



CRIME WATCH

A Publication of the Ann Arbor Police Department – 2002



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

*Written by: Cendra Lynn
Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board*

Neighborhood Watch is being revitalized and re-invigorated, thanks to multi-pronged efforts by Police Chief, Daniel Oates; Adele El-Ayoubi, Crime Prevention Specialist; the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board; and Neighborhood Watch Block Captains who are continuing in or joining the program. Neighborhood Watch nearly ceased existence during the hiatus between Police Chiefs. Now it is being re-created and becoming more active and pro-active than ever. [See also the interview with

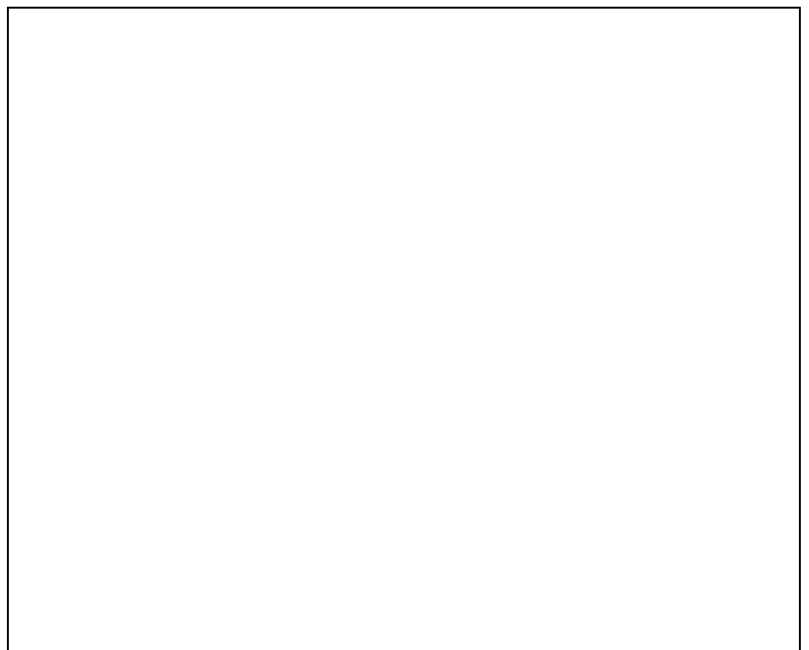
Daniel Oates, on page # 3 & 4.]

The neighborhood watch program is one of the most effective means available for resolving crime issues within the community. It uses the best crime prevention resources around: good neighbors.

The first mandate of Chief Oates was that every Neighborhood Watch Block Captain receives training through the Police Department. These trainings have begun. First the Block Captains on the North side were contacted. Now the West side captains are receiving invitations to the training sessions that are held a number of times during the month. All prior block captains will be contacted and invited. For the first time, a background check is being run on each block captain, part of increased safety. These sessions also provide an opportunity for Block Captains to meet each other, to ask questions of the Police Department, and to raise concerns relevant to their neighborhoods.

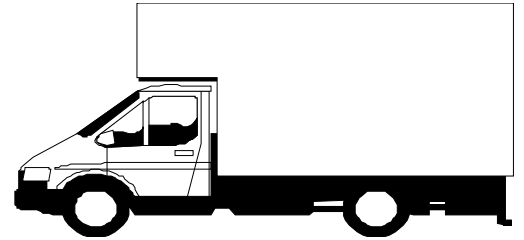
Neighborhood Watch also has an Advisory Board that assists Adele in running the program. The Board meets regularly, helps with the training sessions, and works on this newsletter and other publications. You may get more information about any of this by visiting our web site at www.ann-arbor.mi.us/framed/police/index.html (click on Neighborhood Watch) or contacting Crime Prevention Specialist Adele El-Ayoubi, 994-8775.

This newsletter is produced and distributed compliments of The Ann Arbor Police Department, Crime Prevention Office. The Editor is Adele El-Ayoubi, Crime Prevention Specialist. Questions and comments should be sent in care of the Ann Arbor Police Department 100 North Fifth Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48104 or E-mail us at: AElayoubi@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us 734-994-8775



COULD THIS HAPPEN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?

