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[Palm Aire group to add security as option](#)

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Pompano Beach – Boards of directors of associations in Palm Aire United will soon be informed about an electronic security system being offered to members.

A preview was presented last week at a town hall meeting of the umbrella group at the Skolnick Center.

“We haven’t had a high incidence of crime. But whatever we can do to stop the bad guys, we will try to do it,” board member Lee Corson noted.

The Palm Aire United organization, headed by Dr. Ralph Calatchi, was formed 30 months ago to define, enhance and help the Palm Aire community.

“We were particularly passionate about the possibility of pooling our numbers to get better deals for the community,” Calatchi said in a message to the group.

Along the way, he said the board has overcome many problems and hurdles such as drafting a charter, writing bylaws, incorporating, trade marking the name and generating community involvement.

Today the group includes 19 associations and 5,935 residents. That’s 85 percent of the Palm Aire community.

Major item of business at the town hall meeting Sept. 8 was an explanation of an electronic security monitoring system.

The association sought competitive quotations for alarm monitoring, and narrowed the field to two companies. The board selected Protection 1 as the firm that could provide the best service possible, Corson said.

Protection 1 is the second largest security company in the country and the largest multi-family provider.

“We’re excited to be part of this process,” said Jose Colon, vice president of national accounts for the firm.

Each Palm Aire association will make its own decision on whether to sign up for a bulk rate, which requires at least 50 units to participate.

Sara Wiggs, national account manager, outlined the rates for Palm Aire United members:

The bulk rate for those with an existing alarm system, including taking over the current equipment and maintenance, is \$10.95 per month.

For those upgrading to the Protection 1 system, which doesn’t require a land-line phone: \$11.95 monthly for new equipment and maintenance.

Individual rates: \$19.95 monthly to take over an existing system plus \$8 monthly maintenance. A new system is \$64.95 plus \$19.95 monthly maintenance and \$8 monthly for a service plan.

If an association decides to go for the bulk rate, the association signs the contract for a six-year period. Individual contracts are for three years.

The system covers all accessible doors and windows, including balcony doors on the second or third floor.

In case of an alarm, the resident would be called first. If no answer, police would be called.

A separate service is a personal emergency response or medical alert program, which can be leased for \$28.95 per month or purchased for \$179 plus a monthly fee of \$18.95.

This is a two-way communicator. “You push a button, and an operator responds,” Colon explained.

Customers don’t have to have the burglar alarm system to purchase the medical alert program.

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