

# KHA News

Fall 2015

Kimberlea Homeowners' Association

[www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com)

President	OPEN	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Vice-President	OPEN	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Treasurer	Libby Perry	972-612-3595
Secretary	Julie Sinclair-Campbell	972-596-0029
Crimewatch Coordinator	Larry Kryske	469-693-9242
Newsletter & Distribution	OPEN	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Bunko Coordinator	Julie Sinclair-Campbell	972-596-0029
Supper Club Coordinator	Libby Perry	972-612-3595
Men's Poker Night Coordinator	Grant Beard	214-995-8420
Oktoberfest Coordinator	Carrie Beard	214-202-2547

## UPCOMING KHA DATES TO REMEMBER

See page 2 for more details!

**Oktoberfest (on Stagecoach Drive)**

**Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 6:00**

## TWO OPEN KHA BOARD POSITIONS President and Vice President

We have two open Board positions in the Kimberlea neighborhood. If you are interested in filling the position of President or Vice President, please contact Carrie Beard at [carriebeard2007@gmail.com](mailto:carriebeard2007@gmail.com) or 214.202.2547 for details.

A brief overview: President holds a 2 year term, creates the quarterly newsletter, maintains a list of Kimberlea residents, provides website updates to the website administrator and coordinates volunteers for events. The Vice President position is a 2 year term, is the predecessor to the President for the following 2 year term and assists the President as needed.

There are many working parts to our Board; the team listed at the top of the page is fabulous and competent. You will be joining a wonderful Board. Your current President has kept excellent records (wink) for four years and would be happy to hand over all information and provide training.

Until a new President is in place, you may continue to contact Carrie Beard. Thank you!

**KHA ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST  
SATURDAY – OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>  
2:00 – 6:00 ON STAGECOACH DRIVE**

Come out and join your neighbors Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 6:00 for KHA's Annual Oktoberfest! Stagecoach Trail (off of Canoncita) will be blocked off for this amazing event. Great food, entertainment, company and fun for all KHA member families and their guests. Don't forget your chairs!

**VOLUNTEER**

If you can help with: cooking a dish (pre-boil brauts, sauerkraut, potato salad – recipe/ingredients provided), work the registration table or help with set up / clean up, please contact Carrie Beard at [carriebeard2007@gmail.com](mailto:carriebeard2007@gmail.com). We have several veteran volunteers – this day is not possible without them. We would love some new hands to help ... the more volunteers we have, the more everyone can enjoy the day!

**FOOD**

There will be plenty of brauts, hot dogs, sauerkraut, German potatoes, chips, cookies, beer, water and soft drinks!

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Live German music from a local quartet; who have added the perfect touch to our Oktoberfest the last two years. Children will enjoy the bounce house from Jump City. Plus, we have a great teenage team of face painters!

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The Plano Fire and Rescue team is scheduled to arrive at 4:00 for questions and tours of the Fire Truck, barring any emergencies that afternoon. The Plano Police Department has also been invited to participate.

**KHA OPPORTUNITIES**

This is Kimberlea's largest event of the year; it is a great chance to meet and visit with your neighbors. There will be sign-up sheets for all KHA activities, including Supper Club, Women's Bunko and Men's Poker Night.

**2016 DUES and GUESTS**

This is your opportunity to meet your KHA Executive Committee and pay your 2016 dues. Annual dues are \$35 per family and allow you to enjoy activities throughout the year, such as Oktoberfest, Easter Egg Scramble, Santa Claus Visit, and more! We accept checks or cash. You may bring guests to Oktoberfest; it is \$7.00 per guest.



## A NEWSLETTER IN EVERY HOME

Kimberlea's Homeowner's Association (KHA) calendar year begins in October and we would like to confirm every household in Kimberlea is receiving the quarterly newsletters. To make this happen, we are delivering a personalized letter to every mailbox this month to verify information per household. Upon receipt of the letter, if your information – your name, address, or method in which you receive the newsletter – is incorrect, please let us know at [kimberleahome@gmail.com](mailto:kimberleahome@gmail.com).

Also, we would like to decrease our printing cost in 2016. If you currently receive a paper copy of the newsletter and would like to receive it by email instead, visit [www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com) and go to the News page to register. Once you submit the request a confirmation email will be sent to you from Kimberlea that you must accept to complete the registration.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to help confirm our records so we may communicate more effectively.

