

Here are the minutes from our last Community Council meeting:

The minutes were read, approved, and seconded.

**Cabana Club:** Nothing new to report. Candy Caballero is helping the board apply for 501c3 status. We're hoping to use that status to gain forgiveness of back taxes. It's a long process. We'll keep you posted.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Marcy Howes gave a wonderful presentation on neighborhood watch in our area. She pointed out that there are two areas that are currently organized with a neighborhood watch. These are within the 13th and 15th ward boundaries. RaeLynne Harper-Smith and John Hughes are the leaders respectively.

Marcy explained that a good precursor to starting a neighborhood watch in your neighborhood is just to have more neighborhood activities so everyone can get to know their neighbors.

Mr Burgess stated that there is a lady in the Meadowbrook Condominium complex that has started a neighborhood watch group. He said they've had a lot of problems over there and they're working really hard and getting organized. Mr Burgess will ask them to come and report at our next community council meeting.

Marcy spoke about an excellent neighborhood watch manual that she found online that has quite a few links to helpful sites people can go to, to help them get their neighborhood watch organized. On the website it also lists 5 steps to starting your neighborhood watch:

1. Recruit & Organize Neighbors.
2. Include Local Law Enforcement.
3. Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan.
4. Hold regular meetings - get to know all of your neighbors.
5. Implement a phone tree or email tree.

Mr Burgess stated that email is a wonderful resource for things like this. He said that we need to get a hold of all of the neighborhood emailers and develop a network in our community so that we can send out information. He cautioned that we need to keep the emails informative.

Marcy explained that a phone tree used to be the way to go, but now so many people are on email and have their own little networks, we would love to use networks that are already existing to be able to contact everyone and let them know about events, crime, etc that is happening in the neighborhood.

Marcy then issued a challenge to everyone in our community council area: If there isn't an organized neighborhood watch on your street or in your area, consider volunteering to be the captain to get it started. Hand out fliers to all of your neighbors that say "I'd like to start a neighborhood watch", invite neighbors to your home to see if they're interested and to work together on getting a neighborhood watch set up.

John Hughes, captain of the 15th ward neighborhood watch provided us with a map that was nicely divided into areas with names of block captains in those areas. Marcy showed it to the group. Marcy said that she had also seen a similar map in the 13th ward that was divided up into 27 captains and each captain was responsible for getting to know everyone in their area. They also hand out emergency preparedness packets to new move-ins. Marcy showed us the packet and explained all of the sheets that were included in it.

Candy said that she was reading online about the purpose of a neighborhood watch: 1. Crime prevention, 2. Emergency preparedness, and 3. Getting to know our neighbors. Candy stated that she feels this priority list is upside down - that getting to know your neighbors should come first. That way in an emergency situation you would know who has special needs and who has items that they can help others with.

Candy said her husband is working on a large map of the entire area, color coding all of the homes in the neighborhood to depict where we have neighborhood watch areas, people with special needs, etc. That way people will be able to look at the map and see who needs help the most. She said this map should be kept in our community so we're aware of who lives where and will be better able to help others.

Anne Lies Perkins told us about her neighborhood and how they used to have a great neighborhood watch and they got to know everyone. She still has contact with some of the good friends she made during that time. At night they would group into pairs and drive around the patrol the golf course, their neighborhood, and even the retail areas. Thanks to these patrols she knows crime went down in their area. Bad individuals knew they were out watching them, and they didn't come back to the area. They didn't have block captains - just volunteers. The program just dried up after a while.

Marcy said that it's time to pick it back up again!

Anne Lies also said they had signs made up to go on their cars so that the police would know who they were. (They decided on this idea after being pulled over by a policeman that was wondering what they were up to).

Marcy made some suggestions for small things we all can do to get to know our neighbors and get started talking about neighborhood watch: We can start small with maybe one block party each year. She also relayed the idea that the 13th ward does every thanksgiving: The block captains go around to the people they are in charge of to practice making sure they're OK, and then collect food to take to the food bank. They make it a fun event for everyone - while still practicing their emergency preparedness system.

