



THE LAKELAND BEAT

February 2013

COMING EVENTS

2013

February 2, Chalk for Charity,
LCPAAA and Knights of Colum-
bus,
Downtown Lakeland

**February 9, Kiwanis Pancake
Festival,** Tiger Town Hanger



Front row: Clariiece Stump, Joy Smith, Irene Burkhart, Irene Pezzano, JoAnn Glenn Second row: Kevin Branham, (Mas Verde Manager) Marge Polvin, Mary Ellen June Members not pictured: Bruce and Janet Arnold, Rosalie Paradis, Gloria Vik and Anna Day

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Richard Derk | President |
| Michael Matlick | Vice President |
| Kim Golotko | Secretary |
| Jane Hunter | Treasurer |
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| Shirley Mobley | Director |
| Karen Scites | Director |

COMMITTEES

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Mike Matlick | Fundraising |
| Linda Bowlin | Membership |
| Irene Nolan | Hospitality |
| Charles Burdette | Crime Prevention |
| Kristy Osterholtz | Sunshine |
| Steve Jones | Scholarships |
| Dick Fearnow | Guest Speakers |
| Karen Scites | Newsletter |
| Gary Brown | Photographer |
| Robin Tillet | Photographer |

LPD LIASON 834-6900

Captain Rick Taylor
Lieutenant Steve Walker

MAS VERDE COMMUNITY LCPAAA MEMBERS

The community of Mas Verde, located off of Harden Boulevard, is the epitome of what retirement should be in Florida. The entrance is always beautifully landscaped and that alone would make you want to live there. This community of 400 homes, has an active Neighborhood Watch Program that includes some of the LCPAAA members

At this writing, there are twelve highly energetic LCPAAA members living in Mas Verde who are always ready to volunteer for any event going on. In fact, for last year's Chalk for Charity, one of the ladies walked from Harden Boulevard to downtown Lakeland to volunteer. She spent the day helping out and then walked home, just because that's what she does!

The Mas Verde residents are to be congratulated on their involvement and commitment to the protection and safety of all who live in the area along with their service to The Lakeland Police Department.



OPERATION “SMOKE-N-GUNS” ROUNDUP

Police Chief Lisa Womack, along with US Attorney Robert E. O'Neill, and Special Agent in Charge (Tampa) Julie Torres of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, announce the results of a joint operation charging twenty-five individuals with federal firearms and drug trafficking charges. In addition, sixteen more individuals are charged with state offenses. The penalties faced by defendants in this investigation vary based upon the drug amounts and types, as well as the criminal histories of each individual. Maximum penalties include up to life imprisonment.

The results of the operation are as follows:

- 47 subjects face multiple Federal indictments and State charges.
- 109 Firearms of all varieties purchased. Some samples of this type of firearms on display. No trace data submitted on the guns purchased to maintain the integrity of the operation.
- 334 grams of crack cocaine
- 242 grams of powder cocaine
- 31 grams of Meth
- 602 pills, such as Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Xanax, etc.
- 932 grams of Marijuana

Wednesday, January 16th, 23 people were arrested;

- 17 on Federal charges
- 6 on State charges

An additional 5 suspects were already in custody on other charges at the time of this operation.

12 suspects are at large and we are attempting to identify 7 more.

The operation, dubbed “Smoke-N-Guns”, zeroed in on previously convicted felons, suspected drug dealers and gang members in the area who had been, or were, illegally selling drugs and firearms, Officials said those arrested range in age from 17 to 62.

Additionally, \$19,501.00 in US currency was confiscated, along with an AK-47 type assault weapon and a Glock handgun. This brings the total number of guns taken off the streets of Lakeland to 111.



CRIME PREVENTION AND PERSONAL SAFETY

Starting a new year, is the perfect time for a refresher on Crime Prevention and Personal Safety for your home and family. For the home, a Neighborhood Watch Program and Securing Your Home is a great place to start.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM:

Neighborhood Watch programs provide residents with the feeling of ownership for their community by promoting the belief it is everyone's responsibility to see that their community is a safer place to live.

Neighborhood Watch encourages residents to be alert for suspicious activity in the area and interact with each other by exchanging information about work schedules, vacation plans, types of vehicles belonging to residents, etc. Regular monthly meetings offer residents updated information on current crime trends and allows residents the opportunity to plan watch programs for their area.

