



INDEPENDENCE POLICE

June 2009

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 16, 2009 7:00 PM
National Night Out
Planning Meeting
Police Headquarters

July 7, 2009
Captain Meeting
Truman Memorial Building
Presidential Hall

July 30, 2009 6-9 PM
National Night Out
6-9 PM

August Meeting
There will be no August meeting due to Participation in National Night Out

Bulletin!!!!
Our meeting place for the month of July has moved! We will be meeting at 7:00 PM in the Presidential Hall of the Truman Memorial Building. Please call 325-7643 if you need directions.

This month's meeting we learned a very valuable lesson. Although many situations require the involvement of the police department, many more situations can be solved between individual neighbors.

Often, neighbors get upset with each other, and refuse to talk simple things out. Often, the tension builds for months, until ultimately there is an explosion of emotion that will result in the police being involved. Unfortunately, by the time the police are involved things have been said and done that can greatly affect the relationship between the involved parties.

Community Mediation is a great way

to bring people to the table in an attempt to work their problems out before that explosion. As a tool of the block captain, imagine that you are seeing a situation brewing, that you would rather not get involved in. You can talk to the involved parties in an attempt to bring them to the mediation table.

Perhaps just sitting down at a table with a third party can solve their problem. This would not only keep the police from being involved in the situation, but could help to salvage the relationship between neighbors within your community.

To contact mediation, call Diane Kyser at 816-833-4300 X 227

THE DOOR GUARDIAN

In this position, I am often looking for items that can be of great interest to neighborhood watch groups. Recently, I came across one of these items.

The Door Guardian is a simple and innovative take on an old principle, added security on your exterior door. The lock works by securing to your door frame via 3" screws.

What is different in this lock as opposed to others, is how tight it holds the door closed. The tighter the door is held, the more difficult it makes it for someone to attempt to kick a door in.

This lock would also be great for securing children or special needs individuals inside of a residence. As always, with any

lock, make sure that you practice and train in its operation to ensure that you do not get trapped in your residence during an emergency.

For more information, check out www.thedoorguardian.com. Thank-you to Greg's Lock and Key, 836-3639, for their generous donation of 2 locks which were given out at our last meeting.



Several groups have contacted me reference a common problem, group meetings and content. Many groups have cited this as a leading reason why groups die out.

I have taken some time to put together a few individuals who would be interested in coming out to your individual block meetings to give your group advice, access to new products, or information on crime trends and practices.

In each case, they could make for an excellent draw to increase attendance at your next meeting. In some case, it can also help if you contact other area groups and have a combined meeting. Three groups having a combined meeting would count as an individual meeting for each group involved with the meeting.

If you have an individual or company that would be interested in making this list, please let me know. I would love to keep an updated list on file to provide to anyone needing it.

As of now, I have spoken to the following people reference this program:

Tracey Hawkins: Tracey is with "Safety and Security Source." Her company sells personal safety products. Tracey also will provide a personal safety "training." This would be a great speaker, especially if you are having a combined meeting. Tracey can be reached at 816-372-0939, her e-mail is tracey-

hawkins@safetyandsecuritysource.com her web address is www.safetyandsecuritysource.com

Kevin Dill: Kevin is with My Contact 411. My Contact 411 is a service in which your house, property, pets and other items can be entered into a database, monitored by his service. In the event of an emergency, a police department can use the contact number to contact you by a provided phone number. This would be a great service, especially if you travel a lot, or can be difficult to reach. Kevin can be contacted at, 816-347-9799, or kdill@mycontact411.com. Kevin also has a website, check out www.mycontact411.com.

Diane Kyser: Diane is with the Community Mediation Center located here in Independence. Diane was our guest speaker for our June Meeting. Diane's group focuses on solving problems in which police can not always help. The mediation center can be contacted at indep_cmc@yahoo.com. Their web address is www.mediatormissouri.com.

Greg's Locks: Located just off the Independence Square, has been providing home security options for many years. They have been very helpful to the neighborhood watch program, and have provided us with door prizes for our June meeting. Greg's will be able to come to your neighborhood to give pointers on keeping your neighborhood safe. They can be reached at 836-3639.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PREPERATION

As the date draws near, it is time to start putting all of the preparations for our event together.

I am looking for some dedicated volunteers to come together to help make this event a reality. We are having our first planning meeting at police headquarters at 7:00 PM on Tuesday June 16th.

I am asking for volunteers, especially those with experience planning block parties, to attend this meeting.

I am also planning on having representatives from Parks and Recreation on hand to answer any questions we may have.

