



**BLOOMFIELD POLICE**  
**COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT**



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**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**  
**PROGRAM**

**TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY CALL**

**EMERGENCY 9-1-1**

**NON-EMERGENCY 973-680-4141**

## **BLOOMFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

### WHAT IS THE BLOOMFIELD NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM?

This is simply a program of “neighbors watching their neighbors’ property” and reporting any crimes or suspicious activities or persons to the Bloomfield Police Department. Members are not asked or required to patrol their streets or even leave their homes.

### HOW DOES NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORK?

The neighborhood watch program works through mutual aid. This has several advantages. When your neighbors know who you are, what type of car you drive and when you will be away they may be the first to notice a burglar at your window or door or a strange car in your driveway or in front of your house.

### HOW TO START A PROGRAM IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

If you would like to initiate such a program in your neighborhood, you should contact the Bloomfield Police Department. A member of the Community Policing unit will explain the program in detail and then arrange to meet with you and your neighbors to provide guidance in the areas of home security, personal safety and the reporting of suspicious activity.

When forming, each group selects a leader to act as a liaison between the group and the police. A member of the department will meet with the group leaders to provide guidance and advise members of crime patterns in their neighborhoods.

Remember, this is YOUR program to help make your neighborhood safer. The police will provide training and guidance.

For more information about neighborhood watch contact the Bloomfield Police Department, Community Policing Unit at [nzepeda@bloomfieldnjpd.com](mailto:nzepeda@bloomfieldnjpd.com)

## **BURGLARY PREVENTION FOR HOMEOWNERS**

- When you leave home, even if only for a few minutes, make sure that all doors and windows are locked.
- Keep your garage door closed and locked, whether you are home or not.
- Observe carefully and report all suspicious persons and vehicles.
- Be sure to get the make, model, color and license number of suspected suspicious vehicles.
- If the suspicious vehicle leaves the area prior to police arrival, report the direction of flight.
- Report the number of suspects and include their description such as race, gender, height, weight, clothing description.
- Report any crime to the police immediately and be willing to testify.
- Cooperate with officers investigating an offense in your neighborhood.
- Trim shrubbery around doors and windows so it will not provide concealment for burglars.
- Make sure all locks on doors and windows are in working order.
- Keep vehicles locked. Do not leave property in car.
- Do not leave lawnmowers, garden tools, bicycles and other property unattended in your yard.
- Be cautious of strangers. When in doubt, call the police. Remember that a burglar rarely looks like a burglar.
- When you are out in the yard, lock your doors. Daylight burglaries while people are home are common.
- Never allow anyone into your home unless you know them. A one-way door viewer can be easily installed. Otherwise, insist that the visitor call out his identity.
- Demand credentials before admitting salesmen or repairmen, particularly if you have not requested their presence. Refuse to deal with any caller of this type who does not present identification. Notify the police immediately.

- Be alert in protecting not only your home but your neighbors as well. Don't tell a stranger that your neighbor is not home.
- Don't post vacations or schedules on social media.
- Do not reveal your name, phone number or address to unknown callers. Never reveal to them that you are alone or when you will be away from home.
- Never leave ladders, furniture, garbage pails or any objects up against that house that a burglar can easily climb on to gain entry into your home.
- A residence that presents a lived-in appearance is a deterrent to burglars.
- Leave a radio or a television on while you are away so it sounds like someone is home.
- Never leave notes that can inform a burglar that your home is unoccupied.
- Do not hide keys outside your home. Burglars know where to look.
- When you leave town, arrange for someone to mow your lawn and pick up circulars, mail and newspapers. Don't advertise your absence.
- Leave information with a trusted neighbor as to where you can be contacted if necessary. Ask them to watch your house.
- Be sure all yard gates are securely locked.
- Leave lights on in the house, but not where the lamps can be seen. The light should be diffused so it looks like more than one room is lit. Inexpensive timers are available that can be set to automatically operate lights and radios at appropriate times.
- Prepare records of personal items, note serial numbers and descriptions of all items. Use a bank vault for securities, coin collections, old jewelry and seldom needed valuables and papers. Description should include model numbers as well as serial numbers and unique identifying marks (scratches, discoloration etc.) Maintain photographs or catalog pictures of items which cannot be marked such as jewelry.
- Don't panic if your residence has been entered. Contact the police immediately. Do not "tidy up" because you may destroy evidence or alter the scene, thereby hampering police. Do not touch any windows or door knobs. Or anything that can be fingerprinted.

