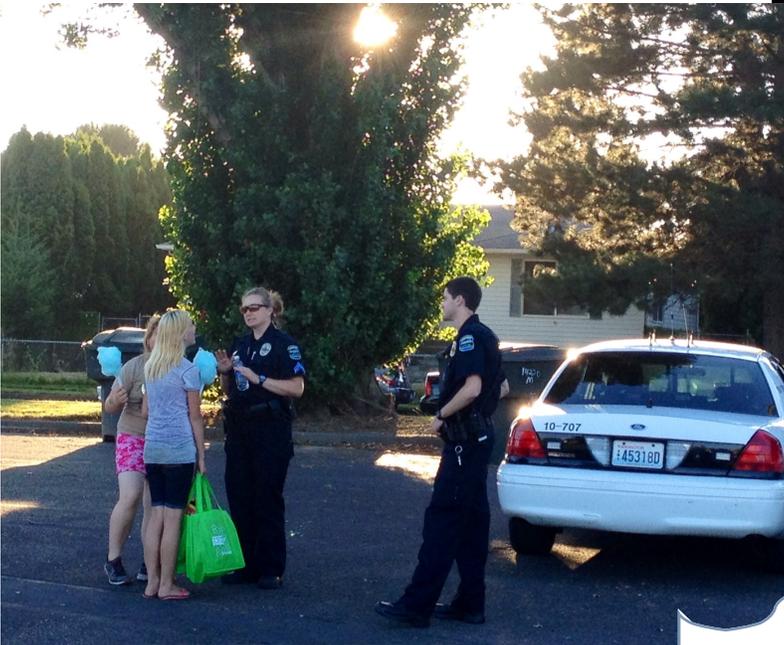


Block Watch Guide

Neighbors knowing, caring and looking out for each other



This information is provided courtesy of the Longview Police Department



Longview Police Department
1351 Hudson Street
Longview, WA 98632
General business line: 360.442.5800
Emergency: 9-1-1, Dispatch: 360.577.3098

Satellite Office
216 30th Avenue, Suite C
Longview, WA 98632
360.442.5850

Block Watch Guide

Neighbors knowing, caring and looking out for each other

This Block Watch Guide contains general information about the Block Watch program as well as some helpful tips about crime prevention.

If you decide to pursue a Block Watch for your neighborhood, additional information is available that will guide you through the process.

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What is Block Watch?

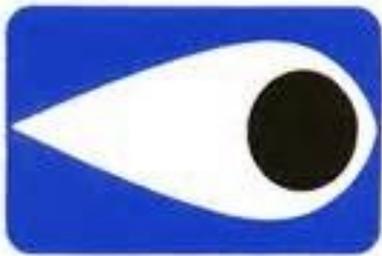
Frequently Asked Questions

BLOCK WATCH is a program designed to increase security on neighborhood blocks by involving as many individuals and families as possible in a united crime prevention effort.

What do participants learn in Block Watch?

Participants in BLOCK WATCH learn to:

- ◆ Be familiar with neighborhoods and activities on the block.
- ◆ Recognize and report suspicious activity.
- ◆ Increase home security.
- ◆ Engrave property correctly.
- ◆ Communicate with neighbors on a regular basis using block maps, phone trees, etc.



What is the mission of Block Watch?

"We believe that Longview residents have the right to livable and secure neighborhoods in order to pursue their lives free of fear and crime.

"We believe it is the responsibility of citizens to build and maintain livable, cohesive neighborhoods. We encourage people to support and help each other in crime prevention efforts.

"We believe citizen involvement is an integral part of maintaining an effective and vital police service. We believe in encouraging partnerships between citizens, police and other governmental agencies to make the most of resources to improve the livability and safety of neighborhoods.

"We believe that committed citizens and police, working cooperatively toward these goals, create a united and secure community. This reduces vulnerability to crime."

Longview Police
Department

What are the goals of Block Watch?

Goal 1 - We will reduce the level of fear of crime in our neighborhoods.

Goal 2 - We, as citizens, will accept the responsibility to increase neighborhood livability and reduce crime in our neighborhoods.

