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Collin County Sheriff's Office website

The Collin County Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Crime Watch program has grown to 89 crime watches with one more scheduled to begin on July 24, 2012. This is the highest level of participation by our neighborhoods in crime watch in recent history. We are continuing to incorporate our Collin County Citizens Sheriff's Academy, Citizens on Patrol, into the program. The COP provides an added sense of security for our community as well as high visibility crime reduction. The members of the COP have reported that the homeowners in the affected areas are very appreciative of the increased patrols. The Sheriff's Office staff has been working to improve the communications between the crime watches and Sheriff's Office through 3 new components of the program. They have added a new 411 Tips Line for use by the citizens of Collin County. The 411 Tips line will allow anyone to forward tips about crime at any time, anonymously if desired. They have also set up a crime notification system to allow the Sheriff's Office to send out bulletins about developing crime trends to our crime watch coordinators. The information can then be distributed to the entire neighborhood quickly by the coordinators and block captains. They like to provide citizens the most current information to help them protect their neighborhoods. The last addition to our program is the Report It Citizens Property Inventory System, which allows the citizens to register their property with the Sheriff's Office. The Report It system will hopefully increase the effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office in dealing with property crime through increased apprehensions and property recovery. Increased participation in Operation ID has long been a goal of the crime watch program in Collin County. On May 22 – 24, 2012 they held their first Neighborhood Crime Watch Coordinator Leadership Training class. The class was in response to many of the coordinators, who advised they were having difficulty in getting the neighbors to participate. The lack of participation was frustrating for the coordinators. The staff wanted to assure the coordinators that the lack of participation was a measure of the success of their crime watch program. When crime is absent in the neighborhood, the neighbors become complacent. The complacency is the signal that the program has been successful in reducing crime. They offered a number of ways to battle complacency and provided interesting topics to help the coordinators invigorate the members of their crime watches. The information and guidance provided during the 3 days of classes was well received with nearly a quarter of the Counties crime watch coordinators attending one of the sessions. Many of the coordinators asked that the training become an annual event.

Plano Police Department website

University of Wisconsin Madison Police Department- Badger Watch Program website

Badger Watch is the crime prevention program for the UW-Madison Campus, which started during the 2002-2003 academic year. It's a collaborative effort between the community and the UW Police Department to help make the community a safer place. Modeled after existing neighborhood watch programs, Badger Watch relies on volunteers becoming the "extra eyes and ears" of the UW Police Department. Becoming a volunteer is easy and only involves attending the initial training with no further commitments required. The benefits include becoming a smarter/safer community member, direct access to the UW Police, and the opportunity to attend additional training throughout the year. Volunteers within the community take responsibility for a section of their neighborhood (their building). They watch out for illegal activity and other emergencies, and report them to the police or necessary person in a timely manner. At the hour long training they empower students and staff with knowledge

to be able to recognize and address safety and crime prevention concerns within their work units and residence hall. The initial training includes topics such as building/office security, personal safety, suspicious behavior, suspicious people, safe mail handling, and allows time for questions. The ultimate goal of Badger Watch is to have the police and community working side by side to keep the UW-Madison community safer and crime free. The watch currently has over 1,500 volunteers in the program.

Waterways Neighborhood Watch, Miami, FL website