

INDIAN LAKE CLUB, INC. –Indian Lake Estates

COMMUNITY MEETING

April 18, 2015

The Community Meeting was held at The Lake Toxaway Firehouse

**PRESIDING:** Officer Chad Owen, School Resource Officer, Transylvania County Sheriff's Department

**ATTENDING:** Members of the Community, Board Members

These are comments from Officer Owen to the Community:

1. Neighborhood Watch, a community program, has been very successful. Communication among neighbors is essential to improving security in the community.
2. Breaking and Entering is the Number One crime in Transylvania County and cases are very difficult to solve.
3. Deterrents such as Neighborhood Watch Signs and mailbox stickers, especially if well maintained, are very effective. Vigilance in the neighborhood is key, but residents should not confront suspicious persons. Instead the police should be called about anything suspicious like open windows, lights on in vacant houses, tire tracks that might be noticed by residents walking in the community.
4. Members of the community should be the eyes and ears for the police by being able to describe suspicious vehicles by Color, Make, Model, Number and State of the car tag.
5. Cameras are only effective if they are working. Perpetrators will catch on to fake cameras. Individual cameras at residences, especially with audio, are very helpful. Centrally monitored alarm systems are effective at deterrence, but false positives can occur with motion detectors and pets.
6. The average police response time to Indian Lake Estates is 8-12 minutes. It can take up to 20 minutes.
7. An effective deterrent to Breaking and Entering is "Target Hardening." Examples are: Deadbolt locks, Motion Lighting outside the home, sound activated lights inside the home, leaving TV or Radio on. All of these make it harder for someone to break into your home.

8. The likely suspects for Breaking and Entering are recidivist working age white career criminals seeking prescription drugs or alcohol or any goods that are easily pawned. They go after easy targets, like seasonal homes, especially during night time hours.
9. In order to trace stolen goods, it is recommended that homeowners label valuables, record serial numbers; make an inventory and take photos of household goods as North Carolina has a statewide system to check stolen property if it can be identified.
10. The Volunteer in Partnership Program is composed of retired police officers and LE officials as well as ordinary citizens. They patrol homes in the area using marked cars. They do not have LE authority but report suspected crimes to LE.
11. **Continuing requests to the Sheriff's Department will result in continued patrols.**