

Neighborhood Surveillance Program Increases Safety, Reduces Crime

13 subdivisions. 70 cameras. Thousands of residents with peace of mind.

Thanks to a partnership between the Village of Burr Ridge, homeowner associations, and Orbis Solutions, many of the neighborhoods in this Chicago suburb are enjoying greater safety and security.

How? Through the Neighborhood Video Surveillance Program. This effective system uses cameras at the subdivisions' entrances to monitor residential streets.

How It Works

Overview cameras capture the make, model and color of all vehicles traveling in and out of the neighborhood as well as anyone entering or exiting on foot. Targeted license-plate recognition cameras capture all license plates entering and leaving the subdivision. Video is transmitted via an Orbis Solutions designed and maintained wireless microwave backhaul to the Village Hall server, where the Police Department can access the footage.

"This is a great tool for the police department to access," reports Jerry Sapp, Village of Burr Ridge Finance Director. "It's a real partnership between the homeowner associations, the village, and the police department. We've already had several successes at helping to solve crimes."

Orbis Solutions, the technology company who installed the cameras and microwave connectivity to the dispatch center, helps ensure the reliability of the surveillance.



Thirteen Burr Ridge subdivisions have integrated video surveillance and several local businesses are next in line.

Orbis monitors the connectivity and functionality of the cameras on a real-time basis from their network operations center in Aurora, IL. The constant footage is made available for the police to quickly review if an incident occurs in one of the neighborhoods.

Who It Benefits

With these cameras in place, the subdivisions enjoy a visual deterrent for criminal activities. The system provides security for residents and a valuable tool for police investigators and court officials. Police officers can also access the video feed to monitor multiple locations from a single squad car or the police station. The program makes a strong overall public safety statement that the Burr Ridge neighborhoods are being monitored for crime.



Orbis Solutions collaborated with each HOA and the city to utilize existing infrastructure for camera placement and, when necessary, place new mounts.



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Due to the increased security, participating HOAs enjoy additional appeal to residents. This isn't something every subdivision in Chicagoland offers, so it's a nice perk to attract buyers to the neighborhood.

HOA boards are taking advantage of this great partnership to provide a low-cost, low-maintenance, and high-return security feature for their neighborhoods. Each Burr Ridge HOA covers the cost of the cameras for their neighborhood, and the village provides the network for the video feed.

Randy Grant, HOA board member for Chasemoor subdivision in Burr Ridge, explains, "It's an extremely affordable criminal deterrent solution given that the HOA shares the investment with the Village. Our HOA's out-of-pocket camera hardware has been prorated for ten years (based on the manufacturer's rated lifespan). For our populace, this adds less than \$1/month over ten years, to a homeowner's existing assessment. Compare the small financial outlay of such a system to that of a security gate weighed down by the expense of having it manned. The value is obvious if the technology is supported by a Village like ours."

For HOAs in other villages looking to increase neighborhood security, self-contained systems are also an option. The HOA simply needs a central building to house the recording device.

Grant adds that his experience with this system has been "excellent." He reports, "Some homeowners initially had mixed emotions about privacy concerns; however today, it's hard to argue against the news of our time, and the fact that there have been no break-ins, as there had been in our development before implementation of the program. Doubt-sayers will argue about clever ways to subvert the technology, and nothing can ever be foolproof, but at the end of the day there are easier targets for the bad guys to go after."



Chasemoor's HOA determined the surveillance program cost less than \$1 per month for their homeowners.

As more and more developments get onboard, the protection perimeter will enlarge and solidify the reputation of the town's criminal-deterrence strength, which hopefully should reflect positively on the value of all homeowners' properties."

Why It Works

Sapp notes that a key to the success of this program is the partnership between the Village of Burr Ridge and Orbis Solutions. "Orbis can take a video surveillance project from concept to completion. They do all the planning, installation, and monitoring. That's why we partner with Orbis, because they can take it from start to finish – from idea to operation, and all the steps in between."

To date, thirteen neighborhoods across Burr Ridge have joined the many HOAs that Orbis Solutions has supported throughout the country. Some local businesses have also expressed interest at getting involved with the program, and the village continues to promote the system to its HOAs. As the partnership between HOAs, Orbis Solutions, and the Village of Burr Ridge continues to grow, so does the security of this dynamic city.

Surveillance Technology in Action

