

SUCCESS STORY

It was a weekday afternoon that a woman observed a man walk up to a neighbor's house and when he walked away he had envelopes in his hand. Suspicious of this, the woman telephoned the neighbor. Her neighbor confirmed that a man had just come to her door but was requesting some information that she couldn't help him with. When she checked her mailbox, the mail she had put out for collection was gone ... and this was *before* the mailman had been around. The woman who had been watching the man phoned the police, reporting what had happened, a description of the man, and his direction of travel on foot. The police were on the scene immediately and apprehended the man who also had other people's mail in his possession.

This is an example of Neighborhood Watch at work!

People will take mail from your mailbox cashing checks you've written to pay bills or steal money you may be sending or receiving in holiday or birthday cards. There's enough personal and financial information available on your bills to make 'identity theft' very easy for criminals. Consider posting your mail directly into a blue post box. Also, don't let your mail sit uncollected in your mailbox. If you are going to be away put a hold on your mail at the post office or ask a neighbor to collect the mail from your mailbox each day.

JANUARY REVIEW

Sgt. Medrano provided detail of the number and variety of crimes committed throughout Gardena and in our NW area. This comparison illustrated the lack of violent crime in GCNW versus other parts of the city. However, we need to be alert for suspicious activity that leads to the predominance of car thefts and break-ins here.

You've seen the signs and know Ingrid Tsukiyama is a candidate for City Treasurer in the upcoming Gardena elections. She is also a neighbor in GCNW and provided an update of Gardena's current fiscal condition. A very important point she made is that 1% of the sales tax you pay when you make a purchase in Gardena goes to the City of Gardena and the services it provides. Therefore, make every effort to spend your money at the stores in Gardena instead of other cities or towns.

Meet the candidates at the Nakaoka Center on Thursday, February 22, 6PM. Learn who these individuals are, what they stand for, and their plan for making Gardena an even better city

UPCOMING MEETING

Sgt. Medrano will discuss the arrest of the burglary suspects in our area, and how citizen involvement made all the difference. Two major arrests were made that will have an impact on crime in the area.

Bring your ideas for a brainstorming session on what you'd like to see GCNW cover this year.

**IF YOU SEE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
CALL THE POLICE at 911 or 323-7911.
Do NOT call Louise Stein.**

MEETING DATES

Mark your calendars with the upcoming GCNW meetings. All meetings are on a MONDAY.

LOCATION: Freeman Park, 2100 West 154th Place (just east of Van Ness).

TIME: 7:00 - 8:30PM.

	May 21	Sept. 17
*Feb. 12	June 18	Oct. 15

NEXT MEETING

Monday, February 12, 7:00PM- 8:30PM, Freeman Park

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

1. Car(s) you do not recognize parked and occupied for a while or cruising slowly on the streets or in the alleys – you may also see adults on bikes cruising the neighborhood;
2. People you do not recognize looking in the windows of cars or houses, or walking around the back of a neighbor's house;
3. People you do not recognize going door to door, ringing

March 19	July 16	Nov. 19
April 16	Aug. 20	Dec. - **

the doorbell incessantly or going through someone's mailbox.

*Jan. & Feb. meetings are on the 2nd Monday of the month. All other meetings are on the 3rd Monday of the month.

Suspicious activity is anything a stranger does that causes you to pause, watch and wonder what they are up to! TRUST your instincts!

**No meeting.

RALPH DECIDES THAT IF YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM, JOIN THEM...

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WILEY

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DON'T GIVE UP! Show criminals they cannot take our neighborhood.

With your help we CAN beat them! CALL THE POLICE!

REPORT GRAFFITI TO 217-9568

GARDENA CIRCLE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION

SEX	RACE	AGE	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR
TEETH (MISSING)			HAT		
EYE COLOR			SHIRT (STYLE, COLOR)		
GLASSES			COAT, PULLOVER		
MOUSTACHE, BEARD, SIDEBURNS, HAIRSTYLE			PANTS & SHOES (STYLE, COLOR)		
COMPLEXION			TIE		
TATTOOS, AMPUTATIONS, SCARS, MARKS			WEAPON (HANDGUN, RIFLE, KNIFE, ETC.)		
SPEECH IMPEDIMENTS, ACCENT			DISTINGUISHABLE GAIT OR LIMP		
RINGS, BRACELETS, NECKLACES, EARRINGS			OTHER		

VEHICLE DESCRIPTION

MAKE	YEAR	BODY STYLE	COLOR
LICENSE # / STATE OF ISSUE / IDENTIFYING COLORS:			

BODY DENTS, SCRATCHES:

The police can use answers to as many of these questions as possible. Please remember that wrong information is worse than no information at all. Answer only the questions that you are sure of.

1. How many subjects were there?
2. What did they do?
3. What did they say?

4. What did they take?
5. Which way did they go?
6. Were there any other witnesses? Names and addresses.
7. Is there any other information you feel is important?

REMBEMBER:

- * Call the police immediately. A five-minute delay means that the chance of catching the criminal drops by two-thirds.
- * In many cases it is what victims and witnesses tell police about the criminal that results in an arrest. So tell the police as much as you can. No fact is too trivial.
- * Sometimes, due to limited resources and personnel, the police may not be able to respond immediately. They have to prioritize their calls based on danger to human life involved. Don't be discouraged. They will get to you as soon as possible.
- * Once you have reported the crime, stick with it!
- * It pays to prosecute. Three-fourths of the criminals who are prosecuted are found guilty.
- * Being a witness in court is not as much trouble as you think. Many communities have special programs to help victims and witnesses with transportation, day care services, and scheduling of their cases.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS DON'T JUST HAPPEN. IT TAKES YOUR OBSERVATIONS, YOUR CALL TO THE POLICE, and YOUR WILLINGNESS TO BE INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS A CRIME-FREE NEIGHBORHOOD.

CONTACT INFORMATION



For crime-related matters, call one of the following numbers:

CRIME IN PROGRESS	911
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	323-7911
GRAFFITI	217-9568
WeTIP	800-78CRIME (800-782-7463)



For ideas & issues regarding GCNW contact:

Louise Stein, Block Captain	538-4343 Louise@GardenaCircle.com
Ofc. Dave Golf, Lead Officer	217-9670 Dgolf@gardenapd.org