

# Special Membership Meeting

By Terry Deschenes, President

On August 18<sup>th</sup>, we had a membership meeting called to consider how our community could best react to two recent robberies and a break-in/flash mob. (minutes for that meeting are on our website FourLakes.ORG.) We also had the deputy sheriff who normally patrols our area attend. We talked about a number of ideas and picked up some valuable information from the deputy.

Deputy Mary Styson explained that the King County Sheriff didn't have the resources to follow up on robberies unless they were actually in progress. The strong response for the break-in/flash mob came only after gun shots were reported. The two strongest recommendations from the deputy were to organize a Block Watch, the, most effective thing we can and to keep our property well lighted at night. She also recommended alarm systems with a loud local siren to scare off thieves as well as to alert neighbors something was happening at your house. She complimented us on taking the first steps to insure our own security; until the budget changes at the Sheriff we are largely on our own.

After some good discussion we came up with several action items:

- **Gating the community.** Brian Thompson agreed to chair this effort. From his previous research we anticipate we'll need a vote from the membership in order to proceed. He and his group will research the project and make a presentation to the members. See his update below.
- **Video Surveillance.** Brian's group took this on as part of the gate project.
- **Automobile decals.** Vivienne Gevers took this task on and we expect to hear from her shortly.
- **Neighborhood Watch.** Jason Didricksen agreed to chair this most important effort and you can see his report below.
- **Communication.** Any successful crime prevention program will need strong and reliable communications to keep folks informed. Janell and Matt Wells are chairing this and have a report below.
- **Lighting.** We all agreed that this was a great idea, there were some real problems in trying to do anything on a community wide basis. It was tabled for the time being.

## Four Lakes Community Block Watch

By Jason Didrickson, Block Watch Chairperson

### What is a Block Watch?

- A Block Watch is a community wide effort to reduce residential crime. It is a communication network that relies on members of our community to deter crimes, and then observe and report suspicious activity and crime to Law Enforcement.
- Why do we need a Block Watch?
- In Four Lakes there have been 3 burglaries in the last 2 months. We have had mail theft issues for years. By being observant, proactive, and reporting suspicious activities, we can act as a strong deterrent to criminals who perpetrate many of these opportunistic crimes based on how easy it will be to succeed.
- No community is immune to crime. Domestic violence, property, and drug related crimes are just a few problems that can permeate all families and people in any neighborhood. Drug addiction is often the root problem when it comes to these types of crimes. When a person is an addict, they will do just about anything to support it, including break into your home, your car, or steal you identity.

### What will our Block Watch do?

- Post Neighborhood Watch signs.
- Ask you to be observant of suspicious people and vehicles. If you see something, write it down and call 911. Pay careful attention to physical descriptions of people, and license plate numbers of vehicles.
- Introduce yourself to you immediate neighbors if you don't know them and talk about Block Watch. Exchange contact information.
- Ask you to Report incidents to the block watch captain after calling 911.
- Disseminate important information and crime alerts to the community when needed.
- Hold an annual meeting

## Gate and Video Surveillance

By Brian Thompson, Gate & Surveillance Chairperson

We have begun the initial steps in analyzing adding additional security to our neighborhood through implementation of a gate system, this process will be comprehensive including taking into consideration all of the questions and concerns of the neighbors. It should be a fun process and we look forward to reaching out to all

## Communications!

By Janell and Matt Wells

From letters in the mail to Facebook, there are lots of ways of communicating community information. We are working on developing a Communication plan for the neighborhood which will be presented at this month's board meeting. We will discuss the different communication channels, such as email and phone calls. They will be matched up with recommend types and frequencies of communication to better enhance the awareness and a build stronger sense of community in the Four Lakes Neighborhood. If you have any suggestions for the Communications Plan, please email [janellwells7@gmail.com](mailto:janellwells7@gmail.com). Thank you!

## LAKES!

By Steve Scott, Lakes Committee Chairperson

The lakes experienced some additional plant growth this summer and more presence of algae, but levels were tolerable and the lakes are healthy overall. With cooler weather and shorter days this fall and winter, aquatic vegetation will die back.

The Lakes Committee had planned to do some expensive treatments of the lakes this year, but the pesticide application contractor we had used in the past could not work us into his schedule. We therefore missed the window of opportunity for applying control methods, and so decided to postpone the expenditure. We are exploring other possible sources of help.

This fall we will do testing on the lake water for nitrates, phosphorus and coliform bacteria. In the past, levels have not been significant, but periodic monitoring is necessary to identify if there are other factors than morphology encouraging overabundance of native plants in our lakes. The shallow, warm water of our lakes encourages growth. So do nitrates from household fertilizers, and phosphorus and coliform from failing or poorly maintained septic systems. Test results will allow us to plan best management practices in the future. This will include better definition of tasks that need to be performed so the committee can better schedule work and hopefully attract more members.

## Shoulder Maintenance

By Terry Deschenes, President

The Road Committee takes responsibility for keeping the road-bed shoulder in shape. Adding either asphalt or gravel as necessary to maintain it. However, with 2.3 miles of road, they simply don't have the time or the energy to maintain the vegetation and ditching. Property owners are responsible for keeping the vegetation on their property 3' from the road edge and keeping any ditching on their land open and free flowing.

## SPEED LIMIT 15 MPH

By Dave Prochazka

The Four Lakes speed limit was set because of the many limited sight distances, blind driveways and small children. It was observed that many cars were far exceeding this limit. A speed recorder was set up in front of my house and many cars were recorded at 30 to 35 MPH with the highest recorded speed of 55 MPH. That is why it was decided to install speed bumps. This worked well for a while but lately I have observed that many cars are going excessively fast between speed bumps. PLEASE BE CAREFULL! I have had the experience of hitting 2 small children and although it was ruled not my fault, I still have to live with it. I hope none of you have that experience!