



# THE LAGUNA GREENS GUARDIAN



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**The Laguna Greens Guardian** is published bi-monthly by the Laguna Greens Neighborhood Watch, Inc.  
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE ORGANIZATION!



The Laguna Greens Guardian is the official publication of Laguna Greens Neighborhood Watch, Inc.



### FALL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2006 JEANNIE WOMACK PARK

Michael Jones commenced the meeting at 4:00pm. In attendance were: Denise Costello, Crime Prevention Specialist, Elk Grove Police Department, Walt Arndt, Ruby Melton-McCray, Betty Hughes, Cameron McDonald, Elk Grove Citizen newspaper, Anabel Crouch, Dan Walsh, Michael Gandy, Todd Eberle, Cave & Cheryl Forbes, Louaida Martin and Amy Labowitch. Michael welcomed everyone. Anabel read the previous meeting Minutes. Todd motioned to accept as read and, Michael Gandy 2<sup>nd</sup>. Michael read the Treasurer's report. July ending balance was \$1217.48. Expenses were National Night Out \$234.59 and our current balance is \$950.46. Todd motioned to accept Treasure's report and Louaida 2<sup>nd</sup>. Michael discussed Identity Theft. Be conscious of where you give out your personal information. Everyone is encouraged to purchase and use a shredder in their homes. Our next activity is the Winterfest Christmas home light decoration contest. Supervisor Don Nottoli will continue as judge. Michael introduced Denise Costello, Crime Prevention Specialist. Denise commended Laguna Greens Neighborhood Watch saying ours is one of the most successful groups and that we make the program shine. Upcoming changes in the police department. include a Beat Program. The city has been divided in to zones and beats. Ours is Zone 2, Beat 2103. Each Beat is assigned two Officers, one day shift and one swing shift. These Beat Officers in addition to regular duties will get to know their areas and the people in their areas. They will hold two meetings a year discussing what is happenings in the beat and neighborhoods. We will be provided with their cell phone #'s and a direct e-mail address. This will hopefully start after the first of the year. EGPD has created a street racing video which is currently being edited. This

will hopefully be out in October and the plan is that it be shown at schools, teen center, and will run in some businesses for example, on the pump at gas stations, in the check out line at the grocery store, in banks while waiting for tellers.

The City of Elk Grove will conduct a Disaster Preparedness program hosted at the First Baptist Church on Stockton Blvd. on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 7pm-9pm. Marketplace 99 will host a Kids Safety Fair on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. There will be a costume contest, finger printing, and much, much more. On August 28<sup>th</sup> the Elk Grove Communication Center went live. The goal is to answer every call in three rings. Those answering the calls are also doing the dispatching coupled with the new GPS system results are shorter response time. 911 calls made from home are answered by the Communication Center. 911 calls made from cell phones are routed through the bay area. The EG non emergency number 916-714-5115 is manned 24/7. Questions and Answers:

Cheryl - Now that ours is a larger neighborhood, how do we get to know our neighbors, is this a safe place?  
Denise - It's O.K. to knock on doors. Host an ice cream social. EG is still a very safe place. We do not have any more crime than anywhere else.  
Cheryl - We have #290 registrants in our neighborhood, (Megan's Law).  
Denise - You need to be very careful about sharing information you find on the web. Suggest to your neighbors that they also look up information but you may not share the information you find. Detective Terrance Chen is the proper place to take concerns regarding #290 registrants.  
Todd - Do we have bicycle officers in Elk Grove?  
Denise - Yes, and they do give tickets to autos.  
Todd - We have had problems with cars being stripped, broken in to in our neighborhood.  
Louaida - Our van was broken in to around 9-9:30pm while it was parked in the driveway. We called the non-emergency number and it took quite a long time for the police to respond.  
Denise - Yes. Elk Grove is currently having a lot of car break-ins where garage door openers are being stolen. If you must park your car in the driveway, bring the garage door opener in with you.

Michael Gandy – Friday and Saturday evenings kids park their cars on the street on the side of my home. They smoke pot in their cars and walk through the park around 11 and 12 at night.

Denise – It's O.K. to let them know that you see them but don't confront them.

Call the emergency number. We conducted a curfew sweep last night and only picked up three kids. We will watch out for your street.

Todd – What is the law regarding RVs parked on the streets?

Denise – RVs are allowed to be parked in front of a residence for loading and unloading purposes for a maximum time of 72 hours. It is illegal for them to be lived in on the street.

