

CRIME PREVENTION

Volunteers-In-Patrol

PENA-West is highly involved in crime prevention activities. Our Volunteers-In-Patrol (VIP) Program has been a real success! Our trained volunteers patrol the neighborhood and report any suspicious activity to the Dallas Police Department. They also patrol some of the neighborhood churches and schools, some of whom have had quite a bit of burglary and vandalism. When the patrol began, the volunteers found a surprising number of neighbors leaving their garage doors open and inviting thieves. The volunteers immediately try to notify the homeowner when they see garage doors open.

Our thanks go to our many volunteers. All volunteers go through one day of training with the Dallas Police Department on a Saturday. The volunteers that have attended the training report that it is very fun and most informative. Most volunteers contribute just a few hours each month and provide a valuable service. All patrols are manned with two volunteers. We now have 37 VIP PENA-West patrollers in our area of 316 homes. For more information please see the *Board of Directors* topic and call or e-mail the Crime Watch Program Coordinator.

Crime Alert signs are posted every time we have a crime alert in the neighborhood and we have a “hotline” (972-480-5314) that is manned to hear your comments and to pass on details of the alert. **If you see any suspicious persons or activities, call 911 immediately!** After you do that, let us know by calling our “hotline”.



Jim Sang, VIP Volunteer

Annual Crime Watch Meeting

We have an annual Crime Watch Meeting to inform us of the latest information and programs that are going on within our neighborhood regarding crime and crime prevention. We also have a keynote speaker to give us information on relevant current topics of interest.

The Crime Watch and Homeland Security Groups sponsored “Who Is Looking Out For You” on February 17th 2004 at the Dallas Bible Church. The format was a panel discussion by emergency management and security experts on several aspects of neighborhood and household safety and security.

National Town Watch Night Out

Our neighborhood observes National Town Watch Night Out every August. We turn our front porch lights on and have activities from informal gatherings to more elaborate block parties. It is a great way to meet and get to know our neighbors! Please see the ***Block Captains*** topic and contact your Block Captain if you would like to participate in organizing an activity!

On August 3, 2004 we celebrated National Night Out. Several streets hosted Block Parties and it was a great opportunity for neighbors to meet other neighbors on their streets. Members of the Dallas Police visited several of the block parties.