

Country Side South Homeowners Association Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

The Board is happy to welcome new member Jody Jarding who joined the Board at the November 2015 Annual Meeting. Thank you Jody. Please attend our monthly meetings which are held on the **fourth** Monday evening of each month (except no meeting in December) at 7:00 at the Whispering Pines Fire Station.

Thank you also to the 30 +/- neighbors that showed up to the January 25th Meeting in anticipation of hearing Deputy Sheriff Nicholas Nelson speak about the attempted break-in recently in our neighborhood. Unfortunately the Sheriff was home ill and was a no show. However the group did have a spirited conversation in light of the fact the Sheriff was absent but the victimized home owner saved the night as he was there and did share his experience. Sheriff Nelson does plan to attend the February 22nd meeting for all that are interested. Sheriff Nelson has answered a few questions of interest that are published within this Newsletter. Thanks again for all those who attended.

For 2016 the Countryside South Annual Homeowner Dues will be \$145.00. Bills will be mailed out in March and will be due by April 15, 2016.

Tru-Green will be spraying the common area trees for Pine Beetle infestation for the 4th year this spring and will also be spraying for weed control as well. Residents can get the CSSHOA Group rate of \$13.00 per tree by contacting Kevin Morsching at 605-348-4488.

Facebook we are now on Facebook (a work in progress) you can access us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CSSHOA/>. We intend this to be informational and will try to post Meeting Agendas and other important notices as we feel will be helpful. We will still be accessible on our CSSHOA website at www.csshoa.org to review minutes of the monthly meetings, to review the Covenants and or Bylaws, or to contact the Board or its members.

Croell Perli Quarry Expansion: A Concerned Citizens Group is hosting a planning meeting Monday Feb 1st to discuss the concerns neighbors have in preparation for an organized approach to vent their concerns at the Feb 8th Pennington County Planning Commission Meeting. Details inside this Newsletter. All are invited to attend.

BH Electric Cooperative is hosting a **FREE** Soup Supper Monday Feb 15th 6-7:00 PM at the Whispering Pines Fire Hall, all are invited. Their annual Meeting follows.

Residents are reminded that the **SPEED LIMIT IS 25 MILES PER HOUR**. There are many children who play in yards adjacent to the street. These children and many adults also walk and ride their bicycles in the streets. Please remember that the hills, curves and blind spots make it difficult for drivers to see children and adults who are on the streets. For the safety of all please drive carefully and remind your guests, delivery people and contractors to do the same.

A message from A Concerned Citizens Group:

DID YOU KNOW????

“**CROELL REDI-MIX** has bought the land with the old Perli Gravel Pit on Hwy 16 and has begun mining gravel from that area. They plan to disturb 160 acres of Black Hills land. Do you know what this means for us – truck traffic, **water safety and quality**, blasting, dust, noise, aesthetics, etc. There is a public forum to discuss concerns about this mining operation Monday Feb 1, 2016 at 7:00PM at the Black Hills Church of Christ 13654 So Hwy 16 (between Old MacDonald’s Farm and the Christmas Store). A Construction Permit Application is pending before the Pennington County Planning Commission and is on the agenda for the Feb 8, 2016 meeting at 9:00AM. The Concerned Citizens Group has invited all concerned citizens to join them for either or both of these meetings.”

Q & A from Deputy Nicholas Nelson

1. What can homeowners do to make their homes more secure?

- a. There are many ways one can secure their home. The single best way that will make a home more secure, I believe, is lighting and to be more specifically motion lights. Studies have shown that the general use of stationary lighting does help but over time allows the burglar to eventually use this to his advantage. Motion lighting on the other hand adds a little more difficulty to the mix. It’s unexpected and at times can be unpredictable. Given that this area is in the county I understand that this can be a difficult issue, however remember that criminals don’t typically want to be seen.
- b. Another way is to place video cameras throughout the property. When picking a video system remember to choose one with nighttime capabilities and with reasonably good clarity.
- c. Finally, remember to secure all doors and windows. Locking our doors is usually second nature when we leave the home for various reasons, however typically our windows get overlooked. Try to check all of the doors (that are not regularly used) and windows on a weekly basis to ensure that they are secured.

2. How effective are security systems?

- a. Security systems can be very effective. Over the past decade these systems have taken giants steps in technology. Most systems are very quick and work in a real time setting. I have seen a lot of systems that also integrate a video system to an existing Wi-Fi network, so one can check on their home anytime of the day, or night.
- b. Remember that security systems do come with a cost. One option to avoid this would be placing security signs in the yard, or on exterior windows. Although this provides no protection it does act as a positive deterrent.

