

German Village Society
Neighborhood Safety Forum Minutes, Nov. 8, 2017

Attendance: GVS Safety Committee Chairman Dan Glasener; Mark Weiss, GVS staff liaison; Officer Robin Medley, Columbus Division of Police, 11th Precinct Community Liaison Officer; and 12 community members.

Dan Glasener opened the meeting by asking how many were first-time visitors to the Forum. There were three. He reviewed the Forum program, which now sets four quarterly meetings, two in the daytime and two in the evening.

A big upcoming event, started last year, will be the **St. Mary School Christmas Program, from 11:30 to 1:30 on Wed., Dec. 6th**. It honors police and firefighters with lunch and a Christmas program by the students. GVS members are encouraged to attend and enjoy the lunch and the program. (Last year 20 police officers attended; this year firefighters are being included as well.)

Lighting Survey. Dan Glasener reviewed what was accomplished. 419 households were surveyed, which is about 20% of the buildings in German Village. Most of the streetlights were in good condition; just one or two were somewhat dim. The light from a number were partially blocked by nearby foliage. A number of residents had no lights on at all, or the fixtures were inoperative. Dan reported this information to a GVS Board meeting in July. There was a bit of coverage in the *German Village News*. We kicked around some ideas, like maybe having the police come out and offer a forum on lighting and safety.

Officer Medley was introduced.

Criminal Activity. He distributed the 11th Precinct Bi-Weekly Stats report for Oct. 17 - 30 and described what the numbers meant, and what the definition was of different levels of criminal activity. This information is also available online at RAIDSONLINE.COM. He noted that crimes are less on Saturdays and Sundays, because people are more likely to be at home. German Village is served by Cruiser Districts 110 and 111.

Holiday Season Precautions. With holiday time arriving, package delivery thefts increase. There are people that will actually follow the delivery trucks and steal packages after they've been dropped off. This year a new feature is that on Sundays UPS has contracted with Amazon to make deliveries. German Village is a "target-rich environment" – a lot of homes, close together, a lot of vehicles parked on the streets, lots of people out walking so it's easier for someone to mix in without being conspicuous.

German Village Society members can have their packages delivered to the Meeting Haus. Perhaps your place of work would allow you to have packages delivered there. Or if you have family or friends who are at home, perhaps they would agree to accept your packages.

It's dark earlier, so exercise caution when walking or driving. Officer Medley distributed a 3-page handout on "Holiday Safety Tips" and a 1-page handout on "Holiday Shopping Tips," prepared by the Community Liaison Unit. Keep in mind that we are in the midst of a heroin epidemic; addicts will do or say anything to get their next fix. Ohio is one of the top states in our nation reporting drug overdose deaths.

In cold weather, don't warm up your car engine by starting it with your keys and

leaving them in it while it runs unattended. A remote starter is okay.

Q.: What about people asking you for money?

A.: My recommendation is never give money, because I don't know what it's going to be used for. Lots of people have a sign saying "Veteran." I've only met one such person who actually was a veteran. When people say they need help, I offer to take them to any shelter or agency in the city. We give them cards that tells where they can get free food and health care. In five years I've had only two people take that information. I've had one person take me up on a ride.

Q.: [Something about filing crime reports; audio not clear.]

A.: Yes, when you don't file a report, it's like it never happened. When we have our Zone Five crime stat meetings these stats show where a lot of crime is happening and where police resources should be assigned.

Home Video Systems. They are getting quite sophisticated, and they are in real time. Cameras are getting less expensive. A recent home burglary video resulted in the arrest of the burglar, which in turn resulted in recovery of a laptop computer of someone else who had filed a report. All this was made possible by someone who had a decent video system.

Questions and concerns from neighbors.

Social Media. Be cautious and caution especially children about disclosing information such as vacations and other times when the house will be unoccupied.

Acknowledging Good Police Performance. This is always appreciated. Send it to the Chief's office, and to City Council. City administrators have to make budget decisions like "Should we purchase more body cameras, or add another officer to the force?" So community feedback is important.

Homeless Camps. There was one camp that had as many as 20 or 30 structures. And camps are not safe environments, with needles and hazardous material. It cost \$25,000 to clean up one such camp. There are legal issues about cleaning them up, too, that cause some delay.

Administering Naloxone. If you have anyone in your family who is battling drug addiction, get it. As for administering it to people in the general public, many addicts have health issues such as tuberculosis, so there are health risks there.

Bill Boys, note-taker.