

# DeKALB POLICE SERVICES - NORTH PRECINCT

JULY 2002

## NEIGHBOR NEWS

### Is Your Home at Risk?

It's a startling reality, but the summer vacation months of June, July and August are the most common time for home burglaries. In fact, according to FBI statistics, most neighborhoods will experience an amazing 10 percent to 18 percent increase in residential burglaries during these summer months. While you are enjoying your hard-earned and deserved vacation, what steps can you take to help lessen the risk of your home being burglarized? Here are some top-notch home burglary prevention ideas from the Burglary Prevention Council:

1. Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a 1-inch throw and reinforced strike plate with 3-inch screws. All windows should have the proper window locks.
2. Properly secure sliding glass doors. This will help prevent burglars from forcing the door open or lifting it off the track.
3. Always lock the door to an attached garage, and do not rely on your automatic garage door for security.
4. Create the illusion that you are at home by using timers on lights, radios and TVs.
5. Keep the perimeter of your home well-lighted. Installing low voltage outdoor lighting is a cost-effective way to discourage intruders, as well as highlight a house.
6. Never leave clues that you are away on a trip. Ask a trusted neighbor to collect mail and newspapers while you are away, and perhaps park one of his vehicles in your driveway or parking place to make it appear you are present.
7. Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal everyday appearance in your residence.
8. Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine that you are away from home and will return at a later date.
9. Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways. Large hedges and bushes may provide a hiding place for burglars, who need only a minute to break through a window or door.

10. An active Neighborhood Watch program is the best protection for your neighborhood. An alert community is a safe community.

**A Final Thought:** It's too easy to let your guard down while you and your family are enjoying your summer vacation. Think about this: Burglars break into a home every 11 seconds, with an estimated 2,300,000 residential burglaries annually in the United States. So please take all the reasonable and appropriate steps to help make the burglar's job as troublesome as possible - even during your vacation. **Remember, crime and criminals never take a vacation.**

### NEW POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

The telephone numbers for the DeKalb Police North Precinct have changed. Please use the following numbers for non-emergency calls.

<b>Uniform Division</b>	<b>770-901-6012</b>
<b>Detectives</b>	<b>770-901-6008</b>

### ----- OPT OUT -----

One of the biggest frauds of our time is Identity Theft. One way that perpetrators of identity theft gain access to a victim's identity is to take credit card offers from the mailbox or garbage, sign and return it as if they were that person but at a different address. The victim may not find out for months that their credit record is now destroyed due to lack of payment.

A tip to prevent it in the USA is to "**opt out**" of credit card offers. The three major credit reporting agencies (Experian, Equifax, and Transunion) have set up one phone number to opt out. This will prevent credit card companies from scanning your credit history to see if you fit their criteria prior to mailing out all the offers.

To opt out by phone (you have the choice of opting out for 2 years or permanently), **call 1-888-567-8688** and follow the easy prompts. If you choose to permanently opting out, they are supposed to mail you a written confirmation within 5 days of your call. As an added bonus, opting out will reduce the number of telemarketers that call your home during dinner time because they won't have your records. This won't prevent all credit card offers or telemarketers because some don't use the credit reporting agencies to identify their prospects.

If you prefer to do this by writing, you can also write to stop direct mailings and telemarketing at:

**Direct Marketing Association**  
**PO Box 9008**  
**Farmingdale, NY 11735**

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT  
TUESDAY AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup>  
"AMERICA'S NIGHT OUT  
AGAINST CRIME"**

On Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, neighborhoods throughout DeKalb County are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "19<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out" (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. NNO, will involve over 9,600 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world, with over 32 million people expected to participate.

From 7 to 10 p.m., residents across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. A variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, flashlight walks, contests, youth activities and anti-crime and drug rallies are planned. We're going to send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

**Q. How can we get the Police to attend our community activities?**

**A.** Call Charles Delk at 770-604-3928 and let him know the time of your activities, the location, and the name and telephone number of the community contact for this event.

**Q. The sun does not set in our area until about 9 P.M. Does that matter?**

**A.** No. The fact that the sun does not set until a particular time should not affect the scheduling of your activities. The illumination of porch lights is symbolic. They can be on at 7 or 8 p.m. - whether or not darkness has fallen.

**Q. Can we begin our activities earlier than 7P.M.?**

**A.** Certainly. The 7 to 10 p.m. listed hours are merely a suggested national timeframe. Some areas however begin at noon, some during the late afternoon, some at 6 p.m. Tailor the day/night time to best accommodate your community. Early starts are fine. Late starts (past 7 p.m.) though can be a problem because residents will have already settled into other evening activities.

**Q. Is Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> the only day that we can celebrate NNO?**

**A.** No. Although Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> is the day that the majority of communities throughout the nation will join forces for NNO, any day during the first week in August can be designated as the day your community will participate. In fact, your community can extend your activities over the entire week if so desired. Just be sure to call Charles Delk at 770-604-3928 and let him know when and what activities your community has planned.

**Q. What is the significance of turning on our outside lights for this event?**

**A.** Everyone agrees that properly lighted homes and streets deter crime, drug activity, etc. We hope that during NNO 2002 the homes and streets in your area that are poorly lit will be identified, and your community will work toward making lighting improvements. Proper use of energy-efficient, security lighting costs only pennies per day, and *"lights on" means lights out for crime!*

*"Give Crime and Drugs A Going Away Party."*

## **D.E.C.A. PICNIC**

If you missed the great picnic by Dresden East Civic Association on June 9, 2002 at Dresden Park you missed: great fellowship, great food, great band, great door prizes, great turnout, great weather, a great time, and **great day!** **why did you miss it?** They had the Fire Dept., Police Dept., the Sheriff's Dept., and others, all helping celebrate the great year D.E.C.A. has experienced. I guess you'll just have to wait until next year to enjoy the great picnic they are already starting to plan.

*Seen on a church sign: "Don't let worries kill you; Let the church help".*

*----- Got Comments? -----*

If you enjoy this newsletter, share it with others in your community. If you have a comment you may respond to:

**DeKalb Police Services - North Precinct**  
**Charles E. Delk - Crime Prevention 770-604-3928**  
email: [dkpdcommrel@hotmail.com](mailto:dkpdcommrel@hotmail.com)