



MILL POND ACRES

SAFETY AND SECURITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

The Delaware State Police, Corporal George Camacho in particular, put on a wonderful and informative power point presentation for over 60 neighbors on September 12th. This newsletter is meant as a follow up for those who were able to attend and information for those who were not.

We have been the target of too many intrusions in the past 18 months. We have had lap tops, cash, prescription drugs, personal files, and GPS devices taken. We have had two police helicopter chases within our boundaries in the last 6 months. It is time we learn how not to be a repeat target, how not to be attractive to these criminals. Corporal Camacho pointed out several areas where we are weak.

Low lighting – entire streets with less than adequate street lights in operation. Delmarva Power will come out and turn on any lights requested by neighbors. Before calling please record the long number located at the very top of the light, they will need this to locate the light. In my case they even trimmed trees that were blocking the light. I am not being charged for the light as it is on county property.

Wooded lots – Thieves will seldom leave the crime scene with their “loot”. They will stash it and come back when the area has “cooled” down. They love wooded lots for this very reason. There is really not much we can do with this but be aware that these are hiding places for people and things.

Lack of Visibility - Overgrown shrubbery that blocks clear views of homes entrances or windows is a plus for the criminal. They will look for homes where they can enter unnoticed from the street. If you have tall or wide shrubbery blocking your windows or door from the street this is a magnet. In addition, black out curtains or closed blinds is a magnet. You should have clear view of anyone approaching your home at all hours. You can tilt the blinds at night but try not to close them all the way. Criminals will move to another house when they see lights on and people moving about.

Tell tale signs -Trash cans left at the curb too long are an invitation to thieves. If you are a weekender please consider asking a neighbor to put your can at the curb on trash day and to bring it back in for you. Criminals will know the “weekend” houses just by driving by and observing the cans that are left at the curb.

Security Systems Signs should be in easily seen locations – not at the mailbox across the street or as in one neighbor’s case, around the side yard. Please put these sign in the front where they are visible from the street. However these signs do not guarantee security. On the average Corporal Camacho explained that it takes 40 minutes for the police to respond to a security call, the criminals know this too and are seldom deterred because a security system is in place. The best remedy for this is to have an outside alarm system attached to the security system. These alarms can be custom set for different duration times. In other words, the alarm can last 1 minute or 5 minutes. Motion detection lights also work well to discourage a criminal.

Strangers driving around - Corporal Camacho pointed out that while he did his drive through not one neighbor stopped him or asked him a question. He

frequently got out of his car and walked onto peoples properties and was taking pictures, again, no one approached him. If there are unfamiliar cars cruising through our streets we should be staring at the occupants. Criminals do not like to be identified or watched, even when they are not yet guilty. Also, they will drop off getaway cars and leave them parked for later use. Please report to the state police any parked cars within the neighborhood or on Minos Conaway.

Your Personal Property - State Police warehouses are full of recovered merchandise that cannot be returned because homeowners did not record the serial numbers from their electronic equipment, TV's, computers, GPS devices, etc., or take pictures of their jewelry. So please add this to your "to-do" list.

The officers of MPACA will be meeting in October to follow up on several of the issues Corporal Camacho addressed. We will be looking into erecting "No Solicitation" signs and "Neighborhood Watch" signs. We will talk with Corporal Camacho about a Homeowners Security Check-Off List, and we will ask for volunteers to form a Service Committee. This committee will be asked to help the elderly or infirmed with bush trimming, yard clean up, etc. To that regard we already need to give a big Thank You to Mark Thompson Who cut up the tree that fell in Mrs. Chohan's yard during Hurricane Irene. He then hauled away all the cuttings. What did not fit into his truck Henry Simpson and Jason Krout carried away. Thank you gentlemen, it is this type of response and concern that has always made Mill Pond Acres a wonderful place to live.

As always, if you have concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact any Board Officer. That and other valuable information can be found on our web site www.millpondacres.com

Stay safe –

Joan Williamson – Chairperson Security Committee