

# Who is My Neighbor?



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Share “neighboring” success stories and feedback at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/neighboring>

*Celebrate Sept. 28 and Enroll in new MU Extension Class*  
**Become an Engaged Neighbor Now!**

How well do you know your neighbors? Can you name each of the neighbors that adjoin your property or apartment? Do you know a personal fact about each one? Do you speak to your neighbors? Less than two percent of Americans can say yes to all three of these questions.

“People in America say they feel isolated than ever. Part of the reason is we have forgotten the art of neighboring,” said David Burton, county engagement specialist, University of Missouri Extension.

Neighboring does take some effort and time. It requires some purposeful planning. But it should be a priority and there are both personal and community benefits.

### **REAL RELATIONSHIPS**

The key is to take time to get to know the widow next door, the single mom, the grandparents raising their grandchildren, the new family to the area.

Social research is showing that many in American culture suffer from a lack of personal relationships, which leads to isolation, depression, anger and more.

“What is needed is more neighboring, more mentoring, more face-to-face interaction and understanding,” said Burton.

### **NEIGHBORING IS DIFFERENT**

In most communities there are situations where a neighbor will complain about another person’s yard, old cars or barking dogs. Residents have come to expect local government to fix their neighbor problems. Sadly, residents are quick to call the city about a violation but never consider helping a neighbor.

“In one example I know about, an overgrown yard was reported and cited with a ticket. It turned out the single mom living there was taking care of her terminally ill mother and the yard was the least of her concerns,” said Burton.

Before you call the city about your neighbor’s two-foot-tall lawn have you considered checking on the neighbor and offering to help? Which action would be neighborly? Which actions would result in a strengthened relationship?

### **GETTING STARTED**

Being neighborly is easy to get started. One step is to plan a gathering and invite each person with a home bordering you. Get acquainted and work on staying connected.

“You may find being neighborly blesses your heart and shows kindness to others while also improving your community one family relationship at a time,” said Burton.

### **BECOME AN ENGAGED NEIGHBOR**

MU Extension’s new class, "Becoming an Engaged Neighbor," is open for registration by anyone online at <http://extension.missouri.edu>.

The class includes four sessions taught through a video with Burton and Dave Runyon, a national expert on neighboring. The class also includes useful handouts,

advice and interactive discussion boards. Graduates will have opportunities for future training and events along with other engaged neighbors.

Search for “Becoming an Engaged Neighbor” online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene> and register for this self-paced class.

Becoming an Engaged Neighbor-CODV-766 | \$50 per person | CEUs available

**In 1978, U.S. President Jimmy Carter announced the creation of a national day aimed at raising public awareness that good neighbors help achieve human understanding and build strong, thriving communities. Since then, National Good Neighbor Day has been celebrated every year on Sept. 28.**



**Give feedback on this program at**  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/neighboring](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/neighboring)

