

THE TOWN WATCH

September
2015

Lakewood Village TX Neighborhood Watch



UPCOMING LWV EVENT

Pet Appreciation Day
September 26 (Saturday)
At Town Hall

Pet Registrations, Vaccines & Grooming. **Detailed flyers with all the details are posted on our town website.**

Our Neighborhood Watch program is partnering up with Pet Appreciation Day! Representatives from the Denton County Sheriff's Department will be on hand from 1-3 p.m. to hand out valuable information and some fun goodies.

In addition, we are collecting donations of pet items:

Pet Food (nonperishable)
Food & Water Bowls
Pet Toys
Clean Blankets & Towels
Misc. Pet Related Items

Bins to collect these items will be available for donations, located in front of town hall on Sept 26 from 9am-3pm.

The Denton County Sheriff's representatives will deliver all of the collected pet donation items on behalf of our Neighborhood Watch Program to the Denton County Animal Shelter.

Let's make this a great event for our town AND for the animals!



The Power of a Neighborhood Watch

Watching out for each other. It's a simple adage and one that holds immeasurable power when it comes to keeping communities safe. Over the years, neighborhood watch groups have grown in number and are having a positive impact on the reduction of crime in communities throughout the country.

According to the National Neighborhood Watch Program, burglaries nationwide decreased more than 30 percent throughout the 1990s, thanks to communities taking a more active role in stopping crime before it starts. People expect to live in their neighborhoods, being safe and have peace & quiet.

But people who live in the seemingly placid suburbs of Dallas/Fort Worth aren't immune to crime just because they've got lawns and trees in their backyards. Crimes in the larger cities tend to be more violent crimes against persons; like assaults, or gun point robberies, which law enforcement defines as forcibly taking property from someone, as opposed to breaking into a home and stealing something. Here in LWV, we're really a suburb of Dallas. Crimes here are typically crimes against property, and vehicles, or stealing from homes and vehicles."

Although it's difficult to measure the effectiveness of neighborhood watch groups against these types of crimes in terms of solid statistics, watch programs are undoubtedly effective. To date, we know it's working because we get calls from people when things are happening in our neighborhoods. People tell us and we know they are watching out for things. The Block Captains are keeping their eyes and ears open! Good Job!

No matter how many sheriff patrols come through LWV each day, no one knows our own neighborhoods better than the people who live here. We all need to be the eyes and ears for law enforcement. Keeping an eye out for suspicious activity, anything that seems out of the ordinary neighborhood routine will have the biggest impact on deterring would-be criminals.

Residents should always keep an eye out for strangers in our neighborhoods. If anyone is seen running through the neighborhood, carrying suspicious packages, entering an unoccupied house, loitering around or peering into cars, waiting around homes or the park, even appearing at people's doors as a delivery person with the wrong address, call the authorities. If a house on the street suddenly develops a steady traffic of visitors, it could be an indication of an emerging drug business or potential thieves, and again, it's time to call the Sheriff.

The most important way to help local law enforcement is to try to remember as many details as possible either about the individual or the situation just witnessed. Write down what happened, when and where it happened and as many details as you can remember. When it comes to vehicles, try to remember license plate numbers, even portions of them can help and as many details about the make and model of the car as possible as well as the direction of its travel. In terms of people, think of height, weight, sex, hair color, race, clothing and other distinguishing details. The more details people can remember, the better the chance that local law enforcement will be able to find and prosecute the suspect. Safety, like so many other things, is in the details. It's all about exchange of information. Constant communication and active reporting are very important.

What about privacy? Do watch programs promote unwelcome, nosy behavior among neighbors? Most neighborhood watch experts don't think so.

Have a pen, paper and a phone; these are your tools for our Neighborhood Watch. We ask you to report anything you see that seems unusual. Stay safe everyone!

**To report suspicious activity, call Denton County Sheriff's Office
(940) 349-1600**