The date for the National Night Out in Independ-

ence is July 30, 2009 from 6-9 at the following parks: Rotary, McCoy, Athletic Complex and The Falls.

Please e-mail or call me with inquiry's.

National Night Out in Independence is July 30, 2009 at the following Parks: Rotary, McCoy, The Athletic Complex, and The Falls. Volunteers are needed

Recently, I saw a segment on Good Morning, America. An exposé on a “new” way of socializing. The folks in Virginia who were being interviewed seemed to think that the South has a lock on the activity. Giving credit to the economy, people spending more time at home, getting to know the folks next door and across the street, the news reporter was amazed at what he thought

Recently, while reading the monthly newsletter for Bristol Neighborhood #5, I came across this article written by Denise Butler. I was very impressed with the message that it spoke of. I believe we can all learn a little from it.

was an idyllic way of life. Well, I'm here to tell you --- it is!

What phenomenon am I referring to? They called it “porching.” Put simply, it's using the front porch to engage yourself in your neighborhood. A way to meet neighbors, people passing through, and be available for friends and family who happen to be in the area. We didn't know it had a name, but we do it on a regular basis!

Since moving to our bungalow, we've found the front porch the natural place to be. When we have visitors, it seems we quite often end up on the porch. From our porch, we've met some great people. Last summer, sitting on our porch, we got the chance to meet and visit with two retired couples whose goal it was to walk across America. They stopped in Independence to see our historical areas and were heading down Winner Rd from the Square to I-435 to meet some friends. They were very interesting people and we enjoyed our short visit with them.

From our porch, we met a young man who walks his dog, DOG (pronounced dee-oh-gee) who is an American Eskimo and the spitting image of our late Baby. We don't know this young man's name, but he always stops and lets us visit with his dog when he walks by. We look forward to his visits!

One of my favorite days since we moved here in 2005, was a Saturday last summer when we literally sat on our porch all day. We had 14 visitors that day – all of whom just dropped by because we were outside! It was a wonderful day of relaxing, talking, laughing and just enjoying friends and family.

Also, from the vantage of our front porch, we have been able to offer aid to stranded motorists, water to a young woman with a small child waiting in the hot sun for a bus running behind its normal schedule.

We've witnessed accidents, helped locate lost dogs, and we've also had the opportunity to do some “crime watch” work to help make our corner of this world a better place to live.

I like this idea of “porching.” The Midwestern friendliness of the people here in Independence is a priceless commodity.

There is a lot to be gained by utilizing your front porch. Meet your neighbors. Chat with them over a cold lemonade. Say hello to people walking by. Share yourself. Let strangers know you notice them. If they're new to the area they may need a new friend, or just some info – like where to buy the freshest cuts of meat! Or, if that stranger has an ulterior motive, now he knows that someone noticed (and could identify him) and most likely will move to another area to do his mischief. The South has nothing on us, porching is alive and well in Independence!

E-mail us your articles

rromey@indepmo.org

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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

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Return Service Requested

**HELPING TO KEEP OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE.**

FEATURED BLOCK WATCH "COTTAGE EAGLE WATCHERS"

This month's featured blockwatch group is the Cottage Eagle Watchers. The Cottage Eagle Watchers are located on the 700 Block of N. Cottage. I contacted Joyce Todorovich with a few questions about her block watch program.

Joyce advised that her street has been actively getting together since she moved into the neighborhood 11 years ago. The Watchers have had a formal group for the last 4 years. The Cottage Eagle Watchers have also

taken an active role in expanding their boundaries, recently helping the Union Watchers form their group on an adjoining block.

Pointing to the continued success of their watch group, Joyce states, "On our streets, there are numerous personalities that mesh so well together. Everyone seems to bring something to the table."

On top of their regular meetings and block parties, the Watchers have a neighborhood garage sale, informa-

tional gatherings and presentations, as well as adopt a family at Christmas time.

As a true service to the community, the Watchers hosted a health fair through Truman Medical Center West at Bryant Elementary. During the fair, people received free bone density checks, cholesterol checks, as well as blood pressure readings. Kids were also helped by the fair, as they received 80 bicycle helmets which were provided by the Brain Injury Foundation.

As far as crime pre-

vention, Joyce advises that they have noticed a drop in crime on their street. She also points out that their networking skills allow everyone on their block to know what is going on immediately. Joyce cited an example from a few weeks ago involving the police chasing a potential prowler. Everyone knew and was on the lookout.

Given their continued work to bettering the community, and helping to prevent crime the Cottage Eagle Watchers are the June Watch Group of the Month.