WARM SANDS PRESS

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WSNO

TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME

It began as a simple idea. An animated dog in a rumpled trench coat, uttering the words, "You don't know me yet. But you will." Twenty-five years and three generations later, people still recognize McGruff the Crime Dog as an American icon that is "Taking A Bite Out Of Crime."

McGruff the Crime Dog and Take A Bite Out Of Crime are registered trademarks for the National Crime Prevention Council. The McGruff Network is a group of individuals who promote self-protection and crime prevention on a neighborhood, city, state, or national level. Sign up today to join the network and receive a free monthly newsletter. Their website is www.ncpc.org.

Another national program working to help with the fight against crime is the National Association of Town Watch (NATW).

Take a Bite out of Crime

NATW is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development and promotion of organized, law enforcement-affiliated crime and drug prevention programs. Members include: Neighborhood, Crime, Community, Town and Block Watch Groups; law enforcement agencies; state and regional crime prevention associations; and a variety of businesses, civic groups and concerned individuals working to make their communities safer places in which to live and work.

This organization has been in existence since 1981 and is a national group member of the Crime Prevention Coalition. NATW supports the "McGruff—Take a Bite Out of Crime" campaign. More information, programs and technical assistance for civilian leaders is available at their website: www.natw.org.

We invite everyone to participate in our Warm Sands Neighborhood Watch program. Your support will make the difference.

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Special points of interest:

- Interested in being a block captain?
- Need details on hosting a social event?
- Do you know about the Silent Partner Program?
- Interested in taking the CERT training?

FALL HARVEST MIXER ON OCT. 17

The first WSNO mixer will be held Wednesday October 17, 2007 at 2 Warm Sands Place from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Our neighborhood chef, Barry Coleman, will be preparing tasty hors d'oeuvres to enjoy. Rick Hutcheson, a WSNO member, has graciously donated the use of his rental property for the evening. This is a wonderful time to meet neighbors and enjoy some food and drink. We look forward to seeing you there.

RECYCLING PROGRAM APPROVED

Recycling is about to get a whole lot easier in Palm Springs. The City Council approved a one-time 2 million capital-equipment grant to buy vehicles and equipment necessary to implement a new single- stream recycling program. This type of recycling does away with the two-bin program that requires residents to separate the recyclable materials by commodity (newspaper, cardboard, plastic, glass, etc.)

Recyclable Waste Containers

The City has an agreement with Palm Springs Disposal Services for solid waste collection, disposal and recycling services until 2014. The move to single stream recycling could occur as early as late summer or early fall of 2008. The money will come from the City's Solid Waste Diversion Facility Fund and will be used to reimburse Palm Springs Disposal Services for the acquisition of the vehicles and containers.

The convenience of single-stream recycling greatly increases participation. Studies have shown that people are less likely to participate in a recycling if the program is inconvenient or requires too much effort.

The advantages of this type of recycling program are numerous.

1. All recyclable materials are mixed together in one container.
2. The recycling process is simplified and made easy.
3. There is more flexibility to allow the City to expand into other types or recyclables such as telephone books and mixed residential paper without adding bins or expensive equipment.
4. The wheeled containers make transportation easier and require no heavy lifting.
5. The hinged lids on the containers deter scavengers and also reduce litter by preventing recyclable materials from being strewn about the street.

Today, an estimated 100 City and regional single-stream programs are in operation in 22 states serving about 22 million people.

STRAY CATS: NOW AND FOREVER?

The neighborhood has quite a few feral cats. I call them "Cats With No Home". The definition of a feral cat is : the descendants of domesticated cats that were abandoned by their owners or that strayed into wild areas from their homes. When the domesticated cats mated their offspring were never handled by or associated with humans thus making their kittens feral.

Adult feral cats, that were never socialized with humans, can rarely be socialized. Feral kittens can sometimes be socialized to live with humans. The ideal time for capture is between six and eight weeks old. Taming at this age may only take a couple of days. Older kittens can be tamed - but it takes longer. Also, an older kitten may only bond with the person working with them, which can make adoption difficult, but not impossible.

