Neighborhood Watch - a Helpful **Burglary Deterrent**

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By Cathy Tyson



fter a few homes were burglar- help.' ized in her neighborhood, including the Lafayette City Manager's home, Elizabeth LaScala was concerned when she heard a loud alarm on the house directly next door go off be as simple as a group of neighbors last week. That was the tipping point that motivated her to call Lafayette Police to set up a Neighborhood Watch meeting.

She learned via the Community Services Officer, Cathy Surges-Moscato, that police make house calls for neighborhood groups, giving an educational presentation and answering questions about how to make the neighborhood safer. She took the next available slot on September 11 to feel that Neighborhood Watch groups host interested neighbors. "We anticipate a crowd, there have been lots of RSVPs," reports LaScala.

Lafayette's Chief of Police Eric Christensen said they have solved two of the four burglaries in that area and, "We may have gotten some leads on the other two as well. We would welcome them establishing a program! I lice." Timeliness is important, she am more than happy to do our part to adds, calling in an unusual vehicle

promptly may turn out to be critical to police and help solve a crime.

Reilly said that her neighborhood has a Watch program - she hosted their meeting last year and as Commissioner she's worked with many other neighborhood groups. "I've always found them to be a great way for residents to connect with one another and the Lafayette Police. There are good questions and interest about what is happening in and around Lafayette. Most people that attend the meetings find them to be useful, and are glad that they attended." She suggests that more neighbors be proactive and set up a meeting in their neighborhood before someone experiences a burglary.

All three towns support Neighborhood Watch, simply call the main business office for more information and to set up a time. Moraga and Orinda also offer to check on homes while residents are on vacation. Orinda provides home security audits upon request - an officer goes around the perimeter of a home checking on possible burglar entry points.

To set up your own neighborhood watch program:

In Lafayette contact **Community Services Officer** Cathy Surges-Moscato at (925)283-3680

Moraga – call the main office number at (925) 376-2515

Orinda - call the main office number at (925) 254-6820

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Event Highlights the Joys of Growing Older

"A Neighborhood Watch group

doesn't need to be very complicated,"

said Lafayette's Crime Prevention

Commissioner Traci Reilly. "It can

putting together a phone/email list to

use as a means of communication

when problems arise." She feels it's

helpful when neighbors know one an-

other - promoting a sense of commu-

nity. Being familiar with residents'

cars and letting those nearby know

when they'll be out of town, is a use-

ful heads-up to keep an eye out for

are very effective because it allows us

to be the eyes and ears of our city.

The police can't patrol every street all

the time, so they rely on us to pay at-

tention and report suspicious activity.

We have had some very good tips

come from residents who were pay-

ing attention and then called the po-

She's in favor of the program, "I

unusual activity.

Submitted by John Fazel



ou think growing old is a bumness, caring and humility. mer? Think again. The 125 Orinda Three Quarter Century Club members and guests, ranging from age 75 to 99.5, who attended the recent 13th Annual Luncheon at the Orinda Community Church, will tell you otherwise.

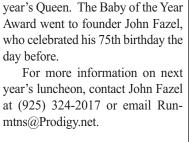
Guest speaker Cliff Dochterman, former worldwide president of Rotary International who is in his 80s, mixed short stories, jokes and touching examples of how seniors deal with the realities of growing older, this unique and festive event which and discussed how much the world honors the community's senior citiand our lives have changed with every succeeding decade: the way we lived and saw the world since the Depression, through WWII, to the Sunrise Rotary President Mark tumultuous '60s, space travel and the Roberts read a proclamation from high tech generation.

enjoying the Golden Years was Day in Orinda and the Royal Court summed up with one word: attitude. was announced: Tom and Aileen He said it is up to each of us to take Deahl were named Longest Married charge of our own happiness. The Couple having enjoyed 71 blissful real joys of aging are found when we years together; Tom again wore the put into each day a few acts of kind- crown as King (97 years); and 99.5-

In addition to the guest speaker, attendees were also entertained by Orinda Idols Amrita Newton and Emma Patton who each sang a nostalgic song from a by-gone era. Guests also enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared and served by the sponsors, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarians and Mason McDuffie/Better Homes and Gardens real estate agents.

John Fazel once again emceed zens, an idea borrowed from Fazel's

hometown in Perry, Iowa. Following lunch, Lamorinda Mayor Steve Glaser declaring June The common denominator for 20 as Three Quarter Century Club



year-old newcomer Arline Pierra

walked away with the Tiara as this



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