

# *Hello Neighbor!*

The Delaware County Sheriff **Block Watch** is a simple program involving neighbors who become the “eyes and ears” of the Sheriff’s Office to help protect one another. Communication is the #1 benefit.

- 1) Communication among neighbors, which helps add a layer of security in the neighborhood; and
- 2) Two-way communication between neighbors and the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office.

## **WHO IS BLOCK WATCH FOR?**

Everyone! The main role of a block watch is for residents *to report anything suspicious*. Who is best qualified to decide what is unusual in your neighborhood? Those who live there! When in doubt, give us a call. We do not mind if it turns out to be nothing – the old adage “better safe than sorry” couldn’t be more appropriate!

## **DO BLOCK WATCHES WORK?**

In the early 1980’s, Detroit, the “motor” city became the “murder” city. Three similar neighborhoods were chosen to conduct an experiment. The 1<sup>st</sup> program doubled car patrols, the 2<sup>nd</sup> instituted 24-hour foot patrols, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> began a neighborhood block watch. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> groups showed no significant change in crime except for increased arrests in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The neighborhood with the Block Watch showed a 52% drop in crime!

## **WHAT DO WE DO AS A BLOCK WATCH MEMBER?**

- 1) Get to know your neighbors. You don’t have to become best friends, but be aware of when they are out of town, have repair workers coming, etc.
- 2) Report any suspicious behavior you observe to the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office: **(740-833-2800)**.  
NEVER take matters into your own hands! Please do not approach suspects, criminals, etc.
- 3) Display a small window sticker (“**Sheriff’s Block Watch**”) on your home and/or car window (we provide these). This helps publicize the Block Watch and could serve as a deterrent to criminals.
- 4) Invite the Sheriff’s Office to your neighborhood gatherings! We’re happy to come share safety tips, answer questions, show off our k-9 or mounted units, etc.

