



Pleasant Ridge  
& Ramsgate  
Community Watch

Building a safe and informed family community.

## **Pleasant Ridge & Ramsgate Community Watch Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, November 16, 2010

The meeting began at 6:45 pm with a pot luck dinner. 28 residents, including 4 children, attended the pot luck, a total of 30 residents attended the meeting.

The family from Ramsgate was the Thornton's.

### **Introduction:**

- Officers were introduced. President, Tabitha Groelle, Vice President, Charles Tew, Treasurer, Jason Hibbets and Secretary Patricia Brezny. Thanks were given to Shelia Campbell and Merri Beth Hibbets for their time served.
- Officer Upchurch was introduced.

### **Discussion of Community Watch Goals:**

- The Board wants to encourage new residents to come to the meetings. To that end we want to consider the type of activities that will keep the community involved.
- Revise the By-laws

### **Discussed the purpose of the community watch:**

- To maintain a nice place to live in this community – the community watch is not the grass police.
- One reason for changing the by-laws is to address the required scheduled activities that are listed. We want the meetings/activities to be more flexible so that they meet the desires of the community.
- We would like the community's input on the by-laws. Residents were asked to email suggestions to [chairs@prw-watch.org](mailto:chairs@prw-watch.org).
- Another reason for changing the by-laws is to keep the officer's rolls open to new community watch members. This will help the organization transition from building a foundation to being more sustainable.

**Q:** How do you become an officer? Do you have to be nominated or elected?

**A:** You Volunteer. When the community watch was formed we didn't require nominations or elections because the founders didn't want to have seats left open because no one was nominated. – Block Captain positions are also filled by volunteers.

**Q:** What are the responsibilities of a block captain?

**A:** The general duties of a block captain were discussed, then Jason read the four responsibilities from the by-laws. (see by-laws)

- There was further discussion of block captain's responsibilities and where there is a need for new captains.

### **HOT TOPIC: Your Community Watch in Action!**

- Know your neighbors – two people were caught in the act breaking into a house on Sierra and were arrested because an observant neighbor saw it happen and called 911. – Officer Upchurch's report followed this announcement.
- Key Point: Stay on guard about security. Handouts about safety and property inventory were available at the meeting.
- Emails: Discussion about the general email list, the alert list and how the alert list became the Alliance list.
  - Alliance list is a group of many neighborhoods not just ours.
  - Watch list is just our community watch group.
  - Jason explained the email Digest option available to all.
  - Instructions on how to choose the Digest option will be emailed.
- A lost dog was reported lost through the email list and found through the efforts of our community watch network.
- Alliance: Jason explained the Lineberry Alliance groups & areas and the reason that the Alliance was created.

### **Report by Officer Upchurch:**

Officer Upchurch began the police report responding to questions about the status of the people caught in the act on Sierra.

- There were 2 people arrested, one is still in jail, the other out on bail. At this time they do not appear to be related to other break-ins in the area.
- The police have been told by criminals that there are three things that keep them away from a house as a potential target:
  1. a car in the driveway
  2. a security sign
  3. a dog in the house – but lately this has not held true, however the dogs found in many of the houses recently burglarized are so friendly that they welcome the strangers in.
- Discussed the area from which the police report is pulled – much larger than just our neighborhood. Tabitha has sorted out our neighborhood portion of the report.

### **Notable Items mentioned in the report:**

- 13 break-ins in our neighborhood alone over the last 6 months. This is an increase over the previous report and is high.
- One begging call. **Q:** Is begging a reason to call 9-1-1? **A:** Yes.
- Discussion about code blues and first responders to the nursing home.
- Question about resolution to the break-in on Voyager Circle on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Officer Upchurch will look into it and contact Tabitha with information.
- **Q:** Can you report someone for public urination on someone else's property? (party related) **A:** Absolutely, call during the party, don't report it days later. The police may not be able to identify the culprit, but may be able to reduce the problem.
- **Q:** Will we have a Community Officer assigned to address quality of life issues in our neighborhood? **A:** Yes, but they will not be available until January or February of 2011. One may already be assigned to the Lineberry Road area, but they will be re-assigned around the city as needed.

- Comment by Jason: The Community Officers will proactively address community behavior issues.
- End of Police Report

Patricia presented reminders about home and personal safety during the holidays, many good suggestions were offered by other residents at the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Account balance = \$404.05.
- We don't have a lot of expenses, but the money is used for printing flyers, getting things like community watch magnets for the welcome packets, and for National Night Out activities when in-kind donations are not available.
- Yard sale earned \$45 from listings, the ad in the N&O was donated.
- National Night Out donations totaled \$96 in cash. (Side note: There were many other donations of food, supplies, prizes, etc. AND TIME that made the event possible.)
- Food Lion's last donation from the MVP contributions was \$24.36. They have changed their program to food donations and the MVP program is no longer available.
- Although the community watch has very few expenses, any fundraiser suggestions would be appreciated.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Holiday Lights, December 12<sup>th</sup> 7 pm, 2144 Balboa Road
- Next Meeting, February 2011, Annual Meeting, Details to follow.