

To: Residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> Council District

From: Councilman David Tackett

## Block Watch Program

**W**arm weather will soon be upon us and our County Police Department will experience an increase in calls. This may be a good time to think about starting a Block Watch. Sign up your neighbors one resident at a time and make your community a safer place to live.

The Block Watch Program promotes community safety through the heightened awareness you will gain from knowing who belongs in your community and who does not. This program provides important information needed to make your the residents informed of problems and also how to prevent potential problems. The best thing about this program is that it permits residents to actively participate in keeping their community safe and secure without leaving their homes.

Now you may be asking **“How do we form a block watch?”** A block watch is run in cooperation with the New Castle County Police Department. The officer will provide detailed training in the uses of “911” and how to properly report an incident. Then after the call is made to “911”, the block captain should be notified.

Block captains should keep their eye out for potential situations. This could be a house with accumulated mail and newspapers, uncollected garbage, or other indicators that the residents are not home. It could be a group of kids hanging out or just walking around in a group looking for trouble. It could be a car you don't recognize, or a stranger walking around and acting suspiciously. Remember:

***WHEN IN DOUBT - CALL “911”***

If you would like to set up a block watch program in your community, call my office at 395-8351 and I will have an officer contact you to set up training. You may also send me an e-mail at [dltackett@nccde.org](mailto:dltackett@nccde.org).