Goal 3 - We will assist in increasing community awareness and home security to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur at your home.

Why do police departments encourage residents to form Block Watch groups?

There are many more citizens than there are law enforcement officers. Because law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once, we rely on citizens to notify us of criminal activities and suspicious behavior. This helps law enforcement in apprehending criminals. Also, criminals may think twice about targeting a particular area if they know that citizens are watching out for suspicious activity.

The best crime prevention device ever invented is a good neighbor.

-continued-

- continued -

Joint organized efforts are more effective than individual efforts.

Citizens become an extension of a law enforcement agency's eyes and ears.

Through citizen involvement, the community is provided with a large supply of local neighbors to watch their neighborhood for suspicious activities or crimes

What are some helpful activities to improve my neighborhood?

- ◆ Help neighbors secure their homes.
- ◆ Help a senior citizen trim shrubbery, mow the lawn or install lighting.
- ◆ Haul lawn clippings to the dump or arrange for a drop box on the block. Give lawn clippings to a neighbor who has a compost pile.

- ◆ Arrange the details for a block party or offer your home for a follow-up meeting.
- ◆ Write and distribute neighborhood newsletters or offer to copy BLOCK WATCH information.
- ◆ Use engravers for marking property.
- ◆ Mow the neighbors' lawn while they are on vacation. Let them do the same when you're gone.
- ◆ Put up BLOCK WATCH signs at the beginning and end of your street *if you have an active BLOCK WATCH.*
- ◆ Trade favors or chores such as mowing a neighbor's lawn if he'll repair your fence. Watch the neighbor's children if she'll take care of your pets when you're out of town. Be creative. What can you do to benefit a neighbor and how can a neighbor help you?

Where can we gather to talk about Block Watch?

- ◆ Neighbors can take turns hosting the meetings at their homes.
- ◆ Get together at an area church.
- ◆ Reserve a room at the Longview Public Library.
- ◆ Have a barbecue or picnic at a neighborhood park.

Is it risky or dangerous to be involved with Block Watch?

Block Watch is a cooperative effort to work *with* your neighbors, not against them. Block Watch is

NOT:

- ◆ Taking the law into your own hands or taking the place of police.
- ◆ Enforcing the law or apprehending criminals.
- ◆ Being violent or being a vigilante.
- ◆ Acting as "the boss" of your block.

More Information

For more information about Block Watch, please contact LPD Corporal Danielle Jenkins at the LPD Highland Satellite Office at 216 30th Avenue, Suite C, behind the St. Helens Shopping Center.

You may reach Corporal Danielle Jenkins at 360.442.5850 or send an e-mail to: Danielle.jenkins@ci.longview.wa.us



How to report a crime

Don't wait!

Report it as soon as possible.

If you are the victim of a crime that occurred in the Longview city limits, please report it as soon as possible - not hours, days or weeks later.

Please do not call a friend in the police department to report the crime.

If it's a crime in progress and the suspect is still on scene or nearby, immediately call 911.

Non-emergency assistance

If it's a non-emergency and the crime is not in progress, call 577-3098. This number will get you directly into the dispatch center, which is much quicker and more efficient than calling the Longview Police Department's business number.

You can call the non-emergency number 24-7, not just during regular business hours.

Descriptions are important

If you have suspect information, please write down a description of the person starting with the basics: male or female, race or skin tone, approximately height, weight and age. It really helps if you can provide a clothing description of a suspect.

If the suspect was in a vehicle, do your best to get a license plate number. It helps if you can provide a color, make and model, such as "late 90s Ford Mustang." If

you're not familiar with vehicle makes and models, at least say if it's a 2-door or 4-door sedan, a station wagon, a SUV, a truck or a van.

Let the dispatcher know in which direction the vehicle left. If you're not good with north, south, west and east, use landmarks to indicate where the vehicle went. For example, the car left City Hall and went toward the 15th Avenue Safety.