*Written by: Diane Schillack
Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board*



It was an average mid-morning on the west side of Ann Arbor. An elderly woman and a younger woman were each in their houses looking out their windows. They noticed four men in uniform jumpsuits and a truck had pulled up to a neighbor's house. These men were packing and moving the contents of that neighbor family's home. The men spent approximately four hours moving in and out of the front door, carefully packing the furniture and belongings. Both women thought nothing of this, as when the family moved into the neighborhood, the elderly woman had greeted them and welcomed them to the neighborhood. The family was very polite but also aloof. They did not want to share any pertinent information, such as their long work hours or when they would be out of town.

A few days later, a woman claiming to be a neighbor approached the younger woman. She said that she had been robbed and wondered if anyone had seen anything. The younger woman did not know who she was and said she had seen nothing. It was later that the younger woman discovered (by talking with the older woman) that the victims of the robbery were the people living in the house that the 'movers' had emptied out. Because this family had never introduced themselves and were very private, the younger woman did not even recognize her own neighbors.

Both the older and younger women would not have hesitated to telephone the police had they known the neighbors well enough to be aware they were not moving.

PEOPLE KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR

*Compiled By: Sandra Arlinghaus
Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board*

It's that time of year again, when people knock at your door to try to sell you something, ask you to sign a petition, or tell you about their religion. According to Chapter 79 of the Ann Arbor City Code, a solicitor is a person traveling . . . from place to place seeking to obtain orders for the purchase of goods or services for future delivery or performance.

A peddler is any person, who travels . . . from place to place, selling or offering for sale goods or services. Other parts of this code say: All persons licensed under this chapter shall display their license in a prominent manner so the license is visible to the public.

No person shall:

- (1) Enter a private residence under pretenses other than for soliciting or peddling.
- (2) Remain in a private residence or on the premises thereof after the owner or occupant thereof has requested any such person to leave.

(3) Enter upon the premises of a private residence to solicit or peddle when the owner or occupant thereof has displayed a "no soliciting" or "no peddling," sign on such premises. . .

(4) Solicit or peddle at a private residence prior to 10:00 a.m. and after official sunset time, or at any time on a Sunday or on a State or national holiday.

Persons soliciting or peddling as the duly authorized representative or agent of any church, charitable, educational or fraternal organization . . . or of any political group seeking funds or membership shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of this Chapter.

Remember, you do not ever have to open your door to anyone. Solicitors and peddlers must have a city license on their person. If you feel suspicious or concerned about anyone coming to your home, call 911 and describe the person and behavior. Let the police decide what action to take.

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHIEF

*Interviewed By: Conrad Juchartz
Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board*

The Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board (NWAB) interviewed our new Police Chief, Daniel Oates, near the end of the winter.

NWAB: Comparing NYC to Ann Arbor, are you adapting to us and have there been any problems?

Oates: I think 99% of people are the same. Every community that I've worked in has a healthy segment of people interested in what police do and how they can work with them. However, the crime patterns and types are different here. The quality of life is much better. In terms of Neighborhood Watch (NW), I think it's pretty much the same. I was a little concerned when I got here because when I went into the communities, the perception was the Police Dept. was telling the citizens what to do. This is not how it is. NW is about citizens being the eyes and ears of the community and giving us their best hunches, what rumors they've heard, sharing ideas for a safer community, etc.

NWAB: I understand NW is one of the few survivors of our community policing programs.

Oates: We are down 18 police officers, so this had to happen. Several elements were cut, but NW was one we wanted to preserve. It's great for several reasons: 1 – it's economical as we use volunteers to help fight crime; 2 – it's good for community trust building and reinforces traditional notions of community policing; 3 – it also breaks down barriers between the police and the community

NWAB: Will there be any changes regarding reduction in personnel?

Oates: Every police chief in the country would like to have more resources. We will have to work with the parameters we have. Do I see our police staffing levels increasing? Around the edges, maybe, but substantively in the area of crime prevention, no. I'm going to make an argument for a very modest increase at our next budget meeting. The only problem is we are projecting a \$3 million deficit next year. The answer is effectively, no at this time. I'm not seeking to increase staffing in any significant way in the next budget cycle because I have an obligation, as a department head, to save money and not spend.

