

## **Notes – Penn Valley Civic Association November 19, 2009 Meeting**

### **20 in attendance**

PVCA Officers in attendance

Steve Selinger, President

Jayson Glassman, VP

Jeannie Cohen, Treasurer

Perri Strawn, Secretary

1. Call to order
2. Review of minutes from October 29. Minutes approved.
3. Police report; Sgt Bell and Officer Lane in attendance.

Officer Lane's report:

--20 burglaries have occurred in the Township since September, mainly concentrated in Penn Valley

- Officers believe it is more than one group targeting different items.
- Some target jewelry; some target electronics such as TVs and computers.
- The typical pattern: they are not looking to disturb people; they are looking for the “crime of opportunity”.
- Their typical approach is to punch a hole through the window in a door and unlock it
- Some are ripping out the security pad off the wall, cutting the phone lines so there is no security alarm response.
- The officers need our help—if you see anything suspicious call them. They want to get all of the information they can. Call 649-1000. (If you have an emergency, or interrupt a burglary in progress, dial 911)
- Recommendations:
  - If you have an alarm: set it, no matter how briefly you are leaving home
  - Sign up for Nixle text emergency alerts through the Lower Merion Township website ([www.lowermerion.org](http://www.lowermerion.org))
  - Wireless home alarm systems likely preferable
  - People should watch for cars lingering or driving slowly through the neighborhood, as it is believed that the burglars are waiting to see people departing their homes
  - No homes have been broken into where dogs are present
  - The police will do a security review of your home if invited
- Deer Culling update: This is occurring on township property during hours when the properties are closed; it is happening on private property only if there is a large property that has asked for it to happen. Money is in the Township budget for a spring culling.

4. Commissioners report from Commissioner Jenny Brown:

- a) Recent increase in tick-borne diseases (deer ticks). Jenny noted her own recent bout with a very serious tick-borne illness and asked people to be mindful that if they have flu-like symptoms but are not getting better, to ask their doctor to test for one of these diseases.
- b) Trash Fees: Residents need to notify the township by Dec 4<sup>th</sup> whether you want rear yard collection at \$200/year and the number of cans you want to put out. Further than 5 feet from the curb is considered rear yard.
- c) The new budget is out. First budget hearings were held last night. Budget continues to be a contentious issue. Tax increase of 3.8% has been proposed; debate over whether there should be any tax increase. The tax increase has been proposed to close a \$1 million budget gap. Commissioner Brown commented on a number of suggestions that have been to cut spending and debate is ongoing.
- d) Ludington Library—Board approved \$9.1 million in renovations for the library. Commissioner Brown questioned the wisdom of this investment in the current fiscal environment.
- e) Commissioner Brown regularly emails updates and news to constituents. If you would like to be added to her list, please email her directly at [jenny@commisionerbrown.com](mailto:jenny@commisionerbrown.com).

5. President's report

- a. Federation of Civics – 11/9/09 meeting occurred
- b. Federation of Civics – special meeting 12/2/09—related to the budget.
- c. PVES tree planting -- PVCA donated 10 trees to PVES which were planted Nov 9<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of kids were there to see the event.

6. Treasurer's report:

Current bank balance is \$19,087.38; we have about \$3300 of outstanding bills due. Membership dues are up to about the level of where they were at this time last year.

7. Old Business:

Revision of bylaws:

Vote on revision of bylaws as per recommended changes suggested by President Steve Selinger (see bylaws and proposed amendments on our website at: <http://pennvalleycivicassociation.org>). Motion to change bylaws as amended approved.

8. New Business

- a. Possible cooperation with LMSB/PVES to landscape Hagys Ford Road side of the school as well as other interactions. The LMSD and PVES have expressed an interest in partnering with us (thanks to Jeannie Cohen for initiating the Treevitalize program that resulted in the recent tree plantings at PVES). They are interested in finding out if we would be interested in helping with additional landscaping. Concern expressed by some regarding the cost of such landscaping. Suggestion that we invite them to the February meeting to discuss.
- b. Holiday Party Dec 13: We need your help! Please contact Steve or Perri at [pennvalleycivic@verizon.net](mailto:pennvalleycivic@verizon.net) if you would like to help with the party.

9. New Business for next meeting's agenda:

- a. Discussion of water run-off with Don Cannon of LMT (first suggested in September meeting)
- b. Email software for secretary – needed

Adjournment at 9:10 p.m.