

**Block Watch Meeting Highlights  
for July 24, 2014  
Held at Little Bear Bar & Grill**

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Wow – what amazing neighbors we have! Thank you to everyone who expressed an interest and those who came in person to our first Block Watch meeting last night. Also special thanks to Tracy Whited and Deputy Vogel from the Sheriff's Office for such a great presentation and George at Little Bear for allowing us to use his bar & grill for the meeting. Please go see George on Friday nights from 5-9pm and thank him for his support of our neighborhood!

Here is a quick summary of the evening (presentation is also attached) along with some action items for everyone. Overall – we are not immune to crimes so please use common sense. Do not hesitate to contact the non-emergency line at the Sheriff's Department to report any unusual activity. They genuinely appreciate it.

- Crime - There are increased concerns about break-ins in the area. In addition to cars, there has been a house and lots of missing items from open garages. There is a map on the attached presentation showing where crime has occurred. Thanks to Chris Brown for sharing this online map of local crimes with us too: <https://www.crimereports.com/agency/delaware>. Call the sheriff's office to patrol when you are gone. We can also consider increasing police presence which was cut recently from the budget.
- Garbage – we have all noticed the trucks driving around and taking garbage. This is not illegal but we are encouraged to wait to put garbage out until that morning or if possible to avoid this.
- Lights – we have a very dark neighborhood. Please turn outdoor lights on.
- Paper, mail, etc. – you can call to have each stopped when traveling. If you see a pile at a neighbor's house please grab it and put it on the porch/out of sight for them.
- Solicitors – can we explore a no solicitation ordinance in Orange Township so we can control better who is wandering through our neighborhood? The city of Columbus has one.
- Driving issues – please remember to slow down while in the neighborhood and stop at all the stop signs. 95% of the issues are local people in a hurry.

**Action needed:**

- Please sign up for the homeowners association email distribution list here: <http://villagesofoakcreek.com/contactus.html>. I am guilty of living here 10 years and just doing this myself. It will be one of the primary vehicles for email communication.
- Nextdoor technology – this is a really cool, closed neighborhood site that has a free app for your phone. Join today and check out the awesome map and tools for special event invitations and more: <https://nextdoor.com/invite/hwcgwtmqfexmtewxygz/>. Special thanks to Amy Gibbs for launching this tool for us. You can read more about it here too: <http://www.10tv.com/content/stories/2013/09/10/columbus-private-social-network-helps-neighbors-fight-crime.html>.

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- Facebook – did you know the Villages of Oak Creek has our own Facebook page? Like it today at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/210185378999206/>. Another good page for local communications is the Lewis Center networking page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/443276385761258/>.

**Next Steps:**

- I will be communicating primarily through the three vehicles above. If you prefer email I set up a special account so you don't get lost in my personal or work accounts. Please use [villagesofoakcreek@gmail.com](mailto:villagesofoakcreek@gmail.com).
- We would like to make sure we have updated contact information for everyone. If you want to help go door to door to get this with us please let me know.
- Come to the Home Owners Association meetings! Save the date for the next one which is October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7p.m. Location is the Orange Township Hall on Orange Road

Also the Sheriff's Office will work with VOCHOA to get official Block Watch neighborhood signs posted on some of the main streets in the area. This is a great first step!

Thanks again,

**Adrienne Selsor**