In Marcy's circle they have a big BBQ whenever someone new moves in. She said you can do fun, little events to get to know your neighbors and make our community better.

Candy would like to see all of the streets on our map filled in with block captains. She suggested that as each group gets organized, that they call and let herself or Marcy know so they can fill in the map so we know which areas need more help.

**City Wide Clean Up Projects:** Michelle lead a discussion and asked for some ideas for the Taylorsville City Wide Clean Up that is scheduled for April 26th. At our last Community council meeting we had a few ideas brought forward: The YMCA was having a Kid's Fair that morning and could use volunteers to clean up litter and help set up tables, the YMCA is also starting a community garden and could use volunteer help getting it started that day, someone had also suggested cleaning up the Family Dollar as it is routinely trashy and messy. Today a few more items were mentioned: Cleaning graffiti off the long, white fence to the north of the elementary school, the grassy area south of the junior high could be cleaned up, cleaning up 4100 S east of Redwood where there is a lot of litter and trash, both sides of 4700 south could be cleaned up and trash picked up, also maybe older residents in the neighborhood could use some help with yard work or bush trimming.

Mr Burgess also let everyone know that the city was holding service projects at city hall that morning that we could participate in, helping to recycle electronics, and other things. He also offered to check and see if we could get access to dumpsters for our cleanup project. He said that sometimes we can use people from the jail to come and help with these kinds of projects also.

**COMMUNICATION:** We now have a Facebook page and a Google Group. We will send out invites to everyone whose email address we have so they can join the Google group if they would like.

**SNOW DAY PARKING ORDINANCE:** Candy and Mr Burgess reported on the city council meeting where the parking ordinance was voted on. Candy voiced her displeasure with how the proceedings went. She stated that John Taylor the city manager announced that the consensus was that everyone wanted there to be no parking on the street until it was cleared. Councilman Barbour immediately moved to approve that option.

Candy said that Councilman Burgess asked a question that if the streets were not cleared for two weeks - where will people park then? (Candy stated that she knows her street has never been plowed in all the time she has lived there). Candy reported that instead of addressing Councilman Burgess' question, Councilman Barbour called for an immediate vote and they approved the stricter ordinance then and there.

The ordinance states in effect that you cannot park on the street for 24 hours after a snowstorm until the snow is cleared.

Candy said she cornered the representative from Public Works (Kevin Smeltzer) and asked him the procedure for snow removal. He said that they clear the main arteries first, second the main thoroughfares in neighborhoods, third the through streets in neighborhoods, and then fourth cul-de-sacs. Candy asked him, "Do you plow to the curb?" and he answered "Yes". Candy then told him that on her block they have never had the snow cleared to the curb, ever. He was very surprised. She told him that when the missionaries ride their bikes down her street, they have to ride in tire tracks down the middle of the street.

Candy suggests that this law will not work. If it snows again and if Public Works isn't clearing the streets, where will people park? She stated the law is unenforceable and is going to cost the city a fortune.

Councilman Burgess said he has a phone number we can have if we would like to call and complain to the public works department. He stated he was very surprised at the way things happened at the city council meeting.

**OTHER ITEMS:**

Mr Burgess congratulated Keith Sorensen on his appointment to the LARP committee. He said they would like to see more people volunteer for this committee. They meet on the 2nd Thursday from 6pm - 7pm. This is an advisory committee for leisure activities, parks, recreation, and people who have an interest in those things would be great on the committee. There is information on the city website on how to become a member.

The republicans and democrats have their caucus' coming up. You can pre-register online. You can also nominate other people or yourself as a delegate online this year.

Green Waste Cans are available for purchase. It is \$60 to get started with one and then you pay a monthly fee. These are for yard waste. The waste will be taken to the landfill where it will be turned into mulch and sold for a profit. It's a benefit if you are currently paying for an extra black can and think you would use a green waste can instead.

We hope everyone can make it to our next Community Council meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00 pm at the YMCA.

Thank you so much,  
Candy  
Marcy  
Michelle