

***How did the Good Neighbor Project (GNP) start and how has it grown?***

The [Good Neighbor Project](#) is MPD's community safety program. It began in late 2014 due to concerns for escalating vandalism and crimes in each area represented by our panel including Wendy Reichel, Kim Richman and Joe Keyes. In each neighborhood where GNP is active, the common goal is connecting neighbors together to build community through regular communication. The overarching aim is NOT to foment fears about who is passing through our neighborhood that may have criminal intent in mind.

Rather, to foster information sharing and interaction. .Get on a first name basis with those on your block, through WNA and city agencies which serve us. While safety tips were provided to deter home break-ins, what many found most powerful were the stories told: by panelists and longtime Westmorland residents. One neighbor described how knowing neighbors' names via a social gathering led to a united response to a tragic event on his block. Another cautioned us about how generalized suspicion can lead to reporting our very own neighbors, on the sole basis of factors such as age, slow driving, or skin color.

**Who is Westmorland's MPD liaison? Officer Will Needelman <WNeedelman@cityofmadison.com>**

***How can we partner with MPD and other agencies for neighborhood safety? What other collaborations have been cultivated?***

The partnership can be fostered in many ways, monthly meetings, smaller announced gatherings, tours. . Examples mentioned included interactions between WNA neighbors and legal professionals (e.g. EMT, district attorney) and city or county agency representatives (e.g. Streets & Recycling, victim advocate) .

***What is the best way to deter crime?***

An ongoing, proactive approach by residents reduces crimes of opportunity. Know who to contact when you suspect or are certain something unusual is underway. And reflect on presumptuous thinking, words and behaviors that may lead you target people simply because you do not know them (yet).

**Who should we contact when trespassing, vandalism, or crimes are suspected or identified?**

For emergencies: 911.

For non-emergencies: (608) 255-2345. Trained operators can decide how to proceed.

**What immediate action steps were recommended by the panelists at Westmorland's first meeting 10/27 night?**

1. **Establish an evening routine safety check** to ensure your outdoor premises and access to your home are checked. Set an alarm on your cell or select a set time so this becomes a habit.
2. **Connect with your neighbors to exchange emergency information.** Two specific tips mentioned at the meeting were to:
  - a. Establish a buddy system to send texts/call if you notice a neighbor's open garage door
  - b. Ask a neighbor to park one of their vehicles in your driveway when you are out of town overnight/for a week at a time as police records suggest a pattern of break-ins when residents are not at home.

**How can we increase our sensitivity and extend care to those that might be experiencing stress in our nearby vicinity?** One way is to cultivate a sense of safety through intentionally strengthening our social network. To achieve this, we may need to shift our attitude about what being a neighbor entails, and what our responsibility is to and for those in our community.

***How will Westmoreland stay abreast of safety and community engagement opportunities?***

- Weekly updates will be posted each Tuesday pm to the WNA website/GNP tab as of 11/2/20
- For those without computer access, key information will be provided in the Courier.
- Westmorland-GNP meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month starting 2/2/21