

Baycliff Civic League Minutes
Alanton Elementary
January 24th, 2012

President Frank Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. There were 14 in attendance.

Speaker: Master Police Officer Helen Gillespie 2nd Precinct Crime Prevention Officer discussed some issues the Civic League had submitted.

Officer Gillespie has been a property crimes officer (burglaries and larcenies) and prior to that a patrol officer.

Issues discussed:

Teens in street –

- Not a new issue has been going on for a long time.
- A pedestrian in the road way is a sight able event. A ticket can be written. Kids can not be in the street.
- Best course of action is to give the police a call and the parents of the teens.
- Keep getting the word out that kids can not be in the streets using e-mail, newsletters, etc. A friendly reminder.
- Possible solution is to remind kids where it is appropriate to congregate and play such as a neighborhood park. There are some kids that just do not know and others that are out to cause trouble.

The **non emergency number** is **757-385-5000**, this is the number you would call to report teens in the street, don't call 911! This is an automated system where you can leave the information. Officer Gillespie suggests that **you put this number in your cell phone** to use as needed.

Solicitors -

- The individual solicitor must have a permit, not just "the boss". Ask to see the solicitors permit.
- Solicitors permit will have the individual's photo, Issued by the city and is an actual plastic "ID card". Not a piece of paper. It will have the individual's date of birth, their name, when it was issued, and when it is void.
- There are some exceptions to having a solicitor's permit but the code is very long. If the person is not selling anything, just handing out information. If they are part of a religious organization they need to be register with the Va. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.
- If you are unsure about the organization, ask for an envelope to mail the donation in.
- Ask to see the permit if the individual does not have one tell them that you are not comfortable doing business with them until they get one.
- **Call the non emergency number if the solicitor makes you nervous or acts suspiciously.**

Burglaries occur when **no one is at home**. A **Robbery** is a **face to face encounter**. Burglary is a violation of your home but no face to face conformations. Be careful how you use the terms. Robbery is a face to face encounter where you fear for your life.

Burglary –

- In general homes are broken into during the day time when people are at work and businesses are broken into at night.
- Burglar will want to verify that the home is unoccupied. Posing as a solicitor is one way or someone who rings the bell and asks if "Joe is here" and then states that they must have the wrong house.

- Listen to your instincts and intuition. If they go to the neighbor's house doing the same thing, you need to call. A call from a neighbor is better than an alarm system. 98% of alarm calls are false. Police will react to a neighbors call faster.

Car Larcenies -

- We do experience a lot of car larcenies, it is an easy crime. Break the window, grab it and go. Doesn't take a lot of time.
- Lock your car and keep valuables out of sight.
- Even your duffle bag with dirty gym clothes can be stolen as the thief does not know what it inside, could be something valuable.
- Report all break ins!
- **Know the Serial Number of all your valuables (I-pod, TV's, Stereos, etc)!** Here's why, you have your midnight officer cruising around and they see a suspicious person and he has 5 I-pods on him. They will do a field interview card on the suspect, where he was who he is and what he has and the serial numbers of the units then they have to let him go. When you call in your missing item and the serial number matches then they know who it was.
- **Pawn shops must report the serial numbers** of all valuables to the police.
- Providing serial numbers helps the police retrieve your stolen items AND gets a criminal off the streets.

Police will provide a free security assessment of your home to make sure the resident is doing what they can to protect their home from becoming a potential target. Some tips for residents that you can do on your own...

- Look at your home and your neighbor's homes from the street and ask yourself if I was going to break into a home which one would I pick? If you are looking at your own house, you need to react...
- Large bushes in front of windows allowing easy access to your home. Trim back bushes.
- Porch light always on, Newspaper not picked up, trash cans still out at the curb.
- Ask yourself, if I locked myself out how would I get in? Do you leave a window unlocked all the time? Garage door secure?
- Type of locks on doors?
- Glass around the front doors can be secured by getting an after market shatter resistant film that looks like contact paper and helps secure homes. Can also be good for wind damage (hurricanes).
- Signs that state your alarm company can deter some burglars but not all.
- Call **Officer Gillespie at 757-385-1331** to schedule the **free security assessment**

If police officer is called to your home for an alarm and the alarm is false there is a potential \$150 fine to the resident. If the police are dispatched to your home they are not required and do not leave any card or note that they have been on your property.

When the police officer is dispatched the first item that the police will check is signs for forced entry. If they see signs they will enter the property. If they see nothing wrong they will leave.

If you have a problem, **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE** use your home phone. Don't hang up the home phone. The nearest precinct is dispatched one officer per call. Once an officer goes to muster and is assigned a zone they stay in that zone this increases response time. Each zone is assigned one officer. If a situation arises (especially at night) and an officer has to go and assist in another zone the response time can be delayed.

The police learn a lot from thieves, during debrief many are willing to give information about why they chose a particular place or car.

Speeding in Neighborhoods –

- Best defense is for the residents to slow down themselves.
- If you see a habitual speeder, get the persons license plate number and give to the police.
- Baycliff is officially enrolled in the City Traffic Calming program, Phase 3. As a neighborhood, Baycliff went through several steps / intervention attempts over the years to have it documented there was a continuing speeding problem. Once documented, we were allowed to bring our petition signed by almost all the Baycliff Drive residents to the city to get the penalty speeding signs installed for Baycliff Drive, minimum \$200 fine for speeding.
- Traffic Calming contact is Scott Bishop 757-385-2700

Residents should report all incidents to 757-385-5000. Even if it is a minor offense (change missing from car) a pattern can be established if all reports are called in. (i.e.: Christmas Lights cut or Christmas yard decorations destroyed).

New Business

- March 31st is the Annual Egg Hunt – Jill Frazier and Meredith Hills
- Yard sale in May
- Still looking for an advertising chairman
- Need to set up a Nominating committee for officers for next year, has to be in the March newsletter.

Old Business

- Luminaries, Holiday party and Santa visit all had good weather
- **Picnic Shelter** – contractor to give better estimate with project being done in stages Bill Seith and Frank Cunningham to meet with contractor.
- Suspect trees up front
- Dredging – Jim Cecelic to schedule meeting with committee to discuss at next meeting.
- Weaver Wrenn announced that the boat ramp locks will be changed early February and keys will be sent to those that have paid prior to the locks changing.

VBCCO Annual Citizens Recognition Banquet

- March 23rd at the Westin Town Center
- Need to set up an Executive Board Meeting to determine a Teen and Adult Volunteer
- Table for 10 reserved and paid for.

Treasurer's Report

- Checking account has \$7880.65 and Money Market Account \$44,261.31 for a total of \$52,141.96.
- Dues are coming in and with the cancellation of some events due to weather we have been able to save some money.
- The last newsletter did not cost us anything due to a printing issue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectively submitted,

Recording Secretary Janie Cecelic