

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

# Neighborhood #7 Newsletter

Volume 16 Issue 3

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

March 2010

**New Changes Coming for Neighborhood 7 Newsletters:** Due to lack of interest and help, unfortunately we have to cut down on our distribution. In the future there will not longer be any door to door distribution of this publication. You may pick them up at **AHART'S MARET** or **WAWA** or **WILLY JOE'S DOGGIES**. Additionally, we would like to say **THANK YOU** to all the persons who have so generously donated of their time in the past 16 years delivering these publications to their neighbors. They are too numerous to count, but we list some of them below:

<u>Dolores Durst</u>	<u>Paul Krapf</u>
<u>Connie Nelsom</u>	<u>Marty Lower</u>
<u>Emma Brown</u>	<u>The Clubhouse</u>
<u>Francis Hall</u>	<u>Doris Schwover</u>
<u>Leah Schwover</u>	<u>Trina Minnich</u>
<u>Kay Pickel</u>	<u>David Zimmerman</u>
<u>Nancy Spaar</u>	<u>Lamont Cope</u>
<u>Diane Spitko</u>	<u>Terry Messinger</u>
<u>Jennifer Gomez</u>	<u>Jason Soho</u>
<u>Fran Kershner</u>	<u>Bill Ruhe</u>
<u>Cookie Biehn</u>	<u>Diane Charley</u>

Power Man Metal Pick up / hauling by Omar Larrama. Ph. 610-433-8302 or 484-274-8599

## Neighborhood #7 Officers

President:	Kay Pickel
Vice Pres	David Zimmerman
Carrier Coordinater	Pending
Treasurer:	Pending
Secretary:	Terry Messinger
Hospitality:	Dolores Durst
Board Member	Earl Gaugler
Board Member	Jeanette Hall

*Rescheduled due to weather!!*

**Allentown Police Dept. Captain Steven Mould**  
*Will bring up to date on crime in the west end!*  
**Monday, March 15th, 2010 at 7:00 PM**  
**B'nai B'rith Apts. 1622 W. Liberty St.**

*For more info call 610-437-7160 or email Crimeprez@aol.com*

**KEEP YOUR IDENTITY SAFE – See these guidelines.**

**Make a copy for your files in case you need to refer to it someday.**

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.' **Business Owners always make sure you ask for a photo ID before you run the card!**
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number, and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.
3. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box, use your work address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it. Checks pass through many hands and the risk is there.
4. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel..... Keep the photocopy in a safe place.
5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).  
**But here's what is perhaps most important of all:**
7. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.  
**Now, here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen: Keep this document with a copy of your cards!**

1. Equifax: 1-800-525-6285
2. Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742
3. Trans Union: 1-800-680 7289
4. Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

**Warning for Parking Ticket Violators:** About a block away from Lehigh Valley Hospital- Allentown, a black Mitsubishi is being freed from its shackles by an Allentown Parking Authority employee. The 27-pound orange boot had been placed on the car earlier Monday, making it impossible to drive and prompting the owner to cough up money for an unpaid parking ticket as well as the \$50 fee to remove the wheel lock. Allentown Parking Authority has started giving the boot, , to people who fall behind on paying a parking ticket. Under new policy the parking authority says could save violators money in the long run, owners who do not pay parking tickets within 45 days could have steel locks placed on their vehicles, according to Tamara Weller, PA executive director. After 60 days of going unpaid, a ticket will end up in district court as a parking warrant, allowing the owner's vehicle to be towed and impounded, she said. Previously, the parking authority placed locks on vehicles after owners accumulated five unpaid tickets and had failed to pay them all within 30 days of notification. Unpaid tickets became warrants after 60 days. Weller said the new policy is an attention-getting device that will actually help scofflaws keep their fines manageable. "We want to lessen the burden on the courts, and lessen the impact on the vehicle owner," she said. Parking tickets in Allentown start at \$10, depending on the offense. Violators have 10 days to pay the fine. The fine goes up the longer an offender takes to pay it. After 30 days, the parking authority identifies the offender and sends them a reminder to pay the fine. If they don't pay after two weeks, the vehicle can be booted. By putting the boot on a vehicle after a single unpaid ticket, Weller said owners will be motivated to pay up before it becomes a warrant and the car ends up being towed. She said the new approach will reduce court costs and fees for towing and storage, which can total hundreds of dollars. The vehicle owner will still have to pay the unpaid ticket and the \$50 fee to release the orange boot. Weller said the change came about after a man with an unpaid ticket had his car towed, and had to travel back and forth to get his car released. The man had to go to the impound yard to get a copy of his registration and insurance, to district court to deal with the warrant, then to the parking authority to pay the vehicle release fee and finally back to the impound yard to retrieve his car. The man said he lost the notice reminding him that he had two weeks to pay his ticket or risk ending up in district court. If his car would have been booted, the man said he would have immediately paid the ticket, according to Weller. Thinking the man had a good point, the parking authority tweaked its policy, she said. "We used to tow them right away, and have them take care of their warrants," she said. "We want to avoid that." While the policy allows the authority to boot any vehicle with tickets that have gone unpaid for 45 days, Weller said the majority of boots are still placed on cars with parking warrants. Weller did not have figures available on the number of booted vehicles this year. She said the parking authority placed 982 boots on vehicles, many to repeat offenders, from the fall of 2007, when the booting program began, until the end of 2009. Overall, booting was down last year, but so were parking tickets, Weller said. Parking tickets were down 12 percent in 2009 from the year before. They placed 98 fewer boots last year compared with 2008. She attributed decline to less business traffic in downtown Allentown and more people using parking garages.

