



RKC Reporter

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ROSEMEAD’S VERY OWN “NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH”

RHS KEY Club members didn't, as some rumors assert, actually start Rosemead's Neighborhood Watch program. But they, with their Kiwanis Advisor Bill Miller, did take it to a new level in the early to mid nineteen nineties.

This month's opening of a Public Safety Center in South Rosemead may open the door to a revival of what happened then.

According to Sheriff's Deputy Doug Jewett, who has coordinated the program for twelve years, the RHS KEY Clubbers' involvement occurred in neighborhoods where

- RHS Key Club members resided and
- Interested citizens had been recruited to be Block Captains.

Frequently these captains came from Mr. Miller's congregation (he was Pastor of the Methodist-affiliated Mission Community Church in Rosemead).

It is unclear if other religious congregations helped as well, but they may have – Pastor Miller was a leader of Rosemead's Inter-faith Council.

KEY CLUB WATCH HISTORY

The KEY Club members assisted in a two-fold manner. They first helped take Neighborhood Watch surveys to familiarize the target neighborhoods with the concept and determine interest. This was done by teams of KEY Club members actually living on the block, typically 20-25 residences. The goal was to find at least a half dozen residents willing to come to a meeting.

The KEY Clubbers next helped invite neighbors to local block meetings where they then served as hosts and hostesses, even translating for those who could not speak English.

According to Jewett, this translation ability was critical in making the efforts so successful.

Various crime fighting materials, supplied by the Sheriff's Department, typically were distributed by Jewett or one of his fellow officers.

After the meeting the program was activated, with the City of Rosemead erecting signs on the affected blocks.

Miller was central to this. After his retirement KEY Club involvement in the Neighborhood Watch program gradually faded. Changing community demographics further reduced participation. Of the over 120 Neighborhood Watch units which were established, only around

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RKC SOAP REPORT – July, 2006

(SOAP = “Supported Organizations and Projects” of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club; for information on K-family groups and partners mentioned here please see links on the right side of the rosemeadkiwanis.org website home page)

BLOOD DRIVE

The Mission Care Home blood drive , held June 29, resulted in donation of 16 pints after screening, according to the Care Home’s Chris Quesada.

Details on Los Angeles County’s chronic shortage of blood donors (common in urban areas) were featured in the June, 2006, issue of the *RKC Reporter*.

The drive was conducted in conjunction with the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce and Rosemead Kiwanis. If it becomes an annual event more effort will be put into publicity next year.

AWARDS

Rosemead Kiwanis this year has received two awards for its efforts in helping with Rosemead’s after school program, reports Club President Ernie Ayala.

- The first was the Golden Apple award from the Garvey School District awarded annually for support of the school district.
- The second was awarded by the Garvey District PTA association at the nomination of the Willard Elementary School for our efforts in February’s Literary Circus.

NEW AKTION CLUB

Formal chartering of the Rosemead Kiwanis sponsored Lincoln Training Center Aktion Club is anticipated in September. It will likely start with ten members, according to Club advisor Mario Manzano.

FREE SEPT SOCIALS

California Mission Inn residents enjoy mixing with the community—and will be hosting two events in September.

The first will be a “Fun Faire and Antique Car Show” from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, September 23.

In addition to a variety of classic cars there

will be live entertainment, hot dogs, popcorn, lemonade, clowns and more!

Five days later, on Thursday, September 28, this activity will be followed by a “Sock Hop” from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. In addition to the chance to dance to favorite tunes, there will be “delicious hors d’oeuvres, refreshments and live entertainment.”

Members and friends of all K-Family Clubs and the Rosemead community are welcome at both events, and the best news is that there is no admission or cover charge for either one!

AFTER-SCHOOL FUNDING BILL (SB 638) TO BE HEARD AUGUST 9

After months of waiting, SB 638 (Torlakson), the funding bill to implement Prop 49 mandates relative to after school programs, will be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee, Wednesday, August 9, according to a bulletin from the After School Alliance.

According to the California School Age Consortium, “The importance of this bill cannot be overstated. The crucial and necessary changes this bill contains will better administer After School Safety and Education (ASES) funds derived from Proposition 49; changes that have been long-sought by the after school field. It is important this bill passes the Assembly Appropriations Committee and quickly gets to the floor for a vote.”