Sample information for identifying a suspect or vehicle

Helping identify a suspect

Emergency 9-1-1 Non-Emergency 442-5800

Sex: Male Female

Age _____

Height _____

Weight _____

Race _____

Hair color _____

Hair style _____

Eye color _____

Glasses? Yes No

Complexion (ruddy, tan, etc.) _____

Acne? Yes No

Scars? Yes No

Tattoos? Yes No

Hat? Yes No

Hat color _____

Words/logo on hat _____

Jewelry _____

Tie or scarf _____

Coat/Jacket _____

Shirt _____

Pants _____

Shoes/boots _____

Other _____



Helping identify a vehicle

Emergency 9-1-1 Non-Emergency 442-5800

License plate number _____

Make _____

Model _____

Color _____

Damage _____

Driver Description _____

Direction of travel _____



Tips for reporting problems

Help is a phone call away.

The best way you can get the help you need is to report a problem to the correct agency or department in a timely manner. A list of helpful numbers is on pages 5-7.

If you have a problem with a neighbor, try talking to that person first to see if you can resolve the issue before filing a complaint. If the issue can't be resolved, call the appropriate agency or department directly to get the best and quickest response.

If you want to complain about problems with a specific home, please have the address handy before you call. If you want to complain about a vehicle, please provide a good description including color, make, model and license plate if possible.

Emergencies

Call 9-1-1- for in progress assault, domestic violence, vehicle accident, fire or other emergency situations requiring an immediate response.

Non-emergencies

Call Longview Police Department **NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH** at 577-5800 for parking problems on the street or in an alley, run-aways, burglary, theft, vehicle prowl, vandalism or other non-emergency, not in progress crimes. You may call this number 24-7.

Call Longview Police Department's **Highland Satellite Office** at 442-5850 for questions about bike registration, Block Watch, crime prevention, or volunteering for Longview Police Department.

Call City of Longview's **Code Compliance Division** (formerly called Nuisance Abatement) at 442-5082 for private property issues including junk or inoperable vehicles in yards, overgrown weeds or grass, broken windows, illegal business activity, hazardous fences, accumulation of debris, someone living in an RV, garbage in alley, etc.

Call the **Humane Society** AT 577-0151 for animal problems, loose dogs, vicious animals, or continuous barking at night.

Call **Records Department** at Hall of Justice at 577-3167 (option 3) to get a copy of all police reports.

Call City of Longview **Street Division** at 442-5640 to report street lights out (metal poles).

Call **Cowlitz PUD** at 423-2210 to report street lights out (wooden poles).



Often Requested Numbers

POLICE

Emergency Dispatcher9-1-1

Non-emergency Dispatcher 577-3098

Longview Police Department Main Station . .442-5800

LPD Highland Satellite Office 442-5850

Sgt. Doug Kazensky442-5804

Community Services

Cpl. Danielle Jenkins442-5883

Evidence442-5819

Police Administration 442-5800

Chief

Patrol Captain

Investigations Captain

Investigations Sergeant

Investigations Secretary

DRUG TIP LINE 442-5896

CRIME TIP LINE 442-5929

Castle Rock Police Department274-4711

Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office 577-3092

Kalama Police Department673-2165

Kelso Police Department 423-1270

Washington State Patrol 800-283-7805

Woodland Police Department225-6965

COURTS

District577-3073

Superior 577-3016

Family577-3076

MISCELLANEOUS

Child Protective Services 501-2600

City Attorney 442-5870

Cowlitz County Records

(Reports) 577-3167

Crime Stoppers 577-1206

Dept. of Corrections 577-4050

Jail 577-3094

Juvenile Detention 577-3100

Prosecuting Attorney 577-3080

Probation Office 577-3077

Work Release 414-5516

SOCIAL SERVICES

CAP 425-3430

Community House on

Broadway 425-8679

Emergency Support Shelter 425-1176

Ethnic Support Council636-2791

FISH636-1100

Humane Society577-0151

Mental Health 24-hour

Crisis line425-6064

Nuisance Abatement (now

Code Compliance)442-5082

Salvation Army 423-3990

St. Vincent De Paul Society577-0662

What number do I call?

