

LANDEN NEWS

Official CSA News for Landen

Winter 2008

Photo courtesy of Janet Fliegel

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED:

Your current Officers and Trustees include:

Gary Algie – PRESIDENT (*Hunters Pointe*)
Murry Feldstein – VICE PRESIDENT (*Woodfield*)
Lee Hamilton – TREASURER (*Montgomery Hills Condos*)
Julie Farmer – SECRETARY (*CarriageGate*)

Board Members:

Kathy Bowlin (*Pond Woods*)
Bill Coffey (*Sailboat Pointe*)
Kevin Downey (*Landen Cove*)
Lynn Hand (*The Island Community*)
Mary Hoot (*The Trails*)
William Klum (*Strawberry Hill*)
Ann Georgesen (*Chestnut Landing*)

ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

**Columbia School Cafeteria
Tuesday April 22, 2008 6pm**

CSA Board Meetings:

February 26	Strawberry Hill
March 25	Strawberry Hill
May 27	Island Rec
June 24	Woodfield
July 22	Woodfield

Property Owners who want to be addressed must call Henkle Schueler Management office a week prior to the meeting. If you are unable to put in a request for the agenda, you may bring your concern before the board in a five minute presentation. Contact: Henkle Schueler Property Management Attn: Shannon McCowan 3000-G Henkle Drive, Lebanon, OH 45036 (866) 775-1525 smccowan@henkleschueler.com Toll Free 24hours/7days

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO LANDEN RESIDENTS:

Once again, the Landen News basic theme revolves around progressive changes being made and planned, to enhance the quality of life in our community. This issue is chocked full of timely information for your use.

The Building and Grounds committee is reviewing the planting of new flower beds and trees in many of the green belt areas and entry ways. They are planning new trail benches for pocket parks in special areas.

The Lake committee is arranging for the final cleanup of the Lake Restoration staging areas, re stocking of fish, and management of the Canada Geese and algae problems.

An ad-hoc committee is studying how to control the bank erosion of Simpson Creek within Landen's border, and will evaluate permanent silt traps for prevention of silt buildup in the lake

The communications committee has added some new items to this news letter and has improved the navigation ease of our website. (Check it out www.landencsa.com)

This is a good time to remind you to sign up for the Landen News email announcements if you want to keep up with what is happening here AS IT HAPPENS. Currently 595 households are on line. Go to the web site and click the top right button Register to receive email updates.

Neighborhood News and the six new articles highlighted below, round out this issue. Enjoy them and take pride in the fact that you live in such a great community.

Sincerely,

Gary Algie
President – Landen CSA

NEW IN 2008!

We are happy to introduce new features that will appear regularly in the Landen News. It is our hope that you find these articles helpful and interesting!

GO GREEN This column will include tips for those who wish to be more environmentally conscious so we can collectively be kind to the land and preserve our pristine lake.

KNOW OUR ROOTS This article highlights our rich heritage and cultivates appreciation of what Landen has been and is today.

KEEP LANDEN SAFE Here we hope to provide tips on various ways to protect our communities.

LEND A HAND There are numerous benefits to volunteering and donating. Through this column we will spotlight local opportunities and people who are making a difference.

LANDEN QUOTES Look for fun quotes throughout the newsletter from some of your neighbors telling what they love about living here. Perhaps you can relate to their sentiments.

STREAM WATCH ideas on rehabilitating and maintaining our portion of Simpson Creek, which feeds the lake.

DESIGN AND REVIEW BOARD

Hello, 2008! Another year has come and gone, it is amazing how fast time passes. The Design Review Board (DRB) had a busy year in 2007 and we're proud of the many projects we completed. We're looking forward to a busy 2008. Thank you for submitting you improvement applications in a timely manner, and for your commitment to keeping Landen a great place to live.

The DRB meets the second Tuesday of each month. The Web site (www.landencsa.com) lists all meeting dates and application deadlines along with the Design and Use Standards Manual.

To help out in 2008, our management company will regularly drive through neighborhoods and remind homeowners of maintenance issues. Please remember the Web site and the ability for you, the homeowner, to let us know of maintenance issues. Simply go to the "Design and Review tab" and click on "Violations and Non Compliance Report." You also can call the management company directly. Please do not assume we already know of an issue.

