



Year In Review 2023



TIPS SOLVE CRIME!

Tips from the community to Silent Observer, led to a number of resolved cases in 2023. Tips from the public are essential to our work - assisting law enforcement, keeping our communities safe and bringing justice to families. Tips come from ordinary people, but their impact is extraordinary. Utilizing Silent Observer's state of the art tip system, everyday people can be a voice to protect their neighborhoods, schools and workplaces. Everyone who shares a tip is ensured anonymity and protected by law in Michigan. The two stories below demonstrate the impact of a simple call or online entry from someone who decided to take action.

*

During an early afternoon in June, a man shot into a car multiple times, hitting his ex-girlfriend in the face and killing her. In the backseat sat his 17-month old daughter in her car seat. The shooter immediately fled on foot from the scene, leaving the baby in the back seat. The suspect's identity was revealed to the public and he became a fugitive. But in the following days, a caller to Silent Observer was able to identify specific features of the the fugitive's car. This tip helped law enforcement track the whereabouts of the suspect leading to his apprehension. He has been convicted of first-degree murder and is awaiting sentencing.

*

In July, a driver was drag-racing on city streets. Reckless and speeding, the driver hit another vehicle with major impact. The drag racing driver sped off, without concern for law or for anyone in the impacted car. Inside the damaged and disabled vehicle that was hit, was a woman who was eight months pregnant and seriously injured. Police had a description of the offending vehicle but no identity of the driver. The following day, a tip to Silent Observer led law enforcement to the workplace of the offending suspect, who was subsequently arrested and charged.

2023 CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Silent Observer welcomed friends and families of crime victims on April 27, 2023 to honor loved ones lost to violence, as part of National Crime Victim's Rights Week. Among the crowd were signs, t-shirts and buttons adorned with the faces of those loved and lost. Attendees held hands and candles while the names of 171 deceased victims were read out. The vigil is a partnership with Kent County Prosecutor with the help of local clergy, Grand Rapids and Kentwood Police Departments.



Silent Observer is helping solve crime and empowering citizens in schools and workplaces.



2,004
total tips analyzed

39
cases resolved



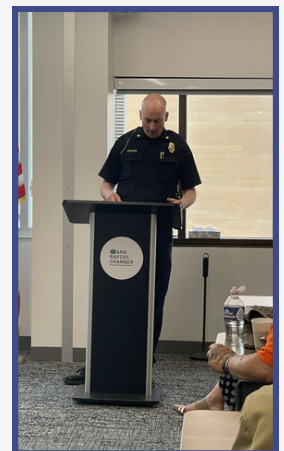
62
Speak Up Cash Out Schools

142
individuals trained in safety and de-escalation



SAFETY TRAINING FOR BUSINESSES

Silent Observer partnered with Greater GR Chamber of Commerce, Grand Rapids Police Department, Bridge Street Market and DK Security offering **Work Safely: De-escalation and Situational Awareness Training**. Over two sessions, 142 area business owners and employees learned techniques to ensure safety, mitigate crisis situations, and "who to call" when outside resources are needed. Facilitators and speakers included Joe Budnik of DK Security and Grand Rapids Police Chief Eric Winstrom. **Future training sessions are expected for 2024** -email jennifer@grandrapids.org for more information.



SOMEONE KNOWS SOMETHING



Kane Coronado age 17, was killed on November 1, 2022, while doing his favorite thing - riding his bike. His killer has yet to be found. Police say that the person matching the sketch below, is wanted for questioning. Police believe that the suspect may have sold a silver sedan the week of November 1, 2022.

Anyone with information regarding the shooting, or who think that this sketch is familiar is encouraged to call [Wyoming Police Department](http://WyomingPoliceDepartment.com) at 616-530-7300 or submit a tip anonymously through silentobserver.org, 616-774-2345. A \$6,000 reward is offered for information leading to an arrest in Kane's homicide.



Santino Ysasi was killed outside St. James Church on Bridge St. in Grand Rapids, on October 22, 2022. A person of interest wearing a hood was caught on camera near Santino. If you have any information, please call [Grand Rapids Police Department](http://GrandRapidsPoliceDepartment.com) at 616-456-3400. A \$7,500 reward is offered for information leading to an arrest.

To offer a tip anonymously, call Silent Observer tipline - 616-774-2345 or go online to silentobserver.org.