## BUCKHORN PARK RENOVATION

The City is in the early planning stages to renovate Buckhorn Park. There was an open forum at the park in September led by Angie Kralik, the urban forester for the City of Plano. Thank you to those who attended. This is an exciting time for our neighborhood, we just have to be patient through the process. Angie emailed this week to report she will be creating a page and posting plans and updates online soon. As soon as KHA has this information, we will email it to all residents we have an email address for (side note: this is another perk to registering for your newsletter online – if we have your email address, we can email important updates between newsletters).

We learned at the meeting the renovation will begin in the spring/April. The rock park will be sectioned off so the school can continue to use it until summer break. The grass portion of the park will be resurfaced and new drainage systems put into place. Many old damaged trees will be removed and it is expected that 120 new trees will be planted. The ball and soccer fields and basketball court will be updated. The creek, starting at Wiffletree up to the school property line (basically the red jungle gym), is going to be cleaned out and renovated for access. The current pavilion/picnic table area and baby play ground will be removed. There will be a natural playing/climbing area with logs, rocks, etc. to replace the current baby park. That location near the creek, in general, will be ideal for groups (with a permit) to camp. The rock park will be designed in three parts, a side for baby/toddler children, a side for older children, and will be divided by picnic tables. The entire area will be shaded and the ground covering will be wood chips (standard for Plano City parks). It is expected to be an 8 month process, wrapping up in December 2016.

The Kimberlea Easter Egg Scramble, along with our sister neighborhoods, will be held Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Buckhorn Park, thus beating the start of the renovation. Again, as we receive more information about the renovation, we will send an email.

# CRIMEWATCH

But first ... apologies from the newsletter editor to our Crimewatch Coordinator, Larry Kryske. In a rush to complete the summer newsletter I did not thoroughly follow up with Larry, otherwise I would have realized his article inadvertently went to my spam mail. That said, this "Summertime" article is a great read and easily applies to the Fall as well. Thank you Larry for all you do for KHA.

## Summertime: Relax Yet Remain Situationally Aware

We recently witnessed evil and terrorism on the streets of Charleston, SC. The murders that occurred were about a three-minute walk from Coast Bar and Grill, an upscale seafood restaurant where my son is one of the chefs. He was working the night of the massacre but did not hear the shots fired. The events are a reminder that there is more than one kind of terrorism. Terrorism can be inspired by international circumstances (e.g. September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001 attack) or domestic situations (e.g. Oklahoma City bombing in 1995).

Summertime brings more people out of their homes. Therefore, it raises the population densities in tourist sites, public parks, and sporting events. This makes people even more vulnerable to terrorist exploitation or so the terrorists would like us to believe.

In an era of terrorism we need to live our lives with some degree of normalcy, yet we also need to be aware of the dangers. I have spoken before in this column about situational awareness. We need to be present in our environment as well as being observant of what is going on around us. And when we see something that looks out of the ordinary, we need to inform the police of the suspicious circumstances.

Last week my wife Naomi's second crime/suspense novel, *The Mission*, was released by Dunham Books. The psychological drama is the sequel to *The Witness*. The novel begins with the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack. The protagonist is a young Texan who is now married to a senior New Scotland Yard detective. She never expected the climate of terrorism to sweep across the Atlantic and bring an undercurrent of fear to London. She never expected the clouds of violence to threaten her loved ones and darken her dreams of happiness. And she never expected to be caught in the storm herself. *The Mission* helps us understand the trauma associated with international and domestic terrorism as well as its repercussions. More information can be found at <http://www.NaomiKryske.com>.

In many respects crime is a form of domestic terrorism. And theft is a crime of opportunity. During the summer months, would-be thieves are on the lookout for items that can be easily taken in moments. Unlocked doors, open windows, and open garage doors all provide a temptation to steal valuables — bikes, packages, cell phones, purses — left in plain view. Blooming trees and overgrown shrubs can provide would-be burglars with places to hide.

Here are a few tips to make your summer a safe one:

- Install lighting, such as motion lights or dusk-to-dawn detector lights, on your home's exterior.
- Trim shrubbery around your home to eliminate hiding places.
- Your address should be clearly visible from the street for emergency identification purposes.
- Close and lock your garage door when you are not nearby. Place valuables stored in the garage in a locking device not visible from the street when the garage door is open.
- Do not leave bikes unattended. Lock your bikes, even if you are going to be away for only a few moments.
- If you sleep on the second floor of your home, keep all first floor doors and windows closed and locked.
- Be aware of your surroundings and those around you when you walk, jog, or bike.
- Stop all deliveries of mail and newspapers when on vacation.
- Don't discuss your vacation plans at the grocery store, gym, and the like, as you never know who might be listening.

