

Officer Kris Service

Neighborhood Watch

The Mason Police Department initiated the Neighborhood Watch program after a series of residential burglaries in the late 1990's. The first groups started in the Warner, Brookdale, and Eugenia neighborhoods, and since that time, Watch groups have been organized throughout the City. In 2007, their number grew from 9 watches to 10 when East Oak/East Elm Street neighborhoods started a new organized watch.



All the groups have received training in home security, crime prevention, and reporting. Upon request, they can also receive home security surveys to identify security problems and have recommendations made for improvements. Originally I was the only officer conducting these surveys, but now there are three of us. After their Neighborhood Watch training in 2006, Officer Mark Reckling and Matt Thorne have become active in

Neighborhood Watch Meetings; specifically, Officer Reckling, who was instrumental in organizing the new neighborhood watch with the residents of the 300 blocks of East Oak and East Elm Streets.

We believe that our Department does a very good job addressing crime and safety issues in our community. However, we cannot physically be all places at once. Therefore, we must rely upon conscientious citizens to call us whenever they witness crimes being committed or observe suspicious situations. This is where Neighborhood Watch Groups really help out. They can provide us with “eyes and ears” all over the community. With this kind of help, we can—in a sense—almost be everywhere at once. Watch Group members “watch out” for each other by paying attention to things out of the ordinary.



The Mason Police Department does not expect people involved in Neighborhood Watch programs to become best friends with their neighbors, but we would like them to be comfortable enough with each other to discuss issues of concern in their neighborhoods. Additionally, we encourage them to tell their neighbors when they will be gone on vacations, or for other extended periods of time, and request that special attention be given to their homes while they

are away. If their neighbors will do such things as take in the newspapers and mail, periodically turn on the house lights, and park in their driveways, their unoccupied homes will look lived in.

The ten active Watch Groups each choose the way they wish to operate. Some prefer to be very active, and will hold multiple meetings a year, including annual block parties/picnics. Others choose to meet only when there are problems, but will stay in touch by telephone, online, and through newsletters. Whatever method they choose, each Group's goal is to keep their residents connected and familiar with one another, and at the same time, always aware of their surroundings.