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WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Please support our work by making a contribution to Silent Observer today!

 online at silentobserver.org

 by mail: PO Box 230321
Grand Rapids, MI 49523

SPEAK UP CASH OUT

SPEAK UP CASH OUT REPLACES FAST 50

With a new name, new look, and significantly increased rewards, Silent Observer launched an upgrade to the formerly named program, Fast 50. **Speak Up Cash Out** is a school-based program that encourages students to stand up and speak out about crime and safety, and to report on issues such as bullying, theft, weapons and threats. Speak Up Cash Out seeks to mitigate school crime and offer students an anonymous way to share concerns. When a tip is deemed credible, the student tipster is eligible for rewards that range from \$100 to \$1,000. Students can download the Silent Observer app, or go online to silentobserver.org to submit a tip.

A STUDENT SPEAKS UP **Speak Up Cash Out** in Action



Near the Thanksgiving holiday, middle schooler made a request to a classmate for a lollipop. The classmate opened his backpack to reveal something that shocked his middle school classmate. Using the mobile app for **Speak Up Cash Out** the middle schooler reported that he saw a large knife in the backpack. Silent Observer read the tip and immediately contacted the school principal and school resource officer. A locker search revealed a 6-inch, fixed blade tactical combat knife.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Silent Observer values our partners, friends and donors. We are committed to connecting with our community in compelling, informative and fun ways. Silent Observer board members and ambassadors carry our message to the community, participating in a wide variety of events throughout the year.



PROJECT NIGHT LIGHTS

On the second Wednesday of each month, at 8:30 pm, Silent Observer participates in Project Night Lights, an opportunity to say "Good Night" to the children who are patients in Helen DeVos Children's Hospital. Vehicles turn on flashing lights and visitors hold flashlights and glow lights from the sidewalk below.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Silent Observer passed out treats-candy and Silent Observer information cards, at two events celebrating Halloween - Lincoln Park Neighborhood Assoc. Trunk or Treat and En El Barrio Trunk or Treat at Cesar Chavez.



SAFETY DAY AT JOHN BALL ZOO

Kids grabbed free flashlights and pencils and learned about the Silent Observer tip line at John Ball Zoo's Safety Day 2023.



POLICE CHIEFS LUNCH



GRAND RAPIDS SANTA PARADE AND IONIA TWINKLE PARADE



PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE OPEN GYM

Open Gym for 17-24 year-olds co-sponsored by Public Safety Alliance.



Get Silent Observer cards for your workplace or business!

RECOMPENSAS DE DINERO

MANTENGA SU VECINDARIO SEGURO
Denuncie el crimen anonimamente

616.774.2345 silentobserver.org App Móvil

KEEP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE
Report crime, anonymously

616.774.2345 silentobserver.org Mobile App

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND FRIENDS!

Silent Observer relies on donations from community members and business sponsors alike. Two annual fundraising events help to share our story and encourage the public to join us and to invest in our work. Through the generosity and teamwork of our partners the safety and health of our community remain top priority.

SILENT OBSERVER GOLF CLASSIC 2023

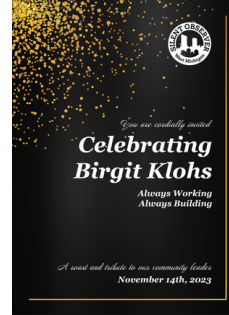


The 2023 outing saw a gorgeous day for golf and a full slate of golfers at Stonewater Country Club. Thanks to our partners at Coldwell Banker Schmidt Realtors we raised closed to \$30,000 for Silent Observer.



Join us on June 10, for golf and a great time at the Silent Observer Golf Classic 2024! Go to silentobserver.org to register.

A ROAST OF BIRGIT KLOHS



Silent Observer was honored to host over 100 guests at Cascade Country Club, to roast and recognize Birgit Klohs for her legacy in West Michigan, transforming the business dynamic and bringing thousands of jobs to West Michigan

We are grateful for all those who made this event a success, especially the "Roasters" Bob Roth, Twayne Howard and Natalia Kovicak and host, Shelley Irwin.

THANK YOU BIRGIT!

MIMI CUMMINGS

**PETER AND JOAN SECCHIA
FAMILY FOUNDATION**



CHRIS BECKER

