

Cypress Trails Neighborhood Watch Update

Team Introduction: over 75 years combined law enforcement and national security background

What we do: monitor assigned areas, identify suspicious activity, coordinate with neighbors; contact law enforcement (if needed); recommend *crime avoidance*; maintain NW accreditation

What we don't do: aggressively approach or detain; conduct investigations; carry weapons

Crime Status Report

- Nocatee very low crime vs. Surrounding Areas (e.g., Southside, St. Johns Town Center)
 - Note: Cypress Trails Park is responsibility of CDD (call 904-576-9164 to report property damage or parking violation; or call JSO to report disturbance)
 - JSO website provides crime statistics with interactive mapping tool
 - Local trends? Vehicle break-ins, shoplifting, hit-and-run; many golf cart & biking accidents with underage drivers/riders (some resulting in fatalities!)
- Bigger Picture, Recent Developments:
 - JSO Sheriff T.K. Waters: tough on crime, supported by mayor & city council; visited our neighborhood with many of his staff on May 4, 2024
 - Mutual Aid Agreement between JSO & St. Johns County Sheriffs Office (e.g., 911)
 - Community-based policing works!
 - National trends: increased drug-related deaths, robberies, human/sex trafficking, assault, esp. w/ organized crime (e.g., MS-13, Venezuelan immigrant gangs)

Recommendations/Best Practices

- Neighborhood Watch is more effective with broad participation of residents!
- Important phone numbers: emergency (911), and non-emergency JSO (904-630-0500)
- Prevent crime by doing following:
 - *Get to know and watch out for your neighbors; be aware of surroundings!*
 - Perform "9:00 routine" – ensure doors/windows locked, outdoor lights on, etc.
 - Install Ring (similar) video doorbells, network w/security cameras & cell phones
 - Minimize parking on street, always lock doors; hide or remove valuables
 - Keep garage doors closed unless in use or within line-of-sight
 - Bring phone – *and a friend!* – on neighborhood walks
 - While on vacation: submit mail hold (USPS on-line), leave on porch/garage lights & some indoors; but *don't* leave trash bins on curb for days
 - Report street lights out to JEA (904-665-6250), or w/map-based tool on website: https://www.jea.com/manage_my_account/report_an_outage/OutageReporting/Streetlight
 - Be cautious with on-line sales: meet in public area along with a friend (e.g., Nocatee Visitors Center or store parking lot)

Reporting/observation: Who, What, When, & Where -- For 911 calls, be concise!

Example #1 – Suspicious Person Loitering:

- Who: Caucasian male, approx. 6 ft, 180-190 lb, brown hair, 30-40 yrs. old
- What: soliciting/loitering (knocking on doors, looking in windows, wandering in street)
- When: Saturday morning (mid-Feb.), around 10-10:30 AM
- Where: Gray Wolf Trail near White Marsh Dr
- Result: Tom C. notified person re: No Soliciting posted, visited NW Team Lead in person; guidance – continue to observe, do not confront, call JSO non-emergency if persistent

Example #2 – Wrecked Car:

- Who: Caucasian male, 18-19 yrs. old, lives with CT resident
- What: abandoned vehicle, driver had hit curb and wrecked front axle, possible DWI???
- When: early Saturday morning (late-Jan.)
- Where: Cypress Trails Dr adjacent to second retention pond
- Result: reported to JSO, they relayed to towing company; spoke with owner

Example #3 – Missing Vehicle (that wasn't):

- Who: relative of neighbors that were on a cruise
- What: *posted on Facebook* that (company-marked) vehicle was stolen, owners away
- When: mid-March
- Where: from in front of the residence
- Result: spoke w/nearby neighbors, reviewed security cam footage, researched company, notified relative that co-worker had picked up the vehicle

Miscellaneous

- **Consider compiling voluntary database of homeowners with security cameras (???)**
- Notified CDD re: two overhead lights out, on Valley Ridge off of Nocatee Pkwy. (fixed)
- Please do not park cars across sidewalks: blocks pedestrians w/dogs, elderly, etc.
- Be considerate and trim trees over your sidewalk (some walkers are over 6-ft tall!)
- Trash pickup: Mondays; Recycling: every other Tuesday (e.g., Oct. 1)
- Any questions? Volunteers? Text or call Joe I. at 571-213-7786