

KITTRELL COMMUNITY WATCH

Home invasion, burglary topics for April meeting

On April 18, 27 area residents learned about the dangers of burglary and home invasion at the Kittrell Community Watch meeting.

Edward Woodlief, community watch president called the meeting to order after some light refreshments. The invocation was delivered by Dr. Carolyn N. Roy of Plank Chapel United Methodist Church.

Tony Mills, an agent with North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement, presented the main program. According to Mills, burglary is typically committed by young males under age 25 targeting unoccupied residences (offering

concealment and escape routes), using simple tools in an attempt to steal portable, expensive items. Residents can protect themselves by using sturdy locks, bars on doors and windows, interior lighting with timers and exterior lighting; trimming shrubbery; and setting up an alarm system.

Home invaders target occupied homes, gaining access either through trickery or by forced entry. Besides stealing items, they will likely restrain any occupants, forcing them to open safes, reveal PINs

or hand over keys. Mills emphasized prevention.

However, once a invasion occurs, residents have three options: resist, cooperate or flee. The best option will depend on the situation. Nonetheless, he stressed that occupants should never fight over material goods. And they should always refuse being transported to a second location.

Following the presentation, Mary Jo Floyd conducted a drawing for door prizes. The meeting was adjourned after Woodlief announced the date for the next meeting.

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