

**Villa Park Civic Association
June 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Charles Thomas called the meeting to order at 6: 41 pm.

Detective Russo provided the crime stats and noted that a couple of issues have been resolved:

- 500 block of Emmett: trailers had been parked overnight, illegally. The owner of the property was advised of the ordinance that prohibits this, and the matter was addressed.
- 800 block of Hamilton (garage): juveniles have been attracted to the garage, which is open to the alley, has no door, and has an abandoned car inside. A notice was sent to the owner, who has gotten rid of the car and is cleaning the trash out of the garage. He has also been advised that the garage must have a door.
- 800 block of Hamilton: there is an unsecured swimming pool on the property (that is, no fence). A notice was sent on 5/11/09 and the property checked by inspectors. They are waiting for the owner to respond.

There has been a 26% decrease in reported crime in the East district from the previous week. However, there was a robbery at 1200 block Hamilton Ave. (the travel agency) involving 3 males and a handgun at which \$20 – 30 thousand was taken. Also, there was a burglary at 600 block of Chambers St on 6/4 in which someone entered through a rear kitchen door but was scared off by dogs. There have been 11 thefts, including 7 from cars, in which items including a guitar, power tools, and a bible were stolen. Mail was stolen from a mailbox in the 700 block of Quinton Ave., and a purse stolen from the counter of the CVS on Liberty St. A man was robbed of his cell phone and beaten up on the 1000 block of Liberty St.

**DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING OF VALUE VISIBLE IN YOUR CAR, EVEN
CHANGE IN THE ASHTRAY. IT WILL GET STOLEN.**

There have been a number of quality of life issues, including at Rittman's Bar. The owner is very cooperative in monitoring customers and employees, increasing security, and being sensitive to the community. He is also sensitive to issues concerning immigrants getting assaulted after leaving the premises. He is also taking care of illegal smoking issues. Charles commented on the rapid police response (under 3 minutes) when notified that two groups of gang members were seen in the park. Officers arrived and challenged both groups. A question was asked, how do police decide where to set up speed traps? Response – based on complaints.

Election of officers:

Charles opened the floor for nomination of officers for the July 2009 – June 2010 term. Positions are: president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary.

President:

Keith Hamilton, in his 5th term as Mercer County Freeholder, visited the VPCA for the purpose of learning more about area communities. He is contemplating running for mayor in 2010.

Lawn signs:

Harry has more signs available.

Trenton PD Website:

Det. Russo noted that they have a new website, at

<http://www.trentonnj.org/Cit-e-Access/webpage.cfm?TID=55&TPID=5604>

Councilman Melone:

Gino was unable to attend the meeting but offered his thanks to the outgoing Executive Board and congratulations to the incoming.

The meeting was adjourned at around 7:45. The next meeting will be on July 1, 2009.

Respectfully submitted (in the absence of Kathy Starkey),
Sharon Kubiak