

How to Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe

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Keeping your neighborhood safe is a goal for anyone. While it may seem like residents can only do so much to make a difference, you usually have far more capacity and influence than you'd expect. If you want to keep your neighborhood safe, here are some ways to go about it — presented by [Byron Fire Protection District](#).

Get to Know Your Neighbors (and Organize a Community Effort)

One of the simplest ways to begin when you want to make your neighborhood safer is by fostering a sense of community. By spending time getting to know your neighbors, you can forge critical bonds. Plus, it helps you familiarize yourself with who lives in the area, making it easier to potentially spot suspicious activity.

Coordinating a community effort to improve safety also makes a difference. For example, you could [set up a Neighborhood Watch program](#) to get locals involved in keeping the neighborhood crime-free. It mainly focuses on having a strong presence and improving safety by remaining vigilant. However, you can also use the platform to encourage smart choices, like ensuring neighbors illuminate potential entry points to their homes and take other steps to make their properties less enticing to thieves.

Have a Strong, Positive Relationship with Local Law Enforcement

Having a [positive relationship with local law enforcement](#) can make a difference when you want to keep your neighborhood safe. Often, this goes beyond simply being polite if you happen to cross paths and [being an upstanding citizen](#). Instead, you may want to go the extra mile. For example, volunteering at the local station could help. You could also find out if there is a community advisory board and inquire about joining.

Advocate for Street Signs, Speed Humps, and Other Road Changes

If roads in your neighborhood are plagued by motorists [driving above posted speed limits](#), advocating for certain changes could make your area safer.

For instance, [requesting stop signs be placed](#) at potentially hazardous intersections or asking that an intersection be turned into an all-way stop could make a difference. The same goes for installing a traffic signal.

[Speed bumps are another option](#) for enhancing safety. While they are prolific, not all cities and neighborhoods use them that aggressively. However, they can be a great solution, encouraging drivers to slow down or risk vehicle damage. Usually, you'll need to contact your local transportation services agency to initiate a request. If you aren't sure where to begin, get in touch with local officials.

Address Safety Hazards in Community Spaces Promptly

If you spot any safety hazards in community spaces – such as along walkways, in parks, and other shared or publicly-accessible areas – make sure they're addressed promptly. Precisely what you'll need to do could vary depending on the issue and its location.

For example, you may need to work with the city if the problem is on city property and involves a permanent fixture, like playground equipment, signs, sidewalks, and light fixtures. However, if it's simply a piece of debris that's creating a risk, you may be able to handle that on your own.

If you live in a shared housing complex, there's a [good chance you're a member](#) of a homeowner's association (HOA). If so, make sure to contact the HOA regarding hazards or security issues, as well as any repairs or ground maintenance needed in community spaces. That way, they can keep everything safe and in good condition.

Keeping your neighborhood safe isn't something you can do all by yourself — chances are, you'll need some help from your fellow neighbors, law enforcement, or local officials. Also, consider teaming up with your HOA to look for ways that you can improve your neighborhood. With this team effort, you can definitely make a difference for the better.



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