2006:

Spokane County Sheriff's Office website

Ever since President Bush issued his challenge to law enforcement to increase the size of their neighborhood watch organizations after 9/11 the Spokane county sheriff's office stepped up their neighborhood watch program. The sheriff's office partnered with ministers in their local churches to let sheriffs speak from the pulpit resulted in the successful recruitment and training of more than 500 new block captains in Spokane County. The sheriff's office also runs a nationally recognized community oriented policing organization called S.C.O.P.E., (Sheriff's Community Oriented Policing Effort). The organization has more than 700 active volunteers participating in a variety of crime reduction programs which include Citizens On Patrol, helicopter pilots, Operation I.D., Handicap Parking Enforcement, Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement, and 16 storefront police substations operated and staffed completely by S.C.O.P.E. volunteers in various neighborhoods throughout Spokane County. Each of the volunteers is trained and assigned as a block captain in our Neighborhood Watch organization. The sheriff's office is diligently pursuing a goal of getting over 2,000 block captains.

Rancho Palos Verdes Neighborhood Watch Group website

Rancho Palos Verdes Neighborhood Watch is a volunteer organization sponsored by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Lomita Station. Its objective is twofold. First is to foster community awareness and response to criminal activity. And second is to create emergency preparedness organizations to deal with natural and man-made disasters. In 1992 it took two weeks of rioting on the streets of Los Angeles to divide a city. The result was a profound distrust and dislike of the law enforcement personnel from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department-Lomita Station. Gail Lorenzen started a Neighborhood Watch program that has reached into more than 9,000 homes. She is supported by 402 Block Captains, 47 Area Coordinators, and more than 1,200 Block Assistants which she claims are the backbone of the organization. Through Gail's efforts the crime in Rancho Palos Verdes has dropped significantly. She attributes the success to programs she developed that make citizens aware of potential criminal activities and educating them on ways to report suspicious activities.