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News Release

For Immediate Release

Southern Hills neighbors follow up on promise to create watch group

Residents in the Southern Hills Neighborhood are following up on a rally cry in October to make their neighborhood safer, following a break-in that left one woman asking what could be done to prevent future burglaries.

Nearly 80 residents from the Southern Hills area in southeast Springfield have signed up to participate in a Neighborhood Watch training session, 8 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Springfield Regional Police and Fire Training Center located at 2620 W. Battlefield.

Cathy Fredrick is happy about the level of interest. She originally contacted Craig Fishel, Zone 4 City Councilman, to share her concerns about crime and to share her personal story, hoping the City could provide answers and help. Fishel worked with Police Chief Paul Williams to organize an initial public meeting to provide in-depth information about crime statistics in the City, as well as drill down and look at the specific incidents in and around Southern Hills.

“What can we do about?” was a common question among the 100 plus residents who attended the interactive session, held at Glendale High School.

Chief Williams asked those to raise their hands who would be willing to form a Neighborhood Watch training session. Hands shot up throughout the auditorium. Historically, Southern Hills had individual neighborhood watch programs on certain streets, but Fredrick said the large community hasn't had a united program.

Now, a few weeks later, the residents have held to that promise and signed up for a session to take place Saturday.

“The Springfield Police Department Neighborhood Watch Program has been a tremendous success within the Springfield community and has made a significant difference with the participating Neighborhood Watch groups,” explains Dave Snider, SPD crime prevention officer. The training focuses on crime prevention, observation and reporting skills, Operation Identification, and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

The training sessions are provided to the citizens of Springfield free of charge, and the SPD encourages all citizens to attend. Those interested can contact the SPD Crime Prevention Unit at 417-874-2113, or by the SPD web site at www.springfieldmo.gov/spd/GeneralInfo/NeighborhoodWatch/whatis.html.

For a complete look at the City's updated crime statistics and other issues related to public safety, download the SPD's [Quarterly Public Safety Report](#) (pdf). SPD has begun publishing this

report quarterly as a way to educate the public. If you would like to receive it via e-mail, send your request to city@springfieldmo.gov.

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