Commonly requested numbers for the City of Longview

Animal Services/Humane Society ...577.0151	Emergency Preparedness	Legal
Birth Certificates414.5599	County Emergency Management...577.3130	City Attorney for Civil Matters.. 442.5007
Building and Construction (see also Permits)	Longview Fire Department	Claim for Damages 442.5041
City of Kelso 423.9922	(non-emergency) 442.5503	Prosecuting Attorney for
City of Longview 442.5086	Longview Police Department	Criminal Matters 577.3080
Cowlitz County 577.3052	(non-emergency) 442.5800	See also Courts and Nuisance Abatement
Bus Service	Red Cross 423.7880	Library
River Cities Transit 442.5663	Employment	Youth Programs 442.5323
Greyhound Bus Line..... 423.7380	City of Longview Job Line 442.5026	General Information 442.5300
Paratransit.....442.5667	Information 442.5021	Literacy/Project READ 442.5321
Call Before You Dig1.800.424.5555	Employment Security/Work Source 577.2250	TTY 442.5330
Chamber of Commerce423.8400	Volunteering (see Volunteer Opportunities)	Licensing
City Government of Longview	Engineering442.5200	Auditor's Office 577.3002
Agendas and Meetings442.5004	Banner/Special Event Permits	Auto Licensing 577.3007
Boards and Commissions 442.5004	Damaged Public Sidewalks	Bicycle Licensing 442.5850
City Council442.5004	Local Improvement Districts (LID) Formation	Business Licenses
City Hall Hours 442.5000	Off-Truck-Route Permits	(City of Longview)442.5000
City Facilities 442.5230	Right-of-Way Work/Permits	Business Licenses
Claim for Damages 442.5041	Sidewalk Problems	(Home Occupation).....442.5000
Code Enforcement/	Storm Drainage Questions	Driver License 577.2235
Nuisance Abatement 442.5082	Vacating Alleys and Streets	Marriage Licenses 577.3003
Directions/Locations City Facilities 442.5004	Fire442.5503	Maps
Elections (Cowlitz County) 577.3005	Fire Inspections, General Business,	City Map by
Information for Legislators	Hazardous Materials, Home Hazards	Chamber of Commerce423.8400
(Legislative Hotline) 1.800.562.6000	Life/Safety Permits 442.5088	Council of Governments577.3041
Mayor442.5004	Garbage/Recycling	Cowlitz County GIS577.3025
Website Information 442.5063	Broken/Missing	FEMA Flood Maps 442.5086
Community Action Agency	Garbage Containers425.4302	Longview GIS 442.5062
(CAP/LCCAC)425.3430	Christmas Tree Recycling 442.5222	
Community Development	Holiday Schedule 442.5222	
Block Grants..442.5081	Household Hazardous Waste 425.4302	
Community Events	Missed Pick-ups 425.4302	
Chamber of Commerce 423.8400	New Service 442.5035	
Christmas Parade425.7707	Recycling - www.2good2toss.com... 442.5222	
Concerts at the Lake 442.5400	Recycling Hotline Information 442.5222	
Cowlitz County Fair577-3121	Waste Control Transfer Station . .425.4302	
Earth Day 442.5400 or 442.5209	Health Department 414.5599	
Farmers Market..... 425.1297	Housing Information	
Go4th/Parade . 578.2553 or 577.2557	HOME Program 442.5081	
Golf Tournaments 442.5442	Kelso Housing Authority 423.3490	
Highlander Festival 423.1371	Landlord/Tenant	
International Festival..... . 751.4427	Rights and Responsibilities 442.5081	
Kelso Bridge Market 423.1371	Longview Housing Authority 423.0140	
Parks & Recreation 442.5400	Human Services	
Council of Governments 577.3041	Domestic Violence 442.5800	
Courts	Emergency Support Shelter 425.1176	
County Clerk 577.3016	Red Cross 423.7880	
District Court 577.3073	Incident Reporting/Emergency Response	
Family Court 577.3076	EMERGENCIES 9-1-1	
Jury Duty 577.3034	Non-emergencies 578-0900	
Municipal Court 577.3073	Crime Stoppers 577.1206	
Prosecuting Attorney 577.3080	Graffiti 442.5800	
Superior Court (Clerk's Office)... 577.3016	Fire 442.5503	
Traffic Tickets 577.3073	Police 442.5800	
Diking District423.2493	See also Quick Reference Numbers	
Demographic Information577.3041	Jail 577.3094	



