



City of Eugene ♦ Eugene Police Department

777 Pearl Street, Room 107 • Eugene, Oregon 97401 • (541) 682-5111



Neighborhood Watch update 122909

How to start a watch group:

1. Recruit neighbors from within 1-2 blocks of your home to meet. Typically, meetings are held on weeknights.
2. Contact the Crime Prevention Specialist (CPS) assigned to your area (*listed below*) to coordinate a date for a start-up meeting. The CPS will run the meeting – your job is just to get the neighbors to attend.

What is Neighborhood Watch (NW)?

NW is a simple way of organizing with your neighbors to provide mutual safety while strengthening neighborliness, through **mutual support**, **target hardening** and **property marking**.

1. **Mutual support:** Neighbors need to know each other well enough to know who belongs in the neighborhood, who needs what kinds of assistance, and how everyone can provide help to each other. By joining a watch you are agreeing to keep an eye out for each other and check on each other’s welfare. If you go on a trip, you should be able to arrange for a neighbor to watch over your home in your absence. The CPS will help organize your group at the startup meeting.
2. **Target Hardening:** Make it hard for criminals to enter your home or vehicle. Advice will be provided at the start up meeting. You can also arrange free home safety inspections through your area CPS.
3. **Property Marking:** Mark your property with your Oregon driver’s license or State I.D. number, using the format OR123456DL or OR123456ID. Take pictures of all your valuables and put the pictures or electronic images in a secure place away from your home. Record all serial numbers as well! If you are victimized this makes it much easier to work with your insurance company, easier for police to return the recovered property to you, and harder for criminals to pawn it. Bikes can be registered at any police substation.

Geographic area	Crime Prevention Specialist	Substations:
Bethel, River Road & Santa Clara	Margaret Mazzotta 682-5761 Email: Margaret.A.Mazzotta@ci.eugene.or.us	Monroe Street – 788 W.6 th Ave. Station mgr: Lupe Thompson 682-5149
Central and South Eugene	Tod Schneider 682-8186 Email: Tod.Schneider@ci.eugene.or.us	W. University – 791 E. 13 th Ave. Station mgr: Kelly Dixon 682-5642
Northeast & Southeast Eugene	Steve Chambers 682-5178 Email: Steven.H.Chambers@ci.eugene.or.us	
Emergency: 911 Non-emergency: 682-5111 Police Records: 682-5115		Police headquarters: 777 Pearl Street
Tip Line: 682-8888 public works: 682-4800 abandoned cars: 682-5713		Traffic team: 682-5157



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What must I know to install signs?

Signs must be installed on private property, with the permission of the owner. The sign must allow drivers to see approaching traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Participants provide their own signs and posts. Costs are usually covered by passing the hat at a Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Signs should be metal (for durability) and sized as follows:

- a. 18 x 24 inches for low-speed collector streets.
- b. 24 x 36 for high-speed arterial streets.

Poles should be erected on a twelve foot 4” x 4” pressure treated wood post and set 2’ into the ground. They can be held in place by concrete, gravel or soil. The bottom of the sign is to be positioned 7’ above ground level.

Do not attach your sign to a City sign or post.

Maintenance of signs is up to your neighborhood watch members.

How can I close the street for a block party?

Call the city permit & information center (PIC) at 682-8400 to request a street closure packet. It will include a right of way use permit form, a hold harmless agreement, a list of affected properties form and a block party form (BLD-031). The city will need: signed approval of all affected abutting property owners or tenants, a certificate of insurance and a hold harmless agreement protecting the City from liability; provisions for emergency vehicle access; approval from LTD if bus routes are effected; description of any proposed parking restrictions; provision of any signing and/or barricading the City may require for traffic control along with a sketch of the area; and provisions for clean up. The time and day will be important considerations. The application has to be approved by five city departments plus the City Manager’s office. Allow one week for processing. There are fees for street closures.

