

Community Safety Committee (CSC)

Based on both the reports to the CSC from homeowners and police reports, there has been a significant amount of criminal activity for our neighborhood for the first half of 2006. This summary update includes the Montgomery County Police Department report on Service Calls for the first half of 2006 and 2005 for our HOA streets. This update also provides information on how the Board and CSC have taken steps to respond to this activity. Finally, there is a section on safety tips from the MCPD First District Community Outreach Officer Michael Prather.

The full report, which contains additional information on crime the first half of this year, can be found on the Hollybrooke Website, <http://www.hollybrooke.org>. Also on the web site is a description of the Neighborhood Watch Program, and a host of information on how you can participate in making our neighborhood safer.

Summary of Crime based on calls for Service

The following table is a report of calls made from homeowners on DSS HOA streets to the MCPD for the same period in 2006 and 2005, compiled by Officer Prather. As you can see, reported vandalisms are down, but reported burglaries are up. According to MCDP 1st District Deputy Cmdr Lt. Waring and Officer Prather, the burglary investigations are ongoing and assigned to an investigator.

Category	Jan1-Jul25 2006	Jan1-Jul25 2005
Missing Person	1	
Suspicious Situations	8	8
Miscellaneous	7	15
Assaults		1
Aggravated Assault		1
Burglaries	5	1
Follow – up Investigations	3	20
Thefts		5
Thefts from Autos (under \$50)	2	
Domestic Disputes	8	3
Disorderly Conduct	8	2
Residential Alarms	5	4
Vandalisms	3	14
Runaway	1	
Animal Complaint	1	
Recovered Property	1	
Forgery – Counterfeiting Identity Theft	1	
Police Informational Report	1	
Parking Offenses		1
Trash Dumping		1
Commercial Alarm		1
Mental Illness		1

WHAT THE COMMUNITY IS DOING ABOUT CRIME AND VANDALISM

The Community Safety Committee and the Board have taken several steps, and you are an integral part of making these steps successful.

1) Started the Hollybrooke Email Alert List to rapidly notify the neighborhood of serious incidents when they happen. To date we have about 120 valid email addresses covering both our DSS HOA and the DS2 HOA. You can be added to the alert list by contacting the CSC chair at communitysafety@hollybrooke.org.

2) Continuing a dialogue with the MCPD. For example, Officer Prather ran the Calls for Service report shown above, and has provided information on setting up the Neighborhood Watch, including patrols. He will also provide training. In addition, the CSC has an ongoing dialogue with the MCPD 1st District Commander, Deputy Commander, those investigating crimes in our neighborhood, and the crime analyst.

3) Approved the Neighborhood Watch program, to include patrols, at the July meeting. We'll be setting up training and the patrols in the coming month.

WHAT YOU AS A HOMEOWNER CAN DO

Officer Prather provides several tips below for securing your home and what to do when going on vacation. In addition, all HOA members are encouraged to participate the Email Alert List, in patrols, and other aspects of the Neighborhood Watch program. Together we can make a difference in our neighborhood. To learn more about the email list, how to report incidents, and to participate in the Neighborhood Watch program, please see the the Hollybrooke Website, <http://www.hollybrooke.org> or contact the CSC at communitysafety@hollybrooke.org.

Finally, if you have tweens or teenagers, it is imperative that you be aware of their activities and discuss with them the possible consequences of their actions and those of their peers. Remember, not only are the perpetrators criminally liable, but as parents, you may be liable for damages.

All of the vandalism, most of the less serious crime, and several of the serious crimes are attributed to youths. In several cases, the crime is attributed to teenagers in this neighborhood. In one case, a cell phone stolen out of a car in a garage early one morning was used to call three other residences in the neighborhood by 8 am. In a case of vandalism and a different case of an attempted burglary, evidence indicates that the perpetrators are teens in our neighborhood who know the people they are victimizing. In all of these cases, it is likely that a peer may have knowledge that one of their friends has been involved in a crime. If they were to relay their knowledge of such incidents to you or us at the CSC it could have an impact on crime in our neighborhood.

SAFETY TIPS FROM OFFICER PRATHER

Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind:

Home Safety

- Always keep doors and windows locked when away from your house.
- Close the garage door when working in the back yard.
- Make sure the garage door is closed over night.

- Your house should be well lit. It is a good idea to use automatic timers for the outdoor and indoor lights.
- Motion sensors can be used also.

Vacation Tips

- Have a trusted neighbor check on you house periodically and provide them with the following:
 - Date and time you are leaving.
 - Date and time of expected return.
 - How and where you can be reached in an emergency.
- Ask a neighborhood to park their car your drive way.
- Arrange to have grass cut, mail and news papers picked up.
- Keep all tools and ladders out of sight

Neighborhood Safety

- Report any and all suspicious activities to Montgomery County Police, (non-emergency number 301-279-8000/ emergency number 911).
- Talk to the young adults about the danger of under age drinking. Also talk to them about the risks of late night swimming in pools that are closed.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Prather
1st District Community Services Officer
Montgomery County Department of Police