

# Neighborhood News

## May Meeting Highlights

Mary Lou Parry ran the meeting. Allentown Police Officer Lonny Bryfogle was present to update us on criminal activity in our area. Specifically, daytime burglaries are on the rise. See the next article about home safety/security tips from the Allentown Police Department. Neighbors praised the new look of sidewalks and walkways along 19th and Allen Streets and the Fox 29 News visit to the West End Theatre District on May 15th. Tom Mulligan noted that people are going into and out of a house, in foreclosure, in the 1900 block of Allen Street. A neighbor who has had her car vandalized repeatedly over a period of years asked for more police presence in the area. Carmen Bell, candidate for Allentown City Council, was on hand to make a presentation. Also present were candidates for Magisterial District Judge, Rashid Santiago and Michael Rooney. Gretchen Krasley thanked all who voted on possible speakers at future meetings. Building Standards and Recycling departments got the greatest number of votes. Watch for announcements about their presentations in future newsletters.

## Home Safety/Security Tips from The Allentown Police Department

Tim Yanders, Crime Prevention officer for the Allentown Police Department has these recommendations about Home Safety and Security:

**Doors, keys, locks** - replace keys/locks in new apartments; purchase keys protected from duplication; make sure that doors are solid wood or metal; look for doors that fit tightly in jam and have hinges inside; see that there is a wide angle peep hole

**Shrubs, trees, tools** - prune back shrubs near house; choose dwarf shrub varieties; prune low branches that can act as a ladder for thieves; keep your yard well maintained (thieves target residences in disrepair); store tools (ladders, hammers, etc.) in padlocked shed

**Alarms, cameras, external lighting, house features** - install an alarm for the first floor and motion detectors for upper floors; choose an alarm company that monitors alarms locally, has excellent references, and has an audible alarm outside your home; consider installing surveillance cameras with auxiliary channels that allow remote monitoring; use external lights with dusk to dawn timers; have house numbers clearly displayed on the front and rear (or garage)

**Neighborhood, street** - get or stay involved in your neighborhood watch group; report broken/burned out street lights (each light pole has a number on it) to the police non-emergency number (610 437-7751); report abandoned cars to police non-emergency number; fix broken windows as soon as possible; call non-emergency number or Graffiti Busters (610 437-8729) at the first sign of graffiti (take a digital picture if it's safe to help police with identification)

**Your valuables** - create or update an inventory of valuables including a digital picture, model and serial numbers; store a copy (hard copy or CD)

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**Our next meeting:**

**Wednesday, June 12**

**7:00 P.M**

**Christ E.C. Church  
2135 Tilghman St.**

Muhlenberg Area Community Watch meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Christ E. C. Church 2135 Tilghman St.

*We invite residents of any neighborhood in the city to join us!*

**Future Meetings:**

**No July Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 14**

**Wednesday, September 11**

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## MAC Contact Information:

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in your safe deposit box and give another to your homeowner's/renter's insurance agent; insist that the replacement value of valuables in your insurance policy is 100% or higher; engrave your driver's/operator's license number (not your SSN!) on all valuables; rent an engraver from Officer Yanders' office (610 437-7719) and get an Operation ID decal to display on your home

**Guns** - take a gun safety course; record model/serial numbers (add to household inventory); store guns in a safe, bolted and set in concrete

**When you're away** - use timers on lights and a radio; reset the timers frequently to prevent an observable pattern; leave shades and drapes open; when you return home, don't enter if you notice a broken window, torn screen or door ajar (call 9-1-1)

### Police Chief Search Public Forum Scheduled

The City of Allentown held its first public forum to gather community input on the search process for the next Chief of Police on Thursday, May 30 at 6pm in City Council Chambers. Watch newspapers and TV announcements of future opportunities.

The community forum was moderated by Joseph Carter, Senior Associate of the Massachusetts-based Strategic Police Partnership and Kutztown University Professor Gary Cordner.

The city retained Chairman and Principal Robert Wasserman and his Strategic Policy Partnership to lead the search to replace Chief Roger MacLean who must retire before the end of 2013 under the terms of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan, or DROP enhancement for veteran officers in the police union contract that took effect in January 2009.

The forum is an opportunity for the public to offer candidate characteristics and issues that it feels the new police chief needs to address.

### We Need You!!



Want to know more about what's going on in our neighborhood? Come to our meetings and get to know your neighbors. If you have a problem, we'll try to help you get help. Our meetings are usually under an hour, once a month. See details on page 1. We welcome neighbors from any neighborhood in the city!



Would you like to get emails with city/neighborhood news in between newsletters? Join our network by emailing Gretchenkrasley@aol.com. All emails are blind copies to protect your identity.



Got a house for sale or rent in your neighborhood? Gretchen Krasley sends out letters to realtors and owners about the student overlay guidelines. If you see a For Sale or For Rent sign, call Gretchen at 610-821-7716, or email her at Gretchenkrasley@aol.com. Thanks, Gretchen for helping to preserve the residential character of our neighborhood.

### Phone Numbers to Know

- City Information Desk 610 439-5999
- Code Enforcement 610 437-7661
- Code Enforcement Rental Licensing 610 437-7694.
- Community Problems (neighbor disputes) 610 437-7773
- Crime Prevention Unit 610 437-7719
- Emergency Medical Services (paramedics) 610 437-7531
- Emergency Medical Services (non-emergency) 610 437-7751
- Garbage Complaints 610 437-8729
- Graffiti Busters 610 437-8729
- Graffiti in Progress 9-1-1
- Housing Compliance/Inspections 610 437-7697
- Leaf Pickup 610 437-7587
- Police Calls (non-emergency) 610 437-7751\*
- Rental Unit Inspections 610 437-7695
- Sewer Back-up 610 437 7639
- Sewer Emergencies after hours 610 437-7751
- State Representative Michael Schlossberg 610 821-5577
- SWEEP (Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste) 610 437-8729
- Weeds/Grass Overgrowth 610 437-8729
- Yard Waste Recycling 610 437-8729
- Zoning 610 437-7630

\*When calling 610 437-7751, remember that anything that impairs the peace, dignity, and decorum of the neighborhood is considered "disruptive conduct."

### Tip for calling 9-1-1

If you hear an intruder in your home, stay where you are and call 9-1-1. You don't have to say anything, just leave the line open and don't hang up. This works with land lines and cell phones alike.