

El Gheko meeting

Feb. 1, 2017

Attending: Tom Wills, Rita and Jerry Tulino, Jean and Charlie Kelly, Pat Iaccarino, Rhoda Zwelling, Keith Barnes, Debra Barnes, Kathy Cowgill, Pat Dunham, Jim Geisler and Jackie Theriault.

Election of officers (all positions elected by acclamation).

Tom Will accepted to continue as president.

Rita Tulino and Jackie Theriault will share the position of Vice President.

Theresa Engle will serve as treasurer.

Pat Dunham will serve as secretary.

President's report: Due to lack of attendance, we have not looked for neighborhood representatives.

Tom asked that everyone to sign in and check email to make sure correct so a good email list can be compiled..

El Gheko will have one newsletter paid for by the City. It will be sent out prior to the November meeting.

Report by Jason Dombrose, the neighborhood police liaison, on crimes in the Broadway to Speedway, Wilmot to Kolb area.

There have been 80 larcenies, 19 burglaries, 113 car accident, 102 check welfare, 67 suspicious cars, person, and 8 auto thefts.

It was noted that people are cutting through the driveway of Villa Hermosa to avoid the light at Speedway and Wilmot. Officer Dombrose will monitor the situation.

He advised that if you wish to report dogs on the loose or someone not picking up after dog, contact should be made with Animal Control. If you report, you should be willing to go to court.

Jeffery Van Norma And Mike Hill, from the police fraud unit, gave a presentation on protecting against identity theft. Their unit has a caseload about 15 crimes each week. About 80 cases a week are reported and about 10%+ are assigned. They investigate crimes ranging from ID theft to major embezzlement. Even if a case is not assigned, there is follow up to help the person who reported the crime. It is often up to individual to correct identity theft, but the police can tell you about the processes and where to go for help. The department works with other agencies, i.e., postal authorities.

Breaches are part of the reason there are more identity thefts. One of the most important things you can do is monitor email and have strong passwords into your accounts. If someone gets into email, they can see your history and many of your transactions. For example, if you leave a banking account open, a thief can go in and change your password to one they can use to access your money.

In 2016, the number of computer records stolen numbered more than half the world's population. Things to beware include phishing emails that are trying to get information from you. If you download an application for computer or phone, be aware of the information that you give to be able to use the app – i.e., access to your location, contacts, etc.

Advice to protect your identity from the officers included:

- Monitor the charges on your credit cards. Be aware thieves can duplicate credit cards or may use random numbers to make a charge that shows up on your credit card.
- A stolen birth certificate is worth about \$1,500 on the street for identity theft.
- Be aware of phone scams. A recent one is asking “can you hear me?” Your “yes” will be recorded and they will call back to verify. The thieves then know how to involve you and get you to give them personal information.
- It is advisable to use one computer for all online shopping.
- Shred records with personal information, such as bills, statements, medical information, etc. Dumpster diving for identity theft is real.
- Mail theft is common. The officers reported that they are more surprised if they don’t find mail that doesn’t belong to a person when arresting someone than if they do. Don’t put outgoing mail in your mailbox; take it to a mail drop or post office.
- Read and review credit statements, get free credit reports that are offered yearly. You can get 1 from each of the big 3 credit reporting agencies so you can check your credit report three times each year.
- Empty your purse and wallet. Don’t carry more than you need.
- If you receive an email or phone call that asks you to act (for example, saying an account must be verified to stay open), slow down, talk to others and see if they got the same message. Finally, go to the brick and mortar bank to verify.
- Check your mailbox daily.
- Check bank accounts frequently.
- Go to the social security website and check work history.
- Remember children’s social security numbers can be used for identity theft and fraud.
- You can use monitoring systems – research and do homework to find best company

An identity thief can use your name to open new credit card account, open bank accounts or file income tax in your name.

The officers were thanked for their presentation.

Tom reminded everyone that they can join NextDoor.com on their computers to stay in touch with surrounding neighborhoods.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35