



Citizens encouraged to participate in Neighborhood Watch

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The buzzwords at Thursday night's Area Two town hall meeting were "Neighborhood Watch."

Shreveport Mayor Cedric Glover and members of the Police Department gave residents of Area Two, which consists of City Council Districts B, C and D, an overall view of how the city is handling crime.

Nearly every official who spoke encouraged everyone to get involved with a Neighborhood Watch.

Police Chief Henry Whitehorn said the program is the best way for citizens to deter crime and get involved. "Neighborhood Watches are not flashy or fashionable, but they work. The areas of the city with active Neighborhood Watches are the lowest crime areas."

Even if people do not have a Neighborhood Watch, he said, they should at least get to know their neighbors and be willing to watch their property.

Anyone interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch can call the Police Department at 673-6950.

Whitehorn also encouraged everyone to register with the Web site crimeweb.net.

"It was designed to provide the citizens of Shreveport with crime information in their area," the police chief said. "It provides crime alerts, like if a house down the street has been burglarized or a child is missing in your neighborhood."

"If you don't do anything else" » go to the Web site and sign up," he said. "You will instantly see the benefit of it."

Assistant Police Chief Glenn Schach said his department has done a lot to drive down crime in Shreveport over the past three years.

Nonetheless, he still sang the praises of having an active Neighborhood Watch.

When he was growing up in the 1960s, he said, no one ever locked their doors and they left keys in their cars. All they really had or needed was a Neighborhood Watch, Schach said.

"Where I live now, I know my neighbors and they know me. We watch out for our kids. We know what kind of cars we drive. It's neighbors taking care of neighbors — local homeland security."

Lt. Robin Snyder quoted Martin Luther King Jr. in describing the importance of Neighborhood Watch. "We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends. That's what a Neighborhood Watch is."

She said although some people may have never met their neighbors, they know who they are.

"What I ask is that you don't run out there and tackle someone who you've seen do something wrong," Snyder said. "Instead, use "» a telephone and call the (Shreveport Police Department). You don't have to give your name. But if you tell us what you see "» we will stop them to see if they belong. Together, we can fight crime."

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