



Homeowners' association teams up with law enforcement for safety

By [DONNA HOLMAN](#), T&D Staff Writer

The Laurel Hill Homeowners' Association held a community day for its residents on Aug. 7, bringing together local law enforcement officials and Orangeburg area residents.

As part of the educational, fun day, which included outdoor jumbo inflatables for the younger attendees and a cookout, law enforcement and other public safety officials shared valuable information on how to stay safe.

"When I think about going back to school, I think about safety," said Gregg Twitty, Laurel Hill Homeowners' Association president, who invited members of the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department and the D.A.R.E. program to speak with residents.



Kerry Folk, the mother of two young children, said, "I think this is great. It brings the neighborhood together. The most important thing for us is that our children are safe."

Sheriff Larry Williams discussed with the group how his initiative of homeowners and residents working with law enforcement can make communities safer. As law enforcement can't see everything, it helps everyone when communities and individuals share information with officers and when officers can share information with residents at such events.

"We can work together to make our communities safer. I truly believe that the best communities in our country and in our county are those that work closely with law enforcement," Williams said. "The people in this community show that they care; they have law enforcement here and other community folk here."

Homeowners' associations are springing up across the nation in order to provide homeowners with the assurance that their primary investment, their homes, continue to hold and even increase in value.

"The Laurel Hill Community is a prime example of an effective homeowners' association. Its board of directors is comprised of homeowners in Laurel Hill who volunteer their time and energy to ensure that the Restrictive Covenants and By-laws of the community are met," said Denise Holley, a community manager with N&H Enterprises Inc., a real estate and development company which manages properties and homeowners' associations throughout the state.

Holley said that HOAs promote a cohesive sense of awareness in their neighborhood and also provide a networking of other communities in the county as a whole.

“Laurel Hill’s desire to implement fun with its annual picnic to include the local law enforcement community was an opportunity for neighbors to meet new neighbors as well as learn about a multitude of services and programs that local law enforcement provides,” Holley said.

“If a homeowners’ association is going to be successful, it takes being active to make it work,” said Twitty, adding that this year’s event is likely to continue as an annual affair.

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