

The MEADOWSWATCH

[formerly the Meadows Neighbors Association Crime Watch News]

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This issue of *The MeadowsWatch* includes important alerts regarding North Central Dallas crime incidents as well as general updates on Meadows area issues.

If you are receiving this newsletter at your door but have E-mail access, you can reduce the paper clutter at your front entry by registering to have this news delivered to your e-mail inbox. Your information is protected and never shared with any other organization or any business. It's free, easy and quick. Send both your home address and your e-mail address to meadowswatch@swbell.net or visit www.themeadowsna.org. Nearly 170 Meadows homes are now covered by e-mail delivery of Meadows neighborhood news and alerts. Questions before you sign up? Call 972-282-8068 and leave a message for Jo Aronoff, who will get back in touch with you. Door to door delivery is dependent on the weather and the schedules of the block volunteers, who have households and careers to manage. Please help us make their jobs easier and ours more efficient by signing up for e-mail!

ON WITH THE NEWS.....

'TIS THE SEASON FOR JOY and JERKS -- Recent news reports covered two frightening purse theft incidents. The first occurred in a NorthPark parking garage in which a woman was threatened by a robber who then took off with her handbag. The lady told a TV reporter that she was quite scared but that the worst part of the incident was that her "life was in that purse."

The second event was reported in the November 16 issue of the Dallas Morning News and covered the tragic story of a school teacher in her fifties who was knocked unconscious and her purse taken in a supermarket parking area at Preston/Beltline. The victim suffered serious brain injury.

The possibility of having to face these kinds of incidents is unnerving on several levels, starting with the potential for life-threatening injury. In addition, the "transfer" of keys, identification, credit cards, checkbooks, cash other important personal items into the hands of criminals poses serious secondary threats to the security of the victims' homes and families, financial accounts and identity. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FROM SECURITY EXPERTS:

- a Leave purses at home. They are highly visible and easy targets. Handbags and shoulder bags can be grabbed to remove them from your possession or throw you to the ground. Carry your ID, keys and "purchasing power" in pockets close to your body.
- a Put wallets in front pockets.
- a Shop with other adults. There is greater safety in numbers.

a Walk upright and with an air of confidence. Scan all around you as you move and be alert to nearby persons and vehicles.

a Leave little ones in the care of someone else so you can remain focused on "safe shopping." Take the kids to see the holiday decorations and festivities at the mall on a non-shopping day.

a Wear clothing that allows you to move freely and quickly. Slender skirts, high-heels or slip-on open-heeled shoes or sandals can restrict mobility.

a Watch for vehicles that could be following you to your car or while you're driving. Don't try to beat suspects to your door. If you suspect you're being followed, go to a busy public place and call police.

a Get plenty of rest, and exercise or relaxation activities so that your alertness is not drained by busy holiday schedules, fatigue and stress.

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A PRESTON/ROYAL PIZZA DELIVERY MAN WAS TARGETED recently while walking to a customer's door in the Preston/Azalea area. The Papa John's employee was **robbed at knife-point** by a thief in a ski mask who evidently followed him knowing he would have cash. **BE ALERT TO NEARBY INDIVIDUALS AND VEHICLES WHEN ACCEPTING DELIVERIES AT YOUR DOOR.** Criminals could also be looking for opportunities to interact with you.

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VEHICLE BURGLARIES continue in the Metroplex. Meadows crime watch received 2 more reports of car break-ins from neighbors, one on the 7300 block of Mimosa and another on the 7200 section of Blairview.

The latter household has been targeted more than once by thieves. **In response, the family recently called the North Central Division of the Dallas Police and scheduled a residential security assessment.** Senior Corporal Angela Pardue walked around and through the property and noted circumstances that could be modified to improve security. The homeowner subsequently reported an increased understanding of the roles of the Police and private patrols and what residents can do to better secure themselves and their property. **This neighbor's report indicated that she and her family felt that this evaluation procedure, a service offered by the Police Department, was well worth the time.**

Crime Watch organizations, including ours in the Meadows, often suggest such security assessments which can point out commonly overlooked residential vulnerabilities. **For more information, contact the North Central Division of the Dallas Police at 214-670-7253** and ask for Senior Corporal Pardue.

