

September 13, 2018

HIEA Members and Friends,

A security information meeting was held on Saturday, September 8th, in the pool house main room, A good mixture of about 40 attendees included our own HIEA members but also folks from Briscoe Point and Point Wilson areas.

This was not a regular meeting of the Association but one of information and sharing about security issues and neighborhood concerns.

Mason County Sheriff Deputy Matt Colbenson gave a great presentation. It was informative and focused on what property owners can do to diminish crime in our area. He also discussed the recent burglaries in our area and the status of the investigations;

A main focus emphasized was better communication between neighbors to keep everyone informed as to what is happening in the area. This includes what happened and also what actions are being implemented. HIEA is in the process of establishing a telephone tree communication network, a private Facebook group, and a Email network for our community. These will assist in keeping everyone informed. Neighborhood Watch information will also be available for us to consider.

There were many suggestions for keeping your home safe. Some of them are:

Be sure doors and windows are secured with deadbolt locks in addition to usual door locks. Use long screws to secure the lock system into door jam studs. Use dowels/broom sticks in sliding doors.

If you have a home alarm system, it should be LOUD. In addition, some people have installed security cameras that allow monitoring through WIFI/internet. If you are interested in camera security information the following systems were discussed; Ring, Simply Safe, Night Owl, and YI Home. More information is available at Google and Amazon.

LED lights are a good deterrent as well. An outdoor pole and light is available from PUD#3 for an LED that costs about 30 cents a day/\$10 a month. Inside the home, night lights are good; a new twist was one called a TV Simulator. This is a reflecting bulb that makes it look like a TV is playing. (Check out Google/Amazon) Leaving a radio on to a talk radio station also helps.

Keep your outside clean and trimmed. Shows you live there and also makes it easy to see around your house.

You can get infra-red lights that stretch across your driveway. When the lightwave is broken you are alerted on your phone/WIFI. Cables across driveways were discussed but not encouraged as that indicates no one is home.

Be aware of your surroundings and things that are not normal or usual. Even taking a photo is a good way to document happenings or people that don't look like they belong here.

A final suggestion was made that would demonstrate that we are a community actively working to prevent crime. **We could create posters** with names, maybe pictures and case numbers of those being prosecuted for local crimes. Printed on the poster would be something to the effect; **“You will have the same fate if you cause problems here.”** We will look into this possibility.

It was an informative session and I hope people left feeling more knowledgeable about options available to them. Take steps to safeguard your property and possessions and thereby keep our whole community safer.

In review we need to be observant and involved. Observe what is happening and check things out. Ask questions of visitors and show an interest. Together we can keep this a safe place to live.

Thanks,

Doug Otjen
President HIEA