3. How effective is Neighborhood Watch or similar organizations?

- a. If organized correctly a Neighborhood Watch is a great way to deter crime. Remember that this should involve the whole community and be a tool to deter crime. A neighborhood watch will also increase the effectiveness of the already mentioned suggestions I have made.
- b. A neighborhood watch is similar to a small child in that you can’t expect it to grow unattended. Forming a neighborhood watch takes a lot of work and has to be maintained on a regular basis. It’s not something that can be left to grow on its own.

4. **What is an expected response time when a 911 emergency call is made?**
 - a. Due to the expectation put on deputies to patrol the county in its entirety an exact response time cannot be estimated. For priority emergencies you can expect a 2-8 minute response time. Lower priority calls may take longer. I can say that PCSO deputies make every effort possible to get to an emergency in a timely manner. Typically if the deputy is out of position and cannot get to an incident quickly other agencies may be asked to help respond. These agencies include Rapid City Police Dept. and the South Dakota State Highway patrol.
5. **What can the neighborhood do to help protect each other?**
 - a. Being a good witness is as important as any of the deterrents I've spoken about so far. Watch for suspicious behavior in and throughout the neighborhood; take notes of such behavior documenting the 4 W's. (Who, What, When, and Where)
6. **What does a burglar look for or target when wanting to break into a home?**
 - a. Criminals look at various things when planning a burglary, these include:
 - i. Mail, packages or newspapers piling up over a long period of time.
 - ii. Vehicles that have been parked for extended amounts of time
 - iii. Typical routine of the homeowner both at home and while they are gone.
 - iv. Obituaries (This is usually overlooked, however criminals will check)
7. **Is it true that burglars can electronically open our garage doors and what can we do about that?**
 - a. Yes there are devices that can be used, however they are found far and few between. To help prevent this take the following steps:
 - i. Always lock the door, inside the garage, leading into the home. This just adds another level of difficulty for the burglar to deal with.
 - ii. Never leave your garage door opener out in plain sight, especially in your vehicle! This is something that we tend to overlook and it would not be hard for a burglar to steal the device from your vehicle and follow you home to learn where you live. Before you know the device is stolen you've already given the burglar all the information he needs.
 - iii. Make sure to leave your garage closed when not in use. Most criminals will look for easy targets. Leaving your garage open with your valuables in plain sight simply makes your property more attractive to criminals. Thieves would rather go after the valuables they know they can get quickly as opposed to having to look for them. This also applies to your vehicle. Try to avoid leaving anything of value in plain sight.
8. **Are dogs and posted security signs a good deterrent?**
 - a. Yes and Yes. Dogs are always a good deterrent, especially if trained correctly. Even a dog that barks more than usual at the slightest thing can be a good deterrent.
 - b. As for the signs in the back yard refer to question 2.
9. **We have had a series of youth door bell ringing complaints and other minor mischievous activities, should we be concerned that these kids could escalate their activities to something more sinister and what should we do about that?**
 - a. There is always a concern that this type of behavior can escalate, however I feel taking the steps that I have suggested would help eliminate some of this type of behavior.
10. **Do you feel that the level of criminal behavior has escalated in our neighborhood the past few years and what should we do to help?**
 - a. I don't believe that crime has escalated in this area specifically, but I do believe that it has become more noticeable. The community is becoming more aware of their community and what goes on it, therefore it may appear that there is more crime in the area. I view this as a good thing especially when a community is discussing the possibility of a neighborhood watch program.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Moore	President	C-605-999-9366	nydakota@mit.midco.net
John Mattson	Vice President	C-605-381-3219	jrmattson@rap.midco.net
Drew Anderson	Secretary	H-605-791-0474	drewandersondc@gmail.com
Delia Thompson	Treasurer	H-605-341-5408	mdmthompson@rap.midco.net
Tom Mastel	ACC Contact	H-605-791-0714	tommastel0@gmail.com
Jean Mattson	Board Member	H-605-348-3418	jrmattson@rap.midco.net
Rich Larsen	Board Member	H-605-343-3825	rlsod@q.com
Jody Jarding	Board Member	C-605-391-5657	jjarding@hotmail.com

We invite any of you to join the board or **to attend the monthly meetings** as we can always use your input. A lot has changed in the 20+ years that the board has been functioning and today our primary role is to protect the property values of the neighborhood and to make this a safe, comfortable and friendly place for all. Please attend our monthly meetings which are normally held on the **fourth** Monday evening of each month at 7:00 at the Whispering Pines Fire Station. However, we do not have a meeting in December due to the Christmas Holiday season.