

## Important Facts About Our Program

- The program is sponsored by the Munster Police Department and the CHOICE Community Council.
- Starting in April 2005 with one Crime Watch Group our program now consists of over 100 Groups and thousands of homes.
- Our program has served as a model for a number of nearby communities which have set up similar programs and newsletters for their residents.
- Meetings are held quarterly (in January, April, July, and October) or whenever else necessary. The meetings provide information on crime during the previous calendar quarter and a place for residents to raise concerns, ask questions, or pick up crime prevention materials. A specific crime prevention topic is also presented during our meetings.
- Crime Tips can be provided anonymously by email via our website or by calling the Crime Tip Hotline at 836-1010.
- Our Block and Subdivision Captains are from all walks of life. They are both male and female and serve in a variety of job fields.
- In January 2007, the Munster Business Crime Watch Program was implemented based upon the success of this program. The business program subsequently has recruited over 100 businesses, churches, and schools from all throughout town.

For more information about the  
Neighborhood Watch Program,  
please contact:

Officer James Ghrist  
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(219) 836-6639

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**CRIME TIP HOTLINE:**  
(219) 836-1010



Munster Police Department  
1001 Ridge Road  
Munster, Indiana

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## Munster Police Department

## Neighborhood Crime Watch Program



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## Get Involved in Your Neighborhood

The Munster Neighborhood Watch Organization was re-organized in January 2005, and consists of a number of local Neighborhood Watch Groups spread all throughout the town that are supervised by civilian Block Captains. The Block Captains serve as a liaison between the Munster Police Department and the Watch Group Members on their block, forwarding pertinent information to their neighbors regarding crime in town.



The Watch Group Members are then encouraged to look out for each other and to report suspicious persons, vehicles, or activity. If you volunteer to serve as a Block Captain in your area, you will soon find out that it does not require much of your time and that it can be extremely beneficial in helping to make your block a safer place to live. Since the program was re-organized, over **100** highly-organized Neighborhood Crime Watch Groups have been formed throughout town. We hope that you will choose to become one of the growing number of Munster citizens who have decided to take a stand together against the threat of crime in our community. Read on to see how you can get involved.

## Steps to Organizing a Neighborhood Watch

- Check with the Munster Police Department to see if a Neighborhood Watch Group is already in existence. If there is one in your area, we will put you in touch with your local Block Captain so that you can join their Watch Group.
- If there is not one in your area, and you'd like to start one, we will supply you with letters for you to distribute to your neighbors which introduce you as the Block Captain, provide information on the Neighborhood Watch Program, and ask for their participation.

- Once you have recruited members of your block to join your Watch Group, let us know and we will provide you with membership window stickers for each member's home and we will also post Neighborhood Watch Program in Force signs at both ends of your block.



- You will also begin to receive the *Munster Neighborhood Watch Weekly Report* each Monday afternoon by email, which you in turn should then forward to your Watch Group members. This will keep the members of your block informed of recent criminal activity.

## About the *Munster Neighborhood Watch Weekly Report*

- The *Munster Neighborhood Watch Weekly Report* is a publication of the Community-Oriented Policing Division of the Munster Police Department.
- The Weekly Report is forwarded to Block Captains or Watch Members by email. It is the backbone of our program and keeps citizens informed.
- It contains announcements and news, important police blotter items, weekly arrests in Munster, and crime prevention tips. Links are also provided to websites that are helpful in keeping your family safe.
- The report will also include pertinent suspect or suspect vehicle information when appropriate, and will let you know when charges are filed in past Munster crimes.
- Special Mid-Week Editions are also forwarded to Watch Group members when important information needs to go out quickly regarding serious crime incidents.
- Encourages Watch Members to attend monthly Watch Meetings and contact the police when they observe suspicious activity.