

## Neighborhood Watch

### A Self-Help Educational Program to Resist Criminal Activity in Your Neighborhood

#### HOW?

- By promoting neighborhood unity and friendship
- By attacking the attitude of non-involvement
- By learning to recognize criminal activity
- By properly reporting such activities to the police

If you are interested in obtaining additional information regarding Neighborhood Watch, contact your neighborhood officer or call the Meridian Township Police at 517.853.4800.

**Put A Thief Out Of Business**

**Join Neighborhood Watch**

## MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE

5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	517.332.6526
Administration	517.853.4800

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)

### Visit Our Social Media Sites



Capital Area Ingham County Alerts

[www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)



[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)



[www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTwpPD)



<http://meridiantwppolice.blogspot.com/>



## Neighborhood Watch



## Organizing Neighborhood Watch

### Mission Statement

The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation and equality we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY  
[meridian.mi.us/police](http://meridian.mi.us/police)

Neighborhood Watch involves citizen involvement in a self-help battle against crime in our neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Watch program will make you aware of the steps you can take to make your home more secure and tell you how you can help the Meridian Township Police Department be more effective in its fight against crime. A Neighborhood Watch program is the first logical step for any community organizing against crime. Neighborhood Watch requires minimal effort and gets people talking and caring about one another.

### ***How Does Neighborhood Watch Work?***

Neighborhood Watch groups have the following structure:

#### ***Neighborhood Watch Coordinator***

The Neighborhood Watch coordinator is the liaison between the neighborhood and the Meridian Township Police. The coordinator is the leader who helps the neighborhood organize its Neighborhood Watch program. The coordinator recruits the block captains, develops a notification system, and initiates its use.

#### ***Block Captains***

Block captains canvass their area of responsibility and explain the Neighborhood Watch program to residents. Block captains obtain names, addresses, and contact information of those residents who wish to be Neighborhood Watch members. They help the coordinator design the notification system and help activate it when necessary.

### ***Notification System***

The notification system used should be one that distributes information throughout the community as quick as possible. Examples would be email alerts, telephone tree, Twitter, Facebook, etc. When making a decision on the type of notification system to use, one that gives the most immediate response to the most people is preferred. After the Police Department has received the notification system plan, Neighborhood Watch signs will be installed at the entrances to your neighborhood.

Neighborhood Watch coordinators may be alerted by Meridian Police of criminal activity that has occurred within their watch areas. This is done through the community police officer and Nixle. The coordinator then passes this information along to the block captains who, in turn, contact residents via the notification system. Within a very short time, an entire neighborhood can be alerted to a problem in the area.

Training sessions for your Neighborhood Watch group may be scheduled with the Department. Professional instruction will be given on how to better secure your home, what suspicious activity is, how to identify someone, and how to report a crime to the police.

### ***What Each Member Can Do:***

- Get to know your neighbors and become familiar with their routines. Remember, this is a partnership.
- Look after your neighbor's house when they are away. Ask them to look after yours.
- Be suspicious. Report unusual or suspicious behavior to the police.
- Write down descriptions of people or vehicles. License plate numbers are important.
- Keep in regular contact with your neighborhood officer.
- Participate in the notification system
- Sign up for Everbridge Nixle.

### ***What is Everbridge Nixle?***

Everbridge Nixle delivers neighborhood-level public safety notifications by text, email, and the web. Nixle is simple, trusted, and available at no cost. The Department recommends the use of Nixle to receive important and timely information. Go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and follow the directions to register.

### ***How to Report***

**Call 911:** For assaults in progress, robbery, gun shots, burglary in progress, larceny from auto in progress, fire or explosion, auto accidents involving injury, suspicious person, person with weapons, odor of gas, injuries.

**Call 332-6526:** For property crimes that occurred previously, auto accidents with no injury, abandoned vehicles, loud parties, any incident not life-threatening.

### ***When Calling the Police:***

- Give your name, address, and phone number.
- Briefly describe the event - what happened, when, where, and who was involved.
- Stay on the phone.

**Important Suspect Information:** Sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color, clothing description, scars, marks, tattoos, beard, mustache, glasses, accent.

**Important Vehicle Information:** License plate number, make, model, body style, color, special descriptions (stickers, dents, or decals).