

# Block Watcher

December 2006  
Issue



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Questions or comments?  
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## A Newsletter for Block Watch Captains

### Block Watch Works

Another example of the Block Watch concept at work:

On 11-15-06 at about 1:30 in the afternoon, police dispatch received the call of a suspicious person on Cypress Rd.

A neighbor had been looking out of her front window when she saw a suspicious male near the residence across the street. She did not recognize the man and noticed he was looking around, then looking into and trying the windows of the home.

She watched as the suspect tried a garage door and was able to eventually gain entrance into another home through a window.

When the police arrived the

suspect had just exited the home and was taken into custody.

Not only was the diligent caller correct in her intuition regarding the behavior of the burglar, but she was also able to provide detailed witness information to the officers who subsequently arrested the suspect for First Degree Burglary.

The caller did not know the victims well as they were new to the neighborhood, but she knew they were out of town.

This is a classic example of *neighbors preventing crime*. Quite obviously, this apprehension would not have happened had she convinced herself not to call or that it “wasn’t her

business”. Being a good neighbor is everyone’s business!

Remember, most burglaries happen during the day, when people are at work, school or our running their daytime errands.

Let your neighbors know when you will be out of town, and who, if anyone should be at your residence while you are away.



### Neighborhood Mediation Program

As a Block Watch Captain, you have a unique role in assisting with many neighborhood issues, including conflicts between neighbors. The Neighborhood Mediation Program can help you address these conflicts!

The Neighborhood Mediation Program is a partnership between the Campus Community Coalition and the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center. Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process in which a neutral mediator helps people understand and resolve their dispute. Mediation is a low cost and effective way to address conflict.

If you are aware of a conflict where the people could use help coming to an agreement, please refer them to the Center. Staff will discuss the mediation process, contact the other person(s) involved, and arrange the mediation appointment.

“Try Mediation” referral cards are available! Please call the Center at 676-0122.

Call the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center  
for a **FREE** confidential consultation!

**(360) 676-0122**

NEIGHBORHOOD MEDIATION PROGRAM

A project of the WWU-Bellingham Campus Community Coalition and the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center.



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The Crime Prevention Information  
Fair will be held in the Lowe's  
parking lot this year!  
More info to come...



## *What's In Your Wallet?*

*If you were to open your wallet right now, what would you find? Do you carry personal information inside that makes you more susceptible to identity theft?*

- *Never carry your social security card in your wallet, or any other identification that contains your social security number.*
- *Carry only one credit card in your wallet, if possible.*
- *Do not keep information such as bank account numbers in your wallet.*
- *Clean out and discard unused items twice a year.*
- *Inventory the contents and know the names and numbers of those credit card companies should you lose your wallet.*

## Lighting Placement- Neighborly, Energy Efficient Solutions



Quality lighting rather than poor lighting is essential for any real security.

Effective nighttime lighting in your neighborhood is one of the key components of community oriented policing. Part of the importance of lighting is that it works in conjunction with the general neighborhood awareness.

A porch light left on at night confirms the message that neighbors are aware, connected and exercising ownership over their residences and property.

A neighborhood need not be lit up like a parking lot at night. A well placed light sends the message of "we are attentive" and effectively lights an area.

Quality exterior lighting involves selecting the correct equipment for the project, not over lighting, providing uni-

form lighting for security reasons and minimizing glare (non-productive light).

I encourage you to talk to your neighbors individually before installing lighting that will impact them. Often, they are happy to have some input and most likely will see a benefit from such lighting.

Here are some tips to ensure that your lighting is both energy efficient and neighbor-friendly:

- Avoid sending light up into the atmosphere either by direct or reflected light. Instead, use completely shielded area or wall-mounted luminaries which cause light to go down instead of up.

- Evaluate existing exterior lighting systems and identify which lights should be shut-off at specific times.
- Locate outdoor lighting where it is needed. For example, locate outdoor lighting below tree canopies, not above.
- Consider lighting controls such as daylight controls, or photo sensors used to turn off lights whenever adequate daylight is available.

For more information on effective and efficient outdoor lighting, visit the International Dark-Sky Association at [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).