

Summary of Security Patrol Activity

The full reports submitted by our NSB Security Patrol available online at www.nsb-tampa.org.

July

- Conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that violated a stop sign and issue a verbal warning.
- Discovered a freshly egged vehicle. Woke up resident who washed vehicle off. This was a juvenile prank to resident's daughter. Resident was appreciative.
- Stopped a juvenile driving a golf cart through the neighborhood. This was juvenile's second violation.
- Construction workers stopped an officer in reference to a fence that was burned. The cause of the fire was unknown.
- Discovered several construction vehicles illegally parked and blocking roadway, and corrected the situation.
- Responded to report of missing dog by searching neighborhood.
- Discovered a burned out street light and notified TECO to correct problem.
- On two occasions, suspicious vehicles parked near residences were checked and Field Reports were written.
- Removed a broken tree branch hanging in the road to prevent damage to passing vehicles.
- Responded to a resident who called to report a strange vehicle driving through the neighborhood. The officer searched for the vehicle with negative results.
- Responded to a resident request to check out what appeared to be a pry mark in a back door and possibly a sign of an attempted home invasion. Found it was a dent in the wood from the dead bolt being left open when the door was closed.
- A juvenile wrote obscene words and drew obscene pictures on the windows of a resident's vehicle. A neighbor caught the youth in the act and tried to detain the juvenile, resulting in minor injuries to the neighbor. The owner of the vehicle was on vacation. This occurred during a non-shift time for our security patrol, so a regular street unit responded to the complaint and filed a battery report against the juvenile. An NSB security patrol followed up the next day by trying to reach the vacationing homeowners to assure them the car sustained no damage. The officer washed the obscenities off the car (a water based paint had been used).

Crime Prevention 101

We asked our TPD Patrol Officer to provide tips to help us deter crime in NSB. He responded, and we'll share these with you, starting with Preventing Auto Burglaries/Auto Theft.

1. Park in a driveway. It takes more time for a burglar to approach the vehicle and increases the chance the thief will be exposed and caught. A car parked on the street runs a greater risk of being hit by an inebriated driver, or of having its windows smashed by vandals out for kicks.
2. Lock all doors and windows. Thieves walk the streets in broad daylight checking for unlocked vehicles containing items of value. Don't leave valuables such as cell phones, purses and wallets in your car or at the very least, keep them hidden from view.

August

- Conducting a vacation check of a home where the resident was out of town, officer found a closed but insecure window to a kitchen. The officer notified the owner and a neighbor.
- Responded to several alarms, both to homes on Watrous. In both cases, the houses were secure and the alarm was reclassified to a building check to avoid a false alarm charge.
- Discovered a large party on Moody involving juveniles. Once the officer parked to address the problem, the juveniles scattered and left the neighborhood.
- Stopped a vehicle that matched an alert placed by dispatch for being a traffic violator. The officer issued a verbal warning.
- A resident on Watrous waved down an officer to report that someone had shot the rear of his vehicle with a BB gun during the night. A report was originated for the homeowner.
- Stopped and checked a suspicious vehicle on Watrous and originated a Field Report.
- Notified Public Works of several sinkholes in the alley between Prospect and Sunset.
- Investigated a house alarm on Sunset and discovered that the pest control worker activated the alarm.
- Discovered the traffic light at MacDill and Morrison out of order and notified Public Works to make the repair.
- Discovered two vehicles on Jetton and one on Prospect illegally parked and left parking violation warnings on each vehicle.
- Responded to an alarm on Morrison that had been activated three times that day. The home was secure.
- An officer received a telephone call from a resident on Sunset whose vehicle was burglarized during the night. The officer responded and originated a report for the resident.
- Located a lost dog at Prospect and Georgia and returned the dog to the grateful owner.
- An officer assisted a disabled motorist at Watrous and Howard.

3. At night, park next to a light whether it is on all night or motion activated. Thieves prefer to commit crimes in the dark.

4. Use an anti-theft device. Alarms help but the noise they make is often ignored since they are frequently activated in error. "The Club" is a highly effective device when used consistently.

