

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH JANUARY ARTICLE

By Ruth Werfel

DECEMBER 11 BOARD MEETING

Executive Director Ken Sheehan opened the meeting by introducing the new Directors (pictured last month) and emphasized one of the big accomplishments of the past year, which was to map villages that have a proximity to each other. Each group of villages will be designated a team, and each team will be under the jurisdiction of one of the Directors. These Directors will be contacting their village coordinators this month to introduce themselves and start planning team activities. The emphasis for the year will be to develop teamwork among the villages and have each team work as a unit to, for example, take on the responsibility for one of Neighborhood Watch's many activities throughout the year. Another first was the creation of a brochure for each Mailbox Captain to aid them in meeting new members and introducing them to Neighborhood Watch.

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Many Sun City residents are quick to respond to the needs of the Lincoln community, and I wish we had news of what the different villages are doing. But we do know of one such project: a Toy and Clothing Drive for Mustard Seed School & Children's Receiving Home. The former is a school for homeless children, about 25 of varying ages; and the latter is a home for abused and neglected children from unsafe homes with about 88 children ages 1-17. Peggy Perry, Village 25B, and the originator of the program four years ago, said the response this year was "wonderful." Each year her cadre of "elves" selects a group of villages to target for donations; this year the villages contacted were 41, 42 and 43. Next year a different area will be selected and, according to Peggy, people are always so willing to help. Last year the elves had a paper drive; this year they collected toys and clothes and it was their biggest year yet, according to Peggy.

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: Villages 41B & C held what has become their annual Christmas party at the Kilaga Springs Lodge on December 9th. Turkey, ham and dessert were provided, and potlucks contributed to what was a festive meal for all. Santa was there, of course, and guests brought donations of non-perishable food for the Kilaga food basket.

NEW DIRECTOR JOAN SCARPER is not only taking her place on the Board for the first time, but she is stepping in as Treasurer, replacing Barbara Moss, who will remain on the Board. Her involvement in Neighborhood Watch began as a trade-off: she needed some help in conveying a TV into her house, and a neighbor was looking for someone to replace him as Mailbox Captain, so the two swapped places: Joan got her TV moved and the neighbor turned over his duties to her. Joan is a native Californian, born in Berkeley, graduated from San Jose State and then entered a U.C. Extension Program to receive a certificate in Master Gardening. She moved to Sun City four years ago, and is now Membership Chair of the Garden Group here. She also served as Coordinator of Volunteers at Twelve Bridges Library for two years. So if you have questions about your flora and fauna, give Joan a call.

TIPS FROM THE LINCOLN POLICE: To keep your vehicle from becoming a prime target for thieves, the police suggest: 1) hide your garage door opener; 2) keep the car locked up; 3) don't leave

items lying around in the car such as purse, cell phone, briefcase, etc; items that you deem of no value, might still attract a thief's attention.

ANOTHER TIP: Be alert to strange trucks in your area. A neighbor observed a white rental truck circulating through her neighborhood, and someone from the truck rummaging through bags left out for pick-up. She called the organization for which the donations were intended and was told that its pick-up vehicles are clearly marked with their name. The police were alerted. If you observe anything similar try to get the license number.

ANOTHER COORDINATOR: Kathi Ridley is a new co-coordinator for Village 10. She joins her husband who is also a co-coordinator. Maybe this will be the year when one or more of you will give your village a coordinator!!! And a Very Happy New Year To All!