

Community Watch Newsletter

Old Starmount Neighborhood, Greensboro, North Carolina

June, 2014

GET NOSEY!

Help keep our neighborhood one of the safest in the city! Summer means neighbors will probably be gone a little more often as they take vacations. This means the opportunity is a little greater for criminals to take advantage of the situation and pay them a "visit" while they're gone.

Please be a little more aware of activity around you. Never hesitate to call 911 if you see anything that doesn't seem right."

IF YOU CALL POLICE

Be a good witness.

Make note of as many details as you possibly can.

- Remember details about the person (the more the better). This is VERY crucial!
- Note details about the vehicle. Get a tag number if possible. Make a note of the direction of travel (walking or riding).

You can't have too much information!

The officers need as much detailed information as you can give to be able to look for a suspect or offender.

WHY PEOPLE DON'T CALL THE POLICE

"I didn't know if I should call or not." We hear this a lot! People are often uncertain if who or what they are seeing justifies calling the police. Failure to act may result in your neighbor (or you) being the victim of a crime and/or loss of property. Please, don't make excuses. Call the police if you see anything suspicious or if something just doesn't "feel right."

This may be nothing! I don't want to waste their time.! I don't know if I should call the police!

The Greensboro Police Department WANTS you to call them if you suspect any suspicious activity! They would much rather send a patrol car to investigate BEFORE a crime than to have to spend time and resources on an investigation after a crime has occurred.

I didn't know if I should call 911 or the non-emergency number (373-2222)!

If you think the situation requires a uniformed officer, call 911.

I don't want to get involved! I don't want the suspicious person to know I called the police!

When you call the police, you do NOT have to give your name! You can report suspicious activity, suspicious persons, criminal activity, etc. anonymously. If it's not an emergency, you can even submit a report on line at the Greensboro Police p2c website http://p2c.greensboro-nc.gov/ReportIncident/IncidentEntry_Disclaimer.aspx

I don't want an officer coming to my house!

You do NOT have to talk with the investigating officer. Tell the 911 dispatcher you do not want the officer to come by your house.

My neighbor might get angry or think I'm being nosy!

Think about this. What if your neighbor knew you saw something and didn't call the police? What if reporting what/who you saw could have prevented a burglary at your neighbor's house? Think how glad your neighbor would be if you kept them from being a victim! Citizens in the neighborhood are acting as the eyes and ears for the police. A successful Community Watch program needs neighbors to be nosy.

I've called in the past, and the 911 operator was rude and unfriendly!

Our 911 operators are professional and efficient. They can't do their job while engaging in a friendly chat. Their job is to quickly get the details, ascertain what help is needed, and get that help to you as soon as possible. Keep in mind, while you are talking and they are responding to you, they are also typing in the information being sent to the responders being sent to help you.

I don't want to be embarrassed if the person I suspect is innocent!

Hopefully, they ARE innocent. That person has a legal right to walk along any public street or be on any public property. The police can not stop and question them without a reason to do so. When a citizen calls to report a suspicious person, this gives the police due cause to stop and question that person.

SUMMER HEAT BRINGS A NEED FOR GREATER AWARENESS



SAFETY TIPS From KidsAndCars.org

- Never leave a child alone in the cars; not even for a minute.
- Put something you'll need like your cell phone, handbag, employee ID or brief case, etc. on the floor board of the back seat.
- Get in the habit of always opening the back door of your vehicle every time you reach your destination to make sure no child has been left behind. This will soon become a habit. We call this the "Look Before You Lock" campaign.
- Keep a large stuffed animal in the child's car seat when it's not occupied. When the child is placed in the seat, put the stuffed animal in the front passenger seat. It's a visual reminder that anytime the stuffed animal is up front, you know the child is in the back seat in a safety seat.
- Make arrangements with your child's day care center or babysitter that you will always call if your child will not be there on a particular day as scheduled.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway and always set your parking brake.
- Keys and/or remote openers should never be left within reach of children.
- Make sure all child passengers have left the vehicle after it is parked.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks immediately.
- If you see a child alone in a vehicle, get involved. If they are hot or seem sick, get them out as quickly as possible. Call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
- Be especially careful about keeping children safe in and around cars during busy times, schedule changes and periods of crisis or holidays.
- Use drive-thru services when available. (restaurants, banks, pharmacies, dry cleaners, etc.)
- Use your debit or credit card to pay for gas at the pump.

For additional information about ways to keep children safe in and around vehicles, visit our website at www.KidsAndCars.org

Special thanks to KidsAndCars.org for giving us permission to use this list!

DON'T FORGET PETS!



If you love your pets, leave them at home in hot weather! The interior temperature of a car on a warm day can quickly exceed 120 degrees. Partially opened windows make very little difference. Like children, pets can NOT tolerate these extreme temperatures that can result in brain damage or death to your pet.

There is currently legislation in the works that will give rescue workers, fire fighters, and animal control personnel, in addition to the police, the right to rescue an animal left in a hot car using "any reasonable means" to do so. With the passage of this legislation, NC will join 14 other states who already have a similar law in place.

YELLOW DOT PROGRAM

The Greensboro Police Department has partnered with the Guilford County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services to adopt the Yellow Dot Program, which helps first responders more quickly treat residents during an emergency.



To participate, residents fill out an Emergency Information Sheet with emergency medical information and photos of themselves. They then place a copy of the sheet in their vehicle glove compartment and their home refrigerator, and put a yellow dot sticker on the back left window of their vehicle and on the front door of a home.