Do Neighborhood Watch programs really work? A recent study by the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office found "Across all eligible studies combined, Neighborhood Watch was associated with a reduction in crime".

Some advantages of Neighborhood Watch include:

- Reduces crime and prevents crime
- Provides direct contact with the Police Department
- Increases awareness about activity in the City of Lakeland
- Helps neighbors get to know each other
- Assists the Police Department with crime prevention efforts

IS YOUR HOME A SITTING TARGET?

Unfortunately, the burglar does not need to look around very long to discover "Welcome Burglar" signs unwittingly left around many homes. It is even more unfortunate when you realize that all it takes to make your home less inviting to a burglar is a little common sense and several easy, effective and inexpensive crime prevention measures.

Survey your home: look at your home through a burglar's eyes. Does it look like an easy target? Are there obvious security weaknesses?

- Shrubbery should not obscure doors and windows. Trim the growth so that a burglar cannot work undetected.
- At night, leave a few lights burning outside your home. Lights over doorways and garages and strategically placed floodlights will make your home less inviting to a burglar.
- Windows and doors should be securely locked. Inadequate locks should be replaced or supplemented.
- Make your home look occupied at all times.

Open garage doors: attract burglars. Make a habit of keeping gar-

age doors closed and locked. An open garage door, with no car in sight, is a clear invitation to a burglar. Especially if the garage is used to store such items as bicycles, power mowers, garden tools, golf bags, and other easily stolen property.

Sliding glass doors are particularly vulnerable to attacks by burglars. The "pinning" technique will prevent the lock from being forced or the door from being lifted from the track. Key operated pins or grips are a preferred method of securing sliding glass doors. Check with your locksmith for details.

Give your home an occupied look. Most burglars are looking for unoccupied homes. If your home appears occupied, the burglar will usually look for other, more inviting sites.

- When away from home, leave a radio playing
- Use automatic timers for interior lights when away
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home
- Stop your mail delivery
- Stop your newspaper delivery
- Notify your local law enforcement agency that you plan to be away. Most agencies will schedule periodic checks of your home once alerted of your absence.

Use Common Sense. Warn family members to be cautious about giving out information over the telephone. Burglars sometimes call ahead to learn if anyone is home, who is home, or when residents are expected to return.

- Do not indiscriminately open your home to strangers. Install a wide-angle door viewer or peephole in the front door.
- Ask for positive identification from repairmen or solicitors. If suspicious about the person, telephone his office for verification.
- When you have a repairman or salesman, don't leave him alone even for a few minutes. Don't let a stranger inside to use your phone, make the call for him.
- Don't leave notes outside your home announcing your absence.
- Don't leave keys hidden outside your home.
- Don't leave your house keys with your car keys when leaving your car at a parking lot.
- Don't attach your name or license number to your house keys. When lost or stolen, such information can be easily traced to your front door.
- Keep valuables you don't use often in a safe deposit box.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number. Marked property can be easily traced and identified as yours. Marked property is a proven burglary deterrent because it is difficult for a burglar to dispose of for resale. If a burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

Through a Neighborhood Watch Program, neighbors agree to keep an eye on each other's property and to report suspicious activities to the Lakeland Police Department.

ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NOW!!!



Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1904
Lakeland, FL 33802

"Effective Crime Control is a Team Effort."

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 12, 2013
LCPAAA General
Membership Meeting
LPD 2nd floor 7:00 pm

February 26, 2013
LCPAAA Board Meeting
LPD 3rd floor 7:00 pm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

February 9th - Kiwanis Pancake Festival, Tiger Town

Check with Charlie Burdette at the monthly meetings for details as we get closer to the event you are interested in. Or call him at 863-619-8127

**DON'T FORGET TO LOG
YOUR HOURS!!!**

If anyone has something of interest they would like to see in the Lakeland Beat Newsletter, forward your request/information to Karen Scites at karenbill@tampabay.rr.com or call 863-815-0851

**CUTOFF DATE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES/PHOTOS IS
BY NOON ON THE 15TH OF THE MONTH.**

Karen Scites

