

Firewise Neighbors,

The Firewise Steering Committee met on February 8. The agenda included the Firewise Action Plan and the investigation into re-establishing Neighborhood Watch.

1. Action Plan. At that meeting the Firewise Steering Committee reviewed our Firewise Action Plan for 2022 and 2023. Additions were suggested and are highlighted in yellow in the attached Firewise Action Plan.
2. Neighborhood Watch. Although there is a Neighborhood Watch sign on Old Oak Way near Pierce Avenue, the Steering Committee members have no knowledge of an active Neighborhood Watch organization in our neighborhood and the city does not include one in the Neighborhood Watch map or registry. As a result, Jim Cargill contacted Crystal Bothelio, Assistant City General Manager who oversees the Neighborhood Watch program in Saratoga, to find out more about that organization. Jim also attended a Neighborhood Watch Leaders meeting and filled the forms to re-establish Neighborhood Watch in our neighborhood. The only remaining activity for city recognition of our Neighborhood Watch organization is to hold a 30-minute training session with a Sheriff representative. That training session will be held this Spring once we obtain a commitment for the Sheriff's office. All neighbors will be invited.

The Firewise Steering Committee discussed the need for separate Firewise and Neighborhood Watch organizations and, with the support of the city, decide to merge our new Neighborhood Watch organization into our Firewise organization since separate committees and organizations would be inefficient and unnecessary. The purpose of both Firewise and Neighborhood Watch is to encourage neighbors to work together to address common threats and thereby improve the safety of our neighborhood.

We have not yet set a date for our next meeting. This will be our annual Education Meeting for all neighborhood members with 30 minutes of Neighborhood Watch and 30-45 minutes of Firewise Education and will take place in the Spring. The date will be announced after we get the Sheriff representative scheduled.

The Second Annual Neighborhood Party will be scheduled for this Summer at a date yet to be announced. The emphasis will be on building neighborhood relationships, having a good time and recruiting new members.

We are also looking for members to volunteer for the Steering Committee of the new combined organization. If you might be interested in volunteering, the committee meets about 4 times a year in addition to the two membership meetings in Spring and Summer. Please reply if you might be interested.

Dave House

Chair – Firewise Steering Committee