REPORTS: SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND VEHICLES – In October and November Meadows Crime Watch received two such reports. A suspicious pedestrian exiting an alley was spotted by a neighbor. She wasn't certain that the situation warranted a call to the police, but a few days later she contacted Crime Watch to discuss it. On another date, a couple of individuals were spotted moving an item into a white van from a Mimosa yard. An observant neighbor contacted Crime Watch to ask a question about reaching the absent homeowners. The situation turned out to be a legitimate one, but the neighbor had been concerned because the Mimosa home had been recently robbed of its firewood rack.

We contacted our police liaison for a clarification of the appropriate procedures when observing suspicious persons and vehicles. The bottom line: CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY AND LET THE AUTHORITIES SORT OUT THE DETAILS REGARDING WHO MAY BE INTRUDERS AND WHO IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FOR LEGITIMATE PURPOSES.

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MIMOSA MOTOR SPEEDWAY --- Neighbors on the 7100-7200 block of Mimosa Lane have expressed numerous concerns about several vehicles with young drivers that routinely travel much too fast on this block, the home street for many small children. It is also traversed by many cyclists, joggers, walkers and residents walking pets or pushing baby strollers. When vehicles are parked on both sides of the street, the thoroughfare can be quite narrow and requires cautious navigation. **PLEASE REMIND YOUNG DRIVERS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD TO SLOW DOWN! They may avoid an accident that could end in tragedy.**

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The MEADOWS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION THANKS EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED THE FALL GARDEN PLANT SALE and all previous sales ! Proceeds cover the costs of TMNA activities and projects such as maintenance of the Walnut Hill Lane Brick wall, the Neighborhood Alert signs and telephone Hot Line, printing costs for event notices, special neighborhood meetings such as the Spring Social and Board elections and the upgrading of the Boedeker Median. **The Meadows has also received DONATIONS FROM MANY GENEROUS NEIGHBORS. BOARD MEMBERS WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO ALL!** Support of TMNA has always been voluntary -- there is no yearly assessment collected. For more information please visit www.themeadowsna.org. or call 972-282-8073 for general information about our voluntary Neighborhood Association.

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BOEDEKER LANDSCAPE UPDATE -- Plans for the median are completed and all that remains to be arranged is the landscaper's schedule. Thanks again to all of you who have supported this project. It has been a extensive task with the placement of the brick monument that identifies the Meadows and the installation of the sprinkler system. We're "in the home stretch" with the upcoming planting. ***Thanks are due to Beautification Committee members including Keith and Betsy Kinney and Lynn Sloan and all the Board members, volunteers and neighbors who have given so much of their time and dedication to this project.***

The PROPOSED REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AT CENTRAL AND WALNUT HILL LANE

is to be named "The Glen at Preston Hollow." Provident Realty Advisors, city zoning officials and representatives from the Meadows, Windsor Park, and Glen Lakes have been in discussions and negotiations for a number of years regarding the plans for the former Lakeside/Arbors/Willow Creek area. Concerns have included the protection of residential property values and appeal to prospective home buyers as well as prevention of a significant increase in local traffic. Demolition of the apartment buildings began recently and the first phase of the new complex is projected to open in 2010.