Tonkinese Cats

Complaints concerning feral cats:

1. Urine spraying to mark territory
2. Digging in gardens, feces
3. Noise from fighting and mating cats
4. Population control from animals not neutered

How do we address this issue in our neighborhood? Is the answer capture and euthanasia? Is that humane treatment for the cats? Or does it make sense to sterilize, vaccinate, and then return the cats back to their environment and let them live their life as an outdoor cat which is the true habitat and natural history of the species.

I recently read a true story about a 75-year-old woman named Rhoda who had her own housecats. She revealed later that for six years she had been managing three cat colonies. She made sure the fifty or so cats were spayed or neutered, found homes for the social adults and kittens, and returned the feral adult cats to their original habitats. She found someone else to trap the cats. Her nightly activities centered on providing the cats food to keep them from dumpster diving. Rhoda spent over $100 on cat food per month until she located a food voucher program. What a nice lady. Rhoda was a caregiver that believed in the value of all animals.

Thirsty Cat

October 16th is National Feral Cat Day. It has become internationally known by animal rescues thanks to the committed efforts of Alley Cat Allies. To start a program in your area, visit www.alleycat.org for details.

CITY HALL PLANS FOR EMERGENCIES

A "Table Top" discussion was held to address disaster preparedness for the City of Palm Springs. Two neighborhood representatives attended as well as City staff, Dept. Heads, the Fire and Police Chiefs. The City of Palm Springs discussed a plan that will involve each and every one of us and our neighbors doing our part. Our first priority must be life, then property.

In a disaster, the chain of command will be: A) City Manager, B) Police Chief and C) Fire Chief.

Each of the above will have a back up person in case they are away from the City. It is from this command post where all assignments and orders will emanate. Each Department Head has a special assignment regarding the people in their departments and they will give them their assignments. For example: Dave Barakian in Engineering will send out a team to evaluate bridges, roads etc. and do whatever is necessary to keep our City and citizens safe. Everyone will report back to the command post. Each Department Head will be in the command area to handle calls and concerns from their department teams. All critical information will posted for all department heads to view and as each problem is solved, that information will go up on the board.

The television and radio stations will broadcast any and all information during this time of crisis. If for some reason they are inoperable, the radio stations that are specially equipped will continue to broadcast to "crank radios" or battery operated radio's that have broadband ability. The City has "ham operators" that will come to City Hall to assist.

The Command Post will be City Hall and in case that is not viable due to inability to operate there are other facilities nearby that will be called in to action. Desert Regional Medical Center will remain open to treat critical patients even if the building is not operational. The hospital will utilize the parking lots and any other available space.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) classes are held regularly. We will all be called into action in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster. We can't depend on others to be responsible for us. Each one of us has to have a plan and work that plan so that as a City and neighborhood, we survive.

WHAT DO TO IN CASE OF DISASTERS

A natural disaster can happen at any time. Some disasters give warning like a storm preceding a flood, or a brush fire out of control. Others, like earthquakes give no warning. Once a disaster happens, the time to prepare is gone and all you can do is cope.

Take the next few minutes to examine what you can do to prepare. Anything you do now will be like making a deposit in your survivability savings account for withdrawal in tough times.

As a minimum, you should prepare to be isolated and on your own for 3 days and nights. There will likely be the loss of utilities after a disaster. Power outages are a given, but water may be scarce as well. The phone system may be inoperable.

There might not be medical help for minor cuts or broken bones for several days. With the loss of power comes side effects you may not think of. There will be no gasoline available without power to pump the gas. You might be far from home. The money in your pocket will have to last until power is returned. Some supplies may be available, but buying some items like a manual can opener will be impossible. Cash cards will be useless if power or phone lines are lost. Many stores will have a hard time opening since items don't have prices on them anymore, thanks to scanning cash registers! You get the picture. A basic plan of action is called for.