Neighborhood problems in Eugene:

Common questions & answers

Update 12/29/09

Abandoned vehicles on city streets -- Call Parking Enforcement: 682-5713. City code says vehicles can't be parked on the street in the same spot for more than 72 hours. When reporting a vehicle that you believe has been stored or abandoned on a city street for more than 72 hours you will be required to provide your name, phone number (parking enforcement does not respond to anonymous calls), license plate number, vehicle description and exact location. Be aware that it could take two weeks before the car is actually towed away. A Parking Control Officer will normally respond to the complaint within 24 hours excluding weekends and holidays. Abandoned or stored vehicles are low priority calls. On initial response the Parking Control Officer will put a warning on the vehicle giving notice to move the vehicle within 72 hours. After the 72 hour warning period the Parking Control Officer will return to the vehicle and issue a citation and tag the vehicle for towing. The vehicle will be towed 4-5 days after the tow notice and citation are placed on the vehicle. Tow companies have 8 hours to pick up the vehicle after the tow request is made. Cars may be towed sooner if they pose a public hazard, i.e., blocking a fire hydrant, driveway, alley, or street. If this is the case, call 682-5111. Police will also respond much sooner if you report a suspicious vehicle with suspicious activity occurring in the car, and/or if the plate returns as stolen or registered to a wanted vehicle.

Bike theft – Good bike locks are essential in Eugene, and are readily available at all local bike shops. You can improve your odds of recovering a stolen bike by marking it and documenting ownership. On most bikes the serial number is imprinted on the frame under the crank case; turn the bike upside down to find it. The number may be etched in other locations as well. Ideally, bring your bike and photo ID to any local police substation. Police will mark your bike and put your ownership information on file.

Burglaries. *Burglary* is illegal entry into a building to commit a crime. *Burglary* is often confused with *robbery*, in which force or threat of force is used against people. You usually don't see burglars, but if you are robbed you always meet the robber. Evidence of a possible burglary in progress includes seeing someone climbing in a window, or coming home and seeing your door kicked in. For a possible burglary in progress, call 9-1-1. Police will arrive within a few minutes. If the burglary is clearly over and the burglar long gone, call 682-5111. Be patient; we respond to in-progress calls first. Do not clean up until the police have evaluated and processed the scene, which might include dusting for prints. Ideally, don't even enter the house. To prevent burglary:

- arrange for someone to watch the house while you're gone;
- arrange for a free home security inspection (682-8186)
- make sure you have good locks on windows & doors,
- mark your property with your Oregon Driver's License or State ID number (OR_____DL)
- and/or form a neighborhood watch (682-8186).

- A Eugene Police volunteer group, “Seniors on Patrol” offers free Vacation Home Checks while you are away. They will even help inventory your property, through marking or photographing your belongings if you would like. Call 682-8844 for an application or more information.

Camping in vehicles on streets, in parks, or in alleys. To report illegal camping, call EPD non-emergency at 682-5111. You will be asked to provide a location, vehicle description, license plate number if known, and any other pertinent information. If there are no extenuating circumstances, your report will be routed to St. Vincent de Paul's (SVDP) Camping Liaison. SVDP works with the City to resolve camping problems. SVDP employees are the first responders on most camping complaints. They will work with the involved campers to resolve the situation without police intervention. In most cases this works. If it doesn't, complainants need to call 682-5111 again, and let us know that the problem is not resolved. Uncooperative campers will eventually be subject to fines or towing.

Overnight camping in vehicles is only permitted under the following circumstances:

- Vehicles are parked in business, religious or public facilities' parking lots at which they have permission from the owner. The maximum load is 3 vehicles used for sleeping at one site.
- The owner and tenant of a single family home have invited a maximum of one family, using a maximum of one tent or camping shelter, to sleep in their backyard, or to sleep in a vehicle parked in their driveway.
- Persons may also sleep overnight in a maximum of three vehicles on paved or graveled surfaces on vacant or unoccupied parcels with the property owner's permission if the owner registers the site with the city or its agent.

In all three overnight sleeping scenarios listed above, the owner must provide toilet access, garbage disposal, and a storage area for campers' personal items that's hidden from the street. Tents or shelters in backyards must be at least five feet away from any property line. The owner cannot charge a fee for overnight sleeping. The owner can immediately revoke permission at any time.