- Use timers to light your home inside and outside.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up flyers or other publications that might be left while you are away.

Don't make it easy for a burglar to make you a victim!!

## **Be Observant In Public**

When you load the family into the car and head out to a fun filled destination, always keep in mind that criminals may be sharing your day with you. By following a few simple outdoor safety tips you can do everything possible to avoid being victimized by predators who might be watching. Lawbreakers are always on the lookout for an easy target, so make sure you don't give them one.

Always lock your doors and roll up the windows when you leave your car. Car thieves regularly patrol parking lots and try door handles to see if they will open. They are hoping for an unlocked vehicle that they can get into quickly and take anything that was left inside. You should always store valuable items in the trunk, so that a criminal does not see them and become tempted to break in.

While enjoying your day, keep a close eye on your entire family ... and everyone around you. Look for strangers who seem to be watching you or getting too close. They may be trying to determine if you have something they can take. Protect your loved ones and personal items carefully, and make sure no predator has a chance to steal from you.

## **Summer Safety At Home**

All summer long people are outdoors working on projects like lawn care, hosting barbecues or relaxing by a pool. It can be easy to forget to close a door or window, but if they are left open it creates an easy opportunity for a burglar. Garage doors, in particular, are regularly used by criminals to gain access to a home during the warmer months. People go outside to do yard work and forget to close the garage door. Criminals may steal items from the garage itself, which usually contains tools and other valuable belongings, or use it as an easy way to get into your home. Once inside, the law breaker can grab an armful of things quickly and run off without ever being noticed.

Some criminals will work together during the summer months. One will come to your door and distract you, while the other sneaks into your garage, backyard, or home to take whatever they can grab. Be wary of anyone who approaches your front door, and don't let him take up too much of your time. Every year thousands of burglaries occur all over the United States. Teach your family how to guard themselves and their property and do what you can to ensure a safe and happy summer for everyone.

And from the National Crime Prevention Council:

## **Raising Streetwise Kids: A Parent's Guide**

### **Would your child know what to do if...**

- He got lost at a shopping mall?
- A nice-looking, friendly stranger offered her a ride home after school?
- A friend dared him to drink some beer or smoke a joint?
- A babysitter or a neighbor wanted to play a "secret game?"



A great thing about kids is their natural trust in people, especially in adults. It's sometimes hard for parents to teach children to balance this trust with caution. But kids today need to know common-sense rules that can help keep them safe -- and build the self-confidence they need to handle emergencies.

### Start with the basics...

- Make sure your children know their full name, address (city and state), and phone number with area code.
- Be sure kids know to call 9-1-1 or "0" in emergencies and how to use a public phone. Practice making emergency calls with a make-believe phone.
- Tell them never to accept rides or gifts from someone they and you don't know well.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk, security guard, or police officer for help in lost in a mall or on the street.
- Set a good example with your own actions -- lock doors and windows and see who's there before opening the door.
- Take time to listen carefully to your children's fears and feelings about people or places that scare them or make them feel uneasy. Tell them to trust their instincts.

### At school and play...

- Encourage your children to walk and play with friends, not alone. Tell them to avoid places that could be dangerous -- vacant buildings, alleys, playgrounds or parks with broken equipment and litter.
- Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists, and to walk away when others are arguing. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.
- Make sure your children are taking the safest routes to and from school, stores, and friends' houses. Walk the routes together and point out places they could go for help.
- Encourage kids to be alert in the neighborhood, and tell an adult -- you, a teacher, a neighbor, a police officer -- about anything they see that doesn't seem quite right.
- Check out the school's policies on absent children -- are parents called when a child is absent?
- Check out daycare and after-school programs -- look at certifications, staff qualifications, rules on parent permission for field trips, reputation in the community, parent participation, and policies on parent visits.
- Check babysitter references.

