

THE WOODLANDS

August 2004

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program which enlists the active participation of citizens in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime in their communities. Throughout the country this program has been referred to by several names: Neighborhood Watch, Home Alert and Citizen Crime Watch. The idea is the same: **Neighbors looking out for each other!**

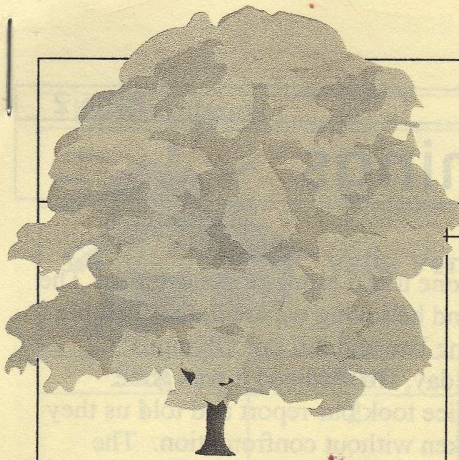
To make the program effective, we need someone from each block or small area to host a crime prevention meeting that will be presented by the Police Department. During the meeting, you and your neighbors will be provided with information to reduce your chances of being a victim to crime. There will be a representative from the Walnut Creek Police Department to train residents to recognize and report suspicious activities in their neighborhoods and share crime prevention techniques.

AT THE MEETING

- **Instruction on how to call the police, how to report a crime or suspicious circumstance and how to better protect yourself and your property.**
- **A sector officer will stop by and answer any questions/concerns from the residents.**
- **Neighbors get to know each other, exchange phone numbers in case of emergency.**
- **Decide how often the group would like to meet, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually.**

If you are interested in hosting/organizing a crime prevention meeting, please call Crime Prevention Coordinator Deborah Bushnell at 943-5885 or e-mail @ www.walnutcreekpd.com.

Note: This is a rerun of the front page of July's Newsletter. Because we have experienced so many criminal activities I thought it very important to run this again. Read the **Neighborhood Happenings** for more information on what is happening in our neighborhoods and why. Also a warning on using new contractors and what to watch out for when dealing with contractors. Some simple rules to follow and the importance of checking references.



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Betty Maire, Sec/Treas/Editor

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POET'S CORNER

The Dandelion

O DANDELION, rich and haughty,
King of the village flowers!
Each day is coronation time,
You have not humble hours.
I like to see you bring a troop
to beat the blue-grass spears,
To scorn the lawn-mower that would be
Like fate's triumphant shears,
Your yellow heads are cut away,
It seems your reign as o'er.
By noon you raise a sea of stars
More golden than before.

Vachel Lindsay 1879 - 1931

r.maire@sbcglobal.net

BOARDMEETING

August 7th, AT 9:00 AM

CARL'S JR
CONFERENCE ROOM

Neighborhood Happenings

Walnut Creek is experiencing a high rate of criminal activities. The reasons are many, one it is a crime of opportunity. The police tell us that we have become the target of choice because of our lack of security and believing we are not vulnerable to outside criminals. I am afraid that is what we experienced on July 4th. We came home late and left our Olympus 3.2 digital camera in the front compartment of our car. After searching our house the next day, we realized it was gone. Checking in the car for the camera we became aware that we had been robbed. The police took our report and told us they would follow up. The crime of opportunity is when something is visible, that can be taken without confrontation. The police told us of other instances of theft from automobiles and home entry that are being reported daily.

Then a week later my husband and I got up to confront a thief in our driveway, under the new motion light my husband just installed the day before. We yelled and he ran away, but not before he left a finger print on the door. We hope the print comes back clear enough to catch him, as you might know, that is a very long shot.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOUSE AND AUTOMOBILE

- Organize your close neighbors and have a Neighborhood Watch Meeting. See front page for instructions.
- Always lock all door and windows of your house. Lock and close windows in cars. Open invitation.
- Hide the garage door opener in your car, a real hard thing to do. Thieves are using the opener to get into houses.
- Put motion lights that shine on automobiles, doors and dark areas such as side gates, back windows and doors.
- Be aware of who is in the neighborhood, if there is a person or persons who seem to be loitering or checking out the houses make some notes. Time, descriptions and license plate numbers if possible. The meeting will tell you what to do with this information.
- Keep your garage door shut when you are not there. Also, this is a quick way to get into the house.
- Make your close neighbors aware of when you are going out of town and when to expect you back.