5. Car thieves will steal any make or model. The most common types of vehicles stolen are Dodge, Chrysler, Honda Accords (94-97 models), newer Ford trucks, Buicks and Chevy's.

More tips next issue...

NEW SUBURB • Beautiful

Fall 2004 Edition

President's Notes

Wow what a couple of months! It was a real treat for those of us on Jetton and Watrous without power for a handful of days. Sure goes to remind us of how "real" Florida living was before air conditioning. From my personal experience and hearing other tales, the spirit shown by those "in power" to those of us "out of power" was wonderful. Thanks to all of you who welcomed neighbors into your home or offered help. We are all very fortunate to live in this special place.

As you can see, this is our second newsletter in our exciting new format. I would like to thank our neighbors, Janet and Larry Mendez of Smith & Associates, for underwriting the expense of this year's (four) issues, and a big thanks to Michelle Monsein and Jody Haneke for producing the newsletter. Our goal is to create a format and system to deliver an informative newsletter with regularity. Local sponsorship and the footwork of our block captains (who deliver the newsletter) help make it happen, and allow us to put membership dues towards social activities. Based on the comments I have received, a newsletter is the preferred means of community communication.

Jeff Monsein, your treasurer, is doing a terrific job that has included pulling our Security Program together. Your Board works closely with the Police to provide you the best combination of times/days that stays within our security budget. I want to gratefully acknowledge David Laxer at Berns for his generous support of our security program.

The current Board term expires in January 2005. Now is the time to volunteer for a Board position (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Security Program, Event Coordinator) for 2005, or nominate someone to serve. In the next issue, these names will appear on a ballot. Voting will take place the week of January 24-28. Results will be announced by February 1st and the new Board will be introduced in February's Town Hall meeting, hosted by the outgoing Board. Please get involved...or encourage someone to "step forward".

We are grateful to Brian and Molly Smith at 2702 W. Jetton, who are generously allowing us to use their property for two parties this month. Adults, mark your calendar (and schedule a babysitter) for October 23, 6:30 to 10:30. Jeff Mendenhall and Jody Haneke are coordinating a member benefit block party (corner of Jetton and Marti) featuring live music and great food. Our annual Halloween party for the kids will be 4 to 6 p.m., October 30 at the Smiths. (Please note the address correction.) We need volunteers with great ideas! Paula Meckley and I are coordinating with the Amaryllis Garden Circle to combine the lighting of the Luminarias on Sunday December 19th, with a Christmas caroler's "hay ride", a "Toys for Tots" toy drive, and best decorated house contest. Lot's to look forward to!

Best Regards,
Arthur Wood
2608 Jetton Ave
ajwood3@tampabay.rr.com



L. TO R. CAROLINE HARRIS, MIRANDA PARSONS, AND CARRIE PARSONS.

The UpBeat - By Stefani Busansky

Neighbor Kids Help Charley's Victims

2629 PROSPECT ROAD - When their teachers at Mitchell Elementary asked them to participate in "Bobcats to the Rescue" to help victims of Hurricane Charley, Carrie, 10, and Miranda Parsons, 7, and their friend, Caroline Harris, 7, took action. On a sweltering Sunday afternoon in late August they set up a lemonade stand featuring cookies, cupcakes, Kool-aid, water and the ever-popular pink lemonade. All menu items sold for 50 cents. Caroline was head cashier, Carrie hopped on her skateboard and carried a poster board advertising the sale while Miranda encouraged passersby to stop with the aid of her megaphone. Their parents, Marianne and Paul, never expected the girls to last more than an hour, but after almost four hours of business, they had collected \$208.10. I myself paid \$20 for a warm cup of lemonade and the priceless gift of inspiration from these thoughtful girls. The money was given to their teachers the next morning.

After seeing how much they raised, one of their teachers exclaimed, "Wow, what did you do to get this money?" They all said it made them feel great knowing they could help people less fortunate. We ended our interview with this question: If you had to evacuate during a hurricane and could only take one material possession, what would it be? Carrie said the scrapbook she is making with her friend, Gina, who was visiting with her the day of the interview. Miranda would take her American Girl doll; she thinks Caroline would take a Barbie. Gina said she would take the scrapbook she's been keeping since kindergarten. What would you take? By the way, these budding entrepreneurs have also written an NSB Kid Guide to Hurricanes. You may purchase a copy for only \$3.