Neighborhoods	
Block Watch	442.5850
Citizen's Police Academy	442.5800
Highlands Police Satellite Office	442.5850
Nuisance Abatement	442.5082
Fences/Structures, Fire Hazard, Garbage/ Junk, Improper Occupancy, Tall Grass/ Noxious Weeds, Temporary Special Event Signs, Zoning Violations	
Vehicles - Junk or Abandoned (On Private Property)	442.5082
Vehicles - Junk or Abandoned (In Right-of-Way)	442.5800
Landlord/Tenant Issues	442.5082
Parking	442.5800
Complaints, Complaints (downtown only), Parking Permits (Downtown), Ticket	
Parks & Recreation	442.5400
Adult Sports, Classes/Registration, Reserving Park Facilities, Teen Programs, Volunteer Opportunities, Youth Programs	
Mint Valley Golf Course	442.5442
Mint Valley Racquet & Fitness Club ..	636.4770
Park Facilities, Buildings and Rentals	442.5400
Reporting Park Conditions	442.5421
Senior Center	636.0210
Willow Grove Boat Launch	577.3065
Passports	577.3016
Permits	
Burn Permits	442.5503
Banners	442.5200
Hydrant Use	442.5700
Fire/Life Safety Permits	442.5088
Permits (Inside Longview City Limits) ...	442.5086
Building, Electrical, Gas and Mechanical, Plumbing, Sign	
Inspections	442.5086
Building, Electrical, Gas and Mechanical, Plumbing	
Right-of-Way	442.5200
Special Event	442.5200
Utility Permits	442.5220
Planning/Zoning	442.5086
Police	
Abandoned Vehicles (Right-of-Way) ...	442.5800
Bicycle Registration	442.5850
Block Watch	442.5850
Citizen's Police Academy	442.5800
Crime Stoppers	577.1206
General Business Number	442.5800
Gun Permits (Longview)	442.5800
Gun Permits (Sheriff's Office)	577.3092
Highlands Police Satellite Office	442.5850
Parking	442.5800
Police Records	577.3167
School Officer	442.5800
Speed Monitoring	442.5800
Station Tours	442.5800
Recycling - www.2good2toss.com.....	442.5222
Sewer	
Regional Sewer Treatment Plant	577.2040

Sewer (continued)	
Customer Service/New Service	442.5035
General Information	442.5700
Rodent Control	442.5700
Sewer Problems	442.5700
Emergency after 4:30 p.m.	578.0900
Sewer Pump Stations	442.5700
Utility Billing	442.5031
Sidewalk Repair	442.5200
Smelt	
Department of Fish & Wildlife	360.696.6211
Sons of Norway	425.7013
Storm Water	
Clogged Storm Drains	442.5620
Emergency after 4:30 p.m.	578.0900
Construction and Development	442.5200
Customer Service/New Service	442.5035
General Information	442.5209
HOTLINE	578.0900
Utility Billing Information	442.5031
Streets, Signs and Signals	
Lights Out, Metal Light Poles (City)	442.5640
Lights Out, Wood Light Poles (PUD)	423.2210
Right-of-Way Permits.....	442.5200
Sign Maintenance	442.5641
Special Event Permits	442.5200
Banner Permits	442.5200
Street Maintenance	442.5620
Alley Maintenance	
Clogged Storm Drains	
Corner Handicap Access	
Leaf Removal	
Manholes Missing	
Potholes/Broken Curbing	
Snow Removal/Sanding	
Street Sweeping	
Emergency after 4:30 p.m.	578.0900
Traffic Signal Maintenance	442.5642
Emergency after 4:30 p.m.	578.0900
Tours	
City Hall	442.5004
Fire Station	442.5503
Library	442.5300
Police Station	442.5850
Traffic	
Traffic Counts	442.5640
Traffic Requests	442.5640
Speed Humps	442.5200
Transportation	
River Cities Transit.....	442.5663
Paratransit	442.5667
Trees	
City Street and Park Trees	442.5421
Dangerous Trees (On Public Right-of-Way).....	442.5421
Emergency after 4:30 p.m.	578.0900
Dangerous Trees (On Private Property) ..	442.5082
Utility Services	
Comcast Cable	888.683.1000
Cascade Natural Gas	423.7470
Cowlitz PUD	423.2210

