

Communities Urged To Secure Homes

By T.A. Crerand

DINGMANS — The Alliance of Community Associations held their first meeting of the year with the first in a series of presentations designed to benefit membership in community associations. The featured speaker gave a presentation about protecting yourself and your family from a home invasion and how not to be a victim.

During the meeting held March 11 in the Conashaugh Lakes Community Association, John Crerand, president of the organization and the Dingman Township constable, said “you should have a reasonable expectation of being safe in your home” and gave survival tips for families.

Crerand gave a scenario of a nighttime knock on the door that could lead to a home invasion causing family members to experience terror and anxiety. He challenged those in attendance from various private communities in Pike County as to how they would react.

He gave tips for prevention that included installing a wide-angle peephole on your door and instructing family members not to open a door to strangers or for a delivery of an item you did not order. Make sure the screws holding the deadbolt on your door are three inches long.

Crerand referenced a television news report the evening prior to the meeting that gave an account of a seven-year-old boy who dialed 911 after three masked individuals with firearms invaded the family home.

The youngster asked the emergency operator to send policemen before being discovered with his younger sister. Crerand advised programming all phones in the home to dial 911.

He recommended having an escape plan in place in case you experience an intruder in your home, and encouraged a neighborhood watch program.

Get acquainted with your neighbors and exchange code words or actions to indicate you need them to call the police for you. Gates and cameras

are also effective.

If someone breaks into your home, he cautioned not to agree to be transported to an ATM machine or fight over property.

Some private communities have an armed police force and do not have to solely rely on state police to arrive since they have a longer response time.

John Dublanica, treasurer and secretary, gave a handout as well as an overview of a list provided by PA State Police Trooper Satkowsky containing guidelines to keep one’s home safe and secure.

It advised taking photographs and inventorying your personal items of value as proof of ownership should anything be stolen. Consider engraving items like a television so that if stolen, you could reclaim it.

Other tips to avoid being burglarized include not bragging about getting something like a new flat screen television; avoiding talking about cash and jewelry you have in your home; avoiding tunnel vision and if observing suspicious activity, reporting it to your security or the state police.

If you suspect drug trafficking, you can report it 24 hours a day to the state police drug hotline toll free at 1-877-PA-NODRUGS.

Visit www.crimedoctor.com for more security topics. Flashing across the banner are alerts like a robbery occurs every minute, burglary every 15 seconds, theft every five seconds, auto theft every 29 seconds, property crime every three seconds, and other serious alerts.



(Photo by T.A. Crerand)

Members of the Alliance of Community Associations meet regularly with voting membership to share information about common interests and discuss matters like cooperative purchasing and other initiatives. Pictured from left are officers John Dublanica, treasurer and secretary, John Crerand, president, and Jerry Goldberg, vice president.

Upcoming Meetings

Jessica Grohmann from the Pike County Rural Character Preservation Board will give a presentation at the April 8 meeting on accomplishments and future of the review board, which evaluates applications for open space to protect against overdevelopment.

Members and attendees were encouraged to bring a guest to this meeting.

Gold Key Estates will host the April 8 meeting, to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Chatterbox meeting room. On May 13, attendees will hear from Patrick D. Stapleton of Resources for Performance, LLC, about the employee selection and hiring process.

On June 10, there will be a presentation from community leaders about effective debt collection policies and procedures within planned communities.

The Alliance is a nonprofit organization formed to protect the authority and autonomy of its member community associations.

For more information or to learn more about upcoming meetings and future presentations that could benefit your community association, log onto their website www.allianceofcommunityassociations.com.

Send an email inquiry to aoca@ptd.net or call 570-686-3166.