The business section of the November 9th *Dallas Morning News* reported extensively on the proposed mixed use construction. We contacted Eric Anderson, a Meadows resident who has been part of the group of representatives from the three residential neighborhoods that would be most affected by this property development. He responded with the following: "The [joint task force] continues to meet with PRA [Provident Realty Advisors] to review, discuss and provide feedback on some of the changes they desire to make from last Fall's zoning approval. Currently, under Texas law, they must wait 2 years before approaching Council with another round of changes, unless the neighborhood supports a waiver. We will be in support as long as we can fine tune some of the changes they wish to make. [Regarding the Dallas Morning News article] there are some things contained in that rendering that we are not in agreement with. We continue to meet and discuss and hope to have some positive resolution. Our main points of agreement are changing to single family in the Tract A, next to The Meadows, and reducing the number of homes. Our disagreements center on access to this housing, and the commercial area where they are cutting back on open space from what was agreed to."

Updates to this topic are posted when available at www.themeadowsna.org.

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FIRST WATCH SECURITY has patrolled the Meadows for many years. The Crime Watch committee and the company worked together on the scheduling. We have a patrol officer in our area for a specified period of time each day, seven days per week. Then number of daily hours was originally linked to the number of homes subscribing to the patrol service. The visible presence of a patrol car helps to reduce the incidence of criminal activities throughout the neighborhood. Because of our long-term business relationship, the company offers Meadows residents a significantly discounted monthly rate, compared to other neighborhoods, for the numerous services provided to patrol customers. During the hours that the cruiser is assigned to the Meadows, emergency response time can be two minutes or less for Meadows subscribers. First Watch also offers alarm installation, maintenance, and monitoring service. The Patrol can also work in conjunction with other monitoring companies, and you don't even need an alarm to have patrol service that will enhance the security of your home. Information about First Watch is available at www.themeadowsna.org or call them at 214-630-9300.

This information is provided in response to inquiries from a number of neighbors. However, the Crime Watch committee operates in the interest of all Meadows residents whether or not they subscribe to any services of the First Watch Security company. If you wish to contact the committee, call direct to 972-282-8068 or e-mail to meadowswatch@swbell.net.

WATCHING YOUR BACK -- At the last Crime Watch Coordinators meeting with the Dallas Police, it was suggested that we put our house numbers and streets names on the alley side of our back fences or over garage doors. This will facilitate patrol operations which are focusing more intently on residential alleys. Numerals and letters are readily available at home centers, as are stencils and weather-resistant spray paints. Sign companies can also custom print address placards.

DALLAS POLICE CRIME STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ---

Beat	Location	Date	Time	Offense
650	73** Glendora Avenue	9/13/2007	3:00 pm	Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
650	72** Stonetrail Drive	9/18/2007	12:00 pm	Burglary – Residence
650	73** Fieldgate Drive	9/24/2007	5:30 pm	Theft/Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
650	72** Blairview Drive	10/5/2007	8:10 pm	Burglary - Residence
650	71** Lakehurst Drive	10/5/2007	10:20 am	Theft/Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
650	72** Briarmeadow Drive	10/14/2007	12:00 pm	Theft/Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
650	73** Inglecliff Drive	10/20/2007	11:13 am	Vandalism & Criminal Mischief

NEW NEIGHBOR INFO--- If you're new, or even relatively new, to the Meadows and you haven't received our packet of Welcoming Information, please contact us and we'll be sure to get it to you. Information about the Meadows and our neighborhood association is also available at the website www.themeadowsna.org but if you would like a printed version from us, let us know. Contact us through the website, or e-mail to meadowswatch@swbell.net or call 972-282-8073.

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CRIME WATCH NEEDS PEOPLE POWER! Although many area folks receive this newsletter via email, we still need to deliver some door-to-door every couple of months. **Our longstanding block volunteers could use sidekicks or substitutes to help cover their streets.** This is a great group of folks. Please join usjust email or call to periodically share a few minutes of your time. The Lakehurst/Glendora 7300 loop has never had volunteers and the rest of us have been covering it. If you live on one of those streets, please consider joining our volunteer group.

CRIME WATCH QUESTIONS? CALL DIRECT TO 972-282-8068 OR E-MAIL TO MEADOWSWATCH@SWBELL.NET .

Have a happy and safe holiday season!