## **DOORBELL APP**

The Ring Video Doorbell connects to your home's Wi-Fi network and streams live audio and video to your Android device. It's the perfect blend of convenience, monitoring, and security all into one sleek, simple to use smart doorbell. Benefit from peace of mind by chatting with visitors from your Android device, whether you're in the kitchen or halfway around the world through the free Ring app. No need to wonder what's going on outside of your home—see for yourself. With Ring, you're always home.

## **3M GLAZING**

### **Reduce your risk by reinforcing your windows.**

Burglars can victimize your home or business and go after easy smash-and-grab targets — making your glass doors and ground floor windows vulnerable. 3M™ Safety & Security Window Films and 3M™ Impact Protection Attachment Systems make it more difficult to get through your windows, helping to reduce your losses during smash-and-grab crimes.

- Help protect people and property
- Keep the welcoming appearance of your property without adding bars or other physical barriers
- Thicker adhesive helps hold broken glass together, hindering break-and-enter crimes
- Tear-resistance offers excellent performance over standard films
- Help protect against broken glass shards and unlawful entry

## **BENEFITS OF HOME SECURITY CAMERAS**

- **Keeping the bad guys away:** An outdoor security camera will help deter burglars. Typically, these potential thieves will case your home before they actually burglarize it. If the criminals spot a camera, they just might change their minds about breaking into your home. A home security camera can prevent your family from becoming victims of crime.
- **Helping police:** If a theft should occur, your security cameras can provide police with the information – like a description – they need to convict the thief and maybe even help retrieve stolen goods. Be sure you have a good quality camera that can capture faces accurately.
- **Watching the kids and/or elderly family members:** It's always nice to have another set of eyes on your children as well as your aging parents when they're home alone. Adding remote video will allow you to log in and check up on them from your office computer, smartphone, or tablet. Cameras can also be used to keep an eye on younger kids and their babysitters.
- **Checking up on your pets:** Ever wonder what mischief your furry friends are getting into when you're at work? Worried about an older pet that might need special attention? With a home security camera, you can ensure that your four-legged loved ones are safe and sound – and not ripping your sofa cushions to shreds.
- **Saving money on homeowners insurance:** Most major insurers will offer lower premiums if you protect your property with against theft, fire, and vandalism with a professionally-installed and monitored home security system. A more advanced system that includes home security cameras could net you a 15% or even 20% discount on your rates.

Home security cameras as part of a state-of-the-art home security system will help ensure your loved ones are protected and offer you peace of mind knowing they feel secure. Please make sure your cameras are in working order.

## **LOCKS**

Locks for the most part are mounted on doors, but the best security lock can be made ineffective if it is improperly installed or mounted on hollow-core doors. All exterior doors should be of solid-core construction.

“Minimum security” means the prevention of entry through any door or window or window except by means of destructive force. The majority of the devices on this page cost very little and the home security procedures suggested cost nothing. All of them will help reduce burglary.

“Additional security” means the prevention of entry by an intruder, except by destructive force. This includes both windows and doors.

Greater security can be obtained by using deadbolt locks, which are mounted above the existing knob set. Locks with a bolt throw of one inch are recommended.

Single-cylinder deadbolt locks have a hardened cylinder guard and thumb turn. If glass is within 40 inches of the lock, additional security provisions should be followed (see double-cylinder deadbolt).

Double-cylinder deadbolt locks have double cylinders hardened cylinder guards. If the double-cylinder deadbolt is locked when the house is occupied, a key should be left in the inside keyhole in case of fire. Always remove the key when leaving home.