The city can prohibit overnight camping, despite an owner's approval, if the city finds this use incompatible with the uses of adjacent properties, a nuisance or other threat to public welfare. Permission to camp on city property can be revoked if the person violates any law, ordinance, rule, guideline or agreement, or the use is determined to be incompatible with neighboring property use. (City code 4.816)

Car camping permission for people with children is arranged through First Place Family Center, 1995 Amazon Parkway, 342-7728. For anyone else, arrangements are made through the Service Station, 450 Hwy 99N, 461-8688.

Car theft. In progress/within a few minutes -- call 9-1-1. Later -- call 682-5111.

Did you see who took the vehicle? Ideally, police would like a description of the vehicle, name of the registered owner, license plate, direction of travel, and the amount of time since the vehicle was last seen. Are you behind in car payments? Check to see if your car has been re-possessed. Police will be dispatched to your location to have you sign a stolen vehicle report,

which acknowledges that you will pay towing costs if police recover the vehicle and can't avoid having it towed. You can also come to city hall to handle the paperwork if you prefer.

Prevention tips: Especially if this is a chronic problem, becoming more vigilant is the most important action you can take. Improve your ability to see what's going on with additional lighting, by trimming hedges and limbs, removing visual obstacles, or making other environmental changes. Improved lighting, fencing and electronic gates are options to consider for parking lots. Call 682-5137 for a free site inspection. Further options to deter thieves:

- Park in areas that are well lit, with lots of people nearby who will notice suspicious activity.
- Install security cameras or organize with neighbors to keep an eye on the neighborhood. (*See Neighborhood crime, listed above.*)
- Leave nothing that even appears to be of value inside the car.
- Do not hide a key somewhere on the car frame, over the tire, etc.
- When unoccupied, the car doors and windows should all be closed and locked.
- To deter carjackers (although this crime is rare in this area), the car doors should be locked when the vehicle is occupied as well.
- A steering wheel lock or club. (Check for reduced cost clubs at 682-5137).
- Enroll in the CAT program. Placing a CAT label on your rear windshield allows officers to stop the vehicle between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. to see if it's been stolen. (Most citizens don't drive during those hours.) (682-5137)
- Electronic theft deterrent devices that cut off the fuel or electrical power, or that use GPS technology to track your car (talk to your auto shop or dealership about options.)
- Car alarms may help, but they are so commonplace that many people ignore them. If you install one, let your neighbors know your phone number.
- If you will not be using your vehicle for some time, consider disabling it by disconnecting the battery, removing the rotor, or any similar measure.

Domestic Violence. For violence in progress or help escaping, call 911. For extensive support, counseling and advice, or to arrange free shelter, call Womenspace (485-8232). **Also see: Restraining Orders.**

Dogs. For problem dogs, call Animal Control, 682-3645. For a vicious dog actively threatening people, call 9-1-1 and police will respond. If you think the dog's barking because of a crime in progress (i.e. a burglary) you can call 911 and report "suspicious conditions".

Drugs. For possible drug activity in progress, or suspicious conditions, call 682-5111 for patrol to respond. If it is of an emergency nature, call 911. If the complaint is about continuing drug activity at a residence or specific location and is something we could investigate they should call 682-5100 and leave it on the tip line. For found hypodermic needles: Garbage companies can provide special "Sharps" containers, for disposal purposes, for a fee. Tell kids not to handle needles. Adults can dispose of needles, but handle with caution. You can take needles to any police substation for disposal, or call 682-5111 and ask that someone come pick them up when available.

Drug Labs. If you are wondering about whether a house has been used as a meth lab, check the listings by county on-line at: <http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/bcd/druglabs/druglabs.html>. This is a list of properties reported by police to the State. They remain on this list until certified by the State as cleaned up. Lane County police agencies have a good track record of reporting such properties, so the list should be a good indicator. However, if a lab was not raided by police (or if they failed to report it) it would not make it onto this list. In those cases, check with the property owner to see what is known about the site, or check with local police. If you want to arrange a cleanup or to have samples taken through a private contractor, check the list of licensed contractors and samplers at the DHS website: www.oregon.gov/dhs/ph/druglab. For more information, contact DHS at 971-673-0443.

