



*Citizens working
together to improve
communities*



Watch for Trick-or-Treaters!!!

Alpha Block Watch News

BLOCK WATCH MEETING RECAP

The Alpha Block Watch last met in February, 2010. A number of local residents were in attendance, along with District Resource Officer Tony Grant and Shawnee Neighborhood Association Board Member Larry Tyus. The meeting was very inclusive in its content, and all present took the opportunity to exchange ideas and information that would help continue to reduce crime in the area.

Residents noted a string of car break-ins through the winter and burglaries in different parts of Shawnee were of concern. LMPD shared that violent crime in the area is down while property crimes are up.

Fast forward through summer.....

During the summer, a number of juveniles were caught after a string of burglaries plagued the immediate area. Residents had been frustrated by the number of break-ins, so the police stepped up their patrols and focused on the "hot spot" and caught several individuals, most of whom were juveniles.

This is why it is important to call the police when you see young people walking around the area when school is in session - they should be in school! They may not be doing anything wrong, but reporting truancy helps keep records of who is missing school.

What's happening now?

Now that school is back in session and there has been some relief from break-ins and thefts from autos, don't breathe a sigh of relief just yet! In September there were two incidents on this block that are of concern: a garage was broken into, but nothing was taken, and a home was broken into and cash and a gun were stolen. This means someone, probably

Continued on Page 2

WELCOME BRIDGET LONG!

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome IPL inspector Bridget Long as our new inspector. Ms. Long will be in the area checking for property maintenance issues. Ms. Long has worked with IPL in other areas of west Louisville and will be an asset to our efforts to continue to make progress in keeping our neighborhood clean.

Our former inspector, Philip Crowe, did a great job keeping in touch with the offsite property owners when grass got too tall, cars parked in the grass, trash wasn't getting put out, and other things. We wish him well in his new assignment.

These are all things that make a neighborhood look bad, and when things look bad, crime tends to creep in. That's why a good relationship with IPL is so important, because their inspectors are allies with us and LMPD in keeping our neighborhood clean AND safe.

If you see any property maintenance issues that need to be addressed, call 311 and you can report it - anonymously, of course.

Reminder - The next junk pickup is not scheduled until **March 2011**. Properties seen with junk left out will be immediately reported to the city and are subject to citations and/or fines. Please help keep the curbs & alleys clean!!!

WHAT DOES YOUR TRASH SAY ABOUT YOU?

This gives a whole new meaning to "trash talking." Seriously.

What's out in your trash could be making you a target for crime. When you get a new flat screen TV, or a new Wii, Playstation, or Guitar Hero, that big box might as well be a neon sign inviting someone to break into your home.

Next time you get large items of value, be sure to destroy the box it came in. Shred the cardboard and recycle it. Don't be a victim-in-waiting!

KEEPING YOUR CAR SAFE

They're at it again - someone is walking down the street, late at night, looking for something to steal out of your car. Make sure your doors are locked all the way around. Do not leave valuables in your car - PERIOD! If they can see it, they'll try the door first, and then maybe break a window to get to it. NEVER leave keys in the car, and do not leave your car running unattended while it heats up in the morning. You may come outside to find your car gone.

If you see someone looking into cars or trying the door handle, call LMPD immediately.

Use common sense, and keep your belongings and your car SAFE!

Shawnee Neighborhood Association Meeting - Thursday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m. at French Plaza. Please attend - you do not have to be a member, but you can join if you like.

THOSE BRAZEN CRIMINALS!

Last winter a number of cars were broken into, in carports, even while security lights were on....but not for long!

These brazen thieves unscrewed the lights from their sockets in order to carry out their crime. Why? Because they don't want to be seen!

Thieves do not want to be seen or heard, so if you're concerned about burglaries, install lighting at a safe height. Use motion detectors. There are also solar floodlights available that do not need an electrical box in order for them to function. Also, they don't like noise, so a loud alarm is a good idea, too.

BRIGHTSIDE CLEANUP OCT. 23

Our neighborhood will participate in a cleanup on Saturday, October 23 beginning at 9 a.m. We have room for 3 more helpers, who will receive T-shirts and gloves. We should be done around 9:30 or 10 a.m. if we have 4-5 people helping. Call 772-0277 to volunteer. Coffee provided!

BLOCK WATCH MEETING RECAP

(CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

from nearby, could be walking around with a stolen gun from this neighborhood.

What you can do

Whenever you see something suspicious - anything - call the police at 574-7111. You do not have to give your name or phone number, just tell the police dispatcher what you see (kids out, should be in school; someone looking into cars; someone sleeping on a porch; drug activity; etc.) Just be sure to get an ACCURATE description and address.

Of course, if there is an emergency - violent crime in progress or someone's life is in danger, call 911.

Please be good neighbors. If you want someone to keep an eye out on your car and your house, be willing to do the same for them.

Thanks to the watchfulness of our neighbors, things are better than they used to be, but we still need to keep our eyes and ears open and be willing to call the police.