Utility Services (continued)	
Water/Sewer/Garbage/Storm Water..	442.5033
Customer Service/New Service	442.5035
Utility Locates (statewide)	1.800.424.5555
Visitor Informatio	
Kelso/Longview Chamber of Commerce	423.8400
Cowlitz County Tourism	557.3137
Volunteer Opportunities	
Board, Commissions, Committees .	442.5004
Library (Project READ)	442.5321
Police	442.5805
Parks & Recreation	442.5400
Voter Registration	577.3005
Water	
Customer Service/New Service	442.5035
General Information	442.5700
Hydrants	442.5700
Regional Water Treatment Plant	442.5680
Storm Water	442.5209
Utility Billing	442.5031
Water Line Breaks or Leaks	442.5700
Emergency after 4:30 p.m.	578.0900
Water Quality	442.5680
Zoning (Longview)	
Annexations	442.5086
Flood Zones	442.5086
Subdivision and Plats	442.5086
Zoning Information (Inside City limits)	442.5086
Zoning Information (County)	577.3052

Quick Reference Numbers

Clogged Storm Drains	442.5620
Downed Trees	442.5421
Downed Power Lines	423.2210
Power Outages	423.2210
Sewage Problems	442.5700
Snow/Ice Removal/Sanding	442.5620
Stormwater issues	442-5210
Traffic Signals Out	442.5642
Water Line Breaks or Leaks (City) ...	442.5700

Reporting problems after 4:30 p.m.578.0900

City Departments

City Manager	442.5004
Assistant City Manager	442.5004
City Attorney	442.5004
City Engineer	442.5200
Community Development	442.5086
Finance	442.5000
Fire	442.5503
Human Resources	442.5004
Information Technology	442.5063
Library	442.5300
Mayor	442.5005
Parks & Recreation	442.5400
Police	442.5800
Public Works	442.5200

Vehicle Prowl & Theft Prevention Tips

Reduce your risk of becoming a victim

The following are recommendations that can reduce your risk of being a victim of a vehicle prowl or theft.

- ◆ Do not leave valuable items in your vehicle. If you have a removable stereo or one with a pull-off face, take it inside your home at night. Do not leave in your vehicle: music CDs, cassettes, purses, wallets, checkbooks, ID cards, credit cards, cash or anything else of value. Don't tempt would-be thieves!
- ◆ When you exit or enter your parked vehicle, stop and take a look around the area to see if anyone is around.
- ◆ Before leaving your parked car, always remove the keys, roll up the windows and lock the car. Do not leave an extra key in the car.
- ◆ If you can afford an audible car alarm, buy one and use it.
- ◆ Apply anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locks, steering column collars and tire locks.
- ◆ Install a starter, ignition and fuel disabler.
- ◆ Install a locking gas tank cap.
- ◆ Make a habit of automatically locking your garage door and car doors.
- ◆ If possible, store your car in a closed and locked garage.
- ◆ If your car is stored in a carport or parked near your house, leave your exterior lights on throughout the night.
- ◆ If you park on the street, choose a well-lit, open space even if it means adding additional street/yard lighting and trimming back trees/bushes that block your view of your vehicle.
- ◆ Consider replacing the light fixture closest to your car with a motion detector unit. Motion detectors are a good psychological deterrent since the normal assumption of a person seeing a light come on is that someone has seen them. Additionally, the light makes the prowler more visible to witnesses.