To protect an outward opening door from being lifted from its hinges by pulling the hinge pin, follow these simple steps:

- Remove two screws, opposite each other, from both leafs of your hinge
- Insert a screw or a concrete nail into jamb leaf, leaving one half inch protruding.

- Drill out opposite screw hole in door. Do this in the top and bottom hinge. When closed, the pins may be removed; but the door will remain firmly in place.

A simple way to prevent a sliding door from being opened or pried out of its track is to drill a downward sloping hole through the top channel into the top portion of the sliding door frame. Insert a pin. This may be used as a minimum security method when the home is unoccupied.

Sticks and bars may be used in sliding doors, but burglars can remove these. They offer no protection from an intruder leaving with your household goods.

Sliding windows should be secured. There are many products available for securing these types of windows from being pried open or lifted out of their tracks.

A single lock on a garage door is often inadequate to keep intruders from prying up the opposite side and crawling in. Any one of three methods may be used to secure the door:

- Add another bolt and pad-lock to the opposite door
- Install a pair of cane bolts on the inside, but these can only be operated from the inside.
- Add a top center hasp. Any person of average height can operate this locking device.

Always keep garage doors closed and locked.

Although there are many padlocks on the market, don't economize by buying the one that won't give you the protection that you need. The most common assault on a padlock is with a large bolt cutter or pry bar. The following description is the minimum standard for an exterior padlock:

- Hardened steel, 9/32 inch shackle. Heavier shackles offer additional security.
- Double-locking mechanism, heel and toe.
- Five-pin tumbler.
- A key-retaining feature when possible. This prevents your removing the key until you have closed the padlock.

Never leave your padlock open. This is an invitation to have the padlock removed so a key can be made, and the lock is then returned to its position. Later the burglar returns when no one is home and enters at his leisure, using his key.

Shrubbery should never block the view of your doors or windows. This allows an intruder the opportunity and privacy to gain entrance.

- A wide-angle viewer in the door lets you know who is outside.

Never leave your bicycle unlocked; use a good chain and padlock when you are not riding it.

- Use a 3/8 inch by 6 inch eye screw fastened into a stud to lock your bike to your garage. The eye screw should be at least three feet about the floor because this makes a pry bar more difficult.
- When you lock your bike in a public place, chain into a secure rack or stanchion through the frame and a wheel. Keep the chain as high above the ground as the bike will allow. This reduces the leverage for a pry bar or bolt cutter attack.

Anything you can do to make forced entry into your residence more difficult is a step in the right direction. Good security will not only create problems for a potential burglar but help protect your property and possibly save your life.

Residential burglary is a problem the police cannot fight alone. We are asking, very directly, for your help.

While installing good quality deadbolt locks on solid core doors is important, it is not enough to effectively secure an exterior door. The strike, (that is the door frame that receives the bolt in the locked position) must be reinforced. The standard strike plate that comes with a good quality deadbolt can be defeated along with the weak door frame it is attached to. This is accomplished by heavy prying, or a combination of prying and kicking. There are two types of high security strikes that are effective. They both incorporate a small open box to fit into a door frames bolt hole. Thus, the box is secured through the door frame into wall studs, thus giving the locking mechanism the added strength the wall affords.

## **WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?**

Basically, anything that seems even slightly “out of place” or that is occurring at an unusual time of day could be criminal activity.

## **WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE**

No police department can function effectively without the concerned assistance of responsible citizens. They are depending on you to call and tell them whenever you observe suspicious persons or actions.

Some people fail to call the police simply because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and be hesitant to call for fear of seeming a “nosy neighbor” or a “crank”. Still others take it for granted that someone else has already called.

Call the police immediately about all suspicious activity.... And do it yourself! Don't worry about bothering them because this is what the police are for. Don't worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what could happen if you don't act.

## **INFORMATION MOST NEEDED BY POLICE**

What happened? When? Where? Anyone injured?