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thirty are actively operative in Rosemead today. Most are in the northern and eastern parts of the community served by Rosemead High School.

The KEY Clubs whose members come from South Rosemead, the area served by the Garvey District, were never, notes Jewett, involved in Neighborhood Watch program. This was because the high schools and sponsoring Kiwanis clubs serving this area are based in San Gabriel.

This year, concurrent with opening of the Zapopan Safety Center in South Rosemead, discussion has risen about reviving the KEY Club/Neighborhood Watch partnership.

“It would be great to have them involved again,” Jewett states.

Given the improved K-family interaction at several levels it is entirely possible that it will.

WATCH BASICS

Started in 1972 by the National Sheriff’s Association, Neighborhood Watch today is credited as being “the largest single organized crime prevention project in the nation,” according to the New York State Attorney General’s website.

As noted in the box below, Neighborhood Watch units can become very proactive forces in the local community if the residents desire. However, notes Jewett, such development has not been typical in the communities served by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department.

The more common pattern has been an initial interest and then things become quiet unless a

FACTOID —

Q. What does the acronym KEY in KEY Club stand for?

A. Kiwanis Educated Youth

The Rosemead Kiwanis Club is happy to sponsor the RHS and Don Bosco KEY Clubs, as well as the associated Builder’s Club at Muscatel Middle School; The San Gabriel Kiwanis Club sponsors the San Gabriel High KEY Club and associated Builder’s Clubs at Garvey and Temple schools.

For more on the Kiwanis, KEY and Builder’s Clubs visit the rosemeadkiwanis.org website — your “Community Information Resource.”

problem arises. In the interim, Watch members simply are aware of whom to call if something unusual happens.

The key to a more active program is regular local meetings; these must be the responsibility of the local residents, not the city or Sheriff’s Department.

Neighborhood Watch activity begins with initial housekeeping – inventorying the names and special situations on the

block, establishing communications, and raising the level of awareness on crime prevention.

What helps block groups move up to a higher level, according to the Sheriff’s Association, is that the units decide to “Partner with community service and social clubs, faith-based groups, homeowners’ associations, business groups and PTAs.”

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Neighborhood Watch units can do more than just pass out literature and monitor unusual activity. They can also serve as

“a springboard for many other efforts to address the causes of crime, reduce crime and improve neighborhood conditions including youth recreation, child care, economic development, senior citizen activities, affordable housing and community beautification.”

-- New York State Attorney General’s Website





“Watch” - (from p. 3)

The similarity of these recommendations to the objectives and desired support network for Kiwanis after school program is striking. This is why participation by KEY (and possibly Builders) Clubbers in

Neighborhood Watch units on their block was such a natural fit.

A possible catalyst for revived Neighborhood Watch activity is this month’s dedication of the \$300,000 Zapopan Safety Center in South Rosemead.

According to the Pasadena Star News, “The center will provide facilities for local law enforcement offices and federal agencies, as well as space for Neighborhood Watch meetings and safety training for law enforcement personnel and community members.”

Bill Miller, his congregation and the KEY Club (along with other faith based groups who were also involved) of his day understood and saw all this years ago.

His successors in 2006 now have a chance to resume his good work, this time in conjunction with the After School program and other community efforts with which Kiwanis is involved.

.KIWANIS 'We Build'

**Over the years
Kiwanis themes
have included:**

- **Business
? Mutual Aid**
- **Young
Children**
- **Education**
- **Spiritual De-
velopment**
- **Economic
Education**
- **Community
Health and
Recreation**
- **Developmen-
tally
Challenged**
- **Parent Edu-
cation**

KIWANIS AREA CLUB MEETINGS

There are regular meetings of other Kiwanis clubs in our area, including those listed below. For current information see our Rosemead Kiwanis web-site under 'Meetings' at RosemeadKiwanis.org.

- **Alhambra**
- **Altadena/Crown City**
- **El Monte**
- **Montebello**
- **Monterey Park**
- **Pasadena**
- **Pico Rivera**
- **San Gabriel**
- **San Marino**
- **Sierra Madre**
- **South El Monte**
- **South Pasadena**
- **Temple City**

**'Helping and
changing the
world—one per-
son and one
community at a
time'**