

Neighborhood Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 12

12TH West to 20th St. & Gordon north to Tilghman St.

December 2010



West Watch meets on the 2nd Tues, 7 PM at the West Side Youth Center located at 20th and Greenleaf Streets. Their contact person is Gerry Alfano/ Gfalwestend@rcn.com

The Eighth Ward Block Watch meets every 2nd Tues, 7 pm, also at Seibert's Church located at 10th and Allen Streets. Bonnie Wuchter can be reached at 484-695-1967.

West Park Civic Assoc. meets the 1st Tues, 7 pm, at Church of the Mediator located at 1620 W. Turner St. Glenn Neiman is the contact person.

Muhlenberg Community Watch meets the 2nd Wed, 7 pm, at Christ E.C. church located at 2135 W. Tilghman St. Gretchen Krasley are contact persons.

Raub Area Crime Watch meets the 1st Thurs, 7 pm, at the Lehigh County Senior Center located at 1633 S. Elm Street, Geri Trauptman is president and contact person.

Library Area Neighborhood Ass. Meets at the Allentown City Library, 1218 Hamilton St., the 3rd Monday and 3rd Saturdays alternately. Nick Butterfield is president. Jan and Feb meeting will be 3rd Sat. at 10 AM.

Printed on recycled paper,
courtesy city of Allentown

MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all our neighbors. This will probably be your last newsletter, as I am retiring. It has been a great pleasure to have served the residents of this area for the past almost 20 years. I pray that someone else will soon take up the cause for our area, which is to look out for not only our own properties, but that of our neighbors as well. To pick up the litter on our own properties and around the block also, and to report the litterers. Below I will list some of the neighboring groups that are available for you to visit. If you need a chec-mate card you can call me at 610-437-7160 and arrange for a pick up. I also want to thank the many volunteers, too numerous for me to even remember them all, who has helped in any way, with delibering the publications, bringing refreshments and just showing up at the meetings. I would also like to thank the businesses who have helped us in the past years. **WAWA.....ABART'S GROCERIES....WILLIE JOE'S BOOTS....GIANT, WEIS SUPERMARKETS.....** We especially want to thank **BOB SHPOS** and the tenants Association of **B'nai B'rith Apartments** for their kind generosity in letting us use their facilities this past many years and for the use of their parking lot and staff for our one yearly Fund Raiser. Of course we could not accomplished what we did without the brave men and women in blue, from our Allentown Police Dept. The many speakers who came without charge after a long day to address our group. I wish you all a very Bessed Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.kay

TIPS FOR HOLIDAY SAFETY

This holiday season, do not give criminals the opportunity to commit crime. The bad guys love the holidays like everyone else, because it gives them an excellent chance to take advantage of you.

Here are some holiday tips to help you celebrate safely.

IF YOU ARE TRAVELING:

- * Get an automatic timer for your lights**
- * Ask a neighbor to watch your home**
- * Have newspaper and mail delivery stopped**

IF YOU ARE OUT FOR THE EVENING:

- * Turn on lights and a radio or TV so that it looks like someone is home**
- * Make sure that doors and windows are locked, even if you are leaving for a short time**
- * Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside**

IF YOU ARE SHOPPING

- * Stay alert to what is going on around you**
- * Park in a well-lighted space, lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.**
- * Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card, when possible.**
- * Deter purse snatchers and pickpockets. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.**
- * If you are shopping with kids, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.**

BEWARE OF STRANGERS WHO COME TO THE DOOR

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. Some people will also take advantage of other's generosity during the holidays by going door to door for charitable donations when there is no charity involved. Ask for ID, and find out how the funds will be used .If you are not satisfied don't give. Find a charity that you know and like instead.

Lastly , don't let holiday stress get the best of you. Take time to get together with family , friends, and neighbors. Reach out and help someone who is less fortunate or lonely.

Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody- except criminals. Sgt. Hank Hamory Previous Crime Prevention Officer

Thot for th e Month.....The 2011 budget, with no property tax increase, would not have been possible without many of the concessions made by City Employees. They work hard and deserve our thanks. So please when you see them, thank them and wish them a Merry Christmas.....Mayor Ed Pawlowski

Snow Shoveling Safety

With the expected snow approaching, Allentown Health Bureau's Director Barbara Stader cautions everyone who shovels snow to both use proper shoveling techniques and, for people middle aged or older who lead a sedentary lifestyle or have a heart condition, to be careful when shoveling snow and ice.



The combination of colder temperatures and physical exertion creates an additional strain on the heart and can lead to a heart attack, particularly for those at risk. While shoveling heavy, wet snow, heart and blood pressure responses can reach the individual's heart rate limit in just 2 minutes. No wonder heart attacks increase during major snow storms.

Ms. Stader suggests:

- If you have a medical condition or you are middle aged or older and have not seen a physician recently, consult a physician before the anticipated snowfall arrives.
- Take frequent rest breaks while shoveling.
- Don't eat a heavy meal or drink alcoholic beverages.
- Use a small shovel.
- Keep warm. Hypothermia increases your risk of heart attack.
- Know the warning signs of a heart attack:
 - Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back.
 - Pain spreading to the shoulders, neck and arms
 - Chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating or shortness of breath.

Stader also reminds everyone to protect their back during shoveling by following these guidelines:

- Tighten your abdomen as you lift
- Keep the shovel close to your body.
- Bend your knees, not your back.
- Use the strength of your thigh muscles to bring you to an upright position.
- Instead of twisting while lifting, use your feet to pivot. This will turn your body and not twist your back.

For more information, contact Tina Amato, Manager, Heart Disease Program at 610-437-7581 or Jim Carlisle, Manager, Injury Prevention at 610-437-7598.