NWAB: What are your expectations for Neighborhood Watch and the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board?

Oates: What I would really like to see, especially in this modern age of computers and email, and one of the nice things about Ann Arbor, is that nearly everyone is online. The key supervisors in the detective bureau who watch crime for me on a daily basis and give me oral reports tell me what I should worry about. What I would like to see is this: Soon after one of our meetings, an email notice would go out to an affected area of town to say this event happened and if you know anything that could help the Police Department, let us know. I want to get real-time information out there fast, such as a picture sent to our NW participants. The advantage of email is you can read the information and fire back a response. You can also send out multiple messages.

NW Block Captains take the time to go through special training, take seriously the information we put out, and serve as volunteers for the community. I think very much that NW should be a two-way street. We should provide information and are also looking for any kind of help in return. For example, if someone is breaking into a car or a home and we can get a description of those involved, that's the kind of things people can notice. If we have a bunch of stolen cars in an area of the city, that's precisely the thing where the NW eyes and ears effort may pay off.

By the way, we have come up with ID cards for NW people, a special identifier, and a phone number to call with information. For example, I'm NW # so and so" and that's . . .to trigger a good response from the police department. The value of . . .being a registered NW trained person is that this cuts through the barriers to good communication, and we know right away at our end that this is an ally, trained eyes and ears, and we should take it very seriously. That's one of the big jobs of the dispatchers: to determine the value of the call.

NWAB: What kind of anti-terrorist response are you expecting from NW?

Oates: Everyone has read about the FBI threat advisory. I've emailed this information to department heads and City council letting them know our take on it. Something like that could just as easily go out to our trained NW members. A simple message could be, "If you want to know more, check the FBI's web site" and I think every

Interview with Chief Oates, Cont'd

Participant in NW would like to get that message. Who knows how helpful this could be? The FBI has pictures of the 15 most-wanted, and there is always the possibility that one of them might be passing through Ann Arbor.

NWAB: We haven't fully addressed the issue of NW being an anti-terrorist eyes and ears group. Should we be trained to detect a terrorist sleeper in our community?

Oates: Good point! There has been a lot written on the 19 who attacked us on 9-11 and how they led ordinary lives up to that moment. I think the entire community, not just NW, has already been sensitized to the issues. I like to think that NW will be comfortable sharing their concerns with the Police Department regarding possible terrorist sleeper cells. I'm not sure we need special training on this.

NWAB: What I hear you saying is we should error on the side of commission, not omission, and not be reluctant to call.

Oates: Yes! That is already occurring in police agencies all across the country. The number of leads that came in after 9-11 was tremendous. After all, we are at war, and citizens take their civic responsibilities seriously. Any kind of information coming in, we know how to process and will make sure it gets into the right hands.

NWAB: What kinds of input can the Advisory Board give you?

Oates: I would like the advisory board to advise me on how best to achieve my vision of making the program work. Adele has started the NW training program, and I understand that it's great. I'm going to catch it one of these days. I also want to reinvigorate training in this area and sell this new vision of NW to participants. We have to clean up our membership rolls and make sure our 900 block captains are still interested. We want our training to impart our vision of NW as the eyes and ears of our community.

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

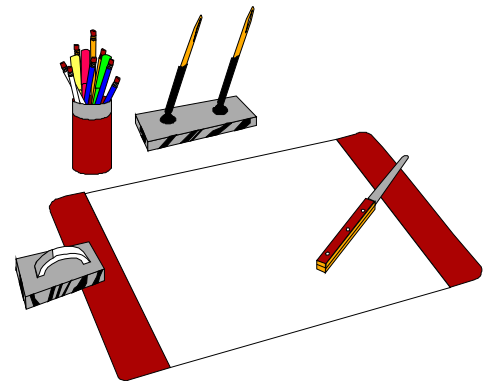
Dear Neighborhood Watch Participants:

On behalf of the Ann Arbor Police Department, I would like to thank and congratulate you on your decision to continue to be part of the Neighborhood Watch Program. The success of this program is determined by the commitment you and your neighbors have made to be eyes and ears in the community. It provides a unique infrastructure that brings together law enforcement and citizens for the protection of the community.

