

## Neighborhood Watch Meeting Draws Dozens Of Residents

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The Hemingway Avenue Neighborhood Watch in San Carlos is well organized and motivated. Mission Times Courier, San Diego, CA) – The brightly colored Neighborhood Watch signs are conveniently placed on streetlight poles informing everyone driving into the area that Neighborhood Watch is up and running.

Recently, a neighborhood meeting was held at former Councilmember Judy McCarty's home to update all the neighbors. Fifty three residents attended the meeting. San Diego Police Department Lt. Ken Stewart and Police Community Relations Officer Ed Zwibel were very impressed with the turnout. Lt. Stewart stressed the role of Neighborhood Watch as a vital tool for the police in helping to keep crime down in a neighborhood.

"When neighbors become involved in a positive and successful program such as Neighborhood Watch, we know the community will be safer," Lt. Stewart said. "The residents function as our best eyes and ears. They know what transpires in the neighborhood and when something looks out of place. Every neighborhood needs a Neighborhood Watch, and I can assure you we're ready to assist to help establish a new one. Call the San Diego Police Department's Eastern Division at (858) 495-7900 to request assistance in establishing your Neighborhood Watch."

Kate Coates, with United Policyholders, conducted an in depth workshop for everyone attending to help them establish an "Insurance and Preparedness Check-up", to create a home inventory, and to be prepared for whatever might come their way such as a fire or earthquake. Every family received a free preparedness flash drive which included preparedness tips and a preloaded home inventory spreadsheet. Councilmember Marti Emerald was represented by Mary Ann Wallace, her Council Representative for Del Cerro, San Carlos and Mission Trails. "Councilmember Emerald is very supportive of Neighborhood Watch and encourages every neighborhood to become involved in the program, Wallace said."

Dr. Bill Sperling, who helped coordinate the meeting and has installed all the Neighborhood Watch signs commented, "We know Neighborhood Watch works and by working together every neighborhood will

become safer."

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