

PJ8

September 24, 2012

*Neighbors*

This is Jill Duffy with Community Comment

I know that most everyone can relate to the general sentiment that they miss the days when they knew all their neighbors on the street, and knowing they could rely on each other to look out for one another.

Today it seems that increasingly there is a general lack of consideration from some neighbors. I delivered the following letter to our neighbors following an incident about a week ago:

Dear Neighbor.

I would like to you to recall the feeling you had when you awoke on morning last Spring to armed intruders in your bedroom.

What you are unaware of is we too were awoken by the exchanged gunfire. You and your family left for a couple weeks, and while you were gone we remained concerned about the possibility of the intruders returning. We kept an eye on your home while you were gone and called the Sheriff when we saw people looking in your windows... we were relieved when we learned they were your cousins checking on your house.

Periodically over the past months when gunfire originates from your house, while it is troubling because we don't know the direction, who or why - we are more concerned for the safety of your family and that of our family and animals.

Last night, shortly before 11 p.m., a large caliber gun was fired. I don't know where it was fired from, but it sounded to be at extremely close range to our house. I could see people moving around your yard and called 911. I stayed in the house, but was looking out the windows, trying to locate my 32 year old horse.

A deputy arrived, I explained what had occurred and noted that your house was quiet now, your porch lights were on and no one had left the house. I asked if he'd help me locate my horse and had this horrible thought that if she'd bolted in blind terror she could have hurt herself and would have to be put down. We walked around, and discovered that she hurled herself against an 8' gate with such force that it had come off the hinges and was thrown completely open and off into the brush and trees.

My horse was gone.

We began walking, with me yelling her name into the dark, flashlights scanning the area. We located her in the forest over half a mile from the house. Standing quietly. Thankfully there were no injuries, just a superficial cut to her face. I walked her home, arriving after 1 a.m. and then the deputy helped me fix the gate to keep her safe.

I don't know what else to say. We are neighbors and neighbors must have consideration for, and look out for, each other. I ask that you please speak with your family and friends and remind them that while it seems fun to just let off a round or two, or three that it affects your neighbors as we have concerns for our safety – and question whether you and your family are OK .

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