

Beware of Roosters

The night of our last Board meeting I was in a hurry to leave my house to get to Del Prado when I opened my front door and there was rooster strutting and crowing like he owned the place. I tried to shoo him away, but he seemed to enjoy his moment of trespassing. He cocked his head and gave me a beady eye while he pranced in circles. I had no time to waste so I drove off leaving him to his pecking and strutting. When I got home later that night he was gone and I thought that was the last I would see of him.

Once in a while Del Prado has a trespasser and unfortunately trespassers can also commit crimes. Most recently we had a rash of car break-ins where car windows were smashed and items were stolen. We took action and reinstated our Neighborhood Watch.

Neighborhood Watch is a national organization that offers organizational guidelines for a community to establish their own awareness program. It involves community contact via email blasts, phone trees, calls for service to the police and generally being aware of the happenings in our area. On August 24 Officer Mario Molina spoke to our Del Prado residents about how to prevent crime in our area. His suggestions were:

- Don't be afraid to report someone. Most break-ins occur during the day while people are at work.
- Notify police using 911 for known trespassers or (805) 388-5100 for a non-emergency call.
- Pay attention and familiarize yourself with your neighbors and know when a stranger is uninvited.
- When possible use your phone to get pictures of licenses, car description, etc.
- Install security cameras in your home. They are inexpensive and highly effective.
- Join **Nextdoor.com** to keep in touch with our neighborhood. Post-suspicious behavior so your neighbors can be aware.

Officer Molina recounted that Camarillo is heavily police enforced, especially during the daytime hours. Response times on a 911 call averages less than four minutes. However, he encouraged our residents to be aware and take action when there is unusual activity because that is the best prevention from crime. Neighborhood Watch works because it reduces crimes before they occur.

Another tip from the police department is Vacation Check. When you go on vacation, call the police department and let them know the dates you will be gone and if anyone else will be checking on your house. The Citizens Patrol will come by your house everyday Monday through Friday to check on locked doors and windows.

Let's keep the "roosters" out of our neighborhood. Don't allow the trespassers to their own devices. As a diligent cohesive community we can make it safer for all of us.

Yours truly,

Lita Starr, President

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P.S. The rooster is still strutting around the neighborhood, jumping fences and making himself right at home.