

National Night Out

- Always the 1st Tuesday in August
- Get to know your neighbors better
- Plan a BBQ, potluck, ice cream social - whatever works for your neighborhood
- Promote an already existing block watch or start a new one
- Emphasize crime prevention tips and the importance of neighbors keeping an eye out for each other
- Visitors will come to your event. They include city officials, fire personnel, police officers, and many more!

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Basic Principles Taught in Block Watch for Making Your Home Less Desirable for Criminal Activity

By doing these simple things, you can enjoy a safer, more enjoyable neighborhood!

- **Access Control** - learn how gates, landscaping, fences and lighting help deter entry onto your property.
- **Natural Surveillance** – create an environment that allows you and others to be aware of surroundings; this includes height and location of landscaping and lighting.
- **Territorial Reinforcement** – defines public, semi-public/private, and private places. This is done with physical attributes that express ownership such as fences, landscaping, signs, barriers, and pavement designs.
- **Image and Maintenance** – Keeping well-kept homes, yards, fences, landscaping, etc. is important because by doing so, you are telling others that you care about your home and property.

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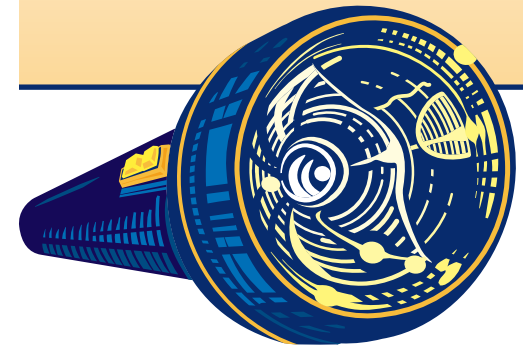
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Neighborhood Block Watch



NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK

WATCH: WHAT CAN IT DO FOR YOU?

Block Watch is a simple **neighbors-helping-neighbors** program that has helped communities reduce crime by as much as **65%**. The police cannot fight crime without the help of citizens.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

It's simple! Keep an eye out for unusual activity like strangers snooping around, watch your neighbor's house, take an extra minute when you get up at night to look outside. Always call 9-1-1 first if you see anything suspicious or are a victim of a crime, then call Block Watch Captain.

BLOCK WATCH IS:

- City of Kent Police teaching you how to prevent crime
- Mapping your neighborhood
- Listing names and phone numbers for each neighbor in case of emergency
- Forming a phone tree to reach each other quickly
- Operation ID – engraving items with identification in case they are stolen
- Obtaining Block Watch signs for your neighborhood streets and homes
- Receiving weekly crime statistics reports with crime tips attached
- Neighbors meeting together and getting to know each other.
- Not only for neighborhoods, but works for apartments, town homes and condominiums. Block Watches may be set up by building to get to know those above, below and next to you.

HOME SECURITY

Burglars avoid light, noise, being seen and buildings that take too much time to break into. With a little effort, you can make your property less inviting to would-be criminals.

LANDSCAPING

Shrubs, trees (and fences) that give you privacy also give a burglar a place to hide. Prune bushes down to two feet and cut off tree branches from the ground up to 6 feet. Use plants with thorns (such as barberry) as attractive barriers.

WINDOWS

Windows should have one or more locking devices. Keep them closed and locked at night and when you are away. Screens and storm windows should be securely fastened to the window frame, not easy to remove.

HOUSE NUMBERS

Make sure house numbers are large and well lit at night so emergency services can find your house quickly.

GARAGE DOORS

Always keep them closed and locked. Ask your locksmith about additional security locks. Burglars in your garage can get to tools and ladders and can often work on your home undetected. Consider adding the garage to your alarm system.



ALARMS

There are many types of alarm systems. Get quotes and information from several companies and keep notes for comparison. Ask crime prevention at your police agency for assistance.

INTERIOR LIGHTING

When you are away from home, use timers to turn lights on and off. Just leaving a light on all the time can be a sign that you are away. Use a timer to have a radio playing, too.

EXTERIOR DOORS

Install metal or solid core wood doors with rugged frames and extra long screws to attach the door frame all the way into the 2 x 4 wall stud. A deadbolt lock with a minimum 1" bolt provides security that the key-in-the-lock knob cannot. Install wide-angle viewfinders to observe visitors. If glass is part of (or near) the exterior door, add bars or window film to prevent access to the locks on the inside.

EXTERIOR LIGHTING

Lights at each entrance will help with both safety and security. Don't forget the garage and dark areas of the yard where someone could hide. Compact fluorescent lights save money and use less energy. Use timers or install motion sensor lights in places where you don't need a constant light.