

ARCHDALE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Meeting Notes

August 23, 2022

Grace Trinkl, Neighborhood Watch block captain for Lancelot Hall, led the meeting.

Thank you to the 13 Archdale members who attended. Deneen Sorenson, Archdale Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, was ill and sent along her regrets. We thank the North Charleston Fire Department Station 8 for granting us the meeting space. And as always, we thank Lt. Andy Martin, our Dorchester County Community Engagement Officer, for his presence, his reporting and insight into how we can continue to grow Archdale as a community of good neighbors.

1) Lt. Martin prefaced his report with announcing the reduction of break-ins and thefts for the month of August, most likely attributable to the return of children to school. He again stressed the importance of residents LOCKING their cars to prevent further thefts.

2) Lt. Martin presented the Crime Analysis for Archdale for the **period of June 22 through August 22, 2022**. We will not list the specific streets for the sake of privacy, but the incidents are as follows:

- One false alarm
- One reports for information and two reports of harassment
- One burglary, TFMV
- One “burglary” under false pretenses
- One report of information, TFMV
- One DV
- Two reports of information, one report of vulnerable adult with mental transport
- One report of simple assault and harassment
- One report of information
- One report of simple possession or pornographic/obscene material
- Three reports of information, three reports of TFMV, two reports of vandalism, and one report each of harassment and violation of court order
- One report of information
- One report of information
- Three reports of TFMV, one of MVT, two reports of information, and one report of larceny, agency assist, and DV

Included in the above reports, twelve occurred in the Archdale Forest apartments and nine in Waverly Place.

Lt. Martin presented that during this period, there were 1,298 “regular” patrols conducted by Dorchester County Sheriff’s Patrol, Traffic, K9, Warrants and SET. The average number of patrols per 24 hours was 20.94, with an average length of time per patrol of 29.02 minutes. The Traffic unit consists of only five officers for the entirety of Dorchester County, but they do a great job

In the entire Archdale development, the **total number of reports for this period was 42**. Two addresses accounted for six reports. **Last year during this same period, the total number of reports was 31**.

3) Ms. Trinkl asked Lt. Martin to reiterate for the sake of new members in attendance several actions we can each take to deter crimes:

- Incorporate environmental design (<https://www.thebalancesmb.com/crime-prevention-through-environmental-design-394571>) – there are many resources available online – this is just one link cited by Ms. Trinkl – these include checking our own homes for potential hiding spots and easy break-in opportunities, ensuring our security cameras are set up with clear vision (not obstructed by bright lights, hanging plants or other decorations that blow in the breeze, vehicles in the way of the line of site, etc.), installing blue lights (which are a known deterrent to criminals), and others
- Check on our neighbors, especially if we notice that we haven't seen someone in a while or if that neighbor is not following his/her regular schedule
- Ask neighbors for help and offer to help neighbors to thwart “porch pirates”, especially with the holidays coming up
- Report vacation plans to Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, who will conduct resident checks while you are gone
- Report speeders, and the Sheriff's Office will respond, if you can get a license plate
- Report suspicious activities, and the Sheriff's Office will respond
- Residents are strongly encouraged to report EVERY incident of threat, harassment or intimidation

Lt. Martin reminded us that a misdemeanor offense cannot be charged unless it is witnessed by an officer. Discussion followed to determine just what action can be taken by the DCSO when incidents occur not witnessed by DCSO. The DCSO can and does “knock on the door” of the offending address if the report is about a resident in Dorchester County. For example, if you spot a speeder and can take a photo of the license plate, DCSO will determine the address of the registration and go to that person's address, *unless* the vehicle is registered outside of Dorchester County.

DCSO cannot enforce violations of covenants and restrictions; those violations can only be brought to the attention of the courts through resident civil action. Ms. Trinkl reminded those present that Archdale consists of 10 different neighborhoods, each with their own covenants and restrictions. Detailed information can be found on our Archdale website at <https://www.ourarchdale.com/resources/covenants-and-restrictions/>.

Ms. Trinkl encouraged all residents to consider becoming Neighborhood Watch block captains for their respective streets or areas.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Lt. Martin distributed his business card to all present residents and had available for distribution numerous copies of “What to Do When Disaster Strikes” from LAW Publications and “Safe and Secure – Detect and Deter: Volunteer Community Protection”, also published by LAW.

*Submitted by Grace Trinkl,
as recorded by John Trinkl, President of ACA
08/27/2022*