

Hopefully everyone is staying warm! But isn't it encouraging that the days are getting longer? Spring is not far off!

We have a full board of directors once again. Debbi Long, Meadows, was appointed to the one open position at the January 15 regular meeting. The board now consists of Vicky Markussen, Garden Ridge, President; Diane Grecco, Gardens, Vice-president/secretary; Ashley Barker, Meadows; and Cody Koppenstein, Meadows, treasurer. We thank them all for their service. They all have their contact information on the MeadowWood HOA website.

The board will not meet in February, but will meet March through June, and resume in October and November.

Until recently the City of Liberty Lake did not have a code enforcement officer. It does now, and it's important that all homeowners throughout the city know that those popular portable basketball hoops need to be kept off the streets. Sure, they're convenient and fun, but please put them in your driveway, and if that's not possible, there are public parks with basketball hoops.

The problems are:

- *They slow down first responders or other emergency vehicles.

- *They obstruct vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians, snow plows, street sweepers and garbage trucks.

- *If someone were to hit one causing damage to their property or person, the owner of the basketball hoop could be held liable.

- *And, city code prohibits obstruction of streets, sidewalks and rights of way. They must be clear of obstruction that interferes with the normal flow of traffic.

So, please, put these basketball hoops anywhere but the street.

Several community members - including our HOA president and this author - attended the first seminar led by LLPD Officer, Kyle Fritz, on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud. There have been several unfortunate incidents of members of our community being scammed out of thousands of dollars to bad actors, mostly online. Officer Fritz presented solid suggestions and information to prevent you from becoming the next victim.

One new scam involves Amazon packages showing up at your door, but you know you didn't order anything. It is addressed to you, so you decide to open it, only to discover a bunch of cheap gifts. Enclosed is a card with a QR code. DON'T scan it, because once you have, the thief has all of your information. Also, if you get an email or text stating you owe money for a toll road, delete it. Not only do we not have any toll roads nearby, it's a scam.

Fritz hopes to make several of these presentations throughout the year. Watch LLPD's website for future dates. It's well worth your time.

There was an incident lately where an individual entered a home and stole the owner's purse off the counter. Some tips from LLPD about ways to discourage burglars are as follows:

Install lighting by exterior doors and leave on at night.

Make sure your house numbers are illuminated so first responders can see them.

Trim shrubs back from doors and windows. Don't create a hiding place for the bad guys.

Close your garage door and cover windows so no one can see inside.

Hide your garage door opener from view in your car. Or lock your car doors even if it's inside the garage.

If you move into a new residence, change the locks!

Always lock your doors and windows.
Don't hide a key outside.
Solid core or metal exterior doors are recommended.
Use a dead bolt. If there is glass within three-feet of the lock, use a double-cylinder deadbolt.
Install peepholes with 160 degree views.

Regarding strangers, don't let them into your home.
Verify workers by ID and calling their employer and don't give them keys!
Never leave notes for anyone on the door.

On vacation? Consider a house sitter, and ask a neighbor to put in your newspaper or garbage bins.
Park a neighbor's car in your driveway.
Use timers on indoor lights.
Have deliveries directed to your neighbors.
Request LLPD to perform a vacation home check.

That's a lot of information, and it's doubtful everyone does all of it, but do what you can to protect your property.

The CC&R committee is in the process of reviewing our CC&R's to recommend changes/updates to the board. The committee is interested in receiving your feedback. Please send an email to Diane Grecco at dianeghoa@gmail.com with your ideas.