Elder and Disabled Protective Orders:

- Petitioner is at least 65 years old or disabled.
- Abuse may be verbal, coercive, neglectful, physical or financial.
- In effect only after respondent has been served with a copy.
- For more info: Senior Services 682-4038 or Victims Services 682-682-4523
- For process, see “*Protective Orders.*”

Fencing Options. Maximum total fence height along an alley, or along the side or back of your property not adjacent to the sidewalk, is 6'. Maximum height is 42 inches if it's within 10 feet of the sidewalk—usually meaning at least along the front of your property. Bear in mind that solid fences (and hedges) preserve privacy but also block the view from neighbors, which is an advantage for burglars. You cannot place barbed or razor wire adjacent to a public way, such as a street or bike path, etc. However, barbed wire can be added on top of an existing, non-wire fence, next to a public way, if it is angled 30 degrees inward on your property. It cannot angle out over the public way. However, if the entire fence is made of barbed wire, then it must be 5' from the right of way.

Graffiti. 911 is the number to call for any crime in progress. Otherwise, 682-5111 is the phone number to call. Especially if the graffiti has gang or hate crime overtones, call this number and/or take pictures before removing the graffiti. Regardless of the type of graffiti, the police will keep photos on file for eventual prosecution in the event that an offender is caught. Graffiti can also be reported on-line at <http://www.eugene-or.gov/graffiti>

Hate Crimes/ Harassment. Hate crimes are attacks on people or property based on perception of race, religion, national origin, gender, disability or sexual orientation. Usually the action would be a crime regardless of this factor, and the “hate crime” element is an additional element of the crime. Hate crime should be reported to the police. They can also be reported to the Human Rights commission at 682-5177.

Identity Theft. If your wallet is stolen, keep a close eye on your credit card bills, etc. for a while, or consider canceling them or alerting the companies involved to be watchful. If you are the victim of identity theft:

1. Contact any one of the three companies listed here to place a fraud alert on your credit reports. That company will alert the other two. Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; Experian: 1-888-397-3742; or TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289. Have them send you a free copy of your credit reports. Ask that only the last four digits of your social security number appear on the reports. Review the reports for any questionable debts or erroneous personal data. Have the inaccurate information removed. Keep an eye on your credit reports for at least a year. An initial 90 day alert applies if you suspect you have been, or about to be, the victim of identity theft. A 7 year, extended alert applies if you know you have been the victim of identity theft.
2. Close accounts that you believe have been tampered with or fraudulently opened. Contact someone in each company's fraud department. Follow up in writing, by certified mail, return receipt requested, and include copies (NOT originals) of supporting documents. Keep originals on file. Use new Personal Identification Numbers and passwords with new credit or debit cards. File challenges to fraudulent charges with each company victimized.
3. Call police who have jurisdiction where the identify theft took place and file a report (In Eugene, 682-5111). Keep a copy of the report, or the report number, on file.
4. File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, at 1-877-438-4338 or review more detailed advice at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

Loud parties / Noise complaints. Call 682-5111. Police will ask whether you've asked the suspects to turn down the noise, what the response was, and whether this is an ongoing problem. It helps if you are willing to sign a complaint. Multiple complainants carry more weight than if just one neighbor calls. City code 4.080 says a noise disturbance is any sound that "injures or endangers the safety or health of a human; annoys or disturbs a reasonable person of normal sensitivities; or endangers or injures personal or real property. Specific examples of activities limited between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. include: amplified sound that is plainly audible within any dwelling unit which is not the source of the sound, or on public property and plainly audible 50 feet or more from such a device, engines idling for over 15 minutes, loading or unloading vehicles, opening, closing or destroying boxes or containers, or operating any pile driver, steam shovel, pneumatic hammer or similar device. Construction or demolition is restricted between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., and lawnmowers are restricted from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Exemptions can be made for work necessary for public safety reasons, to operate warning devices or address imminent danger, such as on an emergency vehicle. Exemptions also permit farming noise, un-amplified noise from entertainment events (i.e. concerts) athletic events or motor vehicle racing noise. Alarms, however, are restricted to no more than 15 minutes continuous operation. The City Manager can also provide variances.