### At home alone...

- Leave a phone number where you can be reached. Post it by the phone, along with numbers for a neighbor and emergencies -- police and fire departments, paramedics, and the poison control center.
- Have your child check in with you or a neighbor when he or she gets home. Agree on rules for having friends over and going to a friend's house when no adult is home.
- Make sure your child knows how to use the window and door locks.
- Tell your child not to let anyone into the home without your permission, and never to let a caller at the door or on the phone know there's no adult home. Kids can always say their parents are busy and take a message.
- Work out an escape plan in case of fire or other emergencies. Rehearse with your children.



### Protecting your child against sexual abuse...

- Let your child know that he or she can tell you anything, and that you'll be supportive.
- Teach your child that no one -- not even a teacher or a close relative -- has the right to touch him or her in a way that feels uncomfortable, and that it's okay to say no, get away, and tell a trusted adult.
- Don't force kids to kiss or hug or sit on a grownup's lap if they don't want to. This gives them control and teaches them that they have the right to refuse.
- Always know where your child is and who he or she is with.

- Tell your child to stay away from strangers who hang around playgrounds, public restrooms, and schools.
- Be alert for changes in your child's behavior that could signal sexual abuse such as sudden secretiveness, withdrawal from activities, refusal to go to school, unexplained hostility toward a favorite babysitter or relative, or increased anxiety. Some physical signs of abuse include bedwetting, loss of appetite, venereal disease, nightmares, and complaints of pain or irritation around the genitals.
- If your child has been sexually abused, report it to the police or a child protection agency immediately.

If your child is a victim of any crime, from stolen lunch money to sexual abuse, don't blame him or her. Listen and offer sympathy.

### **Take a stand!**

- Work with schools and recreation centers to offer study time, activities, tutoring, and recreation before and after school.
- Start a school callback program. When a student -- elementary, middle or high school age -- doesn't arrive as scheduled, volunteers at the school call the parents to make sure the absence is excused.
- Volunteer to help with a McGruff House or other block parent program. If you can't offer your home as a haven for children in emergencies, you can help in other ways -- telephoning, fundraising or public relations.

So let's be situationally aware as we enjoy the summer with our families. Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions or suggestions. May we together work to make Kimberlea an even better place to live and raise our families.

Larry Kryske, Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Kimberlea Crime Watch Coordinator, [homeporter@gmail.com](mailto:homeporter@gmail.com), 469-693-9242

## **PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION**

Every home in Kimberlea is receiving a 2016 Membership and Dues letter in their mailbox this month. We would love to make this a record year and have all 330 homes be active members of our homeowners association. Our association's calendar year starts in October. Although dues are voluntary, we hope you agree \$35 annually is a reasonable amount to help your neighborhood association continue to thrive, provide wonderful activities and to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

As a member you will receive a quarterly newsletter with neighborhood updates, and although we encourage everyone to register for the newsletter online ([www.kimberleahome.com/news](http://www.kimberleahome.com/news)), paper copies are made available. Member dues support KHA hosted annual neighborhood events for you and your family to enjoy, including an Easter Egg Scramble, Spring Yard Sale, Oktoberfest and Santa's Visit. The following KHA activities are not funded by dues, but as a member you can join us for: Supper Club, Lady's Bunko, Men's Poker Night and the Holiday Light Contest. Learn more about these events and activities at [www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com). Dues are also applied to the city's required annual maintenance for all five Kimberlea entrances and for occasional one-time expenses such as the 2012 addition of five new entry signs.

Please support your association and remit your membership application and check payable to "KHA c/o Libby Perry" in the amount of \$35. Dues can be mailed or hand delivered to Libby Perry, our KHA Treasurer, at 3325 Canoncita Lane. **Or better yet, we traditionally collect annual dues at Oktoberfest; it is Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00 on Stagecoach and we would love to see you there!**

# KHA TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1, 2015

Previous balance as June 15, 2015 \$5,223.73

Credits:

Membership Dues \$ 175.00

TOTAL CREDITS \$ 175.00

Debits

Entryway maintenance 3 months \$ 540.00

Newsletter Printing \$ 60.60

Web Hosting \$ 120.00

TOTAL DEBITS (\$720.60)

Balance as of October 1, 2015 \$4,678.13

113 families have paid their 2015 dues.

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## KHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ NEW \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Providing your email does not register you for online newsletters and updates via email. Visit [www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com) for registering details.

KHA membership dues are \$ 35 annually.

Please send your check payable to:

**KHA** c/o Libby Perry, Treasurer

3325 Canoncita Lane

Plano, TX 75023