

Neighborhood Watch
September 24, 2016
Attendance: 11

1. Introductions were made since there were several new homeowners in attendance.
2. Crime report: nothing to report since the vandalism at the Rec Center earlier in the summer. We discussed the vandalism and the repair work done over the summer and the work still to be done. The insurance company paid out over \$3000 for the repairs and we had many donations to cover the deductible as well as the purchase of security cameras.
3. We reviewed the purpose of our Neighborhood Watch group and how we not only watch out for crime, but look for storm damage, broken water pipes, anything unusual at any home (such as doors left open, strange cars in the area, etc.) It's also a good idea to keep an eye out for our neighbors who live alone.
4. Here's the mission of our NW group:

Neighborhood Watch will:

Discourage criminals – In some cases, the presence of a Neighborhood Watch organization (with signs and window decals) is enough to deter potential burglars from stealing from nearby homes. Most burglars take advantage of opportunities where they are able to act undetected. By having a watch program, a burglar will have less of a chance to steal from a home without getting caught and may be less likely to attempt a burglary.

Protect your home – Besides helping to monitor your neighborhood for burglars, you are also helping decrease accidental/natural damage to your home by detecting problems such as broken water pipes, fallen trees, and animal activity.

Promote a greater sense of community – Being a part of a Neighborhood Watch organization is a great way to get to know your neighbors through meetings and social events.

Bring about better communication with local law enforcement agencies – Having a Neighborhood Watch program can be the eyes and ears of our local sheriff. Two-way communication will help make each party aware of what may be happening in your neighborhood.

5. I led a discussion about the structure of our organization. In the beginning, I wanted to have a leader for each unit who would recruit homeowners to patrol their units, but I haven't been able to find volunteers for most of the units. So, I've come to the conclusion that we should ask for volunteers to patrol and I'll organize everything from the office. I will be sending out information in the next month with details.
6. Part of the reason for Neighborhood Watch is to have contact with homeowners who are not Association members. We do not have emergency contact information for at least half of our homeowners which makes it difficult to contact them if there are issues with their property. Neighborhood Watch patrollers may be able to help collect contact information when they meet new homeowners.
7. There was also discussion about tree mortality in our area. ACRT has marked many trees in our area, but no one seems to know when they're going to start cutting. PG&E will

now be taking the tree slash and wood away if the homeowner requests it. There are supposed to be designated areas where they're taking the wood and homeowners are supposed to be able to take wood there too, but I haven't heard where the sites are located.

8. There was a short discussion about the Volunteers in Prevention Program (VIP) which is our fire inspection program for improved lots in Big Trees. There was one volunteer for next spring's inspections.
9. There was one question about getting rid of yard waste: What are the regulations for composting? I will try to get more information on that and post it on Face Book and the web site.

Next meeting will be on December 17 and we'll have a cookie exchange to bring a little holiday cheer to the meeting.