

Area Coordinators and Block Captains with Woodlake's Neighborhood Watch program met with Durham Police on October 18. This report summarizes the discussions at the meeting.

Crime Update:

Almost all of the crime reports in Woodlake since the start of 2018 have been thefts from unlocked cars. This problem is occurring throughout the Triangle area. It is believed that either an individual or a group of individuals is walking through the neighborhood looking for money and electronics (cell phones, laptops, etc) in cars. Remember to keep your car locked and do not leave valuables where they can be seen. A block captain noted that his homeowner's insurance would replace items stolen from his car only when it is parked on his property and does not cover his car if it is parked on the street.

The decrease in crime related to houses is thought to result from the increased use of home security systems and cameras. If you have a system, please use and continue to use it!

Durham Police Update:

Officer Curtis Knight with Durham Police provided crime prevention tips and passed out flyers (these flyers are posted on the Woodlake website under Neighborhood Watch). He noted that crime occurs when the perpetrator has desire, skill, and opportunity. Our job is to reduce the opportunities for crime.

- If something is suspicious to you, call 911. You are not bothering the police when you call. They want to hear from us.
- With the increased delivery of packages by UPS, Amazon, and others, 'porch pirates' driving through neighborhood looking for delivery trucks and packages on porches have become a significant problem. If you will be away, ask a neighbor to be on the lookout for packages being delivered or have them sent to the neighbor.
- If you are at the mall and want to put packages in your car before doing more shopping, move your car to another location. Thieves may be watching for package drop-offs and may break into your car after you go back to do more shopping.
- Put your car registration somewhere other than the glove box. Thieves who get in your car can use the car registration information to steal your identity.

Block Captain Notes:

A number of streets in the Forest Ridge area do not currently have Block Captains. If you know someone who lives in that area who would like to help, send an email to watch@woodlakecommunity.com.

If a crime happens to you or a neighbor, call 911 and send an email to watch@woodlakecommunity.com.

Neighborhood Watch would like to welcome new residents soon after they move in, through a visit by either their Block Captain or other volunteers. Block Captains should contact their Area Coordinator if they need welcome bags or need help making visits.

Block Captains should update their neighbor contact lists and provide a copy to their Area Coordinator.

Thanks to all who help keep Woodlake safe!!!