Yellow Dot Program Kits can also be picked up at the following locations:

Guilford County Sheriff's Department
400 W. Washington St.
336-641-3694

Melvin Municipal Office Building
Police Administration
300 W. Washington St.
336-373-2450

J. Edward Kitchen
Operations Center
(Central/Southern Divisions)
2602 S. Elm-Eugene St.
336-373-2489

Eastern Division
1106 Maple St.
336-574-4035

Western Division
300 S. Swing Rd.
336-373-2637

Public Safety Training Facility
1510 N. Church St.
336-373-2449

The yellow dots let first responders know that important medical information is available and where it can be found during an automobile accident, after an in-home injury or in response to an illness – all time sensitive situations. Often during an emergency, people are injured or in shock and cannot communicate personal medical information emergency personnel need to know, nor do they have a family member present who can relay that information. With Yellow Dot, the Emergency Information Sheet does the communicating for them.

Emergency Information Sheets for people suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's, autism and cognitive impairments can also be submitted to the Sheriff's Office so they can be added to Guilford Metro 9-1-1's database. This allows dispatchers to let first responders know about these conditions before arriving on the scene.

The Yellow Dot Program, originally started in Connecticut in 2002, is a free service to residents and does not require any application process. For more information, go to www.guilfordcountysheriff.com/pdf/yellowdotprogram.pdf



YELLOW DOT KITS

This program is NOT just for senior adults! An accident, injury, or medical emergency can leave anyone at any age unable to respond to answer crucial questions responders ask. This program lets those responders know where to find key information about you or your family members. None of the information required on the form is identity sensitive, and there is no financial information listed.

By having designated places for this information to be found (glove compartment of the car and refrigerator in the home), medical personnel are trained to look in those places for the Yellow Dot Folder.

Guilford County is one of the first in NC to have this program. **If you would like to participate in the Yellow Dot program, we have been able to get 20 of the kits for this program.** Inside each kit is a brochure explaining the program, the information form (which can be duplicated), a card for your wallet, and a yellow dot sticker.

If you would like to have a kit, please e-mail us (forestdalewatch@yahoo.com) with your name and address. We'll leave one at your front door. **If we have more than 20 requests, we will try to obtain additional kits.**



A United Neighborhood is a Safer Neighborhood!

HOMEWOOD BLOCK PARTY



Great music, good food, games and other activities for the kids. It was perfect! What a great **1st Annual Homewood de Mayo block party** we had on May 10th in spite of the brief storm! The rain stopped the fun for a little while, but everyone gathered again when the weather cleared. After dark, the kids settled down with blankets on the street to watch “Frozen” while the adults partied on!

A **HUGE** thank you to all the residents on Homewood that organized this event for all of us! (Photos on page 5)

BEVERLY PLACE BLOCK PARTY



There was quite a crowd at the Beverly Place **1st Annual Cluck and Squeal Block Party** on May 31st. We were entertained by an incredible band, **Superfriends**, who donated their time free of charge, while all enjoyed great food and drink. All proceeds from the party went to the Out of the Garden project which provides food to school children who are “food insecure” and do not get enough to eat at home.

Thanks goes to **Suzanne and Kent Fulcher, Michelle Fletcher and Kent Free**, and **Mimi and Kevin Zeigler** who organized this event. (Photos on page 6)

HOMEWOOD FOOD DRIVE REPORT



The recent food drive on Homewood collected **147 pounds** of food for the Greensboro Urban Ministry! This is impressive, especially since the US Post Office and Hamilton Lakes Association were also conducting a food drive. Thanks to all who donated and special thanks to **Ellen Burwell** and **Homewood residents** who coordinated this drive.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER



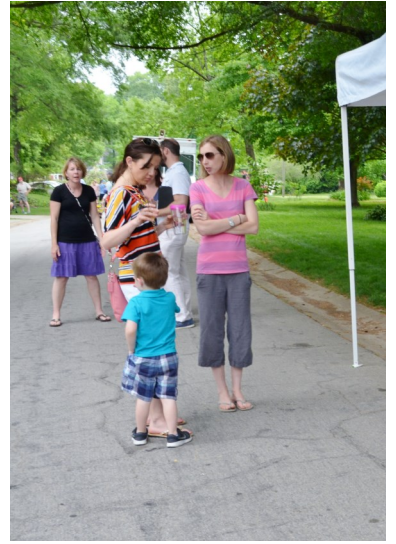
There have been a few incidents of dogs running loose in the neighborhood. For the safety of your pet and the safety of children that will be playing outside more frequently now that the weather is nice, **please be sure your dog is contained in a secure area or on a leash.**



What a great turnout for the *Starmount Life* magazine social on Monday, May 19th at Ruth’s Chris Steak House! The topic of the night was the first issue of *Starmount Life* magazine which hit our mailboxes around May 12th. Everyone’s so excited about this new addition to our community featuring all the great things about living in the Starmount Forest area.

Thanks goes to **Jeff Tillman** and his staff for creating this magazine for us and to Ruth’s Chris Steak House for providing appetizers for this event. We’re already looking forward to the June issue!

Next social scheduled for Monday, June 16th at Bravo Cucina Italiana, Restaurant from 6-8 pm. RSVP by June 13th to Jeff.Tillman@N2pub.com



Homewood de Mayo



May 10, 2014



Cluck and Squeal Block Party

May 31, 2014