Vehicle license number and vehicle description.

Direction of travel.

Description of persons (including clothing). When describing suspects, notice age, race, sex, height and weight. Compare your own height and weight with suspects. Pick out some unique characteristics (scars, noses, jewelry, etc.) that will help you identify the suspect in the future if need be.

**Some of the most obvious things to watch out for and report include:**

- A stranger entering your neighbor's house when it is unoccupied may be a burglar.
- A scream heard anywhere may mean robbery or assault.
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices could mean stolen property.
- Anyone removing accessories, license plates or gasoline from a car should be reported.
- Anyone peering into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left displayed in the car.
- Persons entering or leaving a business place after hours could mean burglars.
- The sound of breaking glass or loud explosive noises could mean an accident, housebreaking or vandalizing.
- Anyone unexpected at your door, even if they show an ID, claiming they're from a utility company, construction company etc may be trying to enter your home in order to steal money or valuables (diversion burglary).
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas or in the neighborhood could be sex offenders.
- Persons around the neighborhood who do not live there could be burglars.

**Some not so obvious things to watch for:**

Not every stranger who comes into your neighborhood is a criminal by any means. There are many perfectly legitimate door-to-door salesmen, repairmen and servicemen moving around our neighborhoods all the time. But criminals do take advantage of this by assuming the guise of legitimate business representatives. After all, if a criminal looked like a criminal, no one would have any trouble spotting him.

**Here are some situations involving people you might see and what their actions might mean:**

Someone going door-to-door in your neighborhood. Watch for a while. If, after a few houses are visited, one or more of the persons tries a door to see if it is locked or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. Such action is even more suspicious if one person remains in the front when this occurs or if there is a car following a few houses away. Call the police immediately; do not wait for the person to leave.

Someone waiting in front of a house if the owners are absent or. If it's a business, the business is closed. This might be a lookout for a burglary in progress.

Anyone forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, business or vehicle.

A person running, especially if carrying something of value.

Someone carrying property, if it's an unusual hour or in an unusual place or if the property is not wrapped as if just purchased.

A person exhibiting unusual mental or physical symptoms may be injured, under the influence of drugs or otherwise needing medical or psychiatric assistance.

Much human traffic to and from a certain residence is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours. It could possibly be the scene of vice activities or a "fence" operation.

**Here are some things to watch for involving vehicles:**

Any vehicle moving slowly or without lights or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive in any location. Occupants may be looking to commit a crime.

Parked, occupied vehicles, containing one or more persons at an unusual hour. They could be possible lookouts for a burglary in progress, even if the occupants appear to be legitimate.

Vehicles being loaded with valuables if parked in front of a closed business or unattended residence.

Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools and parks. If juveniles are involved, it could mean possible drug sales.

Persons being forced into vehicles, especially if juveniles or females, may mean a possible kidnapping.

An abandoned vehicle parked on your block may be a stolen car.

A “delivery man” with an alleged wrong address or asking if someone else lives there may be someone canvassing for a burglary.

Unusual noise, such as gunshots, screaming, sounds of combat, abnormally barking dogs, anything suggestive of foul play or danger of illegal activity.

While some, if not all, of the suspicious situations described could have innocent explanations, your police department would rather investigate a crime-prone situation than be called when it is too late. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury or stop a criminal act. Be alert.

### CREDIT CARDS

Treat your credit cards as if they were cash.

Do not leave your cards in the glove compartment of your car.

Do not leave cards around your home where they can be taken by domestic help, repairmen and, often times, casual acquaintances.

Be sure your card is returned to you when you make a purchase.

Do not keep unnecessary cards. Most credit card companies will issue 2 or more cards. If you only need 1, destroy the remainder.

If a card is lost or stolen, report it to the company immediately.

Never give your card number out on the telephone unless you placed the call to order merchandise.

When making a purchase online, be sure you are using a secured website.

