

Montreux HOA Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Union Bank Building, Lakemont

In Attendance

Judy Fenyk-Melody, Joe Preston, Peter Roppo, Myrt Nelson, Marty Nelson, Bob Keilin, Jerry Mack, Duane Burke, Doris Burke, Charles Hayden, Jerry Lilly, Susan Gardner.

Visitors

Montreux homeowners Rich and Susan Sutherland, David Melody, and Matt LePage, and two officers from the Issaquah Police Department.

Peter Roppo, HOA President, conducted the meeting. The meeting started at 7:05 p.m. and adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Approval of February Board Meeting Minutes The February HOA meeting minutes were reviewed. Judy moved to approve them, Charles seconded, and all were in favor.

Recent Burglaries in Montreux and Surrounding Communities

Non-board members at tonight's meeting were in attendance to get updates from the Issaquah police on the recent home burglaries. Matt Lepage shared some suggestions: We want to create an inhospitable environment for criminals. Perhaps have a SWAT analysis done of the neighborhood, take pictures of people and cars/license plates we don't recognize. Ask our landscapers to be on alert and to contact police if they notice anything suspicious. Create a Neighborhood Watch program. Research discount programs for home security systems. No solicitation allowed. We should share our phone numbers with our neighbors.

Two members of the Issaquah Police Department, Ron Adams and Bill Jarrell, joined our meeting. The following paragraphs are a summary of their visit:

They encouraged us to call the police when anything is wrong. It's important for the Montreux homeowners to be the police's "eyes and ears." Issaquah police department's business phone line is 425-837-3200 (off hours this goes directly to 911.) This is a good number to call if a person is feeling funny about something but hesitant about calling 911.

There have been two recent burglaries in Montreux: One off of Village Park Drive and the other on Jung Frau, occurring on February 22 and 28.

Criminals are aware that many people don't know their neighbors. The officers encouraged us to get out and meet our neighbors, and perhaps establish phone trees to call in case of emergencies. Also, if you are aware of the cars your neighbors drive, you will realize when an unusual car is on the street.

Myrt asked about tagging and what that can mean. She has seen tagging at the waterfall at the base of the hill. The officers felt it was probably kids. Typically the kids that get

caught will have support from their parents in cleaning and/or repairing the damage. Egging also occurred in the neighborhood...The police feel it's usually one of the kid's friends. However police always take photos of taggings and keep them in their files in case something occurs later on.

The police officers said that most gangs in the world and the United States are now run by the Mexican Mafia. Police information is being shared across town and country borders.

The police are aware of all the recent crime in our neighborhood, and they have been on an extra patrol.

Most residential burglaries have been occurring during the day, Monday through Friday during work hours. (Typically nighttime is when commercial burglaries occur.). However, lighting should be kept on in the evenings. Motion sensor lights are recommended. Perhaps we should consider motion sensor lights near our garages. Criminals don't want to be identified and prefer to work in the dark. Duane recommended that we install florescent lights and leave them on all night long.

Burglars know the trick of leaving noise on in the house, especially if it's louder than usual. The police officers encouraged us to use timers – Have lights go on and off at different times during the day when you are out of town. Also, call police (the business number, not 911) and request that they be on watch when you are away. They recommend alarms, but the most effective deterrent is a sign in front of your house. First thing an alarm company does is call your house...then an emergency number...it can be five-ten minutes before police get the call, and up to 20 minutes before they arrive at your house. You can buy signs online. The officers also recommend having an audible alarm, whether or not it is connected to a monitoring system. An alarm will keep burglars from staying in your house a long time. If you decide to get a monitored alarm system, keep in mind there is also a reduction in homeowner's insurance when an alarm is monitored, and this can offset the monthly cost.

Recent criminals in our neighborhoods are using stolen vehicles when they commit their crimes, sometime Mercedes, Lexus's, and similar cars. The criminal's goal is to blend in. These vehicles will change; never count on it being the same car the next time. We have a no solicitation rule in our city, but many criminals will knock on your door, saying they are with Comcast or someone else, just to see if someone is home. Also, criminals like backyards, especially when they back up to a greenbelt.

There is a new system for smart phones that comes with six-eight high definition cameras for your home. If there is motion (or whatever you set it for,) the information/picture will be relayed to your phone. These cost approximately \$300 at Costco; \$450 for a set with more cameras. You can wire your master bedroom TV to go on when someone is outside so that you are woken up and alerted.

One of the very best deterrents to being burglarized is to have a dog or a cat.

These recent criminals are taking anything, lots of jewelry, laptops, cash, etc. Because of the economy, the police feel that people are desperate. But your average burglar knows that if he is carrying a gun, if arrested, it will be more of a severe charge. So currently most are daytime burglaries, without a weapon, when the homeowner is not at home. Keep in mind that burglarizing is the criminal's livelihood and full time job.

Other suggestions: Be aware that criminals may be in parking lots, and don't leave purses in your car. Never post on Facebook when you go out of town. Never leave garage doors open.

Issaquah Police has the E-Lert program: This is an email that goes out regarding recent crimes in the city. If you would like to be on this list, send a request to webmail-IPD@ci.issaquah.wa.us, and ask to be included in the Crime Prevention E-Lert Program.

If we encounter a car in the driveway or if someone is in your home, don't go in, but keep your eyes on the person and/or car. If you use a cell phone to call 911, be aware that you may get the state patrol, unless you ask specifically for the Issaquah police.

The most important thing to remember is to notice people in the neighborhood that you don't recognize. If you see anything suspicious, try to videotape it, take a picture, or write down license plate numbers.

Montreux HOA Board Committee Updates

Newsletter

Our new newsletter editor will be Sally Goesch. Articles should be emailed to her at sallcomm@comcast.net. The next newsletter is scheduled to go out March 15, 2012.

Ponds and Waterfalls

Jerry Lilly reported that the pump has stopped working at the large waterfall. The problem was caused by a leak in the pump seal, and the failure of the main motor bearing. The pump will need a complete overhaul. Pump Tech gave us these options: (1) \$5,700 for a *rebuilt* pump (90 day warranty), (2) purchase a slightly *used* pump \$5,100 (90 day warranty), or (3) purchase a *new* pump for \$8,000 (one year warranty). Another issue is that we may want to think about not turning the pump off at night; it may keep it in better condition to keep it running 24 hours a day. Duane motioned that we give Jerry stewardship the decision that he feels is in the best interest of the HOA, Jerry Mack seconded, and all approved.

Landscaping

Myrt said that Pacific Landscape gave us a bid of \$13,064 for barking of tree beds, larger beds, islands, entry, etc. The board discussed, and we decided to get more bids or perhaps bark different sections each year to avoid the large one-time cost. Jerry Lilly will ask Chris at Legacy to give us a bid.

Miscellaneous

A homeowner sent communication to the board, asking if FEMA funds could be used to help pay for clean-up after the large storm. While at the meeting, a board member checked (via an I-Pad) and determined that Montreux was not eligible for these funds.

Upcoming Meetings

April's board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 3. The annual meeting will be on Wednesday, April 18. Judy will draft an agenda for the annual meeting, including the proposed slate of officers.

Respectively Submitted by:

Susan Gardner

March 7, 2012