

NEIGHBOR NEWS

BUILD A MOAT AROUND YOUR CASTLE. . . .



In medieval times you could throw in a 'gator or two and a school of piranhas and, chances were,

nobody would come near your property. Today, the same theories apply...it's just that our approach is different.

LIGHT THE TORCHES

Good lighting is important, externally and internally. Properly directed flood lights, photo-electric cells, motion detectors and timers can all be used to discourage illegal activity.

MANAGE THE FOREST

It is desirable that your environment of shrubbery and trees be designed to reinforce the concept of a natural forest. However, you can accomplish this and still keep safety issues in mind. Keep lower hanging branches thinned out so that there is good visibility from both the street and from your neighbors. Place lower cut shrubbery, or better yet, thorny and/or prickly plants by your windows to deter anyone from attempting to gain entry in those areas.

SOUND THE ALARM

Investigate putting in a security alarm system. Make sure you hire a reputable alarm company that has a proven track record. A good way to find such a company is by word of mouth endorsements



from trusted friends and relatives who have alarm systems. However, one of the best alarm systems available today has a nose, and two ears to detect when something is wrong; and a mouth to sound an alarm. It's called a dog.

HIDE THE TREASURES

Purchase a safe for important valuables or consider a safety deposit box at your local bank.



Take a photo of what you put in the safe and place the photo's in the safe deposit box. Mark your valuables using an engraver, which you can check out from any DeKalb County Library.

SECURE THE DRAWBRIDGE

Locking devices, locking devices. We can't say it enough times. Most importantly **you must use them!** Install double-keyed dead bolts on your doors and make sure to secure your windows. Never leave valuables (laptops, phones, etc.) in your car even if the car is inside your garage. Last, but not least, don't forget to keep your garage door shut --- even when you're home.

MAKE THE ROUNDS

Pretend you're a thief casing your home. Find the easiest entry point and make it more burglarproof. We offer a free HOME SECURITY SURVEY to all DeKalb residents, which will assist you in identifying weak points and recommended improvements.

KNOW YOUR KINGDOM - QUEENDOM!

But alas, noblemen, fair maidens and brave knights, **YOU must partake in merriment.** Get to know your neighbors and have(continued)

neighborhood activities where you get to know one another. Working together, whether from the highest tower in your castle or from your own front yard, you are your own best defense.

here's a good idea

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. If your wallet is stolen, you will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopies in a safe place.

Accidental poisoning? If it happens.....

REMAIN CALM! Telephone the Poison Prevention Center at **404-619-9000**. Have the following information ready:

- the age of the patient
- your name and telephone number
- if possible, the container showing the name of the product and ingredients
- amount of poison involved
- the time the poisoning occurred
- any symptoms present in the victim

If you are instructed to go to the hospital or another emergency facility, always take the original container of the suspected substance with you.

Did you know?.....

DeKalb Property Maintenance and Zoning Ordinances require all owners or occupants of property to maintain the following property standards: (1) Grass and weeds cannot exceed 18 inches in height, and shrubbery and other vegetation must be kept trimmed. (2) No vehicles are permitted to be parked on grass. (3) Commercial vehicles—including school busses, and oversized trucks—are not permitted to be parked in driveways or on streets in residential areas. (4) Property—front, side,

rear yards—all porches, areas underneath houses, and any accessory buildings must be kept free of litter, debris, and garbage. Owners or occupants of property in violation of these ordinances will be given notice to correct the violation. Failure to correct the violation will result in a citation for a court appearance. For more info call 404-371-2118.

12 TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR CHILD STAY “DRUG – FREE”

1. Accept the role of parent as your responsibility. *Let others be their friends.*
2. Make parenting a priority. *Be there.*
3. Educate yourself about the problems facing today's children. *They are different from the problems you faced.*
4. Give clear messages about your expectations. *Be specific about how you expect them to behave.*
5. Be aware that many in the community put children's buying power above children's well-being. *Don't expect the community to reinforce family values.*
6. Clearly state consequences of failure to follow family rules. *Consequences are not negotiable.*
7. Enforce stated consequences when family rules are broken. *Children who don't follow family rules today, break society's laws tomorrow.*
8. Don't assume that the parents of all your children's friends have the same rules you do. *Some have different rules; some have none.*
9. Believe that children want rules to guide them. *Allow them to paint you as the “bad guy.”*
10. Remember that teen-agers need parental supervision as much as toddlers do. *It's just a different kind.*
11. If necessary, love your children enough to let them hate you. *For awhile.*
12. Know that children are never too big for a hug. *Even when they are grown.*

There's only one thing more contagious than a good attitude --- and that's a bad attitude.

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