



July 3, 2013

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Message from Supervisor Katie Rice

Thank you to Ross McKenna for helping to organize the Kentfield/Greenbrae Safety meeting and to all the resident/community members who were able to attend. My apologies for not being there – a Greenbrae/Interchange Working Group meeting went late and it was important that I stay.

The meeting provided an opportunity for neighbors to communicate their concerns, ask questions, and to learn from Public Safety officials best steps towards crime prevention. While most of the crime occurring is lower-level theft, it is nonetheless very disturbing and disconcerting to those affected, as well as to the entire neighborhood. Better communication, community awareness and increased visibility of law enforcement will be key to addressing the issue.

I look forward to working with law enforcement to ensure an effective patrol presence in the neighborhoods and improve communications and with the community to support your efforts. I will be holding another meeting in early September to follow up on this subject and discuss others specific to the Kentfield/Greenbrae community.

See below for a recap of key points/take aways from the recent meeting, a crime report for July 2012 –June 2013 (as requested by attendees) and a listing of crime prevention tips. As always, if you have any questions or comments, don't hesitate to call me at 473-7331 or email to krice@marincounty.org.

Kentfield/Greenbrae Community Meeting

On Monday, June 10th, a Kentfield/Greenbrae community meeting was held at Bacich School to raise awareness about crime in the area and discuss crime prevention. The meeting was a joint effort by Supervisor Katie Rice, the Marin County Sheriff's Office representing the unincorporated neighborhoods in the area, and Central Marin Police Authority representing the incorporated neighborhoods, and was initiated in response to resident concerns over recent crime activity in the community. Detective Mike Mejia attended from the Central Marin Police force and Deputy Doug Allen from the Sheriff's office.

Key Points and Take Aways

- Most crimes in the area are "crimes of opportunity" that can be avoided by taking extra caution/following crime prevention tips and using common sense (e.g. locking doors and windows). See list of crime prevention tips below.
- The Sheriff's Office, Central Marin Police Authority, and California Highway Patrol work collaboratively on issues of life and personal safety throughout the incorporated and unincorporated neighborhoods.

- Be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary in your neighborhood and trust your instincts. Report suspicious activity occurring in the unincorporated neighborhoods to the Sheriff's office dispatch center at number 479-2311. This number can also be used to inquire about incidences/events happening in your area. Suspicious activity observed in the incorporated neighborhoods of Greenbrae can be reported to the Central Marin Police Authority at 927-5150.
- Most crimes occur during the daytime and are being committed by people from outside of the area.
- The trend in residential burglaries is to take smaller items that are easily carried out (e.g. jewelry, small electronics).
- An alarm system can help prevent crime by deterring criminals or significantly reducing the amount of time they spend in your home.
- Surveillance cameras can be helpful to detect unwanted activity.
- Many home burglaries and thefts from vehicles can be prevented simply by locking all doors and windows.
- Connectivity/communication between neighbors is key in crime prevention – Next Door web sites are great ways to keep neighborhoods informed.
- Residents must use common sense regarding age of kids when left alone at home – there is no law. It's important that children know not to open the door unless they know the person and to call the parents if anything suspicious occurs; and to call 911 if they feel threatened.
- Residents are encouraged to call the dispatch numbers and ask for the patrol sergeant on duty if they have concerns or complaints regarding response or work product of law enforcement.
- An outstanding issue/next step is the community's request for more information on amount/type of crime in the area.

Reported Crimes (July 2012 – June 2013)

The Sheriff's office has not seen an increase of reported crimes (e.g. burglaries, thefts) from last year. However, many residents have expressed knowledge of crimes unreported. The Sheriff's office encourages residents to report all crimes so they can have the most accurate information possible.

- July 2012 – 1 auto burglary, 2 residential burglaries, 4 thefts
- August 2012 – 1 residential burglary
- September 2012 – 1 commercial burglary, 4 residential burglaries, 3 thefts
- October 2012 – 1 residential burglary, 3 thefts
- November 2012 – 1 commercial burglary, 2 thefts
- December 2012 – 2 auto burglaries, 2 residential burglaries, 1 theft
- January 2013 – 2 residential burglaries, 1 theft
- February 2013 – 2 residential burglaries, 2 thefts
- March – 2013 - 2 residential burglaries, 1 commercial burglary, 6 thefts
- April 2013 – 4 residential burglaries, 2 thefts
- May 2013 – no crimes reported
- June 2013 – no crimes reported

For questions or more information, contact Detective Scott Buer at sbuer@marinsheriff.org or 415-499-7265.

**Kentfield/Greenbrae Community Meeting Crime Prevention Tips (6/10)
For Your Residence**

- Leave your front porch light on at night and consider installing motion lights on the sides and back of house.
- Don't hide a key outside your home.
- Lock all doors and windows when leaving the house, including large dog doors.
- Keep laptop computers and other electronics put away and out of sight of windows and doors - keep a list of all electronics with necessary info (e.g. make, model, serial #).
- Keep jewelry put away and locked up.
- Don't go to the door if you're not expecting anyone, or if you don't recognize the person knocking – report to appropriate law enforcement agency if concerned.
- Always set your alarm and keep your alarm company updated on any new phone #'s.
- Cut bushes that conceal your home.
- Consider getting a locked mail box or PO Box.
- Only hire licensed contractors who are bonded.

For Your Car

- Always lock your car and do NOT leave anything valuable inside (e.g. purse, cell, laptop).
- Do NOT leave a hide-a-key on your car.
- Do NOT leave mail or your housekeys in the car and keep a garage door opener out of sight.
- If you have a detached face plate on the stereo, take it with you – make sure you write down necessary info (e.g. make, model, serial #).

For Going on Vacation

- Have the post office hold your mail and stop newspaper delivery; reroute any package deliveries.
- Close blinds and drapes and set your alarm.
- Don't advertise that you will be away from home on social media (e.g. facebook, twitter).
- Provide a trusted friend or neighbor with information about your trip (e.g. dates, phone number).
- Sign up for vacation watch with the Sheriff's office (479-2311 for unincorporated neighborhoods), or the Central Marin Police Authority (927-5150 for incorporated neighborhoods).
- Use timers to turn on lights and radios so that it looks like you are home.
- Store items of high value in a safe place (e.g. bolted safe).

Report suspicious people or activity in your neighborhood to the Marin County Sheriff's Office immediately at **479-2311**, or the Central Marin Police Authority at **927-5150**. Make sure the appropriate law enforcement agency has your latest

contact information (home/cell/work) and make sure you have that agency's number in your phone. If you encounter a crime in progress, call **911**.