

## Walnut Hill Volunteers In Patrol Minutes 9-24-08

Members present were Bill Marx, Robert Noyes, Carroll Wolford, Mike Conlin, Margaret Conlin, Paul Figel, Bob Turney, Linda Befort, Art Befort, Randy Griffin, Joyce Tepley, Chuck Pomatto, and Bill Fay.

Guests were Officer Norris Spivey of the Dallas Police Department, Eddie Conger, Principal of Thomas Jefferson High School, Ross Colter, Walnut Hill Homeowners Chairman, Sheri Steele, Dallas Code Compliance officer, and Jim Clemens, neighbor on Hedgeway.

Officer Spivey reported on 6 crime incidences in our neighborhood in the last month. One was a home burglary in which the perpetrator entered through a window and took 3 plasma TV's, \$8000.00 worth of jewelry, and a laptop computer. In another home burglary entry was gained through an unlocked garage, and cash and a briefcase were taken from a car. There were 3 cars broken into in the middle of the night, one whose window was broken and the others were unlocked. A gun was taken from one of the cars. In the 10,000 block of Marsh Lane a car was stolen from the parking lot of the clothing store located there.

Officer Spivey passed out hand tags that can be used to place on the rearview mirror of a car saying "No Valuables in This Vehicle." He encouraged us to lock our cars and don't keep anything of value in them. It is encouraging to note that last year at this time we had 10 incidences and this year 6. That represents a 40% reduction in crime.

Jim Clemens, neighbor on Hedgeway reported the break in of his car this past month which has not shown up in the statistics yet. It happened in the middle of the night, and what made it unique was that his car was parked in his driveway 100 feet from the street. The burglars also hit his neighbor's cars.

National Night Out for Crime will be Tuesday, October 7. Bill and Rachida Fay will have party on S. Better. Bill Marx and Paul Figel will sponsor one on Fieldfare Court.

Mr. Eddie Conger was introduced. He has been principal of Thomas Jefferson since July, 2008. He said he is a former Marine officer for 20 years, so is being tough with students who are troublemakers. His hope is to build good relations between the neighborhood and the school. He can be reached at 972-502-7300 or 817-946-4350.

Bill Marx moved to adopt the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.

Linda Befort reported the Crime Watch treasury balance is \$5,946.95. The Extended Neighborhood Patrol fund is \$30, 931.65 or 225 subscriptions.

Ross Coulter reported that the goal is \$60,000 which will buy 28 hours or 4 hours a day of patrolling by an off duty police officer a week. We can start the patrolling with

\$40,000. He will have a meeting Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 7 pm to train volunteers who will go door-to-door on every street in our neighborhood soliciting subscription for the ENP.

Paul Figel reported no problems with the patrol equipment. Also, the gate into the parking lot of the Fire Station where the equipment is kept from now on is locked, so we need to use the side door.

Chuck Pomatto reported 8 patrols in August.

In the absence of Phil Hughes, Joyce and Officer Spivey reported the highlights of the quarterly crime watch meeting. The training supervisor for 911 spoke at the meeting. They expect 3 million calls to 911 in the coming year and they have 112 operators with a high turn over rate. Training is rigorous.

Bill Marx announced the next VIP training will be held Saturday, October 11.

Bob Noyes suggested we have small crime watch signs printed in Spanish and English and posted around the neighborhood. Discussion followed but no decision was made.

Sheri Steele, who can be reached at 214-693-0888, reported on the various codes that we need to be aware of. Bulky trash is ticketed without warning and is a \$200 fine if it is put out sooner than 4 days before the allowable date. Our pick up is the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of each month.

She emphasized that we are responsible for maintaining our alleys as well as our yards free of tall grass and weeds.

Vehicles that sit in driveways or on streets that do not run are subject to fine. They must be stored in a covered building. Just covering with a cloth does not count.

The hours for lawn sprinklers are before 10 am and after 6 pm every day from April 1 to October 31. If there is a power out, check the automatic sprinkler system. It can throw off the setting. Hand watering is allowed any time.

She also reminded us about garage sales. Signs must be taken down after the sale and garage sales are not meant to be businesses.

The next VIP meeting will be 7 pm Wednesday, Oct. 24 at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center. Be sure to patrol in October. If everyone who is eligible to patrol does so, we would have 10 patrols each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Tepley