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CRIME PREVENTION NOTICE

October 31, 2022

Dear Old Georgetown Village HOA Homeowners,

Recently there have been several reported car thefts in the neighborhood and surrounding communities. We are reaching out today to let you know about what action the OGV Board is taking and what you can do to help address in this matter. We would like to work in partnership with you to do what we can to improve neighborhood safety.

The OGV Board of Directors and the Abaris Management team met with Officer Dana Stroman from the Montgomery County Police Department to do a community walkthrough and discussed what steps can be taken to prevent further crimes and enhance the safety of the community. Officer Stroman noted that, as we approach the winter season, we (OGV and other communities) can expect criminal activity to increase as criminals will take advantage of the colder weather and earlier nights to commit more crimes. Officer Stroman indicated that it is important that homeowners take precautionary measures to help prevent and/or deter crime in the community.

As a reminder, to report non-emergencies to the Montgomery County Police, please dial **301-279-8000**. Dialing 9-1-1 is only to be used for emergencies!

Below are some suggestions.

- **Keep Exterior Lights On All Night**

The brighter our community, the less attractive we'll be to criminals. Every resident plays a key role in lighting up our community. Be sure to use your front and back lights. Installing an inexpensive timer makes it simple and easy to keep the lights on. And did you know that on average it costs just pennies a day to keep a front and rear light on at night? The benefit provided far outweighs the minimal increase in your electric bill.

- **Trim Large Shrubs/Trees**

Many of the shrubs/trees in our front yards are very large in size, which obstructs the visibility of the street and/or parking lots, where most of the crime occurs. Trimming down these large shrubs/tree would enhance our visibility and awareness of these areas which would enable us to observe any suspicious activity occurring. Shrubs should be cut to a height so you can see out your window and easily see activity around your home.

- **Lock Cars**

Locking your car is a deterrent and we encourage you to lock your car at all times. It is also important to remove all items from your car and put them out of sight (in the trunk). Even if the items are not of high-value, if they are seen, they can spark interest resulting in a car break-in.

- **Install Smart Doorbells**

Consider installing smart doorbells (i.e., Ring, Google Nest, Blink, etc.) that offer 24-hour surveillance for the front of your home with instantaneous access to live footage and past recordings, which are easily accessible through their phone apps. They are extremely effective in capturing criminal activity actively occurring, which would make criminals think twice before attempting to commit any crimes in front of your home.

We strongly urge all homeowners to implement these precautionary measures immediately as we quickly approach the winter season. By taking this initiative, our collective efforts as a community will undoubtedly help keep our Village safe from being susceptible to future crimes.

Additionally, the Board will continue discussions around community safety and security. We also invite the community to join the conversation and these efforts.

- Please be sure to join both OGV e-lists. One list for formal OGV notifications and the second list is for neighbor discussions. By joining both e-lists you will have the latest OGV information and be able to engage in conversations about this and other OGV topics. (See included flyer with details on how to access the OGV Website and sign up for both OGV email lists.) Also, encourage your neighbors to join as well.
- Please let us know if you are interested in these issues and would like to participate in a committee/task force keep focus on these concerns. This group would organize and gather information and recommendations to bring forward to the Board for discussion and consideration.

As a reminder, please be sure to report any criminal/suspicious activity to both the police and Abaris Realty. If you have any questions, please contact Abaris Realty via email at sambush@abarisrealty.com, or via telephone at 301-468-8919. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your attention to this matter and for your anticipated efforts in making our community a safer place.

Old Georgetown Village Community



Website

The Old Georgetown Village HOA would like to remind all residents and owners that the OGV website is full of essential and valuable information. Please visit the site at: ogvhoa.com

View and download documents and forms, find answers in the FAQ, see the Calendar of upcoming events, explore pictures of the community, and contact the Board of Directors.

The "Residents Only" area contains approved Board of Directors meeting minutes, annual budgets, rules and regulations, and lots more. The password to access this page is (case sensitive): **4meetingminutes**

Email Communications

1. To be added to the official email distribution list for important announcements and notices from the Board of Directors and our management company, send your name and address to: webmaster@ogvhoa.com.
2. OGV also has a resident-to-resident Google Group listserv, which you can join by visiting: <https://groups.google.com/g/old-georgetown-village>

Questions?

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for the site, please contact: webmaster@ogvhoa.com