

The West Watch

Neighborhood Group

THE REPORTER

WEST END YOUTH CENTER
20TH AND GREENLEAF STREETS
MEETING 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2010

**JOIN THE FUN
WEST WATCH BLOCK PARTY SEPTEMBER 18TH
NOON TILL 5 P.M.
WEST END YOUTH CENTER**



**MUSIC BY DYNAMIC DUO
FOOD AVAILABLE BY MADE IN BRAZIL**



**FREE HEALTH SCREENING PROVIDED BY
GOOD SHEPHERD REHAB CENTER**

MOON BOUNCE FUN FOR THE KIDS

BAKE SALE

50-50 DRAWING

Next Meeting will be on October 12, 2010

Speaker of the Month

The guest speaker for the October meeting will be Officer Tim Yanders of the Allentown Police Force

A Word From Our President

Hello Neighbors:

New Board Member: It is my pleasure to announce that Maureen Keenan has accepted the Board's invitation to serve on the West Watch board of directors. **Welcome aboard Maureen.**

Also we would like to thank Sean O'Keefe for his contributions to the Board. Sean, because of business, has resigned from the Board.

August Meeting: The speaker at the West Watch meeting in August was Tamara Weller the Executive Director of the Allentown Parking Authority. Following are some of the highlights from Tamara's presentation:

Double Parking: Double parking is strictly enforced in the City of Allentown. To be a violation, the vehicle does not have to be unoccupied. If a vehicle stops in a lane of traffic, even momentarily, it is subject to a ticket. This applies even if the vehicle is running and occupied.

72 Hour Calls: The parking authority is often called to investigate a vehicle parked for more than 3 days. This is a violation (abandoned vehicle) and the location is marked and the owner is reminded that a vehicle may not be parked continuously for 72 hours. If after 72 hours the vehicle is still there, it is given a ticket and the owner is sent a letter stating that the vehicle must be moved. If it is not moved, it is then towed.

Sidewalk: The sidewalk or the absence of a sidewalk is not an appropriate parking space. Even the sidewalk in front of your own garage is off-limits if the placement of the vehicle could impede the progress of pedestrians.

Booting of Vehicle: In an attempt to reduce the amount of tickets that are dealt with in court, the Parking Authority has embarked on a program to identify and boot vehicles with unpaid tickets.

Contest a Ticket: If anyone wants to contest a ticket they should call the Authority at 610-437-2113.

Street Cleaning: The cleaning of city streets is done in Allentown on a year round basis. If you are unsure about a specific area, check the signs on that block

Contact the Parking Authority: The Parking Authority is dispatched by the Police Communications Center. Anyone with a parking concern should call 610-437-7751. For any additional information visit the Parking Authority at www.allentownparking.com

Please plan to attend our monthly meetings and participate in the groups activities. When we voice our opinion and communicate our concerns, we can maintain and improve the *Quality of Life in the West End of Allentown.*

Thank You, Gerry Alfano

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month

Liberty Mutual will be hosting a general information seminar for individuals age 50 and older about the benefits of life insurance. We will provide door prizes and appetizers.

When: September 21, 2010
Time: 4 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Location: Allentown Public Library
1120 W Hamilton St.
Allentown, Pa.

Please RSVP by calling my office at 610-398-9800 extension 51478 or via e-mail at:
Fabian.moriah@libertymutual.com

Block Leaders

The West Watch Neighborhood Group is looking for **BLOCK Leaders**. The block leaders monitors the activities of their neighborhood and assists residents with solutions. If you are interested in becoming a Block Leader, please contact the President Gerry Alfano at gfa1westend@rcn.com or attend the next meeting.

Back to School Safety

Playground Safety

- Supervise children at all times.
- Playground equipment should be surrounded by shock-absorbing material that's at least nine inches thick.
- Protective surfaces should extend six feet in all directions around equipment. For swings, it should extend twice the height of the set.
- Do not attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines, pet leashes or cords of any kind to playground equipment due to strangulation hazards.
- Repair sharp edges or points on equipment.
- Spaces that can entrap children, like openings between ladder rungs, should measure less than three and a half inches or more than nine inches.

Elevated surfaces, such as ramps, should have guardrails to prevent falls.

Clothing and School Supplies

- To prevent injury, backpacks should have wide straps, padding in the back and shoulders, and shouldn't weigh more than 10 to 15 percent of a child's body weight.
- Heavier items should be placed in backpacks first. The closer they are to a child's back, the less strain they'll cause.
- Children should use both backpack straps and all compartments to help distribute the pack's weight.
- Remove drawstrings from jackets, sweatshirts, and hooded shirts to reduce the risk of strangulation injuries.
- Art supplies in the classroom should always be child safe and non-toxic. Make they have "CONFORMS TO ASTM D-4236" on their packaging.

Make sure your child's school is up-to-date on the latest recalled toys and children's products.

West End Youth Center Bingo

Come join the fun and prizes at the West End Youth Center Bingo night every Monday night at 6:45.

West End Watch Group Web Site

Watch for the updated West Watch Web site now under construction and coming in August

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CONTACT US

YES!! I am very pleased with the work that the West Watch Neighborhood Group is doing and I would like to make a donation to support their many efforts such as the newsletter, meetings, and community events

SORRY. I am not able to help the West Watch Neighborhood Group with a financial contribution at this time but I would like to help in other ways. Please contact me with how I can help. You can make your check or money order payable to:

The West Watch Neighborhood Group
& Send it to:
3140B Tilghman St. #243
Allentown, PA 18104
Thank you for your support!

Website:

www.TheWestWatch.org

Gerry Alfano	President	gfa1westend@rcn.com
Pam Palmer	Vice President	pamp@TheWestWatch.org
George Sheaffer	Secretary	Secretary@TheWestWatch.org
Bob Berner	Treasurer	Treasurer@TheWestWatch.org
Maureen Keenan	Board Member	Mckeenan@ptd.net
Anne Gerber	Board Member	anne@protectalarms.com
Kathryn O'Keefe	Board Member	kathrynokeefe@rcn.com

Numbers To Know

Police—Fire—Ambulance	911	Police Non-Emergency	610-437-7751
Police—Vice Unit	610-437-7226	Mayor Pawlowski	610-437-7546
Noise Complaint	610-437-7751	Street Lights	610-437-7735
Weeds/Overgrown Grass	610-437-8729	Animal Control	610-437-7535
Graffiti Removal/Recycling	610-437-8729	Sweep Program	610-437-8729
Vacant Property Issues	610-437-7694	Zoning Violations	610-437-4360
Neighborhood Disputes	610-437-7616		