

OH, PADDY, WE HARDLY KNEW YE

Olden days, golden days; times when you could leave your bike, your child or your wallets on the stoop knowing all were safe. Mythical? Nope. Miss them? I do. The recently released and reported Godbey crime survey of Fairfield Citizens, the flood of news articles and the crime statistics report tell us what we already know. Fairfield has a crime problem, both perceived and real.

Once upon a time, if mythical Officer Paddy O’Ryan saw an unsavory character on the street, he would spring into action. Furthermore, if Paddy had a spat with the Mrs., dropped his donut or errantly stepped in a patrol pony’s morning poo, it might go like this.

Paddy, would pace in front of the perp, fix his gaze, slap his nightstick in his hand and say, “The boys’ downtown, you remember all your friends down there, now don’t ya Sonny? Well the boys downtown are always talking bout ya” Then Paddy would square off in a measured manner, tap his hat’s bill back with the tip of his peacemaker and continue while poking the character in the gut, “Yes sir Sonny Boy, we’ll be taking a real sincere interest in every move ya make, every step ya take...so, remember there, Pally “Who’s your daddy now, laddy, who’s your daddy now”?

It’s cute to reminisce, but time, legal temperament and the appropriate rigors of civil liberty laws puts us past that. However, might there be a little officer O’Ryan in all of us? A recent Daily Republic staff editorial urged all of us to be guardians at the gate, watchdogs and engaged citizens in the fight against crime. In the past few months you have heard of crime free multi housing, crime stoppers and the Citizens Police Academy. Perhaps the next sound you should hear is yourself asking what you can do. So far, you have elected a councilman on a mandate to fight crime and answered surveys. More of you are watching and calling in suspicious behavior. However, many are doing finger aerobics. Yep, pointing it at everything and every body else. Folks, we are in this together and swinging your oar in the air does not get anyone down the safety stream

For some of us, what you can do may be prevention techniques ranging from parenting skills, mentoring or adopting smart personal safety behaviors. Others may enroll in the next Citizens Police Academy or insist that its curricula be adapted in some manner for all the schools. Here is a shocker, how about getting smart about the utilization of police resources? One councilman had it partially right about us “needing more officers and ways to keep officers free to answer calls and not bog them down with paperwork” Keep your powder dry, councilman...let’s look at the greater wisdom your observation points to. The data shows that an enormous amount of police man hours is spent owing to bad citizenship such as stupid driving, parking, noise, nuisance and general nincompoopery. Gentle reader, don’t get inflamed at this comment, get informed and cut the crap.

In addition, crime feeds on ignorance, apathy and inaction. Anxiety is fear of the unknown and it is a killer. If our ancestors huddled in caves afraid they were doomed to become lunch...what then?

So build your bow of bravery by getting smart and getting engaged. Read the crime stats and ask the Daily Republic to publish a copy of the plan that Mraz, Kardos and others whipped up. Enroll in the Academy, use your eyes and ears, curb idiotic time wasting behavior, go to or watch city council meetings and many others. Support the Boys and Girls Clubs endeavor- NOW! Push for more good guys in uniform, substitute teach, put real citizenship back into the schools- from day 1.

Whatever you do, get out of the cave, join the clan of law loving man and slay a saber-toothed tiger or two.

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