

sylvan heights neighborhood news

Feb 2000

Welcome to the new century!

...a very welcome anti-climax as the new year rolled in without major incident. Apparently, even the President's Council on Y2K was surprised. As Judy Hoskins reports, in preparing for any possible disruptions, she learned how resilient, hard-working and professional our local emergency service providers are, and the amazing degree to which people can pull together when necessary. There are still Y2K glitches occurring, but they appear to be mostly headaches: accounting errors, credit card delays, etc. rather than disasters. If you prepared by stocking up on water, canned goods, batteries and so forth, good for you! It's still wise to keep some of those on hand in case of an ice storm or tornado. If you have more food than you feel you need, please consider donating the extras to **Second Harvest Food Bank of Nashville @ 329-3491.**

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We had a very fine neighborhood meeting at the home of Linda Park on Saturday, Jan 8. Among other things, we decided to schedule one of our famous **alley clean-ups**, to be held on **March 18 @ 10 AM.** The details - meeting place, etc. - have yet to be decided on, but try to keep that time slot open & participate if you can...we all benefit!

Dues will be collected at the next meeting: \$5 per household for the year 2000. If you cannot make the meeting, Diane Green will be accepting dues for you and your family. You can reach her at **297-1095**, or mail dues to **3605 Dakota Ave.** Please be sure to pay her if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter; it's the best way to stay informed & involved in your neighborhood! Checks are payable to the **Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Association.** This is actually a newsletter subscription and is used solely to pay for copying & mailing the letter.

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For those of you who are online, you can check out our website at: <http://www.homestead.com/sylvanheights/index.html> You can also join the e-mail list from that screen and get involved! Anyone in Sylvan Heights who has a computer is eligible. *Note:* If you have a computer but no e-mail service, free ones are readily available. To find out more, call Judy at **297-4858.** **REMINDER:** Bulk item pickup is available free to each household 2 times per year through Metro. Call **862-8971.**

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There is a 40-minute videotape available for viewing entitled "To Stop A Thief" which was given to our group recently, outlining various ways to prevent crime.

Contact Judy Hoskins if you want to borrow the tape to check it out. In the meantime, our own cinematic reviewer Roger Yates took the time to sift through it and he gives this summary of the highlights:

STATISTICS: Almost 3 million burglaries in America each year. Every 12 seconds, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Most dwellings are constructed for comfort & beauty, *not* security.

FACTOIDS: Theft is a profession. Most thieves grab items quickly (2-3 minutes), and they don't want confrontations. Similarly, *you* should not confront a thief. An amateur is more dangerous than a professional. Thieves *look for:* obstructed views, secluded locations, victims' schedules. Most break-ins occur in daylight hours. Victims' most *common mistakes* are: leaving home unlocked, signs of absence, lack of outdoor lighting, not varying daily routines. Remember: when you *increase* security, you *decrease* convenience - maybe a bit of your own, as well as the thief's - but it's well worth the effort! Dead bolts, metal doors, security systems, fences, etc. are all effective deterrents. It's also a good idea to mark all valuable items.

Next Meeting:

Saturday Feb 12, 4 PM @ Linda Parks, 3810 Nevada Ave.

sylvan heights *Neighborhood News*

August 2000

MID-SUMMER GREETINGS!

Most of the following comes from notes from the meeting held at Park Ave. School recently.

PROJECT SAVE

Project SAVE [Students (and Teachers) Against Violent Environments]:

- * a child dies about every 2 hours due to accidental gunfire in the U.S.
- * 50% of homes in the U.S. have at least one gun

Officer Mitch Kronberg talked about gun safety - **TEACH CHILDREN** that when they see a gun they should **immediately:**

- 1) STOP!
- 2) DON'T touch!
- 3) LEAVE the area
- 4) TELL an adult (where & when they saw the gun)

Adults should also develop good habits when handling guns. Gun safety tips for adults (and older children who are exposed to guns) - **ALWAYS:**

- 1) ASSUME all guns are loaded (even if you unloaded it yourself)
- 2) Use "Laser Rule": NEVER point at anything you are unwilling to destroy

- 3) Keep finger OFF trigger
 - 4) ALWAYS check to see if loaded (even if you just walked away from it for a minute)
 - 5) Keep gun in a safe with ammunition stored separately
 - 6) Use trigger locks (on guns used for protection or not stored in safe)
- Officer Kronberg demonstrated how to install a trigger lock.

How do most people get hurt: Not following the rules. How do children get hurt:

- 1) When guns are easily accessible (they need to be hidden from children and moved periodically, because they WILL find them)
- 2) No trigger locks

One more safety tip: Remember that if you wake up in the middle of the night and think you hear an intruder, take the time to turn on the light (that will scare away about 95% of intruders) and get your bearings to BE SURE that it is not a loved one.

D.A.R.E. - Officer Mike Toth

DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Program) is taught in 2 parts: K-4; 1-time visit each year, and 5th grade; 17-week program. Side benefit: builds rapport between police & children.

GREAT - Officer Kim Moore (Gang Resistance Education and Training) Program:

* 9-week program taught to middle school students, started in 1992 with grant from ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms), teaches facts about & consequences of gang involvement - and yes it is a Nashville problem...

Remember, there's lots more information at our Sylvan Heights website:

www.homestead.com/sylvanheights/index.html

NASHVILLE NIGHT OUT:

Tuesday, Aug 1, 6-9 PM -

Our crew & guests will be gathering in the **empty lot next to Judy Hoskins' house at 213 Chamberlin St.** Meat is provided, but members are encouraged to bring a dish to pass. Games will be provided for children & adults!

Next scheduled meeting:

August 12th, 4 PM @ Mary Baker's house, 209 37th Ave. (yellow, corner 37th & Dakota)

**** Thanks & Keep Cool! ****