Looking forward to spring and summer, please remember to submit your application to the DRB early enough that it can go through the proper process in a timely manner and not delay your project. Also, be sure to include as much information as possible (i.e., photos, scaled plans, explanations, manufacturer product photos and information, etc.). There is a \$50 dollar application fee, which is returned for each application submitted before work begins.

If you have questions or need an application to make an exterior change to your property, contact Shannon McCowen, our Property Manager at Henkle Schueler, at 866 775 1525 (toll free) to help you with the process.

*Julie Farmer chair
Jim Baker , Ralph Elliot, Jim Baker, William Klum*

HOLIDAY LIGHTS OF LANDEN 2007

How wonderful Landen looked this holiday season with the covered bridge fully lighted, the pedestrian bridge near Columbia all decked out – it all added to a festive feeling! And the houses looked wonderful this year...so wonderful that it was hard to choose the winners! To all of you homeowners who took the time, put out the effort to Light Up Landen – Thank You!



BEST OVERALL
3230 Chestnut Landing Dr.

3230 Chestnut Landing
BEST OVERALL DECORATIONS

8595 Landen Cove
BEST YARD DISPLAY

7914 Carraway
BEST TRADITIONAL DISPLAY

East Chestnut Landing
MOST FESTIVE ST.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

The 2007 holiday season was extra-special. The pedestrian bridge on Columbia was decked out in garlands, red bows, and white lights. Special thanks to John and Judy Grubb for keeping the lights burning by allowing us to tap into the electricity on their dock. Previously this fall, Buildings & Grounds (B&G) volunteers cleared out an extensive amount of invasive honeysuckle, once again opening up the view of the Covered Bridge for all to see! The Landen landscapers, TC Group, thought the bridge looked so good with the brush cleared away they added extra lights. We hope everyone in Landen, whether walking or driving, took a moment to enjoy the decorations on these two bridges.

What is a pocket park? A pocket park is a picturesque place to rest when walking through Landen; you can sit on a bench, enjoy the view and the landscaping. This year, a pocket park is planned for installation at the South Cove lake overlook (the area where the trucks entered the lake during the restoration). The B/G would like to see these pocket parks throughout Landen, in appropriate places, to add more uniqueness to our already wonderful community.

*Lynn Hand, Chair
Tony Baker, Asst. Chair
Cam Baker, Patrick Cain, Murry Feldstein, Leslie Dagenbach*

THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Every year at the Annual Election Meeting, held in April, five or six board members end their two year terms as trustees of the Landen CSA. Residents are encouraged to run for Board Positions. There are eleven board members who help make decisions which affect the Landen Community. This year there are five positions to be filled.

Serving on the board is an important way homeowners can give their personal time to the Landen Community. If you wish to serve, or know someone who is interested in serving, please contact Shannon at Henkle Schueler Management, 1-866-775-1525 or contact her online www.landencsa.com Voting materials will be mailed to every Landen homeowner. You may send in your ballot or attend the Annual Meeting, or give your ballot to someone who will be attending and can vote for you by "proxy". **The Annual Meeting will be held at Columbia School Auditorium, April 22, 2008 at 6 pm.**

We encourage you to attend this important meeting in person. If you cannot attend, you may also send in your proxy to be sure your voice is heard.

PLEASE VOTE!

Lee Hamilton ,Chair Gary Algje, Mary Hoot

"We love to vacation in tropical areas, but choose to live in the greater Cincinnati area to be near family. Living near the lake in Landen is like being on vacation year round. There is just not another place like it!"

---Mike and Angie Dittman / Chestnut Landing

"In 2006, we chose to move to Landen because of its full grown trees, walking paths, lake and good school system. We looked at many other areas and did not find anything that had the charm of Landen."

---John and Beth Hussey / South Cove

GO GREEN**MOLE CONTROL**

Often, mole damage can be reduced or eliminated by not encroaching on the mole natural habitat. Moles are insectivores (they eat insects), and they may control some insect outbreaks. If you are like most homeowners, you may be confused by conflicting “advice” on mole control. Moles will respond to changes in food supply as different insects become available in different places and at different times throughout the year. If disturbed, moles may temporarily leave an area but will usually return.

Scare tactics and repellents

Numerous home remedies have been used to eliminate moles but results are inconsistent and generally ineffective. Remedies such as pickle juice, broken glass, red pepper, razor blades, bleach, moth balls, rose branches, human hair, ultrasonic devices, castor oil, and explosives have little value in controlling moles.