Neighborhood crime and other problems. For ongoing problems, some neighbors form neighborhood watches. If you want help doing so, invite a group of trusted neighbors to a startup meeting. A Eugene Police crime prevention specialist can run the meeting if you'd like. Concerns are discussed, basic safety tips are exchanged and useful forms are shared that help organize information such as neighbors' names, phone numbers and addresses. For more information in Central and South Eugene call Tod Schneider, 682-8186. For North and East Eugene call Steve Chambers, 682-5178. For Bethel, River Road and Santa Clara, call Margaret Mazzotta, 682-5761. You can also turn to your local Neighborhood Association. If you don't know who that is, call 682-5009 to find out.

Prostitutes. Call 682-5111. Names, locations, license plates and time lapses would be useful information.

Protective Orders

(source: Lane County DA Victim Assistance 682-4523)



Release of Offenders: VINE now allows you to be notified by e-mail when someone is released from jail or prison. You may register for phone or e-mail notification, or check on an offender's status at <http://www.vinelink.com/index.jsp>.

Restraining Orders: Criteria:

- Parties related by blood; marriage; sexual relationship; adoption.
- Physical injury or threatened abuse within the past six months.
- Petitioner may be a minor under some circumstances.
- Respondent may be a minor under some circumstances.
- Order is good for one year; may be renewed; may be modified.
- Valid in all 50 states.
- In effect only after respondent has been served with a copy.
- See "*Protective Orders*" for process.

Sex Offender Notification. Many sex offenders have not been caught or convicted, and will not show up in computer checks. Others have failed to register, or have been in the area a very short time. Sex offenders are required by law to register with the State Police within ten days of release on supervision; change of address; or moving into Oregon. Within that ten day window they are not compelled to be registered. When information is collected it includes name, address, description, photograph, fingerprints, DNA, vehicle type, driver=s license #, location and phone number of employment, and whether the offender has completed treatment. About 40% of Oregon sex offenders on parole or probation are considered predatory. These individuals are considered a higher risk to the general public. Most will have restrictions placed on them regarding contact with children or frequenting places where children congregate. The A predatory@ designation allows community corrections or law enforcement agencies to notify the community about the offender=s presence. In Lane County, Parole and Probation usually handles this (682-3060), although the practice is rare. If offenders are driven out of their homes they can become homeless, and much more difficult to supervise.

Oregon sex offender registration can be accessed through the Oregon State Police. If you want to check on a particular individual, known by name, you can call 726-2536, x.209 from 10-2 M-F. If you want a list of all sex offenders listed within a specific zip code, call 503-378-3720, x.4429. That will reach a recording. There are no fees for these services. There is also now a state website: www.sexoffenders.oregon.gov .

There is also a federal nationwide search site: <http://www.nsopr.gov/>

Stalking Order: Criteria:

- No relationship required between the parties.
- Repeated, unwanted contact that is alarming or coercing.
- May be granted against a minor.
- A guardian ad litem may be required if the petitioner is a dependent person.
- Permanent order is of unlimited duration, unless limited by law.
- Valid in all 50 states.
- In effect only after respondent has been served with a copy.
- See "*Protective Orders*" for process.

Suspicious Activity, possibly with criminal intent -- call 682-5111.

Tip line. To leave tips regarding crimes of any kind in Eugene, call 682-8888.

Unsightly homes and yards. Junk accumulation on the street falls under Public Works' jurisdiction (682-4800). For **offensive vegetation** (city code 6.815) (i.e. weeds more than ten inches high, poison oak, poison ivy, vision obstructions, extending across property lines, used for habitation by trespassers, in public way, causing a fire hazard) call 682-4800. For **junk and used vehicle accumulation on private property** (city code 6.800) "Except in an I-3 Heavy Industrial District no person shall store or permit to be stored used building supplies, scrap, junk, used furniture, used plumbing supplies or fixtures, used electrical supplies, fixtures of appliances in any manner as to expose it to view from a street or sidewalk adjoining the premises for a period of more than 30 days. No person shall store or permit to be stored for 48 hours a used motor vehicle or portion thereof without a license plate or with an expired license plate on any private or public property unless the vehicle is placed so as not to be exposed to view from a street or sidewalk adjoining the premises or unless it is stored on the premises of a business enterprise dealing in used vehicles lawfully conducted within the city. In addition to being violations, conditions prohibited by this section are also nuisances and may be abated." Call 682-5819 and ask for help with nuisance abatement.

