

Greater Wilton Woods Citizens Association Meeting – May 15, 2007

Parry opened the meeting at 7:35. He reintroduced himself, Larry Dempsey (VP), Debbie Keatley (Treasurer), and Monica Rodgers (Secretary). He also introduced Sam and Mary Mccutchen and Bonnie Clark, our public relations person.

Yard sale on Saturday in the Shaffer Dr area.

Treasurer's report : \$6,468.87 is the current balance. Expenses since the last meeting were \$985.35 for printing, postage, and refreshments.

Donation to EHS - \$500. \$100 to TJSSHS grad parties

Officer Rick Cook and Master Police Officer Greg Kotteman –

- home security
- removing opportunity for us to become prey
- crime triangle : desire, ability and opportunity
- neighborhood watch: signs alert and deter criminals, burglaries are significantly reduced, "traveler" groups are less likely to victimize residents, and neighbors notify police of suspicious activities and notify each other with information
- currently 56 active watches in the Mt Vernon covered area, 100s county-wide
- sufficient outdoor lighting
- locks, lights and alarms work together
- police offer free home security surveys (takes 1-2 hours; provide written report)
- landscaping important
- home should appear to be occupied –papers, mail, etc. (have someone pick them up; don't have them stopped)
- maintenance
- driveway usage
- lights and radio timers to mirror daily life
- have someone coming to house each day
- motion detector outside that turns on light in living room
- don't leave home unlocked, even while there
- don't hide key outside home
- don't put name or address tag on house key or car keys
- don't leave exterior lights on during daylight hours
- don't answer door to solicitors; call non-emerg number if someone comes to solicit and they don't seem legit (they are req'd to have a license)
- keep lights on during nighttime only
- visibility of house numbers from street
- bushes and shrubs are perfect hiding places
- large trees allow second story access
- locked gate fence gates add a layer to home security

- about 95% of burglaries happen during the daytime when no one is home
- burglars want the easy target—locked doors and windows, dogs, alarms, lights, etc all deter
- most burglaries here are not professionals
- lock cars; keep valuables out of sight
- most reports of robberies in cars involve unlocked cars; often stolen cars have the keys in them
- fencing can provide security if gates are kept locked
- chain link—1 inch instead of 2 inch to prevent climbing
- privacy fences should not be easy to climb
- locks should be difficult to cut or saw through
- lights can have light sensitive
- doors: side lights are not good; doors should be solid
- peek holes should have 180 degree viewer
- deadbolts are important and should be one inch long; sliding locks are no good
- suggest reinforcing hinges, strike plates, and lock frames
- sliding doors—no vertical give; should have a “Charlie” bar
- windows—burglars will avoid breaking glass whenever possible because it is noisy and causes injury
- keep windows locked!

- per Kotteman, Shopper's should have closed the front door instead of the back door
- they do free business security checks
- per Dan Franklin, write a letter to president of Shopper's with a cc to Kaufman and police department

Larry Dempsey—identity theft protection

- Larry passed out list of websites that can help prevent id theft (will be on GWWCA website)
- showed two videos
- phishing
- never provide personal information when called by a company because legitimate companies won't ask for it
- two kinds of id theft: financial id theft and criminal id theft
- id theft can have a domino effect—your personal information can be spread around very quickly
- never share your personal information
- use bbb when applicable to verify information
- reduce risk: shred all sensitive papers using a cross cut shredder; have a locked mailbox; don't use flag on mailbox; password protect laptop; don't give ssn for just any reason—tax purposes, getting a job, or opening a bank account
- don't give it out just because someone says “ we've always asked for them”

50/50 raffle

Meeting adjourned at 9:15.