GARDENA CIRCLE NEIGHBORH O WATCH NEWS July / VOL. 15

NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 16 7:00PM- 8:30PM **Freeman Park** 154th Street, East of Van Ness Bring a neighbor!

UPCOMING MEETING

• Chief Mike Skogh's term of leadership of the Gardena Police Department ends next year. Who will be his replacement? How can we be assured the continuation of successful leadership he has given the department? Chief Skogh requested to attend our meeting to address these issues and answer your questions.

 Sgt. Ed Medrano will discuss the growing crime of identity theft. What steps can you take to avoid identity theft? What should you do if you are already a victim?

Ingrid Tsukiyama will lead the July meeting.

FROM THE JUNE MEETING

• Neighbor Pat Hoyle shared the latest video from the KEEP-SAFE Coalition. KEEP-SAFE stands for "Keep Every" Elder Protected - Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation". The video relays the situation of an elderly woman who, in needing ongoing personal care in her home, becomes victim of emotional abuse and financial swindling by the caregiver. Neighbors who sense "something is not right" alert authorities.

This video raised a great deal of discussion at the meeting. With aging parents living far away, or by not wanting to be thought of as nosy to our elderly neighbors, it is easy to be unaware of the true care these people are getting and what abuses they may be suffering.

Your phone calls or letters going unanswered, being denied by the caregiver to see the person, and unusual financial activity in their account are clues there may be something very wrong and your intervention is needed. Call KEEP-SAFE (310-533-1996) for more information.

• Sgt. Medrano addressed personal safety. Above all else there is nothing you own more sacred than your life. You should not put yourself in jeopardy to hang on to a purse or jacket, for example.

Should you get in a car when told to do so? That is your own decision and each situation is different. However, you need to know that the chances of you being seriously hurt or killed, significantly increase if you go to another location with the criminal.

YOU make this the neighborhood you are happy to live in.

YOU be the one to CALL THE POLICE if you see or hear something suspicious.

THANK_YOU!

PAT HOYLE arranged for both the Brinks Home Security presentation and the KEEP-SAFE video at our past two meetings. We greatly appreciate and value her ideas and involvement in GCNW. THANK YOU, PAT!

GCNW is YOUR neighborhood watch. If you have a topic that is relevant to the NW interests and community, please contact Louise.

THORNBURG PARK CLEAN-UP

Rakes, trashbags, and paintbrushes were put to full use at Thornburg Park's clean-up. Playground equipment, trashcans, and picnic tables were repainted. Everything looks clean and cheery now, a sign that area residents are taking back their park. Thornburg Park Neighborhood Watch was recently founded to address crime issues in their neighborhood.

The Gardena Police Department showed their support. Out of uniform but fully in the spirit wielding paintbrushes and rakes were Chief Skogh, Cpt. Browning, Sgt. Medrano, Sgt. Matheson, Sgt. Rickerl, Ofc. Borbon, and Ofc. Williams. Councilman Nakaoka was also hard at work and Gary Kohatsu, Editor of the Gardena Valley News, took many pictures.

Your WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS to the newsletter, and now our website, are encouraged! Share your IDEAS for a dynamic GCNW ! Call/email me! THANK YOU. <u>Louise*GardenaCircle.com</u>