**HOMEBUYER'S SUPERMARKET**

March 13th, 2010 at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agr-Plex  
10 AM to 4 PM FREE ADMISSION!

Everything you need to know about buying a home in the city of Allentown under one roof. For more info, call 610-437-7690.

**Pennsylvania German Heritage Crafts Day** Will be held in Kutztown at the PGCH Center on Sat April 17th, 2010 from 9:30 AM to 3 PM. For a list of workshops and classes and to register, phone 610-861-4108 or 610-861-4175. You can also visit them online at [www.northampton.edu](http://www.northampton.edu)

**Mohegan Sun Casino - Pocono Downs**  
April 27th and May 20th. Leave 9:00 a.m. & back 5:00 p.m. \$25 to play. Cost \$20.

**Longwood Gardens and QVC Shopping:**  
April 21st. Leave at 8:00 a.m. and back at 5:00 p.m. Shop at QVC. Tour at Longwood Gardens. Eat lunch there too. Cost \$66.  
Contact Beth at 610-437-3700 or [2]beth@lehighseniors.org .

**Allentown Municipal Golf Course**  
Email Jeff Wambolatamgc@ptd.net [www.allentowngolf.org](http://www.allentowngolf.org)  
or phone 610-395-5108 or 610-395-9926

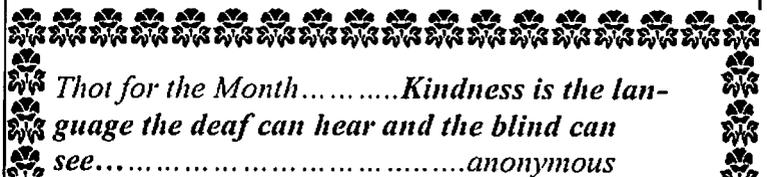
Visit their online store to purchase gift cards, accessories from the Pro-Shop.

**Saturday May 8th at 10 AM: Scott Rothenberger will be doing an extreme Garden Makeover** in the West Park area. The meeting will start in the Church of the Mediator located next to the Park.

**Organizational Meeting for Summer Golf League** at the Lehigh County Senior Center, located at 16th and Elm Streets in Allentown. Monday March 8th at 10 AM in Room 107. Golfers of all experience levels are welcome. Play weekly at various Lehigh Valley Golf Courses. Meet new people/. This is a very friendly group of golfers who want you to join them. For more info call the Center at 610-437-3700 or Richard Warner at 610-391-9232. You do not have to come to the organizational meeting to join the league.

**What is a Snow Emergency?** By ordinance, a "snow emergency" requires owners to remove their vehicles from posted routes, which are also published on the city website, [www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov). City Streets Superintendent Craig Messinger warns that vehicles left on designated routes during a snow emergency will be towed away. Parking is prohibited on the routes until the emergency is officially lifted. City residents are advised to wait until plows have been down their street before shoveling driveways and asked residents to avoid throwing snow back onto the streets.

**Everlasting Life Ministries** will once again have it's free Easter Dinner on March 27th. There will be two seatings at 12:30 and 3:30 PM. It will be held at 224 N. 6th St in Allentown. They need donations of Servers, cooked hams, baked goods, and money. If you would like to volunteer or have more info call 610-776-4009.


  
*Thot for the Month.....Kindness is the lan-  
 guage the deaf can hear and the blind can  
 see.....anonymous*