

Grove Place HOA Community COPS Meeting – 07/17/19

Block Captain Attendees: Laura Spikes, Dahra Osenga, Ramous Fields, Bruce & Sandra Bellamy and James Logan

Other Attendees – 4 members of the community and Officer Selena Francis

Meeting Start Time – Approximately 6:45pm, Meeting End Time – Approximately 8:00pm

Discussion items included the following topics:

After introductions were completed, Officer Francis noted the flyers she brought to the meeting, which are included in the attached file:

- Personal Safety Tips
- Do not be a victim
- Crime Mapping report for Grove Place for 2019 – 2 incidents

Officer Francis then presented a safety related discussion, going over the following information:

- If someone calls 911 and hangs up, the 911 operator will always call back. If the operator doesn't reach anyone, the police will be dispatched.
- If someone calls the non-emergency line and hangs up, there will be no call back or dispatch.
- When you are speaking with a 911 operator, they will ask you a lot of questions. In most cases, they have already dispatched the assistance you need. They are asking questions to gain more information that they can relay to the assistance that is already in route to you. Please give them as much information as you can.
- Several people reported seeing cars parked at the end of Shay Lind Court. Officer Francis advised us not to approach any suspicious vehicle but to call 911.
- Dekalb County has implemented a feature to be able to access some home doorbell cameras. Gwinnett County may be able to do this in the future.
- If you are not at home, always make your home seem occupied by using timer lights, leaving the TV on, etc. Don't leave the same lights on 24/7 for a week though, for example. That also indicates you aren't home.
- It is recommended to always respond to a doorbell or knock on your door. Someone may try to break in if they think you're not at home.
- Light up the outside of your house. LED lights are best.
- If you have the means, install cameras and doorbell cameras that can be easily accessed by your phone or computer.
- Trim bushes away from windows, leaving no "ambush" areas around your home's entrances. It is recommended that shrubs be no more than 2 feet high. If you have trees near your doors, it is recommended that they have a 6 foot clearance underneath.
- Plant "aggressive" vegetation to deter people hiding in the bushes - - - plants with thorns or sharp edges.
- Don't put boxes out for recycle that show new items in your home, such as TVs or computers. You don't want to let thieves know what you just bought and what they might be able to steal!
- Shred bills, credit card offers and other personal information going into the trash.
- Keep garage doors closed when you are not entering/exiting. Open doors allow easy and quick access that is out of view of neighbors.
- Change screws in your door strike plates to 3 inches, which makes it harder to kick in.

- Lock vehicles in the driveway. Don't leave visible items in the car. Don't leave your garage door opener in a car parked in your driveway.
- If you use a GPS system, don't label anything as "Home". If someone steals your car, they can use the GPS to get to your home and possibly use the garage door opener to access your home. Program your GPS to get you to a close by location, such as Harmony Grove Road.
- Always use a password on your smart phone.
- If you will be away from home for a long period of time, stop your mail or have a trusted neighbor pick it up.

In the area of personal safety:

- Carry a purse cross-body, not on your shoulder. This makes it harder for someone to grab.
- Don't leave your purse in a grocery cart
- Don't carry a wallet in your back pocket, carry it in a front or shirt pocket
- If possible, get an RFID wallet, which prevents someone with a scanner from stealing your personal information off your credit cards.

Upcoming Events for Gwinnett County Police:

What: Fall Festival
Where: Coolray Field
Address: 2500 Buford Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30043
Date: Saturday, October 12, 2019
Time: 10am - 2pm

What: Coffee With a Cop
Where: Sweet Point Bakery & Café
Address: 5385 Five Forks Trickum Road, Lilburn, GA 30047
Date: Monday, August 12, 2019
Time: 9am - 11am