If you are inside a building during an earthquake you should:

- Stay inside. The most dangerous thing to do during the shaking of an earthquake is to try to leave the building because objects can fall on you.

- Duck under a sturdy table or desk. Cover head, neck and face. Hold on to a table leg, so you're not tossed free of cover. Or drop to the floor and move toward the nearest inside wall avoiding all windows and objects that could fall.

If you are outside during an earthquake you should:

- Drop, cover head, neck and face. Move toward an open area if possible and stay away from power lines and structures.
- Move away from cliffs, or embankments.

Recommended supplies on hand in case of a disaster:

- Water/ 1 gallon per person per day
- Food/ 1 week supply/plastic utensils/pots and pans/can opener/ knife
- Dog/cat food/ 1 week supply/ dish
- Medications (30 day supply)
- Shaker flashlight/ long life candles
- Crank radio or solar powered radio/Batteries for broadband radio
- First aid kit/ peroxide
- Blankets, sheets, pillows
- Liquid bacterial soap/ paper towels
- Matches
- Map of the local area
- Cache of Cash ($500-$1,000)

You can download informational brochures about how to prepare at : www.ready.gov/America/publications.

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neighborhood
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WARM SANDS NEIGHBORHOOD TOP 5 PRIORITIES

1. Beautification of the neighborhood - Work with the City concerning the addition of desert landscaping along City owned median on South Indian Trail (500 - 600 block). Monitor completion of art installation project on Warm Sands Dr.

2. Completed sidewalks along North boundary of Warm Sands - Work with the City regarding completion of sidewalks along the South side of Ramon between Palm Canyon and Warm Sands Drive.

3. Identification of neighborhood - Work with the City to develop a monument sign program, with signs placed at key entrances to the neighborhood.

4. Safety issues in Resort areas - Work with the resort owners and the City to implement a security program funded by the City and the Resorts involving security personnel on staff at resorts and patrolling the streets within that area to minimize the drug dealing, crime, and other issues. Ideally the security staff would be trained by the Police Dept. to know what to look for and how to handle situations that may arise working in conjunction with the Police.

5. Traffic abatement - Work with the adjoining neighborhoods and the City Planning department to develop a Traffic Plan to keep our streets free of too much traffic, safe for children, and develop plans to encourage drivers to slow down and not to use our streets as a main thorough-fare.

POLICE ALERT FOR CRIMES IN PROGRESS

The Palm Springs Police Department (PSPD) incorporated a new web-based public service broadcast network into their policing program. The Silent Partner Alert website can be found on the front page of www.pspd.com. or accessed directly at: www.silentparnteralert.com. This new program allows police to instantly notify the community about crimes in progress.

> "Information technology and business are becoming inextricably interwoven. I don't think anybody can talk meaningfully about one without talking about the other"
>
> Bill Gates, Microsoft Chairman

This system is better than any telephone based systems and enables photographs and pictures to be sent as well. This technological program enables the police to log on to a secure web page, enter alert information and instantly notify their community via computer email, text pager, cell phone email, and Blackberry devices.

As a member of the community, you simply log on to the Internet and subscribe. There is no hardware or software to install or maintain, the system is all on-line.

Here is how it works. Residents log on and select alert types that interest them. The area can be broad or specific, by zip code, neighborhood, city, or state. Later when an incident occurs such as a child abduction or home robbery, police log on to the secure web site and enter a message. Police select a neighborhood, add a picture if appropriate, or even a video or sound file. The Silent Partner engine connects the message with those persons who want to receive the information. The message can be sent to thousands of people at the click of a button.

Our law enforcement community is using information technology to extend their services more efficiently and innovatively. Engaging the community is a main focus of the Silent Partner online program. You are encouraged to be a silent partner and learn about crimes as they occur.

Participating in the program allows us to be more aware of the crime in our neighborhood and in our City.

Incorporating information technology measures can increase the effectiveness and overall success of law enforcement's mission to improve the quality of life through effective policing.

Be a part of the solution. Sign up today.