

Monthly meetings held every 3rd Monday of the month at B'nai B'rith Apts-Comm Room West

# Neighborhood #7 Newsletter

Volume 15 Issue 11

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

November 2009

*A word from the Prez: December will be a very wonderful Christmas Pot Luck Supper and just enjoying each others company. We will also have elections the same night. This will be on Monday eve December 21st. If you have a talent to share for this event, please call 610-437-7160.*

**REMEMBER:** Cell phones numbers will be released to the public this month and your number will be released to telemarketers and you will start to receive sales calls. You will be charged for these calls. To prevent this call 1-800-382-1222 from your cell phone. It is the National Do Not Call List and will only take a minute of your time. It blocks the number for 5 yrs. You must call from the number you want blocked.

## Enjoy warm water aerobics, lap swimming or just lounging around:

**Where:** Muhlenberg College Pool  
**When:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
**What:** Pool, changing facility, showers  
**Cost:** \$4.00 or whatever you can afford.  
Just show up, pre-registering not needed  
**Sponsor:** Lehigh County Senior Center  
**Guarantee:** If you don't like it you don't pay. For more info call Beth at 610-437-3700

City Tree Lighting will take place on December 3rd from 4 to 7 PM.

Holiday Card Juried Exhibition at the Baum School of Art from Nov 5th - 20th Over 30 area artists have participated. Each pack of 15 cards will sell for \$15. David Rodale Gallery. Mon-Thurs 9AM to 9:30PM-Fri, Sat 9 to 3PM

Christmas at the Pines, Dinner Theater from Nov 6 to Dec 20. ph 610-926-3702 [www.pinesdinnertheater.com](http://www.pinesdinnertheater.com)

Lights in the Parkway opens Dec 11th at new reduced rates. \$7 carload. Visit [www.lightsintheparkway.com](http://www.lightsintheparkway.com) for info

<http://www.allentownpa.gov/> Holiday guide for more current city events

## Peter Schweyer, City Councilman *Can answer questions concerning the new 2010 budget*



**Monday, November 16th, 2009 at 7:00 PM**  
**B'nai B'rith Apts. 1622 W. Liberty St.**

*We will start nominations for 2010 Officers*

**Isn't it time you got involved in your neighborhood?**

## **2010 Census to Begin: WARNING: 2010 Census Cautions from the Better Business Bureau—Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers**

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice: If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home. Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking info to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. **REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.** While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCES.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau. Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit <http://www.bbb.org/> <<http://www.bbb.org/>>

**Snow Removal Policy for City of Allentown** The following are suggestions to help with snow removal: Do not throw snow out into the street when you dig your car out. There is a \$300 fine for this. 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. Property owners have 10 hrs after the snow/sleet has stopped falling to clear a 3 foot wide path on the sidewalk. There 's a \$600 fine for each day after that ten hour period that the sidewalk has not been cleared. If you need to report someone that is not clearing their walk in the designated time period, the number to call is Engineering: 610-437-7584

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**GET YOUR BENEFIT VERIFICATION BEFORE THE CHILL SETS IN**

By Liz Foster

Social Security Branch Manager in the South Philadelphia Field Office.

It's that time of year again – when people in many parts of the country feel a new chill in the air each morning, and put an extra quilt or blanket on the bed. It's also the time of year when many states offer energy assistance to people who have low income and resources. Under the energy assistance program, your state may help with the cost of heating your home during the winter. But to get it, in most cases, you'll need to provide proof of your income. If you get Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can get proof of the amount of your benefit quickly and easily by going online. Just visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). There are a number of reasons you may need written verification of your benefit amount, besides energy assistance programs. Perhaps you're ready to make a major purchase and you're trying to get a loan from a bank or financial institution. Or maybe you're applying for state benefits or moving into a new apartment or home. Whatever your reason, Social Security makes it easy for you to get the written verification you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Just look in the left column under "What you can do online," expand the "If you get benefits" section, and select the "Request a Proof of Income letter" link. The letter can be used for any reason that someone requires proof of your income. In addition to offering proof of your income, the letter is an official document that verifies your Medicare coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. The letter does not include your Social Security number. From the time that you complete the online request, it will take about 10 days for you to receive the proof of income letter in the mail. If you need one sooner, you'll want to call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office. But for most people, simply requesting the proof of income online is the most convenient way to get what you need. Get your benefit verification by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