I have just touched on a few things that we were told in the Neighborhood Watch programs we had a few years ago. In fact quite a few years back. We had meetings then because we were experiencing a wave of thefts. Our home was broken into in 1981. The sad thing it was after losing a dog and having a graduation party for our son. I found 2 kids in our bedroom. Surprise, surprise we were robbed shortly after. The biggest surprise of all was the kids were taking the stuff to a fence right in Walnut Creek. One year later we went to look over the loot that was confiscated from the crooks. We got some of our stuff back. But not the gold charm bracelet, the necklaces and anything that could be melted or sold quickly on the streets.

The good news after the Neighborhood Watch programs the thefts went down. So we know it works. The criminals will realize that we aren't the easy targets we have become, and go look for the next neighborhood that lets their guard down. Good luck. Anything you have to add to this, just to let me know and I will do a follow up next newsletter.
b.maire@sbcglobal.net.

DEALING WITH CONTRACTORS. Reminder: Get a written contract, do not pay before services completed, check out at least 3 references and talk to neighbors who have used the contractor. Check out licenses to see if they are current. Also, look at their finished work. Best hint, have picture of what your completed work should look like. Call the Better Business Bureau for any reports. Reliable contractors do not ask for money until work is complete.

Want Ads

PAINTING CONTRACTOR *Area Specialist* LCG Painting /Removal of acoustical ceilings and retexturing. (Cal Lic #765438) For all your painting needs. Specializing in interiors, exteriors and decks. Quality Workmanship. Affordable rates. Satisfaction guaranteed. Many area referrals. Bonded and insured. Call Larry (676-1693)

WANTED R.V. STORAGE: I am looking for a storage location for a neat/clean 24" total length box trailer. At your home or secure business location, in/out a limited number of times, always with advanced notice. Please call w/leads and for details.... (925-279-3369)

HANDYMAN: Quality work. Versatile-almost any standard job or unusual problem. Electrical, Plumbing, Carpentry, Linoleum, Tile, Windows and Doors. Honest and have references. Paul (676-6607)

COLOR COATINGS PAINTING: Lic 740315 Repaint Specialist. Interiors & Exteriors. Acoustic Ceiling removal & Texturing. FAST, CLEAN & NEAT. References, Satisfaction Guaranteed. Free estimates. (935-7593)

FURNITURE FOR SALE Drop-leaf dining table and 4 cushioned chairs, maple wood with honey finish. Table size is 39" x 30" closed, expands to maximum length 39" x 102" (three 12" leaves). Table pads included. Price is \$175.00 Please call me at (925-943-1904)

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE !!!

(925-933-6986)

OAK FINISH COMPUTER UNIT. LARGE, GREAT CONDITION, 4 doors, when closed, looks like a piece of furniture. Has table that swings out for extra desk. See to believe. Re-modeling whole house. \$100.00.

EDITOR FOR WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER

COMPUTER 2 PC. DESK. STORAGE W/FILES. \$50.00. GIRLS WHITE DESK AND MATCHING 3 DRAWER CHEST. Has pink trim. Darling for a young girls room. Matching spread, sheets and comforter. Several extras items included. All \$100.00 (933-6986)

Looking for experienced person to take on the job of Editor of the Woodlands Newsletter. Please contact Betty Maire for job description and reimbursement. Look forward to talking to you. Call me at 933-6986 or e-mail at b.maire@sbcglobal.net

WANT AD AND FLYER FEES

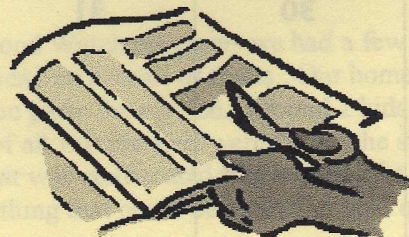
PBusiness & Miscellaneous want ads for Woodlands residents.....\$5.00
 Business & Miscellaneous ads for non-Woodlands residents.....\$10.00

Ads have to be in by the 15th of each month

Full Page, 1-sided flyers White paper.....\$ 80.00
 Full Page, 2-sided flyers White paper.....125.00
 Full Page, 1-sided flyers colored paper.....85.00
 Full Page, 2-sided flyers colored paper.....130.00

Flyers have to be in by the 15th of each month

Call Betty at 933-6986



WE DO NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHECKING OUT REFERENCES OR LICENSES. WE ADVISE YOU TO CHECK ALL REFERENCES AND LICENSES.