

Neighborhood Eye



A Neighborhood Watch newsletter for lower Woodmont Avenue and its surroundings.

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1, SPRING 2002

FIRST MEETING SUMMARY

Charlie Costello

Welcome to the first issue of the Neighborhood Eye, a newsletter for the lower Woodmont Avenue and the surrounding community. We formed a neighborhood watch group in response to a number of thefts, vandalism and a general mood for more awareness and community spirit. With this watch group and newsletter, we hope to increase awareness in our neighborhood and by doing so, strengthen our spirit in the wake of local events, thefts and burglaries. The hope is that it will provide a way to stay involved and be more aware of things in our neighborhood, ultimately making it a safer and more pleasant place to enjoy what we have, a beautiful place to live.

Our first neighborhood watch meeting was held on Sunday, January 13, at the Shepherd of the Hills Church on the corner of Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly Peak Road. We would like to thank the church for the use of the meeting room.

We had a good turn out with fourteen people attending as well as our local beat Police Officer and Police Lieutenant. They gave us a pep talk on how to stay aware and keep our neighborhood safer.

We started a neighborhood contact list and asked each person to introduce themselves and stated what they wanted out of a neighborhood watch. Most mentioned the need to know who your neighbors are, to get to know each other and in doing so, staying more aware of who and what is supposed to be in the

neighborhood. Also mentioned was a way to learn more about earthquake and fire preparedness.

Paul Grunland volunteered to contact a local retired fire captain to talk at one of our neighborhood watch meetings about Fire Safety. Although we are blessed with Wildcat Canyon nearby, each fall fire safety becomes more and more of an issue in our lives. For example, does everyone know where their gas turn off valve is in case of an earthquake or fire?

EFFECTIVE DETERRENTS

Charlie Costello

Our local beat Police Officer and his lieutenant highlighted some areas to help deter a prospective burglar. Since we are blessed without having street lights all over the place, the officers pointed out the need for motion detected lighting that turns on the instant someone approaches an area. Timed landscape lighting and interior lighting can also be a deterrent to any burglar or mischievous person.

Alarms were mentioned as a good deterrent according to the Berkeley Police, not only acting as a first response system but a deterrent altogether.

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And of course, as many of us know already, man's best friend, our faithful dogs act as one of the best deterrents for any burglar.



ABOUT MARILARK

The MariLark sign on the corner of Woodmont Ave. and Wildcat Canyon Road was unveiled to the neighborhood and MariLark was established in 1997 in honor of Marie and Larkin Smith who built the home in 1941. They themselves had combined their names to call their home MariLark. Their grand nephew, Charles Costello III now tends the garden and shares the corner with the neighborhood.

The MariLark.com website is a way to stay connected, to share the passions and excitement of this digital age and help build a safer community. It also acts as an online portfolio of sorts for me, Charlie Costello. Take a look when you have a chance and let me know what you think.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Our next meeting will be held on:
Saturday, May 4, 2002, at Shepherd of the Hills Church at 4:00 in the afternoon.

We will continue to add to the Neighborhood Watch list and talk about the benefits of the having a neighborhood watch. Perhaps we will formally make our

neighborhood an official part of the city neighborhood watch network. This includes road signs stating that we are a neighborhood that is watching, a once yearly community dumpster for free, and additional support and awareness.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

These phone numbers and others including website links can be found on the Community page at MariLark.com

Berkeley Police Department Website:
<http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/police/>

Berkeley Police phone numbers:

Anonymous Tip Line, The Cops 843-2667
Animal Control, 2103 2nd street, 644-6775
Community Beat Mail Box, 981-COPS or 981-2677
Community Services, 981-5806
Detective Bureaus
- Auto Theft, 981-5738
- Domestic Violence, 981-5736
- Forgery/Fraud, 981-5739

Office of the Chief, 981-5700

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MARILARK.COM
NEIGHBORHOOD VIEWS
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94708

STAY AWARE AND STAY CONNECTED
<http://www.MariLark.com>



This newsletter is available online on the Community page at MariLark.com

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