Trapping

Trapping is the most effective and practical method of mole control. Trapping success is greatest in the spring and fall, especially after rain. In the summer and winter, moles are active in deep soil and more difficult to locate.

Three types of mole traps are especially effective: Harpoon, scissor-jaw, and choker loop. To ensure safe and humane deployment, be sure to follow printed instructions. Note: The instructions included with harpoon style traps will not provide consistent results. The mole run must be collapsed and the trigger pan securely pressed into the run to create a blockage; the trap is triggered when the mole attempts to re-open the tunnel.

Active runs can be located by stepping down the run, marking the location, and checking to see if the tunnel is re-opened within 24-48 hours. Permanent tunnels will be the most productive trap locations since these tunnels may be used several times daily. To identify main runs, look for constantly re-opened tunnels that follow a straight line or appear to connect two tunnels. Main runs often follow fences, walkways, foundations, or other man-made borders. Meandering tunnels in the lawn are “probes” that are quickly constructed by moles and may not be re-used; locating traps in these probes may not be productive.

Excerpt from Ohio State University fact sheet

CLEAN UP LANDEN DAY

Calling all Volunteers! Scouts, students wanting to earn service hours, and interested residents are all being asked to help clean up various spots in Landen. All ages are welcome. Deerfield Township has designated April 26 and 27 as a clean up day and Landen has co-ordinated our clean day with the township to be observed on Saturday April 26. Please give a few hours of your time to make a huge difference in our community. Kathy Bowlin will head up this drive and will be on location from 10 am to 4 pm. Please dress appropriately and check www.landencsa for updates. Call Kathy Bowlin if you have any questions at 683-7390. We look forward to your contribution of time showing your pride in our community.

KNOW OUR ROOTS**LAY OF THE LAND FOR EARLY SETTLERS**

When Thomas Espy, Jeremiah Morrow, and John Parkhill traveled up the Little Miami River in 1796 to survey the land they had purchased in the Landen area, they found it covered with dense hardwood forests towering over numerous streams and springs. The Little Miami River was so clean and clear that large shoals of fish could be seen. Along its banks were giant sycamores, oaks and cottonwoods, and on a plain north of Deerfield Township was an extensive forest of wild cherry trees. Under the branches of the giant hardwoods were dogwoods, redbuds, wild lilies, roses, and a vast array of wild flowers, plus berries of all kinds.

Morrow, Ohio's first congressman and later governor, constructed a mill in 1815 on the Little Miami between two creeks — one of which was Stony Hollow — that emptied into the river. Then, creeks were sheltered by the forests and named for settlers or natural landmarks. Thomas Espy cleared land for a log cabin next to the creek that ran across his land; it became known as Espy's Creek. Later, it was re-named to Coleman's Creek; today, it is Simpson's Creek. Named for John Parkhill, Parkhill's Run begins in Strawberry Hill, crosses Western Row, and meanders a bit before running into Simpson's Creek where it heads downhill to the river.

In 1800, Dr. Daniel Drake of Cincinnati catalogued over 103 species of trees near the river; by comparison, there were only 60 species in all of Germany. Beers History of Ohio of 1882 noted, “The Little Miami River coaxes the waters from Espy's Creek and Cat or Monger's Run.” Early maps show both creeks running across the entire width of the township to the river. Monger's Run ran across the land that is Western Row Golf Course and on to the river parallel to Union Western Row Road. Union was a town at the corner of Western Row and Columbia Roads. The stream that runs through Afton Falls became known as Union Run and the road simply Western Row Road after the road was changed so it no longer ran to the river. Hoff Run is a shorter stream north of Union Run that flows through Kings Island to the river. That was once the Hoff farm; the small cemetery next to the parking lot was once Hoff Farm Cemetery.

The township's largest creek, Muddy Creek, enters the river from Union Township north of Kings Mills. Over eight miles long, many creeks including Davis Run and Pine Run flow into it. Little Muddy Creek winds through Crooked Tree Golf Course in the northeast tip of the township; in the southwest corner is Polks Run once called Spring Run. These creeks were extremely valuable to the new settlers but most were filled with leeches. A child wading in a creek usually emerged with legs covered. It is believed that many cattle died from a disease caused by drinking in leeches in great numbers. Settlers' hogs destroyed the leeches after the lands were cleared.