Neighborhood Watch programs across the country got a new mandate from Attorney General John Ashcroft who announced an expansion of the community crime prevention program to include the participation of ordinary citizens in detecting and preventing terrorism. In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the need for strengthening and securing our communities has become even more critical. President Bush has announced that, with the help of the local law enforcement, the Neighborhood Watch Program will be taking on a new significance. Every citizen can assist local law enforcement by playing an active role in his or her community and neighborhood. Neighborhood Watch deters criminal activity and helps protect American families. The heart of prevention is watching out, helping out, reporting suspicious activity or persons and creating neighborhoods and communities in which citizens are active and contributing.

It is only your dedication to protecting your family and neighbors that will truly make the difference. Thank you for answering the call to make this commitment. Together we stand united and make Ann Arbor a stronger community.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Chief Dan Oates



BUILD A MOAT AROUND



YOUR CASTLE...

In medieval times you could throw in a 'gator or two and a school of piranhas and, chances were

nobody would come near your property.

Today, the same theories apply; it's just that our approach is different.

LIGHT THE TORCHES

Good lighting is important, externally and internally. Properly directed floodlights, photoelectric cells, motion detectors and timers can all be used to discourage illegal activity.

MANAGE THE FOREST

The environment of Ann Arbor is that of trees and beautiful landscapes. Planting should be designed to reinforce that concept. However, you can accomplish this and still keep safety issues in mind. Place lower cut shrubbery, or better yet, thorny and/or prickly plants by your windows.

SOUND THE ALARM

Investigate putting in a security alarm system. Remember all alarms, monitored or not, must have a permit in Ann Arbor. For more information contact Our Alarm Enforcement Officer @ 994-4523.



HIDE THE TREASURES

Purchase a safe for important valuables or consider a safety deposit box at your local bank. Mark your valuables using an engraver or other permanent-marking device. The Neighborhood Watch Office can give you information on Operation I.D.

SECURE THE DRAWBRIDGE

Locking devices – locking devices. We can't say it enough times. Most importantly *you must use them!* Install dead bolts on your doors and make sure to secure your windows. Last, but not least, don't forget your garage.

MAKE THE ROUNDS

Pretend you're a thief casing your home. Find the easiest entry point and make it more burglar-proof.

KNOW YOUR KINGDOM - QUEENDOM!

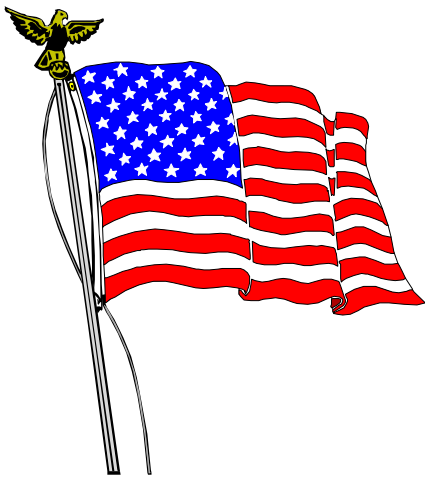
But alas, noblemen, fair maidens and brave knights you must partake in merriment. Get to know your neighbors and have neighborhood activities where you get to know one another. Working together, whether from the highest tower in your castle or from your own front yard, you are your own best defense.

Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board

Sandra Arlinghaus	Northeast Ann Arbor
Stuart Baggley	Northeast Ann Arbor
Irene Brock	Central Ann Arbor
Ro Adrienne Evans	Northeast Ann Arbor
Sandy Hahn	Western Ann Arbor
Tim Hilledbrand	Southern Ann Arbor
Willie Horton	Southern Ann Arbor
Conrad Juchartz	Western Ann Arbor
Rosemary Lewis	Western Ann Arbor
Cendra Lynn	Western Ann Arbor
Diane Schillack	Western Ann Arbor
Sue Tarle	Northeast Ann Arbor
Teri Teeri	Western Ann Arbor

You can reach the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board by calling 971-1591. Please leave your name and number and a member of the board will return your call.

