

Focusing on Community Safety This Fall!

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October is a month filled with pumpkins on porches, children in costumes, and neighbors gathering for spooky fun. But beyond the tricks and treats, it's also a time to shine a light on safety. After all, just as we remind kids to carry flashlights and check their candy on Halloween night, we as adults have a responsibility to keep our neighborhoods and digital spaces safe, too. That's why October is recognized as both National Crime Prevention Month and National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a perfect reminder that safety is no trick, but a treat that benefits us all.



In terms of crime prevention, neighbors who look out for each other, report suspicious activity, and stay engaged with local efforts like Neighborhood Watch or community events help create environments where everyone feels secure. Simple actions such as keeping outdoor lights on, locking vehicles, or getting to know the people on your street can deter crime and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes a town feel like home. The 2024 Kansas Crime Index Report shows that violent crime dropped by 6.7% compared to 2023, while property crimes also decreased by 12.9 % from 2023.

At the same time, cybersecurity has become equally important. Around 88% of organizations reported experiencing one or more cybersecurity incidents in the past year. About 43% of those organizations had more than one breach. With so much of our personal and financial information stored online, safeguarding your digital life is essential. Experts recommend using strong, unique passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, and keeping devices updated with the latest security protections. Just like locking your front door, practicing good online habits helps prevent cybercrime.

As the seasons change this October, let's make safety a shared priority. Whether it's in the physical spaces we live in or the digital spaces we connect through, each action we take contributes to a more resilient and secure community. Together, we can ensure our communities are places where people feel safe, connected, and confident—both on our streets and on our screens.

For more information, please contact Community Vitality Agent Amanda Clasen at any Southwind District office or amclasen@ksu.edu.