Today, the Little Miami River doesn't need to coax Espy's Creek since it is pushed mercilessly by the volumes of run-off from the overdevelopment of the land west of Landen, and the few hardwoods on its banks are being destroyed from massive erosion. A few years ago the state of Ohio saw the face of Warren County changing and bought up hundreds of acres of remaining stands of hardwoods to protect them from development. Thank goodness for their foresight. We in Landen need to guard our streams, woods, and lake as well lest we lose the beauty of the area.

Dr. Karen Dinsmore

STRAWBERRY HILL/GATSBY GREEN/NORTH SHORE

Our three neighborhoods are joined not only by our proximity to one another, but to our Recreation Area. Not only do we have a clubhouse available for renting and two pools, we also have two lighted tennis courts, a sand volleyball area, playground and basketball hoop.

We are very fortunate to have wonderful opportunities presented by our Board members and committees. Our social committee is busy all year planning a plethora of activities to reach all members. The wide range of events include, but are not limited to; an End of the Year School Party, the Best 4th of July Party in Landen, the Adult Pool Party, a Labor Day Family Picnic, a Kids Halloween Party, the Bengals Chili Cook off, and a Children's Christmas Extravaganza! Visit our Web site at www.landenshra.com to check on specific dates.

Our monthly Board meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 7pm in our clubhouse. We not only focus on the social planning of our friends, but also deal with ideas to enhance our surroundings. Members are encouraged to bring new ideas to share and to become part of a very busy neighborhoods!

Kathy Abrell

THE TRAILS

Trail Residents to Join Together Against Crime

On January 9, Trails residents gathered to hear Deerfield Township's Crime Prevention officer Don McGlothlin talk about crime and how to prevent it.

Over the past year, residents have experienced several acts of criminal damage. While no one has been hurt, residents are eager to learn how to deter criminals.

McGlothlin recommended starting a Neighborhood Watch group, turning residents into eyes and ears for the police. "Many of our good arrests come because people get involved," he said.

Watch groups work, he said, because neighbors get to know each other and watch out for each other. They make more 911 calls, resulting in more police in the area and deterring criminals.

McGlothlin emphasized residents should call 911 any time they notice suspicious activity or when anything makes them feel uncomfortable. "We can't do something about it if we don't know about it," he said.

Residents interested in getting involved can send their contact information to: TrailsNeighborhoodWatch@hotmail.com or call Shannon Russell at 459 1762. The next Watch meeting will be held on March 19 at 7pm in the Deerfield Township Building, 4900 Parkway Drive, Suite 150.

Lori Cook

SAILBOAT POINTE

Hope everyone is surviving the winter weather! We have gotten a few mild days, which were a nice break from the cold! Our Landen Lake is back and looking as beautiful as ever. If the weather is cooperative and you have the chance, please take time to take a stroll around; all of the hard work really shows. Thanks to everyone for your patience and positive attitudes during this much-needed project.

Also, take note of all of the great renovations that have been made to the pool area in the last year or so. The association has been hard at work making improvements. A Trex deck system has been added, the pool and hot tub have been newly marbelized, a new heat system for the hot tub was added, a new grill, a new roof, and a refrigerator have been added to the shelter area.

WOODFIELD/HUNTERS POINTE

It's the NEW YEAR!!!! A time to reflect on the good, bad, and ugly of last year. To focus on the positive, I want to highlight the incredible efforts of our friend and neighbor on Brookside Court. Karoline Krynock again organized Adopt a Family in our neighborhood — her 10th year. Karoline and her elves passed out flyers in W/HP, collected donations, and delivered gifts to the Transitions program of Warren County. Transitions is for mothers and children in the abuse shelter who are working to move out on their own. This program allows our residents to provide holiday gifts to families looking for a better future. W/HP provided gifts for 42 folks in 2007! To date, nearly 500 people have received gifts, thanks to Karoline and her mission. Next year, please consider contributing. A heartfelt "thank you" to Karoline and her helpers for organizing this effort!!

In 2007, we also learned of mission trips, food/clothes/gift drives, and all kinds of generous acts from our neighbors. Do you know anyone for whom we can laud praises? Let me know!

Were you born in 1912, '24, '36, '48, '60, '72, '84, '96? If so, you were born under the sign of the rat. According to Chinese tradition, "rats" busily pursue personal goals or ambitions and are known as one of the hardest working signs in the Chinese zodiac. In 2008, recent setbacks or obstacles can be overcome so look forward to really shining this year.

