

Kittrell Community Watch receives a lesson on identity theft

Forty area residents gathered on recently at the Kittrell Community Center for a meal and an engaging presentation on identity theft. Attendees enjoyed a hotdog supper complete with drinks, dessert and all the fixings, including Margie Moss' homemade chili and dessert pastries by Jan Wilczynski.

Edward Woodlief, president of the Kittrell Community Watch, convened the formal session with a blessing and invocation by local resident Joe Sears, followed by a recap of recent meetings by Scott Ritchey.

Bobby Choplin, vice president of the Henderson-Vance Community Watch Association, spoke first. Established in January 2010, the Henderson-Vance association assists in establishing local Community Watch organizations throughout Henderson and Vance County.

Choplin cited the 13.3 percent unemployment rate in Vance County and the resulting potential for criminal activity. He stressed the role of local residents in knowing and looking out for their neighbors by providing "eyes and ears" in support of law enforcement.

The next quarterly Association meeting will be Sept. 22 at the Mariah Parham Medical Center auditorium.

The main speaker, Leonard Hight, the president of the Henderson-Vance Community Watch Association, provided a spell-binding lesson on identity theft. He discussed the principles of privacy and various related laws; but his main point was that each person holds the key to protecting his or her own privacy.

Hight emphasized the importance of reporting identity theft in the jurisdiction where it occurs because regulations vary by state.

In describing the long and arduous process for reporting and correcting identity theft, Hight made it clear that prevention is critical. He highlighted the importance of destroying or completely shredding sensitive trash with an actual example where trashed mortgage papers were used to get a loan in the victim's name.

Hight mentioned that even empty prescription medication containers reveal sensitive information. He emphasized the importance of carrying

only needed items in wallets and keeping a record of the wallet's contents, including card numbers, security codes and the "800" phone numbers, in a safe place at home. He also recommended not using debit cards in situations where your PIN number might be observed.

With the time he had remaining, Hight quickly addressed identity theft vulnerabilities of automated teller machines, cell phones, certain hotel key cards, computers, "phishing" and even home mail boxes. There was considerable audience participation including a recommendation not to reveal personal information over the phone unless initiating the call.

The last speaker was Lt. Irvin Robinson, community watch coordinator for the Henderson Police Department. He cited recent

scams, reminding people not to pay contractors until work is completed.

Robinson recommended keeping a list of valuables and marking them by engraving your driver license number in an inconspicuous place. He said that if you see something that looks wrong, it probably is wrong — call 911 and let the police check it out.

Lastly, Robinson listed several upcoming events: the next Church Watch meeting on Aug. 25, the Cops on Top fundraiser for Special Olympics on Sept. 16, and the Annual Crime Stoppers Banquet on Oct. 6.

Before adjourning, Woodlief urged community churches to become more involved in community watch efforts. He set the next meeting of the Kittrell Community Watch for Sept. 15.

MARKETPLACE CINEMA 6

993 BECKFORD DRIVE: HENDERSON, NC 27536 • (252) 438-9060

RISE OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG13)
DAILY: 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20 & 9:30PM

THE CHANGE UP (R)
DAILY: 12:55, 3:15, 6:55 & 9:15PM

THE SMURFS (PG)
FRI & MON-THUR: 11:00AM, 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 & 9:25PM
SAT & SUN: 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20 & 9:25PM

COWBOYS AND ALIENS (PG13)
DAILY: 12:55, 3:15, 6:55 & 9:15PM

CRAZY, STUPID LOVE (PG13)
DAILY: 1:00, 3:20, 7:00 & 9:20PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA (PG13)
DAILY: 1:00, 3:25, 7:00 & 9:25PM

STARTING FRIDAY:

FINAL DESTINATION 5 IN 3D (PG13)

WWW.MARKETPLACECINEMAS.COM