

The DOMINION

The Dominion News, January 2008

January, 2008

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. We have a number of items to bring to your attention as we begin 2008.

Burglaries and Vandalism:

We are deeply aggrieved to tell you about the following shocking events, and your HOA board and staff pledge to you that we will do whatever it takes to catch the offenders and to prevent this from ever occurring again.

In the period between Christmas and the weekend after New Year's Day eight homes in the Dominion were burglarized, while the homeowners were gone. One of these was foiled when the alarm went off. Only one homeowner had alerted our security that they would be away.

The burglars entered by smashing the glass in a back door and climbing through the door frame without opening the door. They took cash and jewelry; except in one house they also took a laptop, in another one a camera, and in a third one a disassembled gun in a compact carrying case. In most homes they limited their intrusion to the master bedroom area.

On the weekend after New Year's two homes along the twelfth fairway were vandalized. The hooligans walked directly from the golf course onto the patio of each home, smashed several large double pane windows, and disappeared. One home was occupied; the other one is still under construction.

We are working very closely with the San Antonio Police Department. They assigned a detective to our cases within days. On January 8 we had a meeting with these homeowners and the police. SAPD sent four people: the investigating detective, the captain of our precinct (on Prue Road), the community patrolman assigned to our neighborhood, and another representative. Our own security was represented by Chief Burnet and his supervisor. City Councilwoman Cibrian sent two representatives.

Here is what is happening:

The police are checking the id of every single service provider and other workers within the Dominion as well as their immediate families for criminal records anywhere in the US. They are also comparing these names with the Texas Pawn Shop Data Base. In our state, you can only pawn or sell something at a pawn shop with a government id, and that list is kept for years. So far no lead has been found, but they reminded us that another burglar who violated our neighborhood 16 months ago has been convicted and will serve 10 to 35 years of prison.

Meanwhile both our security and SAPD have added nighttime patrols in the Dominion. We are working with the Dominion Country Club to patrol the backs of homes along the golf course; they have loaned us a golf cart for that purpose.

In addition the HOA is investigating a number of added security measures, from gates to the outgoing lanes, to security cameras, to expanded survey of construction sites, to checking id's of all visitors, and more. We are also reviewing the various protocols our security is using to improve both procedures and actions and plan to add some more training. If you have any suggestion, please contact the HOA. We welcome your thoughts.

This is what you can do:

If you are leaving town, make sure somebody checks your home daily; either use our own security by filling out the house watch form and ask a neighbor, friend, or family.

Turn your security system on when you leave, and have it monitored.

If you see anything unusual in your neighborhood, call our security at 698-2997 right away.

If possible, add either a motion detector in the back rooms of your home, or add glass sensors to all back windows and doors.

Lock up cash and jewelry when you are leaving town.

Get to know your neighbors and start watching out for each other.

Let me reiterate; we know that such violations of our home destroy the sense of comfort and security we feel; for many of us safety and security were the reasons we moved to the Dominion. We are sorry burglaries and vandalisms occurred, we extend our sympathy to the violated homeowners, and we pledge to do our very best to bring the miscreants to justice and to return our neighborhood to safety.

Dominion HOA's Annual Meeting and Board Election:

All Dominion homeowners should have received notification via email and regular mail of the Annual Meeting and Board Election on April 7. Four directors will be elected. January 31, 2008 is the deadline for candidates to submit their nomination to the HOA. The only way to submit a nomination after that date is through the self-nominating process.

The Neighborhood Outreach Committee (NOC) is serving as the nominating committee and will review all nominations at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. If you are interested in being a candidate, please get a nomination form from the HOA office or the NOC and return it to the HOA office no later than January 31, 2008. NOC members are listed below.

Lyn Hicks, The Gardens, 698-1354, lhicks@satx.rr.com

Karen Voss, The Cottages, 698-2833, kvoss@satx.rr.com

Vern Eglit, The Reserve, 698-5103, ve744@satx.rr.com

Bob Cowan, Pavilions/GC Estates, 698-6638, robtcowanjr@aol.com

Steve Koenig, The Legends, 698-0030, planeflight@aol.com

Jimmy Taylor, Renaissance Area, 698-7075, pjrt@bdizzle.net

Thomas Schuller, The Estates/Vineyard Estates, 698-9010, Thomas.Schuller@sbcglobal.net

Ruth Dolan, The New Estates, 698-1980, rdolantx@sbcglobal.net

Jon Trautman, The Cloisters, 698-0648, jondeni@msn.com

North Gate Project:

The new North Gate is working as of Friday, January 11, 2008. You will find it a suitable welcome to our neighborhood, as soon as the finishing touches are complete: a final overlay of the new street, the removal of the old gatehouse and landscaping between Aue Road and the gate. New electronic message boards are being installed at both gates.

We thank you for your patience and understanding in spite of the delays we experienced in completing this project.

Recycling:

We need your assistance with our recycling program. So many neighbors are recycling that Waste Management's pickup has to be very punctual or else we have a mess. The HOA is working with them to schedule pick-up on Monday and Friday and to bring us a third bin.

In the interim we ask that you help us keep the area clean. If the bins are full, please do not place recycling material on top of or on the ground next to the bins. Please take it to another recycling location and notify the HOA that the bins are full. That way we can work on adding pickups.

Please do not leave items that will not fit in the bins. Last Friday a homeowner left a large cardboard box on the ground that would not fit in the bins—these items will not be picked by Waste Management. The Dominion Country Club has been kind enough to let us use their property and we have a responsibility not to abuse this privilege.

On a related note: Several homebuilders have advised the HOA that some homeowners have been dumping trash and recycling material in the trash containers these builders keep on their building sites. Obviously those containers are for the builder's use only and we must ask you to please stop this practice.

As always we thank you for your input and suggestions and we will continue to keep you informed about issues of concern for Dominion homeowners.

Sincerely,

Brigitte B. Saidi, Chairman

The Dominion Homeowners Association