Police-community relations numbers:

Cadet program (ongoing, for young people ages 16-20): 682-8846

Citizen's Police academy (for interested adults): 682-2752

Crime Prevention Education and Neighborhood Watch: 682-5137

Officers in the schools: 682-8189

Police department tours: 682-5352

Police internal affairs (questions, commendations, complaints): 682-5126

Public Information Office: 682-5124

Ride-alongs with police: 682-8188

Safety town (summer program for pre-schoolers): Sgt. Lisa Barrong 682-8248

Youth academy (summer program for teens 16 and older): 682-8189

Volunteering: 682-5355

Traffic related complaints or questions.

To address reckless driving, options include:

1. making it harder to go fast -- speed bumps or stop signs (public works 682-4800). Not all streets are good candidates for these kinds of changes.
2. catch them and ticket them -- call 911 immediately, while speeding is in progress, with best possible description; or for chronic violators (i.e. "every Monday morning at 7 a.m.") leave info for the traffic team at 682-5157.
3. persuade them to drive more carefully. Talk to the traffic team about placing a decoy police car or radar speed trailer (682-5157), talk to Lupe Thompson about getting trained to use a radar gun which we can lend you (682-8188).
4. If vehicles are driving up onto lawns, etc., solutions could include:

- blocking access to the properties, using fencing, chains, landscaping rocks, ditches or other access control devices.
- surveillance cameras on the areas involved, designed for the lighting conditions present. There are cameras on the market that specifically capture license plate numbers, but they are quite expensive.
- encourage neighbors to be vigilant and report reckless driving immediately to 911, while we can still catch the offenders.

Vacation Safety: There are a number of options for protecting your home while you're gone: (1) Make sure someone, such as a trusted neighbor, knows your plans and how to reach you. Give them a signed letter authorizing them to act as your agent in your absence (such as to press charges against an intruder.) (2) Arrange for a trusted house sitter. (3) Arrange for someone to take in mail and newspapers, mow the lawn, park a car in the driveway, and make the house look lived in. (4) Arrange for the police senior patrol to check on your house (682-8845). (5) Set up a neighborhood watch (682-8186.) (6) Don't leave anything of value on display. (7) Put lights, radios or televisions on timers.

Police substations:

West University Substation 682-5642

Monroe Street Substation 682-5149

Other useful Eugene area numbers frequently requested:

9-1-1 public education: 682-2771

Abandoned Cars on Street /Parking Control: 682-5713

Air Pollution / LRAPA: 726-3976

Animal Control/Regulation / Lane County: 682-3645

Bicycle programs, maps, information 682-5291

Building Permits / PIC: 682-5505

Building Safety Complaints / PIC: 682-5495

City Council/City Manager/Mayor / City Hall: 682-5010

City Manager's Office: 682-5010

Code Violations / Land Use: 682-5819

Community Mediation Services/ 44 W. Broadway: 344-5366

Composting – Questions/Workshops / Planning & Dev.: 682-5542

Dead Animals / Public Works: 682-4800

Environmental Spill / Public Works: 682-4800

Fences– Location, Regulation, Specs / Land Use: 682-5505

Fire prevention education: 682-5411

Flooded Streets, Ditches / Public Works: 682-4800

Garage Sales / Land Use: 682-8336

Garbage, Neighbor Complaints / Land Use: 682-5819

Grass Cutting & Noxious Weeds / Public Works: 682-4800

Historic preservation: 682-5452

Human Rights program: 682-5177

Jobs line: 682-5061

Legal Aid / Landlord-Tenant law, civil disputes / 376 E. 11th: 342-6056

Library: 682-5450

Neighborhood Liaison / Neighborhood Association information: 682-5009

Parking Enforcement / Parking Control: 682-5729

Parking Permits (Residential) / Diamond Parking: 343-3733

Parks – Rules, Rentals, Usage / Parks & Open Space: 682-4800

Permit and Information Center 682-5086

Public Service Officer / City Hall: 682-8478

Recreation division: 682-5333

Sidewalk Hazards / Public Works: 682-4800

Solid Waste/Recycling / Planning & Dev.: 682-6830

Stormwater – Flooded Streets, Ditches / Public Works: 682-4800
Street Lights / Public Works: 682-4800
Street Repair / Public Works: 682-4800
Street Signs – Missing, Repair / Public Works: 682-4800
Street Use Permits (Block Party) / Public Works: 682-4800
Tree Planting – NeighborWoods / Public Works: 682-4800
Utilities Locate (48 hrs. prior to digging) / Toll Free: 1-800-332-2344
Zoning Questions / ‘Planner on Duty’: 682-5377
Zoning Violations / Land Use: 682-5819

