

Cascades Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

March, 2017



Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Cascades Neighborhood Watch Newsletter.

About the Author

My name is Chuck Brennaman and my wife, Mandy, and I moved to the Cascades in August of 2015.

I retired in August of 2014 after working for over forty years in Information Technology.

History of the Cascades Neighborhood Watch Organization

Despite being a “newcomer” to the neighborhood, in May of 2016 I unsuccessfully ran for the HOA board of directors.

At that time, one of my “platforms” at that time was to create a neighborhood watch organization.

In my discussions with neighbors following that election, I felt there was still support for a neighborhood watch organization.

Our first meeting with 14 attendees was held on July 14, 2016 at the pool.

Since then three additional meetings have been held but attendance has been minimal.

About this Newsletter

Following our last meeting, I spoke to one of The Colony Police Department’s Community Resource Officers, Brian Lee.

It was Officer Lee’s suggestion that I publish a monthly newsletter.

Neighborhood Watch Communication Methods

To date, I have used three methods to communicate NW related information:

1. Email using the cascadesnw@googlegroups.com distribution list.

This list contains the emails of everyone who has filled out a “Contact Information” sheet. It also includes a few people who have requested they be added to the list.

2. Facebook closed group “The Colony Cascades.”
This group is restricted to Facebook members who live in The Cascades. I do not administer this group.
3. Nextdoor website and application.
This is a commercial application and web site, which includes these categories:
 - a. Classifieds
 - b. Crime & Safety
 - c. Free items
 - d. Documents
 - e. Lost and Found
 - f. Recommendations
 - g. General

On Nextdoor my personal access includes 14 nearby neighborhoods. (I assume everyone in The Cascades has similar access.)

The Colony Police Department also has access to Nextdoor.

Burglaries of Motor Vehicles (BMVs)

BMVs have been an “on again – off again” problem in The Colony.

It seems these burglars move from one city to another and from one area within the city to another.

Several months ago there were several burglaries of cars in hotel parking lots within the city.

In February there were several BMVs in the “Slay/Baker” area of the City.

The best defense for these burglaries is to take your valuables out of your car and lock your car.

Stolen License Plates

Channel 11 recently did a story on stolen license plates with featured our own Officer Kyle Koiner.

That story can be found at <http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2017/02/22/license-plates-are-getting-stolen-all-over-north-texas/>

Activity at the Gazebo

Our Gazebo continues to be a clandestine meeting place for juveniles.

There have been several instances where they have been seen selling, buying, and/or smoking drugs.

Back on November 30th, the police arrived before the juveniles left but after they had finished smoking.

If you see this type of suspicious activity around the gazebo (or anyplace within The Colony) call the TCPD non-emergency number (972) 625-1887 option 0.

Safety Tip of the Month

What's the difference between calling 911 and the police non-emergency number? In The Colony if you call the non-emergency number (972) 625-1887 option 0 you are connected to the same 911 operators that you would if you dialed 911.

So what's the difference?

When you dial the non-emergency number you can be put on hold.

When you dial 911 the operator is not allowed to put you on hold.

So if you are reporting something short of an emergency, dial the non-emergency number.

The other difference, of course, is that when you dial 911 you should be automatically routed to the correct city.

Note: this automatic routing is not perfect. When you are near a city boundary (such as we are in the Cascades) it is possible you may be routed to the wrong city.

Fortunately the 911 operators have the ability to transfer you to the correct city.

In order to dial the non-emergency number you must know the number.

Now that I've made a short story long, here's your tip: Put the non-emergency numbers for The Colony (972) 625-1887, Lewisville (972) 219-3600, and Frisco (972) 292-6000 in your cell phone directory.

I need your Input

Please send me your feedback on what we can do to make this neighborhood watch organization better.

How can we increase attendance at our meetings?

How can we communicate better?

What questions do you have about neighborhood watches in general or our neighborhood watch in particular.

You can contact me (either privately or publicly) on Facebook or Nextdoor.