

"Neighborhood Representatives" Transitioning to "Neighborhood Watch"

By Monica Nathan, Co-Chair, Traffic and Safety Committee

I would like to thank all of those who over the years have served as neighborhood representatives for their efforts to improve the quality of life for Forest residents. New situations and new concerns can lead to new opportunities. This is definitely the case with the Neighborhood Representatives Committee of DMFPO.

Enter a new focus.

The changing concerns to which I refer are related to personal and property safety. The quality of life survey done several years ago by DMFPO cited road safety issues as the major concern at that time. Additional police presence on the part of the California Highway Patrol has significantly reduced instances of excessive speed and other vehicle-related hazards.

The most frequently voiced concerns by Forest residents are now related to the possibility of crime posing a danger to people and property. As a result of the DMFPO Board addressing the concerns, it decided to shift the committee's focus to facilitating Neighborhood Watch (NW) groups under the auspices of the Traffic and Safety Committee. Based on signs in the residential areas, my own included, there are or have been NW's in the Forest for some time. Your Board is going on record as actively supporting this initiative.

Getting a NW group started in your neighborhood is simple:

- Talk to your nearby neighbors. Please note that although this is a DMFPO initiative, your neighbors include tenants as well as resident property owners who may not be DMFPO members.
- Identify a group of 5-10 adjacent or close-by households interested in participating.
- Identify several possible day/time opportunities to meet, as well as a location.

- Notify me by phone (831-373-3610 = home phone with 1-minute voice mail; keep calling if you need more time ☺), fax (831-373-3610) or mail jcbstdtr@sbcglobal.net.



- I will coordinate an information meeting with a representative from the Sheriff's office. This will take ~90 min, and does not entail a commitment on anyone's part.

- As the groups are formed you will see the benefits of getting into the NW program! You're on your way to a more connected, safer neighborhood.

I will attend as many start-up meetings as I can, schedule additional meetings with Sheriff's Office personnel as needed, and explore starting a support group for NW organizers, if interest exists.

The flow of communication, seen by many as a purpose of the NW program, is still in place. Any DMFPO member can contact any Board member with an individual or group concern, bring that concern to the appropriate committee or come to committee or board meetings to voice their concerns directly. Please see the DMFPO newsletter or website (<http://www.dmfpo.com>) for contact info.

Additional information sources:

- For more information on NW in general <http://www.usaonwatch.org/about/neighborhoodwatch.aspx>
- To find out about reported crime in your area: click on <http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/sheriff/>, and select the Crime Reports icon on the upper left side of the home page. Plug in your address, select a time period and define what crimes you wish to track.

I look forward to hearing from you.

- Monica