

VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Public Meeting

November 12, 2008

7:00 p.m.

Four Corners Room/Community Center

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Brian Parsley, the UCPD officer assigned to the Village, addressed us about safety, security, and parking issues in the Village:

- There have been a few more bike thefts and auto burglaries lately. The economy impacts crime in the Village.
- Don't leave your iPod, purse, GPS unit, or other valuables in your car
- GPS units have been targeted. It only takes seconds to break a window and steal a GPS unit.
- Effective immediately, the UCPD will cite under the Educational Code. This means they will be able to cite people loitering. There can be no more open alcohol drinking in Village. This is not for the purpose of citing recyclers, but those who are, for example, sleeping in the playground, etc.
- Officers will be doing "directed patrol" which means they will be:
 - pulling over cars that don't come to a complete stop
 - citing vehicles that are not registered (if your car is out of registration for more than 6 months, it can be towed)
 - citing vehicles in guest spots for over 72 hours
- 6th street gate: the survey was done and people preferred it open. Brian believes there is more crime near 6th street. He sees more theft in that section of the Village than others. If you live in that area, if you put your bike on balcony, make sure it is secured.

Q: If there are so many auto burglaries, is it better to not lock your car since it just takes seconds to break in anyway?

A: No. That makes it more likely they will steal it. The most stolen cars are Honda, Acura, Saturn, Toyota, Lexus, and their derivatives. If you have one of those cars, invest in a club. If you leave on vacation, make sure your car and apartment is secure. Maybe get with your neighbors and have a neighborhood watch.

Q: How do I contact UCPD?

A: Call UCPD, 510-642-3333 (especially on cell phone). Program that number into 510-642-6760 nonemergency.

Q: Are the locks on our apartments theft-safe?

A: These locks are really hard to pick, but be sure to use the deadbolt because you can open the automatic lock with a credit card.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION IN THE VILLAGE

Sandy Weeks, Albany's Emergency Preparedness Community Outreach Specialist, spoke with us about preparing for an earthquake or other disaster:

- The Village is a different type of group for her to address because there is so much turnover. This creates unique challenges in preparing for disasters here.
- A disaster = anything you aren't prepared for. It is important that everyone is prepared to be self-reliant in an emergency because there are only so many emergency services. There is only 1 fire station in the entire city of Albany. In the last major earthquake (the Loma Prieta earthquake) in 1989, the emergency services were diverted to the areas that needed the most help. The Village and the City of Albany were mostly left to their own.
- Does your family have a plan? You won't be able to rely on cell phones because the cell towers may go down. Your family should have a plan about what to do and where to meet in an emergency.
- You need to have water (1 gallon of water per person per day for 3 – 5 days) and food. In an emergency, eat the perishables first. Remember to cycle your water supply every year.
- Do you know the community plan? If there is no water, what will you do with your waste? Toilets will not work without water.
- The Village needs to have its own emergency plan. The Village population is about 3,000. That is a large town.
- Use flashlights instead of candles. (The fire department highly prefers flashlights over candles for obvious reasons.) Lightsticks are very comforting to children and are cheap at dollar stores.
- The best place to put emergency information is the bathroom, where you can see it while sitting. That is a good way to make sure everyone in the house remembers the family emergency plan.
- In addition to water and food, you should prepare by having:
 - a battery or crank-powered radio
 - extra prescription medication and glasses
 - copies of important documents
 - family photos
- Make sure you turn the stock over every few months in your emergency kits.
- If you buy a pre-made kit, know that it is only a starting point.

Q: What scale of earthquake are the Village apartments designed to withstand?

A: Doesn't know. However, you should assume that you will need to prepare for the worst.

Assume that no one is coming. Assume it is like *Lost*. Prepare to be completely alone. There are also other disasters besides earthquakes for which you should prepare: flu epidemic, etc.

Q: Where should you stand in an earthquake?

A: There is no real rule of thumb, it depends on the construction of the building. Try to protect your head. Get under a table if you can, or stand under a doorway. Use common sense. Don't go running outside if where you live is surrounded with light poles, trees, and things that could fall on you.

Tavie Tipton, Village Manger, then addressed us.

- There is no way the Village can store water for everyone. In an emergency, Village residents will not get any water or food from Village Office.
- If there is an earthquake, the Village has a 10 foot by 10 foot cargo container filled with medical supplies, toe tags, search and rescue equipment, lighting, tarps, etc. Emergency management would be at that cargo container.
- The first person to open the cargo container gets the binder that tells them what to do (pick a search and rescue leader, pick a first aid leader, etc.) When someone higher up in the Village management gets there, that first person cedes authority to him/her.
- The Village is assuming it would take at least 3 days before emergency services arrive. They have the names of every person in the Village. They would set up a message board that would allow people to leave messages for others.
- The RAs have keys to the cargo container. They are also planning to change changing the lock to a combination lock instead of a keyed lock.
- Information about gas shutoffs, water shutoffs, and other info is in a yellow earthquake book in your welcome packet. Open and read it before an emergency! If you have lost it, get another in the Village Office.
- Store a pair of shoes next to your bed. In every earthquake there are many foot injuries from people who step on glass.
- Maybe change out your food storage right before Thanksgiving each year – then you can donate it.
- If you screw furniture to the wall to make it earthquake safe, you will not be charged. Watch out for storing heavy things above your bed.
- The Village emergency assembly areas are: 1) the plaza in front of the Village Office, 2) the ball fields, 3) the soccer fields. Go to #1 first; if the earthquake has rendered it unsuitable for an assembly area, go to #2, then to #3.

Prepared by:
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