

Communicator

Crime Watch Meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

6:30 PM

Hotchkiss Elementary School



Please join us for our annual Crime Watch Meeting. We will have representatives from the Dallas Police Department at this meeting, including our Expanded Neighborhood Patrol (ENP) officer. We will also have representatives from the DISD Police Department and the DART Police Department. This will be your opportunity to ask officials the questions you might have about crime in and around our neighborhood.

So, bring your questions, learn about what is happening in our own backyard and get tips on how you can help make our neighborhood safer. Mark your calendars!! This year, our crime watch meeting should be one of the most informative ever for MP/UM because we have had an increased and concentrated amount of patrolling, from our ENP program.

The ENP program has given us much more intelligence about crime and what we can do to reduce criminal activity. Also adding officials from DISD and DART will help you know how to handle any issues at Hotchkiss or the White Rock DART Station.

ENP SUCCESSES

We started our ENP last May 2010. Since then we have enjoyed a dramatic drop in crime, particularly in residential burglaries. We have a lot of successes to brag about, especially, with only one exception, when residential burglars were captured and arrested. In the past, residential burglaries were rarely solved. When criminals are caught, it sends a message to others that our neighborhood is not an easy hit. So while most of what we do is to deter crime, when it does occur the burglars are now being locked up.

Looking **ONLY** at the holiday months of November and December, we have had a significant drop in crime. We are extremely proud of the lack of residential burglaries during that typically high crime period.

Type of Crime	2009	2010
Residential Burglary	3	0
Criminal Mischief/Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV)	4*	5*
Burglary of Detached Garage/Shed	2	0

*Not all BMVs were reported to 911. The numbers in the table above represent crimes reported to the Dallas Police Department. If you ever have a BMV situation that seems minor, call the police and report the crime.

JOIN ENP!

We now have enough members to expand our weekly neighborhood patrol to 5 days a week, 3 hours a day. As we add members, we can begin rolling into the weekends and, even into the evenings. Please give careful consideration to joining. We need your participation. ENP is one of the best programs ever introduced in our

neighborhood. It has kept us all safe when we are at home and away from home. We have members who can leave town for a while and know that ENP is watching their homes as requested through the ENP coordinator. Help us keep you safe by joining today! If you have questions, call Donna Mason at 214-348-7721 or write to enp@mpum.com.

REPORT STOLEN PACKAGES TO 911

When you have a package stolen from your porch, please report the theft to 911 so we can keep track of this type of crime. No theft of any kind can be too small to call 911. Often, people believe it is simply a problem for the carrier of the package like

UPS, Fedex and USPS. But regardless of who replaces the item, it is still a crime for someone to steal anything from your property, and our neighborhood. Please make sure you call 911 and report any crime.

OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

We have been surprised by the number of MP/UM residents who are breaking the law in our own neighborhood. Stop signs, school zones, Hotchkiss pick up lanes, texting in a school zone, speed limits – are all examples of the laws we are seeing broken with alarming regularity by our residents. When our ENP Officer is on patrol, it is his job to enforce all laws, including moving violations. We have a lot of traffic originating from non-residents and they are the targets for traffic violations. But being a resident of our neighborhood still requires you to obey the city laws. Also, don't forget that we have children living on or at the corner of our busiest streets. So please protect our little ones and yourselves by obeying all traffic laws in our neighborhood.

CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY

Crimes of opportunity are caused by having valuables unattended either in your yard, on your porch or, especially, in your car. It just takes seconds for someone to grab an item and run. The ONLY defense we have against this type of crime depends on the vigilance of every resident. Please pay attention to the following tips:

- Open garages are a common easy target.
- Lawn equipment left unattended is stolen all the time. Even the yard crews in the neighborhood must lock all their equipment to their trailers in an effort to prevent equipment loss while they are doing backyard work.

Also, the Dallas Police Department reminds us to do the following:

- Lock cars at all times
- Remove all valuables from the car
- Hide anything left in the car
- Never leave a garage door opener inside a car
- Keep garage doors closed at all times
- Do not leave equipment or any valuables in view and unattended

Every single time someone successfully steals even the tiniest thing from our neighborhood, it only encourages them to return. Save yourself and your neighbors from property loss – secure all property.

JOIN THE VIP PROGRAM!

In addition to ENP, we still have our Volunteers in Patrol program. Please think about joining our VIPs. We could really use your help. The more eyes we have around the neighborhood, the more crime we can prevent. All you need to do is attend a 6-hour Dallas Police Department training class. If you have any time to devote to the neighborhood, even if only for an hour or two a month, please consider joining. Magnetic signs for your car are furnished by MP/UM. The next training class is

scheduled for Saturday, January 22nd and it will be a one-day training class held at City Hall, 1500 Marilla, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will advise you later as future training classes are scheduled. If you have any questions about how you can join the VIP program, send an email to Donna Mason at vip@mpum.com or call her at 214-348-7721 or call Dottie Giesler at 214-349-7028. You may also contact Sr. Corp. Phil Gordon at 214-671-0160 or you may email him at phillip.gordon@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us

NEIGHBORHOOD GATHERINGS

Two MPUM parties have been given recently in our neighborhood. One was a yard party on Wild Valley for all residents of MPUM. The other was a holiday party on Fenton for nearby residents. Both of these

parties were well attended and fun for all. It's a great way to pull neighbors together, meet new ones and have a lot of fun. Consider having your own neighborhood or block party for MPUM residents!

PETS

We have had some complaints in the neighborhood about barking dogs. There is a City Code for this type of problem. The city code says:

A person commits an offense if he knowingly owns an animal that unreasonably barks, howls or makes other unreasonable noise near a private residence. Noise made by an animal is unreasonable under this

subsection if the noise continues for more than 15 consecutive minutes.

If you have a problem with nearby dog barking disturbances, we encourage you to speak to your neighbor first. If the barking continues then please call 3-1-1 for resolution.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DUES

Don't forget to pay your dues. If you have any question about whether or not you have paid, you can check the list of households paid on our website at www.mpum.com. Look for the link on the front page in the right-hand column that says "Dues Paid for the Current Fiscal Year." You can also call Charley Ramirez, our Treasurer, and he will be glad to look it up for you. He can be reached by telephone at 214-341-1861 or by email at treasurer@mpum.com. Dues may be mailed to MPUM, P.O. Box 820803, Dallas, TX 75382-0803

Yard of the Month: 6821 Winchester - (visit our website at www.mpum.com for pictures)

MPUM's Complete List of Neighborhood Contacts available on Our Website: www.mpum.com

The Communicator is a publication of the Merriman Park/University Manor Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 820803, Dallas, TX 75382-0803.

Articles, letters and suggestions are invited and appreciated and can be mailed to the P.O. Box or sent via e-mail to info@mpum.com.