Any neighbor who would like to write or contribute good news to the column is welcome. Please e-mail me at stefned@earthlink.net

What Makes the Amaryllis Garden Circle Grow?

By Michelle Monsein

Like a wild-willed passionflower, the NSB-based Amaryllis Garden Club shows no signs of slowing down in its 75th year. What feeds the deeply rooted 100 member strong group?

That depends on whom you ask. Most members, especially those to whom the “green thumb” was denied at birth, confess it is basically a social group, and a good way to visit with neighbors. Others embrace its nature-nurturing focus. Still, perhaps the secret of the garden club’s success is in recognizing that its membership’s interests are as diverse as wild flowers along a parkway.

To be sure, this year’s programming is not all green. The club invited landscape designer Lorie Larson of Wilson McClure to kick off the year with a presentation on landscaping, pools, outdoor furniture and iron gate works. Following fall wreath making in October and flower arranging in November, the group will literally focus inside in December by welcoming Jackie Walker, author of “I Don’t Have A Thing To Wear: The Psychology of Your Closet.” March’s meeting serves up a tasty visit from Let Them Eat Cake partners Michael Baugh and Mike Ostrander, formerly Donald Trump’s pastry chef (did “The Donald” fire him, too?). The duo will teach easy but amazing Easter desserts, according to Program Director Paula Meckley.

Still, some programs are, shall we say, perennials. All of NSB is invited to the “Sunset Stroll” Garden Tour, slated for April 3rd. In February, members get down and dirty planting spring flowers at the NSB Watrous entrance, a continuation of the beautification project launched in 2001 by member Bettie Nelson and completed last year. Determined to adorn the unsightly area under the Crosstown Expressway overpass, the garden circle worked with the city, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority to bring irrigation and new plantings to the area. The club raised about \$1,100 to buy the beautiful Italian-style fountain. A developer in the area donated the two bronze cranes that stand nearby.

Along with a sprinkling of voluntary landscaping projects, some of which date to the mid-70’s, and community outreach, often with nearby schools, the group provides physical and financial support through fundraising to the lovely Tampa Garden Club building on Bayshore Boulevard. The building serves as the headquarters for 21 garden circles that comprise the Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs and Circles.

And take pride NSB: Our neighborhood provides the largest membership in Tampa. For information, contact President Donna Land, 254-7726.

Reminders:

If you have a story idea or a great photo for the newsletter, contact Michelle Monsein at 258-9822 or mmonsein@earthlink.net.

Access our Handy Man and Baby Sitter lists online at www.nsb-tampa.org.

New Suburb Beautiful Board Members

President: Arthur Wood, 2608 W. Jetton, AJWOODIII@aol.com

Vice Pres: Jeff Mendenhall, 2528 W. Morrison, jeffm5555@aol.com

Secretary: Jody Haneke, 2716 W. Jetton, jhaneke@hanekedesign.com

Treasurer: Jeff Monsein, splatman@splatpaint.com, 813.253.3700

Co-Chair Block Captain Committee: Karen Heinberg, 2413 Sunset Drive, 251-1888 and Paula Meckley, 2715 Jetton Ave., 254-7553

THIS SATURDAY...

NSB Fall Block Party

October 23, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Corner of Jetton & Marti

A Free Event for NSB Association Members
Please schedule a baby-sitter. This is for adults only.
B.Y.O.B. (mixers provided)
Live Caribbean Steel Pan music, and BBQ by Roberts

Calling all Spooks! Come Have Fun! NSB Halloween Party

Saturday, October 30, 4 to 6 p.m.
2702 W. Jetton (corner of Jetton and Marti)

Featuring Face Painting, Costume Contest,
Yummy Treats, and More!