This list prepared by Tod Schneider, Eugene Police Crime Prevention 682-8186

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Drug Houses, Bad Neighbors and related issues

Chronically bad neighbors can have a devastating effect on neighborhoods. Their inconsiderate behavior can be civil, criminal, or both. Some options for addressing the problem are as follows:

- Talk to, write to, or slip a note under the door of the problem-neighbors, to see if they are willing to change their behavior.
- Communicate with the property manager or owner, and ask for their help fixing the problem.
- Keep copies of correspondence; send letters by registered mail.
- Keep a written log of incidents, including date, time, vehicle and person descriptions, and objectionable activities. The log can come in handy down the road, especially if you end up in court, or serve as a witness.
- Consult with Community Mediation services (344-5366) to see if they can help address civil issues (annoying behavior that is not criminal.)
- Consult with Eugene Police Crime Prevention (682-5137, 682-5178, 682-8186) to explore criminal justice and prevention options.
- Leave information about possible crimes on the Crime Tip Line (682-8888).
- Call police non-emergency to file criminal complaints (682-5111). This can include vandalism, theft, noise, or any other law violation. Even in cases where you can't identify a suspect, the "call for service" is entered into the police data base. Many calls about the same location can help document a chronic problem and justify additional police attention.
- Call the police emergency line for any crime, fire, medical emergency or threat-to-life in progress. (911).

- o Organize with neighbors to form a Neighborhood Watch (call Crime Prevention, 682-8186.) There's strength in numbers! Joint efforts make you safer, because you're less likely to be singled out as an antagonist.
- o Take pictures of undesirable activity, to pass on to attorneys or police.

Abatement

Abatement is the strongest tool provided by the State of Oregon to use against chronic nuisance properties, usually applied only after less extreme measures have proved ineffective. It's easiest for citizens to ask police to initiate the process, but citizens have legal standing to initiate it themselves if they choose to take on the associated legal risks and responsibilities. **Abatement statutes can be applied to any place regularly used for prostitution, illegal gambling, or any aspect of illegal drug activity, as well as any place unfit for use due to the need for decontamination.** More details on abatement law are readily available via a web search under "abatement Oregon 105.550"

Sample letter from neighbors to a property owner:

Dear _____

We live near your property located at _____.

You may not be aware of it, but your property has become a (chronic nuisance / drug house/ house of prostitution.) We have talked with the local police about the property, and they have advised us that they have (responded to that location __ times in the last six months; arrested _____ people there for _____, received __ complaints about the property from numerous neighbors.)

We would like to believe that now that you are aware of the problem you will (fix the problem, evict the tenant, improve your screening process, improve your lease requirements, or remove the garbage). We would be willing to sit down with yourself and a mediator to sort this out if you wish to do so. If you need advice on improving your landlord skills, one local resource is the Rental Owners Association (485-RENT). Eugene Police can send you reports whenever they respond to your property if you request it (682-5757.)

We are very frustrated about the situation and would appreciate some solid evidence that you are taking our concerns seriously. If we cannot resolve this amicably our next step will be to request that local police initiate abatement procedures against the property, as provided for under Oregon Revised Statutes 105.550 - 105.600. That process could ultimately lead to the property being sealed for up to one year, seized under civil forfeiture law. Associated legal fees could also be charged to you.