**NOW'S THE TIME TO APPLY ONLINE FOR A NEW YEAR RETIREMENT**

By Liz Foster, Social Security Branch Manager in the South Philadelphia Field Office

If you're planning on retiring sometime early in the new year, now is the time to apply for retirement benefits. The most convenient way to apply for Social Security benefits is online -- from the comfort of your home or office. Just go to [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline). Our website will walk you through the online retirement application process. We will tell you what information you will need to answer the questions on the application. Further, we will describe the documents you may need to present once you have submitted your application. Before you start your application, we recommend you get an estimate of your retirement benefit. This too, you can do on the Social Security website at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator). The *Retirement Estimator* uses your personal employment history to estimate your retirement benefit. It also will help you to answer some of the questions on the retirement application. You can use the online application to apply for Social Security retirement or spouses benefits if you:

- Are at least 61 years and 9 months old;
- Want to start your benefits in the next four months; and
- Live in the United States.

You will want to be fully informed of your options and their consequences before applying. The website will tell you everything you need to know about the Social Security "basics" so you'll be ready to retire when you apply online. Before filing online for retirement, we suggest you have the following information on hand:

- Your date and place of birth and Social Security number;
- Your bank or financial institution's routing transit number and the account number, for direct deposit of your benefits;
- The amount of money earned last year and this year. If you are filing for benefits in the months of September through December, you also will need to estimate next year's earnings;
- The name and address of your employer(s) for this year and last year;
- The beginning and ending dates of any active U.S. military service you had before 1968;
- The name, Social Security number and date of birth or age of your current spouse and any former spouse. You also should know the dates and places of marriage and dates of divorce or death (if appropriate); and
- A copy of your *Social Security Statement*. Even if you don't have all the information we need, you should go ahead and apply. We will contact you later if we need additional documentation. Applying online means there is no need for you to go to a Social Security office or wait for a scheduled appointment with a Social Security representative. Besides, retiring online is so easy. You can apply in as little as 15 minutes. If you want to start the new year off as a retiree, or plan to start collecting benefits early in the new year, now's the time to take action. Don't delay; apply online today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/applyonline).

**AMGC NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER NEWS: Tee Times**

The first tee time will be 8:30am. This will be the same for both during the week and on weekends. Continue to book times online at [allentowngolf.org](http://allentowngolf.org). You can make times a week in advance by calling the pro shop or 6 days over the internet. Tee times will change again in December Winter Rates Winter rates go into effect November 1<sup>st</sup>. The rate will be \$13 to walk all day and all week long. Plus Frost Delays We are now entering the frost season. The day before your tee time, try and check the weather for that night. If it is going to be below freezing (32°) there is going to be frost. In the case of frost the pro shop will call each tee time in the morning giving every one a heads up on the delay and a guess on how long it will be. Please bear with us during this time of the year; we do our best to inform our customers of any delay. Driving Range Driving range will be open throughout the year, weather permitting. The range trailer will be closed November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Trailer will be open weather permitting weekends only starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. You can purchase range balls in the pro shop for the rest of the year. Course Maintenance is continuing to do an awesome job with keeping the course clean and in good shape. Now with the cold season coming in grass will not be growing to much. When you make a divot now it will not be healed till next spring, continue to replace divots and fix ball marks to keep the course in as best shape as it can be. Also don't forget to rake the bunkers as well. Player Card ALL PLAYER REWARD CARD POINTS MUST BE USED BY THE END OF THE YEAR, DECEMBER 31. YOU CAN USE YOUR POINTS ON ANY MERCHADISE ITEM IN THE PRO SHOP. IF YOU ARE IN THE AMGA YOUR WINNINGS FROM THOSE TOURNAMENTS CAN BE SEPARATED FROM YOUR REWARDS POINTS. AMGA WINNINGS DO NO HAVE TO BE USED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. STOP IN THE PRO SHOP SOON TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL OUR SALES WE HAVE GOING ON NOW!! Pro Shop We are having end of the year blowout sale. All putters in stock are 30% off. We have stock left from Yes, Odyssey, and Taylor Made. Most of our women's clothing is on sale. Also our Cutter & Buck golf shirts are all on sale. We still have a good amount of the Cutter & Buck shirts left; check them out before they are all gone. All wedges are on sale, 40% off. You can call the pro shop to check what degrees we have in stock. Phone Jeff Wambold at 610-395-9926.