Todd – Lights in the park are not being repaired/replaced.

Denise – CSD contracts with SMUD regarding these lights.

Michael thanked Denise, neighbors and adjourned the meeting at 4:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Anabel Crouch, Secretary

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS MEETING

The City of Elk Grove Police Department Neighborhood Watch Coordinators Quarterly meeting was held Wednesday, September 6, 2006. The following is a summary of the meeting. Denise Costello, Crime Prevention Specialist conducted the meeting. Denise discussed the Beat/Neighborhood Program. We will be in Zone 2, Beat 2103 with two Elk Grove Police Officers assigned that will be assigned Day Shift – 6am to 3pm and Swing Shift 3pm to Midnight. The objective is to have the officer become a fixture in the area assigned and get to know the members of the area very well. We will work together to come up with solutions to problems. Also, we will get a chance to meet the two assigned Beat Officers at our 2007 Spring Meeting.

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Are you prepared for a disaster? A free Disaster Preparedness Workshop was held Thursday, October 5 at the First Baptist Church in Elk Grove. There were Speakers and displays by the

American Red Cross Sacramento Sierra Chapter, Elk Grove CSD Fire Department and Elk Grove Police Department. The guest speakers discussed the difference between being a victim and a responder. **Christy Woods, Community Training Specialist American Red Cross** discussed five actions for emergency preparedness: 1) make a plan – prepare for fire and flood; 2) build a kit – last for 2 weeks, water, food, radio, etc.; 3) get training – First Aid, CPR; 4) volunteer – help out Red Cross, information booths at fairs; and 5) give blood.

**John Michelini, Battalion Chief, Elk Grove Fire Dept.** discussed how the fire department is preparing for a disaster. We have six fire stations in Elk Grove with 36 personal at each station. They have a mutual aid agreement with the State OES, law enforcement and with LA or SF if we need help. Earthquake is the #1 problem in Sacramento area. We need to be educated and prepared with how to secure water, gas and electric lines. Emergency Broadcast Station is [www.edis.ca.gov](http://www.edis.ca.gov)

Prepare 72 hour kit with essentials, water, first aid, food, etc. Also, sanitation supplies, tools, cooking, safety and comfort. John also discussed Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), Evacuation, Shelter in Place that means stay inside, select a small interior room, with no or few windows and take refuge there and EDITH –Exit Drill in the home. Be Safe –Prepare.

**Sergeant Paul Kent, Sacramento Regional Office Homeland Security** discussed Evacuation – everyone has to leave their residence. No re-entry to the neighborhood will be allowed until the evacuation/quarantine is lifted. Have a “Back Pack”, keep in vehicle, not in trunk. Be prepared at home and work. Decontamination (DECON) 90% survivability rate if you are immediately treated medically and physically. Elk Grove has DECON facility for Fire Department.

**Denise Costello, Crime Prevention Specialist, Elk Grove Police Dept.** discussed Safety Tips, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and SAFE Return Program. Do you know what resources are in your neighborhood, e.g., nurse, fireman, etc.? Visit department website. Be proactive!

### ELK GROVE POLICE DEPT.

Visit the website for “Crime Prevention Tips” documents and “Online Reporting” at the Elk Grove Police Department. <http://www.elkgrovepd.org>

### WINTERFEST 2006

We will continue our Christmas light decoration contest for Best Decorated, Most Creative, Most Original and Honorable Mention on **Saturday, December 16, 2006 6:30pm. Watch for more information in November.** Prizes are awarded. Start Planning. Let's make this year even more creative, decorative and festive.

### HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- Wear bright or reflective clothing when walking, jogging or riding bicycles at night.
- Avoid the holiday rush – shop early and during the day!
- Remember to make your home secure and appear lived in.
- Don't place purchases in your trunk and then leave to purchase more. Move your car. There are criminals watching and can get into trunks quickly and easily.
- Use the buddy system – shop with a friend..

### HAVE A HAPPY & SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Thanks to **John Joseph, Marcus, and Teresa Anne Bello, Patrick Crouch, and Bogdan, Boguslaz, Radimar Mandzyuk and Lori, Chris, Brea, Becky Murakami** for their assistance in distributing newsletters!



### INFORMATION FOR DONORS

The Laguna Greens Neighborhood Watch, Inc. is an IRS recognized 501-©(3) tax-exempt not-for-profit charity. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. The contributions are used for educational materials, public activities and supplies.

**A Happy  
New  
Year!**