

01/06/17

## Community Comment

Hello, my name is Ginger Campbell and I am the coordinator for the Humboldt County Sheriff's office for the Neighborhood Watch Program. The neighborhood Watch Program has been around nationally since 1972. The Sheriff's Department has had a Neighborhood Watch Program for many years. The program itself, is a wonderful way for communities to get close again, I think we've grown apart through the years; we like to do neighborhood watches' by the block, rather than by the town or city, because the operative word in Neighborhood Watch is -WATCH- Being able to watch each other's homes, being able to check on each other; if you see something amiss for instance, if you're in a Neighborhood Watch Program you can drive by one of your members' homes in the middle of the night and you see that the garage is open, you sort of have a blanket permission slip to contact that person and say "hey you left your garage door open" or " I noticed there's people lurking outside your house" or whatever. We usually have 10 to 20 homes per Neighborhood Watch; it's not a vigilante program or a tattle tale program, the whole point of the program is to feel safe in your own home to keep your property safe. There has definitely been an uptick in property thievery and burglary in the county, and people complain about the Sheriff's Department, but really they have done a fabulous job: I'm a volunteer, so I know just from the feedback I get from different Neighborhood Watch Program's that when people are very active in their N.W.P crime level goes down, -like tremendously- The Sheriff is very much into the Neighborhood Watch Program, as well as the Under Sheriff, the Deputies are all very supportive; I would recommend that if anybody's interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch Program, it's only a two part process from our end: The first part is, I come and speak for about an hour and a half, I hand out some packets that I've put together over the last 4 years and they are very helpful, we wait about 30 days to allow everyone time to get their signs up and make the connections with each other. The Second part is a Deputy or a Corporal, sometimes a lieutenant, will come by the meetings and will talk about their part, the legal part, I'm not Law Enforcement so I can't answer those kinds of questions and so if anybody's interested my number at the Sheriff's Department is 839-6606.

This is Ginger Campbell with a Community Comment