Snow Removal Policy for City of Allentown

The following are suggestions for help with snow removal:

- ⇒ Do not throw snow out into the street when you dig your car out.
- ⇒ Dig out the fire hydrants that are in the block. This will allow the hydrants to be found if needed.
- ⇒ Pile snow along the curb when you clear your sidewalk, do not throw it into the street.
- ⇒ If you have a corner property, please clear the cross walk so that people can safely cross the street.
- ⇒ Make sure you clear the drains and paths coming from the downspouts on your property. If it is not kept clear, and free of ice and snow, this can cause a serious accident Also it can back up into your home.



Snow Shoveling

Property owners have 10 hours after the snow or sleet has stopped falling to clear a 3 foot wide path on the sidewalk. There is a \$600 fine for each day after that ten hour period that the sidewalk has not been cleared.

Fire Safety Tips

Here are some tips from the Allentown Fire Department's Fire Prevention Office to help you have a safe winter season:

Install smoke detectors inside and outside of all bedrooms, near the basement stairs and on all floor levels. Detectors over ten years old should be replaced since they are at the end of their service life and may fail. Smoke detectors can only alert you to a fire condition, so take precautions to prevent fires from starting in the first place. Read the smoke detector instructions for detailed information about the installation and care. Have an escape plan in case of fire and practice it with your family.

Report disturbances, noise and crime at the non-emergency
Police number: 610-437-



Candle Safety The holiday season is a good time for a reminder regarding fire safety, especially when it comes to candles. Fires ignited by unattended candles are on the increase, leading to millions of dollars of property loss, and more importantly, the loss of precious life.

Candles also produce combustion products that are harmful to the health if not properly ventilated. Such products consist of but are not limited to unburned paraffin, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and soot. These particles can damage sensitive equipment.

A candle flame burns at over 1,500 degrees and can easily ignite common home furnishings. Fire tests have shown that a fire started by a candle can spread to the entire room in as little as 2 minutes. Ensure your safety by following these common sense safety tips. Most candles now have safety instructions printed on them. Install smoke detectors inside and outside of all bedrooms and on each floor level. Practice your Fire Safety Plan.

1. Do not burn candles where children or pets may knock them over.
2. Burn candles only on a non-combustible surface.
3. Burn candles in a proper container or holder - a trivet, votive container, or sturdy candlestick holder.
4. Do not leave candles unattended. Blow out the candle if you leave the area.
5. Do not burn candles near draperies, curtains, open windows, or at drafty locations.
6. Trim wicks to 1/4 inch before lighting.
7. Do not burn larger candles to less than one inch (1") of wax remaining. Votive candles must be in a votive holder and may be burned to 1/2 inch of wax remaining. Tea lights can cause fires if allowed to burn out on a combustible area.
8. Do not burn candles for extended periods of time (over three hours) as overheating may occur.
9. Do not burn candles near storage, paper products, under a shelf, or at any other place where ignition is likely.
10. Candles require a horizontal clearance of at least one (1) foot.
11. Be very careful when burning novelty candles with odd shapes. These may not have been meant to be burned and may be unstable.
12. For extra safety, place all candles in a metal container with liquid-tight sides (such as an approved candle-holder) and place that on an insulated surface (such as a metal trivet or a gypsum board).

For further info, contact the Fire Prevention Office at 610-437-7758.

Cold Weather Tips by Kay We recently had some very cold weather & I would like to report some excellent tips I learned of from a personal fiasco. If your water pipes or drains freeze, one of the first things you should do is to turn up your thermostat. The main objective is to get some heat into the problem area & sometimes that may be a problem in itself just locating it. The next thing you can do is to get or borrow a portable heater and set it in the target area. Open cabinet and closet doors. Stuff rugs or rags into areas that have wind or drafts coming through them. One neighbor recently discovered a forgotten open basement window that let frigid air into the area where the water intake valve was located. Check your foundation and perimeter for problems such as this. Allow faucets to drip on nights and days when it is very cold, especially when there is a wind chill factor. Open basement doors on cold nights, if there are pipes and drains located down there. Put "insulated jackets" and or heat tapes over pipes. Put insulation strips (bought at your local Kmart) around doors. Some people put heavy

Chec-Mate CALL THE POLICE ANONYMOUSLY

If you have felt that you often wanted or needed to call the police, but were afraid you would have to give your name, you need to see me about getting a CHEC-MATE number. Apply and become among the thousands of Citizens Helping to Eliminate Crime. All you need to do, is come to our meeting to get an application. You can also call 610-437-7160 and I'll drop one off at your house. Fill out the requested information and I will forward it to the police dept. They will assign you your own personal number. Then when you call the police you just give the chec-mate number to the dispatcher instead of your name. This also speeds things up. Don't let fear hinder you from quality of life.

Noise, Noise, and more Nois - Turn it Down

Keep in mind that if you want to play music, or you are a loud music player, your neighbors may not want to hear it blasting through their house. **Enforceable 24 hrs a day-Noise Disturbance-City ordinance 719.03.** Radios, tape players, TV, autos, any device which produces or amplifies sound: At any time of day in such a manner from any source as to cross a real property boundary; or at such sound intensity that it is audible from a distance of 40 ft in any public area, street or sidewalk of the City. Fine for violating City Ordinance 719.03 is not more than \$1000.00 or 90 days in jail. use your chec-mate call 437-7751 to report any disturbances.

Train Time Charity Holiday Exhibit at America on Wheels until December 31st. Want ideas fro Holiday events, go to City web site at www.allentownpa.gov.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from