

June 08, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Neighborhood Watch Update



The first Neighborhood Watch group to receive the new SPD signs by meeting the neighborhood watch standards is a group consisting of 49 homes on three cul-de-sacs; College St., Olive St, & Water St. alongside Hilton Ave. in West Springfield. The neighborhood received the new signs on Monday, May 21st and is an example of how any Springfield neighborhood can band together and accomplish something great. The Neighborhood Watch group formed in response to drug activity within their neighborhood and have recently assisted the SPD in taking action within that area.

Springfield residents may visit the Police Department's website to register for upcoming training sessions at www.springfieldmo.gov/spd/GeneralInfo/NeighborhoodWatch/attendanceform.html

Any Springfield citizen is encouraged to attend the training regardless of their current neighborhood watch status. By attending this class, citizens will learn:

- How the police department operates
- How to become better witnesses
- How to better recognize and report suspicious activity

- Make their home less attractive to criminal activity

Four hour training sessions are offered once a month at various locations around Springfield:

- June 12 & 14th, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Police Training Facility, 216 W. Central
- July 14th, 8 am to noon, The Library Center, 4653 S Campbell.

To date, there have been 214 participants attend the four hour initial neighborhood watch training, with the option to attend an advanced neighborhood watch session and a neighborhood watch leadership session. The participants are from all areas of the Springfield community, representing at least 13 separate neighborhood watch groups and neighborhood associations.

Neighbors who wish to form watch groups and display the new neighborhood watch signs must meet minimum requirements. Once the requirements are met, Neighborhood Watch groups will be given signs which tell criminals there is a sizable number of active, organized and trained citizens ready to take action. For more information citizens may contact the Springfield Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 417-874-2113.

View a [photograph of residents from the neighborhood watch area](#). Also present in the picture is Officers Kevin Holle and Jason Rust, along with Zone 1 City Councilman Jeff Seifried.

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Release authorized by: Lt. Greg Higdon