

Patriot Roberts

I'm Neighborhood Watch block captain for Goldie/Eicher avenues, half a block away from Whispering Woods (formerly Prescott Estates).

We formed this group in the early 1980s because of high crime, gangs, drugs, shootings, etc. The streets were open to traffic from that area. Those activities flowed over into our neighborhood.

I am proud to live near Whispering Woods and applaud the management. It's a fine place to live, just the opposite of before. Most of the units are managed by one company. Prospective tenants are screened, and maintenance is excellent.

The rules, requirements for tenancy are established by one management/board, whereas formerly each owner had their own rules, if any.

My advice to any group or neighborhood experiencing problems like we did long ago is to form a Neighborhood Watch group. Through perseverance, police help, a determined leader and cooperation from your neighbors, you can see a change. Perseverance is the key word.

We did it – so you can. We even closed down a drug house recently.

Vice Mayor Dave Lopez, upon visiting us on National Night Out, said, "Patriot, there's no graffiti. This is a nice neighborhood." We obliterate any graffiti immediately, using our own paint.

I coined this phrase – Criminals are like cockroaches; shine a light and they scatter for the dark.