Sincerely,

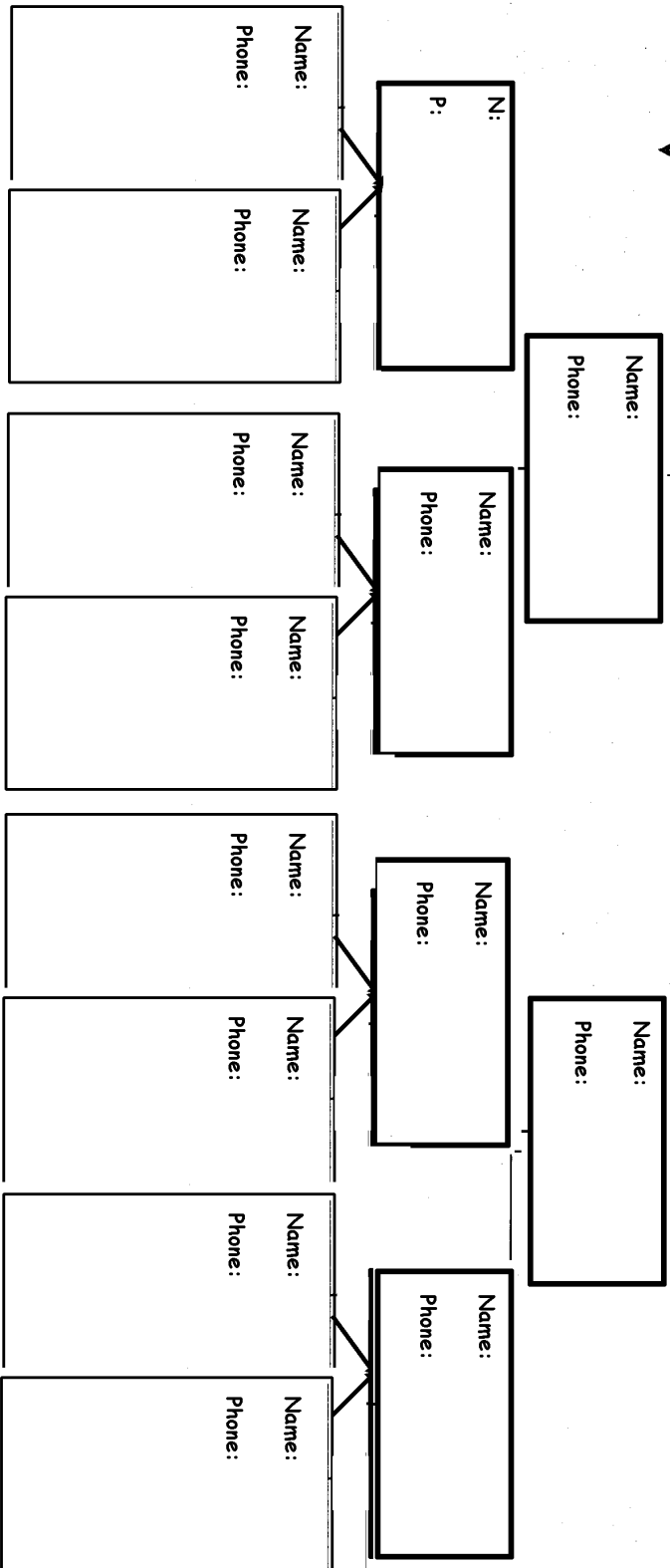
_____.

For more information: (541) 682-8186 or e-mail policeprevention@ci.eugene.or.us.



Telephone Tree

EPD non-emergency: 682-5111 x.1
EPD Neighborhood Watch coordinators:
 Tod Schneider 682-8186 / Margaret Mazzotta 682-5761 / Steve Chambers 682-5178
Ordering watch signs: www.mnw.org
Public works (streets/ lights/ sign placement) 682-4800
City Neighborhood Liaison 682-5009
 Crime Tip line 682-8888
 Abandoned vehicles: 682-5713
 Animal control: 682-3645
 Web site: www.eugene-or.gov (police/prevention/neighborhood)
 Traffic team (police): 682-5157



How to use your Neighborhood Watch Telephone Tree:

1. Call your neighbor at the tip of the tree, to share suspicious information or criminal activity that is brought to your attention by the police department.
2. When you receive a call, call the first neighbor under you on the list. If they are not home, call the next on the list. If their answering machine is on, leave a message before going to the next call. The last neighbor to receive a call should call the originating caller to confirm that they have received the message.
3. If you see suspicious activity, be sure to call 911 before you call the neighbors!
4. Set up a call neighborhood e-mail group in your computer and use your e-mail to confirm the information.