

**Windsor Heights
Neighborhood Watch**



**Making a Difference
Where We Live
SINCE January 2008**

**At the 3E building north of the Freeway on 73rd Street
Saturday, November 21, 2009 (10:30am-12:00pm)
Quarterly Meeting**

Minutes:

2010 Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

Saturdays – 3E Building north of the Freeway on 73rd Street – 10:30am to noon
February 13th, May 8th, August 28th, November 20th –
Please come and join the meetings there's no cost what
So ever to attend the meeting's or in joining the watch!

Agenda Minutes

Introduction – Bill Shepherd opened the quarterly meeting at 10:30am on Saturday, November 21, 2009. He welcomed everyone and proceeded to talk about the agenda before the guest speaker, Captain Dennis McDaniel was introduced.

1. **Recognition to the Governing Body, Officer Rupiper and Nicole and Emmy DeBartolo-Tow**

Bill acknowledged the governing body, officer Rupiper and Nicole and Emmy DeBartolo-Tow by awarding each of them with framed certificates in thanks for all their support toward the Windsor Heights Neighborhood Watch.

2. **Placing of the new Neighborhood Watch Signs:**

He mentioned that the 7 new neighborhood watch signs have been put up by the city in strategic locations of Windsor Heights where crime was more active according to crime statistics. Cost of the signs where

3. **Growth of the Watch:**

He reported that the growth of the Watch has risen to 380 contacts in a little over one years' time.

4. **Problem Contacting some members:**

He mentioned that he has had some difficulty contacting members through the Gmail account. If members have not had any alerts recently, please email the whneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

5. **Crime Rate:**

He commented that the crime rate has been down in the community and that communication has been good between the community, neighborhood watch and the police department.

6. **Treasurer Report:**

Terry Anderson, the treasurer, was unable to attend. Bill gave the treasury report as of today we have a balance of \$505.96 this is after deducting the \$164.15 for the purchase of the 7 new Watch signs.

6. **Other Items Discussed:**

There are a few T-shirts available with the Watch logo for \$8.00 (small-X- large), \$10.00 for XXX- Large for anyone who is interested.

7. **Closing of the agenda:**

Bill closed the agenda report and asked Sylvia to introduce the guest speaker. He thanked Sylvia for her work in the education part of the meeting.

Sylvia introduced Captain Dennis McDaniel of the Windsor Heights Police Department. She mentioned that the meeting would include two topics: Self Defense and Holiday Safety. Captain McDaniel started his presentation by briefly talked about the hierarchy of the Windsor Heights Police Department.

He talked about the 411 program, which is a service to the community in safety and education in the schools.

Self Defense Portion of the presentation:

He explained the importance for children (ages 8-12) and adults to consider taking the Self Defense program called RAD. Windsor Heights and Urbandale co-sponsor the training for the classes. The classes teach adults and children how to respond to attacks, what to do, and to show them how to be aware of their surroundings. The classes are taught four nights for 3 hours each, a total of 12 hours. The next class will be taught in Urbandale February 2010. It will be listed in the free Urbandale Community Education paper.

Windsor Heights self defense training schedule will be offered in July 2010. It will be listed in the Windsor Heights Living magazine. The cost for either class is approximately \$25.00 which includes a manual. Look for a posting for the Windsor Heights class on the City Hall website.

Holiday Safety Portion of the Presentation:

Captain McDaniel's touched upon the following topics to alert residents to be more aware while enjoying the holidays safely.

Shopping Tips:

Captain McDaniel's recommended shopping with at least another person. If shopping in a variety of stores in a mall plan ahead and coordinate the stores before your shopping trip. If your packages need to be taken to the car, put them in the trunk and then drive to another location away from where you were in the mall to finish your shopping. Women should keep their purse close to them especially while carrying packages.

Identity Thief:

Be aware when you are using a credit card what the clerks are doing with the credit card. If you are not comfortable with the clerks handling of your credit card, ask what they are doing and if you can speak to a manager. Since identity thief is an ongoing crime, the police department has packets of information for you upon request. If your identify has been compromised, call your credit card company and then call your local police department within 24-hours. He recommended that the monthly credit card statements be reviewed each month for accuracy.

Online Shopping:

While shopping online and using your credit card, check the browser at the top, left corner of your screen. **Https** should show up indicating that the site you are shopping is secure. There should be a padlock in the lower, left corner of the screen, too. For further safety use a local store and have them order your item for you.

If you are planning a trip overseas, call your credit card ahead of time and let them know your trip's time frame and what countries you will be visit. Be aware of your surroundings when you are using cash and travelers checks.

Door to Door Sales and Charities:

Do not leave anyone into your house.

Sales people and charities do not have certificates; but they do need paperwork for police and the Secretary of State.

If you are questioning the charity, ask the person representing the organization for a contact phone number.

Don't pay for any service or work done on your property until the job is completed. If you have any question about the company or person doing the work, ask for their representative or call the police. If possible, get a written contract signed by all parties before any work is started with a delivery date.

Holiday Parties:

The host of a party has an obligation toward the safety of their guests. If alcohol is being served, a designated driver should be available for guest who is unable to drive themselves home. If children are present at the party, they should not have access to alcohol. Be aware of road conditions whether you are a host or attending a party.

Tips for the Home:

Be aware of where you put the tree in your house in relation to anyone outside looking in. Can presents be seen as well? Pick up any shovels, ladders or tools that burglars could use to enter your home. After the holidays, tear up all large boxes before you put them in the trash. It will be less obvious that you had purchased a large priced item.

Vacation Watch:

The Windsor Heights police department has a vacation watch program for those who will be away for a few days or several months. Please check with the police for further information.

Airport Parking:

Pull your registration and garage door opener out of your car before you leave it in the airport parking garage.

Fire Hazards:

Be sure to keep your Christmas tree watered regularly.
Be cautious while cooking, lighting the stove, candles, gas fireplace. Be cautious with circuits and light cords for inside and outside of the house.

Accidents:

Be aware of road conditions, possible alcohol use for yourself and other drivers. Buckle up for safety while driving or riding in a car.
Be mindful of your stress level during the holidays.
Be mindful of your children and animals if they are playing around the tree or outside sledding in snow or ice.

Health Safety:

Be aware of what your children or animals might be eating especially with different types of plants in the house.
Be aware if small children are playing with toys that they might put in their mouths and choke on.
When cooking, test all foods for the proper temperatures for them to be fully cooked, especially poultry.
The hotline for the USDA Meat and Poultry Preparation is 800-535-4555.

Stress:

Be aware of your stress during the holidays! If you feel you need help, please call your local police department or the sheriff's office.

If you have any questions about these topics, please call Captain Dennis McDaniel's at 277-4453.

When Captain McDaniel's completed the presentation, he asked for questions from the audience.

Check the Neighborhood Watch website at www.windsorheights.org/watch.html for the PowerPoint of this presentation.

Closing:

- The next Quarterly meeting will be Saturday, February 13, 2010 10:30am to 12:00pm at the 3E, Building: Any questions can be e-mailed to whneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

LOCK ALL DOORS AND WINDOWS, SHUT GARAGE DOOR,
LOCK CAR UP AND TURN ON OUTSIDE LIGHTS AT NIGHT TIME.

IN ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 911