



City of  
**Los Banos**  
*At the Crossroads of California*

**LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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June 2, 2011

Neighborhood Watch

One of the goals of the Los Banos Police Department is to make the City of Los Banos a safe community for those who live here. To accomplish this goal, citizens must be involved in their community. One of the ways residents can help is through a Neighborhood Watch program.

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program designed to organize neighbors to become more involved in reporting crimes or suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. The program functions as a reporting tool where citizens become the eyes and ears of the police, yet operates with little assistance from the Police Department.

“The neighborhood usually elects a block captain who will oversee any neighborhood watch meetings, organize communication between neighbors, and be notified when neighbors will be on vacation. The group is vigilant in seeking out suspicious or criminal activity and reporting it to the Police Department from a safe distance. Neighborhood Watch groups make sure neighborhood visitors know someone is always watching.”

*-Ray Reyna Jr., Administrative Commander*

Neighborhoods do not need permission or special permits to organize a Neighborhood Watch program. Individual neighbors simply need to communicate with each other and keep a watchful eye on each other's property.

If the Neighborhood Watch program is not embraced by your neighborhood, individual citizens are still very valuable in the Police Departments fight against crime. Being a good witness when crime is occurring and providing descriptions of suspects, vehicles, tattoo's and even what hand the suspect used to commit the crime are all useful to police. Capturing the crime on video is also a good way citizens can help the police identify potential suspects.

There are many ways to report crime to the Department. You can contact our dispatch center via the business or 911 lines, make an anonymous report on-line at [www.losbanos.org](http://www.losbanos.org), leave a voice mail on the anonymous tip line extension 288, or come to the Police Department to speak with our staff.

If anyone is interested in learning more about a neighborhood watch program they can contact Officer Noah Jones at (209) 827-7070.

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