Keep a photograph copy (front and back) of your cards in a safety deposit box or a safe in case your cards are lost or stolen you have easy access to card numbers and companies in order to cancel your cards immediately.

### ASSAULT PREVENTION

Tips for the home:

Replace or re-key locks when you move into a house or an apartment.

Install a peephole so you can see who is out your door before opening it.

Elevators in apartment houses and office buildings can lead to trouble. Wait for an empty car rather than get in with a stranger. Stand by the control panel.

Notify the police of anonymous phone calls made repeatedly at certain hours... someone may be checking to see if you are home. Quietly hang up and notify the police of suspicious phone calls.

Strangers should stay outside your home; they can go some other place else to make a phone call, or you can make it for them.

Keep window shades down and closed at night.

Report to the police immediately if you see or hear any suspicious sounds, activities, automobiles or people around your neighborhood.

### PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE WALKING

Walk with someone. Most muggers will be discouraged if you have company, male or female.

Stay in well-lit areas and away from alleys, entryways and bushes.

Stay near other people; avoid shortcuts through parks, vacant lots or other deserted places.

Hold your purse close to your body, not dangling. Never set your purse down on store counters, in the supermarket baskets or on bus seats.

Avoid carrying extra money or valuables on your person.

Don't accept rides with strangers. If a driver stops to ask you directions, avoid getting near the car; you could be pulled inside.

If you are being followed by someone on foot, cross the street, change direction or vary your pace. If he persists, go to a lighted store or a home and call the police. If you are being followed by someone in a car, turn around and walk in the other direction. If he persists, record the license plate and call the police.

When you return home, have your key ready to open the door without delay. Leave an outside light on so you can easily see when you return.

### PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE DRIVING

Keep windows rolled up and doors locked at all times. Check your gauge to see if you have enough gasoline before leaving.

Keep your purse and other valuables out of sight either under the seat or in the glove compartment.

At intersection and stop lights, keep your car in gear. If you are threatened, blow the horn and drive away.

Hitchhikers should not be picked up. Don't stop and help disabled drivers, report them to police.

If you have car trouble, raise your hood and stay inside with the doors locked. If a stranger stops, ask him to report your predicament to the nearest law enforcement agency.

If you are being followed, don't drive into your driveway or attempt to leave your car. Go to a location where there are other people and call the police.

Park in areas that will be well lit when you return. Lock your doors. Put your valuables in a locked trunk or take them with you.

Always check the rear seat and floorboard before getting inside your car. Lock your doors immediately when you get in your car.

Never leave keys to your home with your car keys when your car is left in a parking lot or a service station. Get a pull-away key chain or separate your keys.

The decision to fight or not fight an assailant is a personal choice which must be made by each individual based on the situation at hand.

#### AUTO THEFT

Do not leave vehicle unlocked.

Do not leave keys in the ignition.

Do not leave windows down or partially opened.

Do not leave a hidden spare key around battery or bumper area.

Do not leave your vehicle running while unattended.

Do not leave name or address in vehicle or on key chain.

Park in well lighted areas.

Do not leave items of value inside the vehicle. Take them with you or lock them in the trunk.

Use an anti-theft device or an alarm.

SOME POINTS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

Do not talk to strangers.

Do not accept a ride from a stranger.

Do not walk or allow a stranger to walk with you. If a stranger does walk up to you or touch you, immediately walk away and go to the nearest person you can find... a policeman, a person working in the yard, or to the nearest house for help.

Do not accept gifts from strangers.

If a stranger asks directions, ignore him or send him to a service station or to the police department. (If a person really needs directions they will most likely not ask a child.)

Do not go near a person's car that is asking for directions or help. **DO NOT GO WITH THEM!!!**

If someone does try to pick you up, write down the license plate of the car (in the dirt if you have nothing else) and notify the police.

Never take short cuts.

Go straight home after school.

Let your parents know exactly where you are every minute of every day.

If your child is attacked by a stranger, instruct them to scream, kick, bite, hit or do whatever is necessary to get away, and then run to the nearest source for help.