

HIDEAWAY HEADLINES

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SPECIAL JULY 2001 THE WORK BEGINS

The next HCA Board meeting is Monday August 13, 2001 at 9842 Rainleaf CT 7:30PM

Item 1: HIDEAWAY CRIME

While King's Contrivance in general and The Hideaway in particular are safe places, over the last few months there have been 8 instances of Breaking & Entering, Vandalism and a car theft in the community. They have occurred in all parts of the neighborhood - usually during weekday afternoons. So far these crimes have only been property crimes. As traumatic as these can be to the victims, we are fortunate that no resident has been injured.

To change the perception that The Hideaway is an easy place to go stealing, we've solicited advice and assistance from the Police Dept.

Their advice:

- **Be Aware of Your Surroundings.** If anything or anyone looks out of the ordinary. Take note of the time of day and write down descriptions. Tell a neighbor, who can do the same. Then call the police. Tell the police what you see, what appears wrong and advise them we have had a series of thefts. **Do not confront anyone you suspect of wrongdoing.**
- **Lock Your Doors At All Times** One thief walked in through an open front door and walked out with a computer. Use the deadbolt, if you have a keyed deadbolt, do not leave the keys in the lock; a thief will reach in, turn the key and is easily inside.
- **Keep Valuables Out of View and Out of Easy Reach.** In one instance a purse was seen through a window, the thief broke a window, reached in and took the purse.
- **If you need a little exercise, and who among us doesn't, walk around the neighborhood.**

Get to know your neighbors, their kids, and their friends. You'll have a better idea who belongs and who doesn't. You'll also meet a lot of really nice folks. Visible people act as a deterrent to crime

- **If you hear a knock at the door, let them know you're home.** If you feel safe about it, answer the door, if the story doesn't make sense - call the police. If you don't feel right about answering the door, make a little noise, turn a radio on, or do something to let whoever is at the door know that there are people at home. The thieves knocked on doors during the day to see what houses were empty.
- **Keep Your Ground Level Window Blinds and Sliding Glass Door Curtains Closed.** It's more difficult to tell if someone is home or not, if you can't see inside.
- **If You See Someone Who Appears to be a Lookout or Testing Car or Home Doors and Windows** they're probably not from Consumer's Reports - **Call the police**
- **Make Arrangements With Your Neighbors To Pick up Newspapers and Collect the Mail If You Will Be Out of Town -Even Only Overnight** leave a light or two on in the house.

Their assistance:

The Howard County Police have increased patrols in the area and taken some other actions that we hope will deter crime and apprehend the thieves.

That being said, since we can't have an officer in front of every house 24/7, in the end it's up to the Community to look after itself. If we look out for each other, our presence should deter most crime. Isolation breeds and encourages criminal activity. We need to make sure that not one of the people in these 167 units feels alone.

**Aug 7 is National Night Out Against Crime
Turn your house lights on and be out there!!**

Item 2:Exterior Paint Availability

Home Depot on Snowden River Pkwy has matched our current approved exterior colors. The numbers will shortly be on file in their paint dept. If you are in immediate need of those numbers call Mike Lebe.301-725-5027

Item3:Architectural Review

Over the next few weeks a subcommittee will be walking through the community reviewing all units for compliance with the King's Contrivance and Hideaway Architectural Covenants. Notices of non-compliance will be sent to the homeowners and a copy to the KC RAC. Non-compliance with the covenants may prevent the sale of a home. Please fix your fences, paint your exterior trim if necessary, do not encroach on community or CA land and remove any playground equipment or recreational vehicles from the common areas. If you have questions, call Fred at 301-498-4461.

Item4:Parking Lot Striping

All red Fire Lane curbs, where parking is prohibited & violators will be ticketed, and parking space stripes will be repainted in the next 4-5 weeks. We will give about a two-week notice. On the day of the striping, please move your cars out of the Hideaway. Advance notices will be delivered .

Item5:Assessments

If you are past due in paying the assessment. Please save yourself the additional fees and pay as soon as possible.

Item 7: Tree Pruning

Community trees will also be pruned this summer.

Item 8:Social Events

Mark **Friday August 31** on your calendar. The End of Summer Party will be held that evening. More information to come. Also **Maggi Lewis** has discount movie tickets available for purchase.

Item 9: More Theft: Unfortunately, one of our neighbors is stealing plants from the entrance flower beds - I'm sure it's a misunderstanding- These were purchased for the whole community to enjoy and didn't just grow there. The resident was seen and identified, please return and replant them or you will be billed. Thank You

LAST THINGS

I'll keep this short. This was a very business oriented newsletter. We can always use some extra help in doing the Architectural Reviews, working on parties, or any other projects you might like to do. Newcomers to The Hideaway, whether owners or renters are always welcome at the meetings. I normally keep them under 90 minutes. So stop in and introduce yourselves.

Thanks for reading
Fred Niziol
President

2001-2002 Board of Directors

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