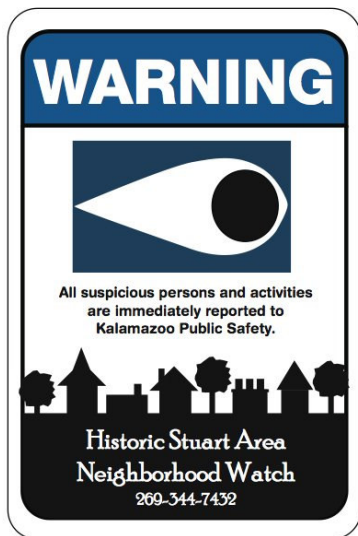


What is the Stuart Neighborhood Watch?



Stuart Neighborhood has the lowest crime rate in all of the city neighborhoods. Even so, our neighborhood has experienced the same increase in “crimes of opportunity” as has every neighborhood in the City of Kalamazoo. It’s a problem that Stuart is addressing with an active Neighborhood Watch.

Stuart Neighborhood 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 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.

Neighborhood 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.

If you want to participate in the Stuart Neighborhood Watch:

Find out if there is a Block Watch already started on your street. Call Jan Sloan (343-3421) or Matt Baldwin-Wilson (344-7432). If there is, you will be given your local Block Captain's contact information.

-Or-

If there is not yet a Block Watch on your street, consider taking on the role of Block Captain yourself. Read more about the role of the Block Captain below.

The following is a list of recommended activities for Block Captains; it is not meant to be all-inclusive, because many Block Captains are creative in their approach. The job of Block Captains is important and greatly appreciated by the Stuart Area Restoration Association.

- Attend monthly Block Captains' Meetings.
- Periodically monitor the membership of your group. Contact new residents to get them involved and to obtain their support and participation. If you stop serving as a Block Captain and/or if someone else takes over, contact the neighborhood office.
- Develop a neighborhood communication system to distribute vital information to neighbors pertaining to criminal activity and other concerns that develop in the area.
- Arrange for your group to meet socially at least twice per year to exchange information and renew relationships as well as to get acquainted with new neighbors.
- Encourage neighbors to advise you concerning criminal activity. You can keep a record of break-ins, vandalism, graffiti, and/or any activity that becomes a concern for you and your neighbors. Provide this type of information to neighbors at your next block meeting.
- Your position as a Block Captain does not give you any law enforcement authority. You are the person who facilitates the unity of the group, disseminates information, and coordinates activities.

Your Stuart Neighborhood Watch program provides Block Captains with the following resources:

1. Block Captain Resource Handbook
2. Neighborhood Watch door/window decals for your block
3. Neighborhood Watch map of Stuart Area
4. Phone tree
5. Support and Assistance from the Stuart Area Neighborhood Watch program.

Neighborhood Watch is a recognized way for concerned community members to get involved and make a difference. This community-based organization of citizens working together with law enforcement has helped prevent burglaries, thefts, and violent crimes nationwide for many years. Ordinary people agree to look out for their neighbors and their neighbors property. Through having assigned Block Captains, Neighborhood Watch facilitates communication to all neighborhood residents. Neighborhood Watch works!

The Stuart Area Block Captain's Resource Handbook

Table of Contents

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Block Captain Start-up Checklist
- 3) Map of Stuart Area
- 4) City & Neighborhood Guidelines
- 5) How To Organize Your Block
- 6) Phone List of Resources
- 7) Web List of Resources
- 8) Calendar of Events

Stuart Area Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Application

Block: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

(Cell) _____ E-Mail: _____

Our Block **Co-Captain** is: (optional)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

(Cell) _____ E-Mail: _____

Please return to: Stuart Area Restoration Association
Attn: Neighborhood Watch
530 Douglas Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
E-Mail: director@stuartarea.org

Building A Stronger Neighborhood One Block At A Time.