

Neighborhood Watch Committee
Monday, March 30, 2015
2:00 PM
Fellowship Hall, 817 Sky Valley Way

SUMMARY

Chairman Platt called the meeting to order.

Platt introduced Sheriff Frank Andrews.

Mayor Goodgame thanked Sheriff Andrews for coming to the meeting. He said that he thinks this is a great community program and cited the example of a recent burglary discovered by a neighbor calling in suspicious activity to the police.

Guest presenters at the meeting:

Sheriff Frank Andrews

Mike Brady – Deputy & Member of the Sheriff's Auxilory

Lieutenant Mark Gerrells

Neighborhood Watch Website: www.rabunneighborhoodwatch.org

Brady gave a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

- It provides a formal training program that helps the community know what to do when – if they should call the local police department or 911.
- Citizens should not take action – problems should be reported to emergency/police to respond.
- The membership information is held at the County level. Members and their contact information is not distributed to any outside agencies.

If Sky Valley decides to create a Neighborhood Watch, we will need to complete paperwork, hold a meeting and appoint our liaison. There is one hour of required training for members of the Neighborhood Watch.

Deputy Brady also mentioned that there are 29 different training programs available such as first aid training. He discussed the Community Emergency Response Team – C.E.R.T. training and explained that this allows us to be better prepared in a natural disaster type event.

Questions

Helen Kleiber asked about putting decals on vehicles for homeowner identification.

Brady said anything that helps identify residents is a good idea.

Lieutenant Gerrells said that the best thing people can do is get to know their neighbors and their area so they can recognize if something is different or out of place. The Sky Valley Police Department is a huge asset to the city and we have well trained, seasoned officers.

Andrews said that this program creates a great opportunity for the residents to work with the police department adding that Sky Valley is a very special place because the community is willing to work together.

Sheriff Andrews said that he has been asked if some cities would be better without their police departments, giving Mountain City as an example. He said that the Sheriff's Department only has so many officers on the road at a time and the Sheriff's Office and local department work together. Especially in remote areas like Sky Valley, the police can respond much faster.

Lieutenant Gerrells said that Sky Valley is a "target rich" environment because so many houses are unattended.

Mayor Goodgame asked about drugs in Rabun County. Sheriff Andrews said that Rabun County a much lower drug problem and people in jail than surrounding counties.

Kathy Turner asked about a gate out Evergreen. City Manager Lapeyrouse said that that area is private property and we would have to work with the property owner about having a gate there.

Committee Chairman Platt thanked Chief Dills, Officer Edwards, City Manager Lapeyrouse, and City Clerk Cantrell for their work on the meeting and being present.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Mandi Cantrell, City Clerk