I wish a little "rat" on everyone. Work hard, play hard, enjoy life, embrace memories and have peace within.

PJ Wolf, 513-677-WOLF pj.wolf@yahoo.com

CREEKWOODS

As we start a New Year, here is a recap of 2007 for Creekwoods. The community pool was re-surfaced and looked very nice for the summer swim season. The annual 4th of July bike parade and poolside picnic was well-attended. The parade was very colorful and everyone enjoyed visiting with each other at the picnic. October saw what has become another annual event, the Chili Tasting. This event was enjoyed by many families. The Haunted Bridge was hosted by several neighborhood kids. From, Halloween to Christmas and into the New Year, the holiday season saw many residents decorating their yards and homes.

Please be aware of your speed as several residents have commented about vehicles not obeying the speed limits in the community. The residents of Creekwoods are bracing themselves for road construction on Montgomery Road that is taking place right outside our doorstep. The Creekwoods Recreational Board is represented by Fred Compton, Bob Jones, Sandy Payne and Mary Reckman.

Jen Parrett

I encourage everyone to make use of the pool and tennis courts this year. Please keep it in mind when having guests over. Just bring up some food and have a cookout overlooking the lake! How about birthday parties at the pool? I think we'd all like to see a little more action up there, and the president of the association, Lee Krapp, is encouraging it.

Please call or e-mail me with anything you would like included in the next edition at angie.dittman@cbws.com or 607-4564. Hope to see everyone out and about in the spring!

Angie Dittman

LEND A HAND - GIVING YOUR TIME

In this issue of Landen News, we're launching a new feature focused on volunteerism. Now that we're finishing the first month of 2008, many of us are considering our new year's resolutions. Have you considered volunteering? When you volunteer, you give back to our wonderful community by lending a hand to people and organizations. You may not realize that volunteering benefits you, too. By giving back, you gain a feeling of self fulfillment knowing that you are making a difference. Volunteering can be a one time experience or a lifetime activity; you decide.

What are our options locally? Making a donation is part of volunteerism, and it doesn't have to be monetary. For example, did you know there is a Community Service Club at the high school that conducts canned food drives? Additionally, you can donate clothing to kids in need through Kings Kloset. There also is a local group of women who put together Easter baskets for the needy using only materials they collect from families just like yours. The opportunities are endless. We all have a lot of stuff. Why not donate yours instead of holding on to it another year?

Another option is to donate your time. Think of your own interests; maybe you like animals, or love to cook. Why not volunteer at the Humane Association of Warren County? Or at a local food pantry? You also can help as a volunteer at the voting polls. And there's a group called the Homerun Heroes that offers a cost free baseball team to handicapped children in the school district. There are always openings on the Lanen CSA committees, as well. There are outdoor opportunities such as Saturday Snapshot which asks for help monitoring local streams for chemicals, including Simpson Creek, for Green Acres. There is Quality Stream Monitoring for ODNR to measure the health of The Little Miami River. Also, you can participate in our annual Clean Up Landen Day. Students can be given service credit hours for many of these.

Speaking of the Landen CSA, did you know there are many smaller projects that you can be involved in? For instance, the Building & Grounds Committee often has one day projects geared toward improving the look of our community and properties. If you're good with a chainsaw or have a green thumb or just like working outdoors, consider contacting our management company to add your name on the list of volunteers.

Feel free to customize these opportunities to your own hobbies, interests, and schedule. We all have so much to give and there are so many in need; it's a perfect fit. For more information on volunteering in and around Landen, contact one of your Landen CSA representatives

<http://www.homelesspets.org/>
<http://www.green-acres.org/waterquality.php>
<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/Home>

ISLAND RECREATION

As per the IRA by-laws, the annual election will be held on the first Wednesday of April – this year that would be April 2, 2008. Anyone wishing to run for a Board seat and have their name appear on the printed ballot, should contact Barb Reeves at Advantage Property Mgt (984-4114) no later than February 28, 2008. Please send a brief bio to Barb for inclusion with the ballots which will be mailed to all IRA members early in March.

