

Alcohol law enforcement program presented at Community Watch meeting

The Kittrell Community Watch Association met in the Kittrell Community House on Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.; 35 people attended.

After light refreshments, Edward Woodlief, president, called the meeting to order and local resident Joe Sears provided the invocation. The audience welcomed Vance Co. Sheriff Peter White and three of his deputies with a round of applause.

Bobby Choplin, vice president of the Henderson-Vance Community Watch Association, invited and encouraged everyone to attend their next quarterly meeting, which was scheduled for Sept. 27, in the Maria Parham Medical Center auditorium. This meeting focused on the Vance County schools. A panel con-

the situation where people accidentally call 911, perhaps intending to dial 919. If this happens, it is important to tell the 911 operator that you misdialed; otherwise emergency responders will be dispatched to your location.

He concluded by soliciting recommendations for topics and activities for future meetings. Most attendees indicated a desire for a program on the new 911 system. Several attendees expressed a need for more opportunities for social interaction in order to get to know their neighbors better.

The main speaker for the evening was agent Tony Mills of North Carolina Alcohol Law Enforcement, an agency of the NC Department of Public Safety. Mills described

sisting of the superintendent of schools and six other top educators were to discuss the current school issues and answer questions from the audience.

Kittrell Community Watch member Scott Ritchey reviewed highlights from previous meetings and led discussions on security fundamentals. Topics included Crime Stopper and Community Watch signs, high-visibility street number signs for emergency responders, installing and using effective locks on doors and windows, alarm systems, security lighting and trimming shrubbery to eliminate hiding places, securing packages and valuables out of sight in vehicles, knowing your immediate neighbors, and using the 911 emergency number.

Ritchey addressed

the agency as a small but highly proactive state-wide organization whose main focus is regulating the alcohol business, but agents often encounter and investigate associated drug and gambling activity; so ALE agents can arrest for any violation of NC law. He emphasized the importance of citizen "eyes and ears" to help law enforcement by calling 911 to report things that "don't look right." Mills related anecdotes from his recent assignment providing security support for the Democratic Convention in Charlotte.

Woodlief introduced Diane Bullock, the new Kittrell Community Watch treasurer, and announced that the next meeting will take place Nov. 15, after which the meeting was adjourned.