National Night Out



National Night Out is a crime and drug prevention event that is sponsored by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the Washtenaw County Crime Prevention Officers Association. It is a celebration and a visible demonstration of crime prevention solidarity, police/community partnership, and neighborhood camaraderie.

It is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police/community relations;
- Send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Years ago, neighborhoods were safer because neighbors knew each other, people routinely looked out for one another, and everyone knew the cop on the beat.

Throughout the year, we work to rejuvenate that spirit of caring and cooperation. It is one way for all citizens to express their determination to protect and enjoy the security of their homes and neighborhoods. It is a welcome sign not only of community awareness of the crime problem, but also of community involvement in solving that problem.

Through the Community Policing concept that we have adopted, the community works with the police department to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses. It encourages the unification of both police personnel and citizens to become a part of rather than apart from their community.

We would like to extend to you an invitation to become a part of the community and join us in this year's celebration of National Night Out. The County Kick-off Family Safety Fair, which will have a patriotic theme, will take place on Friday, August 2, 2002 at Arborland Mall (in front of the Toys R Us) from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. We would also encourage you to become active and join the over 32 million people around the world on Tuesday, August 6th and meet and greet your neighbors in your own neighborhood. Please see the form on the next page if you are planning anything for your community.



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Family Safety Fair

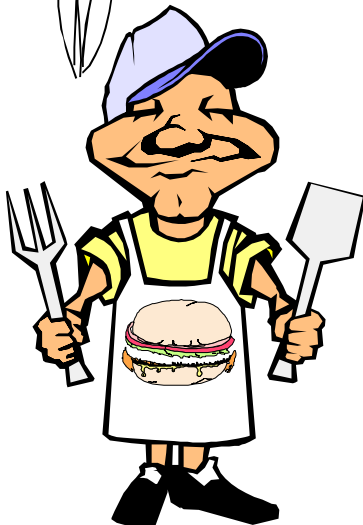
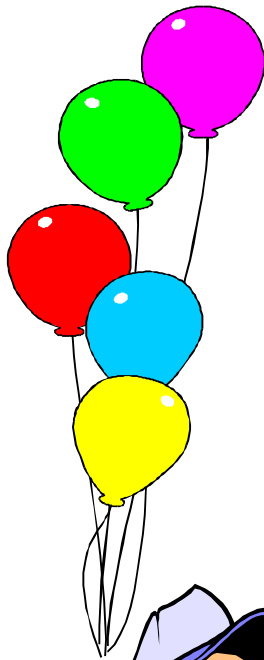
Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the
Washtenaw County Crime Prevention Officers Association

WHERE: Arborland Mall Parking Lot
(In front of Toys R Us)

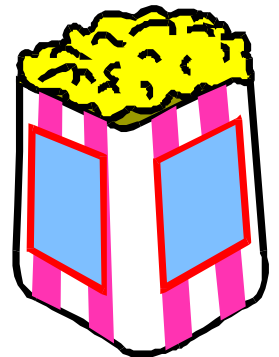
WHEN: Friday, August 2, 2002
from 6:00 - 9:00 pm

FEATURING: Washtenaw County Area Police Agencies

- United States Marine Corps
- United States Army
- United States Navy
- United States Air Force
- United States National Guard
- Special Tactics Unit
- Andy the Ambulance
- Louie the Lightning Bug
- Arcs-n-Sparks
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Seatbelt Convincer



FREE
Food, Entertainment and
Raffle Prizes



National Night Out Participation Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Date of Event: _____

Activities Planned: _____

Wish for a Visit from the Ann Arbor Police Department: _____

Special Requests: _____

How can we assist you in your planning? _____

Please return this form to:

**Ann Arbor Police Department
Attn.: Adele El-Ayoubi, CPS
100 North Fifth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104**

****** Requests will be honored on a first
come first serve basis. So get your
requests in as soon as possible!! ******

We look forward to seeing you all on National Night Out