*Lynn Hand, John Howell, Fran Uecker, Dan Burke,
Jim McCorkle, Jim Osterwisch, Rich Heaton*

STREAM WATCH - HEALTH OF THE STREAM

In Landen over the past several years, we have experienced not only flash floods as a result of urbanization in the Simpson Creek watershed but also dewatering of ponds directly into the creek. Water quality measures that are in place in the recent development west of Mason Montgomery road include increased retention capacity, extended detention and bioretention. This all helps in offsetting the impacts of urbanization

In addition, as homeowners we must remain vigilant in protecting our natural resources. Please report any discharges into our streams, to the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District 513 695 1337 or Ohio EPA Emergency Response Unit 1 800 282 9378

Beginning in March and continuing through November, the second Saturday of each month finds trained volunteers collecting water samples from neighborhood streams in the lower Little Miami River watershed. These samples are processed at the Greenacres River laboratory for nutrients, sediment and bacteria using standard methods approved by the EPA. Samples have been collected from Landen Lake and Simpsons Creek for the past four years. These data can be used in watershed planning and protection activities and to identify water quality problems.

At the 5th Annual Saturday Stream Snapshot Data Sharing Brunch in January, Anne Lyon and Dr. Michael C. Miller presented the results from these stream samples comparing data from tributaries with the mainstream of the Little Miami River.

Fortunately, Landen Lake shows no clear evidence of pollution. In Simpsons Creek the mean of all samples showed elevated levels for conductivity, fecal coliforms, and turbidity that exceed the wadable streams guideline. We are working on finding the source the elevated levels. The next sampling season starts March 8, 2008.

Further information on the snapshot program can be found at <http://www.green-acres.org/waterquality.php>

As well as monitoring the water chemistry; other steps to protecting our watersheds can include tree plantings, wetland plantings, rain gardens, and streambank stabilization.

This year we will join with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District and Deerfield Regional Stormwater District to organize a stream clean up, volunteers are encouraged and welcomed.

More information will be distributed in the coming months.

Diana Halligan

PINE RIDGE

Hello, all Pine Ridge Recreation members! I'm Janet Fliegel and will be reporting any news that might be pertinent to the maintenance, hours, functioning, and activities of our swimming pool and tennis courts. Please contact me at fliegel@fuse.net if there is any news you wish to convey. As for the winter months, our recreation center is pretty much closed, however, you might be able to enjoy shooting hoops if we get another warm snap. At any rate, please take time to walk the lake. It is beautiful again! Another good idea is to check out www.landenca.com and notice CSA board meeting dates and Design and Review Board deadlines for any early spring home improvements.

Janet Fliegel



LANDEN NEWS



PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE

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KEEP LANDEN SAFE

HOW TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUP

Crime and the fear of crime reduce the sense of security in any community. But neighbors can join together to help prevent crime and build their neighborhoods into safer, friendlier, and more caring places to live by organizing a Neighborhood Watch group.

A Neighborhood Watch group is an association of neighbors who lookout for each other's families and property, alert the police to any suspicious activities or crime in progress, and work together to make their community a safer and better place to live. Watch groups are not vigilantes, and they do not assume the role of the police.

According to the National Crime Prevention Council, Watch groups have proven their effectiveness in reducing vandalism, burglaries, and auto thefts. Since 1972 when the National Sheriffs' Association implemented the Neighborhood Watch program, Watch groups have become the most widespread crime prevention effort in the United States.

The first step in organizing a Neighborhood Watch group is to hold a meeting where concerned neighbors discuss the specific needs of the neighborhood and determine the general interest level in starting a Watch group. Invite a law enforcement agent to attend and provide information about local crime problems. Landen neighborhoods would contact Deerfield Township's Drug Abuse Resistance Education and Crime Prevention Officer, Don McGlothlin at 623-8875.

Once a group of neighbors decides to form a Watch group, the next step is to pick a chairperson and block leaders. Block leaders are responsible for keeping up-to-date information on members in their block, and relaying information about meetings and crime incidents to these residents.

Watch group members are then trained by law enforcement in home security techniques, observation skills, and crime reporting.

To maintain a successful Watch group, hold regular meetings to help residents get to know each other and to collectively decide upon program strategies and activities. Beyond day-to-day crime prevention, an established Watch group often branches out to include citizen patrols, drug prevention programs, child safety programs, and emergency preparedness plans.

Last, celebrate the success of the Watch effort and recognize volunteers' contributions through such events as awards, annual dinners, and parties.

For more information contact Officer McGlothlin at 623-8875, or check out the national crime prevention website: www.ncpc.org.

Lori Cook

