

Minutes of the October 18, 2011 LONA Neighborhood Meeting

1. Our guest speaker was Officer Joe Hebbe, Senior Police Officer and District Representative for the Adam 3 area (which includes LONA). Further information on our APD area and contact information for Officer Hebbe is on the LONA website at http://www.laurel-oaks.org/APD_Alerts.php

Crime statistics for our area to date since January 1, 2011:

- assaults – 9, can include verbal assault, physical assault, arrest involved or not, family violence
- burglary (usually breaking and entering, taking property) – 12 of residence, 3 non-residence (probably businesses)
- robbery – of vehicles = 11
- criminal mischief including vandalism and tagging (usually paint) of a car or house – 10
- disturbances – 6, could include quarrels between neighbors
--- 24 family disturbances documented, no assault filed
- disorderly conduct – 1
- indecent exposure – 1
- robbery threat – 1 at a bank
- suspicious persons – 3
- other crime statistics are related to businesses

Burglary of vehicles is usually stealing what can be seen. Hide your valuables. Officer Hebbe stressed this is especially important during the upcoming holiday seasons. Other tips: Keep garage doors shut. Keep vehicles locked. Mark your property to help cut down on theft.

When to call 311 vs. 911:

If you are in doubt, call 911. If the situation is not urgent, your call will be transferred to 311.

If an event has already occurred, call 311. 311 will document the event. Give as much information as possible.

Compared to other parts of the city, the Adam 3 area has very good statistics.

Train the Trainers program replaces the Neighborhood Watch program.

There are 3 steps in the program:

Bring the people together.

Learn how to ‘harden the target’. In other words, how to make the neighborhood and homes less inviting to crime.

A speaker. An example of a speaker from a past training is a 311 operator.

Further information on the LONA website at

http://www.laurel-oaks.org/Neighborhood_Watch.php

Further information on the Train the Trainers program at

http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/downloads/region2_trainthetrainer_flyer2011.pdf

Call City of Austin Code Compliance for non-criminal complaints.
Code compliance covers land development, land use, and land maintenance.
Check out the link: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/code/compliance/default.htm>

Questions and Answers:

- Call 311 for requests for speed bumps, street signs, and street problems.
- A speed cart is available for temporary placement on streets that displays to drivers the speed limit and how fast they are going.
- Streets can be surveyed for speed, trucks, etc.
- The traffic department will work with the police department as needed on these issues.

2. Election of officers. No nominations received. The current panel of officers continues.

3. Treasurer's report.

4. Reminder: There are no dues for the neighborhood association. Donations are appreciated. A donation form is included in most newsletters or mail donations to LONA, P.O. Box 201454, Austin, Texas 78720-1454.

5. National Night Out was held on Tuesday, October 4. Some attendees reported on events they attended which involved local neighbors getting together.

6. Upcoming events:

- Halloween parade, Saturday October 29, 4:00 – 5:30 PM.

Parade starts near the flagpole at Kathy Caraway Elementary School. The parade follows the Oak View Park Trail to the Oak View Park pavilion for lights snacks, lemonade, water, games and coloring.

- Caraway Elementary Harvest Festival, Saturday, November 5, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM.

LONA neighborhood residents invited to attend.

Note: The date was changed from Sunday, November 6.

The October newsletter has the correct date at the beginning of the Harvest Festival information, but the date was not changed to November 5th at the end of the article in the information 'We look forward to seeing you.....'

7. Donations for the pets at the Town Lake Animal Shelter were accepted at the meeting. If you have a donation, please email the LONA Board at LONA_Board@laurel-oaks.org to coordinate pick up.

8. Interest in a neighborhood watch program was discussed. A request for volunteers to lead the effort will be posted to the LONA Yahoo! group or if you are interested, contact the board at LONA_Board@laurel-oaks.org

9. If you are on a heavily traveled street and wouldn't mind LONA neighborhood signs announcing LONA events and meetings being temporarily placed in your yard, please contact the board at LONA_Board@laurel-oaks.org or post a message on the LONA Yahoo group.

10. Question: Is there active oak wilt in the neighborhood? No information was known on this topic. There was oak wilt in the neighborhood about 15 years ago. An oak wilt speaker is a possibility for the next general meeting.

11. There was low attendance at this meeting and the neighborhood meeting in March. A survey may be used to gather topics of interest to the neighborhood for presentation at neighborhood meetings.

12. A Facebook page for the neighborhood was suggested by a resident. There wasn't interest with the meeting attendees on pursuing this. The Yahoo group can be used for communication.

--- Submitted by Diane Willis, LONA Secretary, October 19, 2011
Minutes are available at <http://laurel-oaks.org/minutes.php>.