NSB Market Update by Larry and Janet Mendez, REALTORS Smith & Associates

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Making Cost-Effective Home Improvements

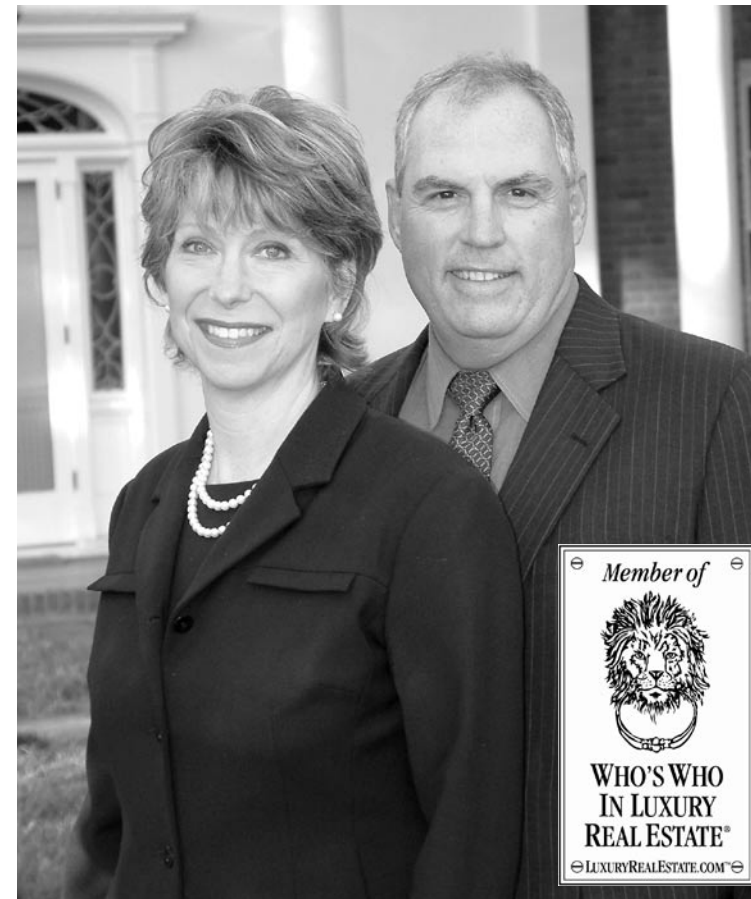
Homeowners walk a fine line when they plot improvements. Many upgrades improve the quality and livability of your home, but not necessarily the value. To retain your home’s value, a minimal investment is required for maintenance and to keep it somewhat up-to-date. Before you undertake any home-improvement project, assess what you want to improve and why.

If added value is your goal, look to a kitchen makeover, bath remodel, or room additions. While these improvements will likely help your home when it comes time to re-sell, you are not guaranteed a 100 percent recoup of your investment. Estimate that a kitchen improvement could return 95 percent of your investment.

Conversely, the addition of a swimming pool could bring 50 percent or less of a return. Why? Some people see it as something that requires more work to maintain than enjoyment, or they view it as a safety hazard to young children. Add a pool for your own personal enjoyment, and if you are planning on moving within two years, you might want to think twice.

Surprisingly, low cost projects can have the greatest cumulative affect on property value. New landscaping, painting, and necessary repairs usually provide a high rate of return.

Always beware of bad workmanship. An improvement done poorly can actually decrease the value of your home, especially in a historic neighborhood such as NSB.



Remember, it is the buyer who sets the value of your home. Unless they share your unique taste, you won’t get your money out of the project. If your home is already on par with others in your area, you are at a risk of over-improving. Neighborhood comps, such as those we spoke of in the last NSB newsletter, will likely have the greatest impact on the ultimate selling price.

Sometimes, the most financially prudent decision is to sell your home in its current state, and find a home with the qualities you want. Before you post the “For Sale” sign on your lawn, make sure your house is in tip-top order and has “curb appeal”. In the next issue of this newsletter, we’ll provide a “to-do list” of cost-effective measures designed to help you attract buyers, get top dollar on your home, and sell it quickly!



LEADING
REAL ESTATE
COMPANIES
OF THE WORLD

NSB Association wishes to thank Larry and Janet Mendez for sponsoring our newsletter for the coming year.