime prevention program explicitly suited for the business community to reduce crime and the fear of crime. It **is not** presently part of the Neighborhood Block Watch. The Business Watch is composed of a group of business people who join together with the police in a team effort to practice crime prevention. A Business Watch may be formed in a shopping center, among a row of street-front shops, or other free-standing shops and businesses. **(See PART TWO of this Guide for more information)**

Summit County Crime Stoppers – A program that allows citizens to anonymously report suspects of crimes to the police. Detectives working the case will later follow-up these tips. This number will not get a response for an in-progress call. Sometimes cash rewards are given. **Call (330) 434-2677.**

Ride Along Program – Qualified community members may complete an application and ride with a police officer for half a shift. Approval is based on scheduling, manpower, and emergencies. Call the CPO for more information.

Senior Victim Assistance Team – This team is comprised of a group of senior volunteers who provide senior victims with immediate crisis intervention and support. They often respond at the request of police officers to help a victim of a crime or they may provide follow-up support and referrals.

Meet Your Crime Prevention Team



TEAM WATCH COMMANDER

Officer Fred Jones is your **Crime Prevention Watch Commander** for the Neighborhood Block Watch Program. He has been a member of the Northfield Village Police Department since 2008, but has served as a law enforcement officer since 1984. He previously worked with Liquor Control, the Summit County Sheriff's Department, and several other area police agencies. Besides his full-time position with the Northfield Village Police, he presently works part-time with the Munroe Falls Police Department and is a captain on the Munroe Falls Fire Department.

Educated, personable, and community-oriented, Officer Jones is vested with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and training that makes him invaluable to this department and justifiably qualifies him to carry the mantel of being "the right man for the job" 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 in Criminal Justice.



Officer Brian Zajac has been a member of the Northfield Village Police Department since 2005. A skilled and well-rounded officer, Brian is very outgoing 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. He is trained in Biological Evidence Collection & Retention and is certified in Crisis Intervention.



Officer Warren Olesinski joined the Northfield Village Police Department in 2010, after working in the private sector. Warren attended the Kent State University police Academy in 2009, graduating at the top of his class. For his part, Warren brings a maturity 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 dependable resource for a sensible opinion or practical solution to a problem. He is trained in Biological Evidence Collection & Retention.

Contact Information

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BLOCK WATCH CRIME PREVENTION TEAM

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Officer Matthew Grams #811
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Officer Warren Olesinski #820
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**The Block Watch Program is under the direction of
Council President Beatrice Greenlee and Councilwoman Linda Bowen
and operated in partnership with the Northfield Village Police Department.**

The Village of Northfield
Police Department



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