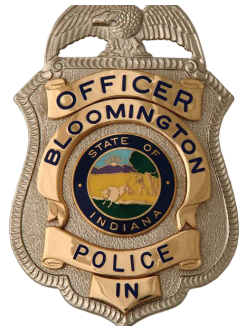


# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Monthly Email Newsletter curated by your Neighborhood Resource Specialists



## FIVE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

*There is strength in numbers. Working together as a team will help keep your neighborhood safer. We have listed five simple ways to help you do just that.*

## INDEPENDENT SAFETY FOR YOUR HOME

*Working together to keep your neighborhood safer is key. But it starts with you. We have tips that you can take to keep your home, property and neighborhood safer.*



## INDEPENDENT SAFETY FOR YOUR VEHICLE

*Taking these easy prevention steps can help protect your vehicles from vandalism and thefts.*



# FIVE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

## TIP 1: OUTSIDE PRESENCE AND KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBORS

Well lit areas deter crime. Keeping your front porch light on, motion lights on the back, sides, as well as the front of your house, and proper streetlights are an easy way to do this.

Participating in individual and community outdoor activities is a simple way to keep your neighborhood active which deters crime.

Knowing your neighbors will allow you to identify suspicious behaviors and unwanted intruders.

## TIP 2: BRIGHT LIGHTS

## TIP 3: PROPERTY CARE

Using social media groups and other apps such as Nextdoor is a simple yet effective way to communicate with your neighbors and stay informed of recent events in your neighborhood.

Well cared for properties deter crime. Be sure easily accessible items such as bikes, scooters, skateboards, etc. are picked up and your garage doors are closed during night hours.

## TIP 4: NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL MEDIA GROUPS

## TIP 5: NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PARTICIPATION

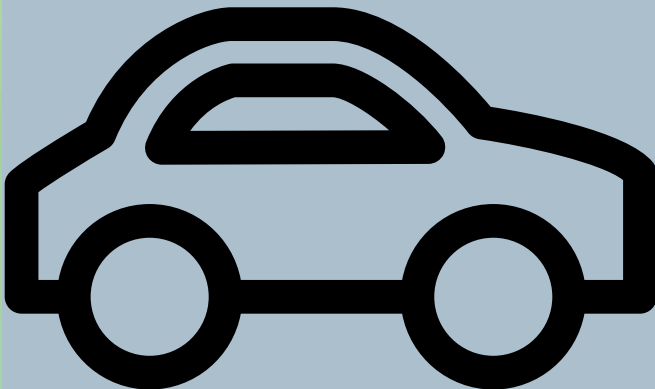
This is a wonderful way to know what is going on in your neighborhood and engage in meaningful communication with your neighbors. Together you can make your neighborhood safer. If your neighborhood has not established a Neighborhood Watch Program you can contact the City of Bloomington HAND department for instructions on getting one started.

# INDEPENDENT SAFETY FOR YOUR HOME



- *Alarm systems are not a guarantee. However, a good security system can deter intruders and allow you the opportunity to keep an eye on your home safely.*
- *Dogs can also be a deterrent. By barking and establishing a presence, your dog can make your home less attractive to intruders.*
- *All exterior doors should be well secured and locked. Having a peephole will assist you in keeping safe communication and distance when an unauthorized person is at your door. Chains and door knob locks are not proper security. All exterior doors should have a deadbolt. Pet doors, crawl spaces, ventilation windows, and other openings should be secured.*
- *Having your street address visible from the street as well as a well lit area will help the police locate your home easier during dark hours. Again, keeping your home well lit at night is a great way to deter intruders from your property.*
- *Make sure all outdoor storage areas are well maintained and secured. This will dissuade intruders from the opportunity to victimize you.*
- *When you go on vacation or will be away from your home for a period of time, do not post travel plans on social media. Make sure a neighbor is aware that you will be out of town and attempt to make your home appear to be occupied.*

# INDEPENDENT SAFETY FOR YOUR CAR



*Lock your car doors and close your windows.*

*Don't leave valuables in your car.*

*If you have a garage, use it.*

*Don't leave your garage door opener on the dashboard or front seat.*

*Always park in a well-lit area.*

*Install a locking gas tank cap to help prevent gasoline theft. This will also limit a thief's driving range to one tank.*

*Report all thefts as soon as possible.*



# MEET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE SPECIALIST

## VICKI MINDER



*I have been in public service for over 33 years. Over half of that time has been in an enforcement capacity. I thought with my insight and personality, this side might be a better fit. Helping folks find the resources they need to be able to help themselves seemed more rewarding. Empowering people and helping them to help themselves, that helps everyone. My incite with conflict resolution will be helpful. A lot of the time, most people just want to be heard. They want a voice. I'm a good listener. Let them have their say without judgement. Really listen!! I don't just listen to respond.*

Neighborhood Resource Specialist positions within the BPD will extend the Department's ability to provide services and support directly to residents and local groups. The Neighborhood Resource Specialists will serve as a point of contact for residents and neighborhood associations and a liaison to police and other City services. Other responsibilities may include checking on the welfare of residents who are elderly or have special needs, addressing conflicts between neighbors, and responding to and reporting on code and nuisance violations.

My hope for this position is to help residents find long term solutions to the ongoing issues they are seeing in their community.

## JESSICA OSWALT

Bloomington is rich with resources, we just have to fit the resource to the problem. I think it is important to establish positive connections between the Bloomington Police Department and the community we serve. I hope to play a role in this as well as going to community events and bridging gaps with members of the community.



## CONTACT US:

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