

Neighborhood News



August Meeting Highlights

Gretchen Krasley ran the meeting. While the number of crimes in our area is somewhat lower, police officers advise us to remain vigilant. Police want us to be aware of continued crimes of opportunity. Thieves ring front door-bells and if there's no answer, break in at back doors of houses. Before leaving your house, try to make it look like you're home. Turn on the TV or radio and turn on lights with timers. If you park your car in a garage and leave the keys in the car thinking your car is safe in a locked garage, think again! Thieves break into garages and drive the cars away! You are advised to lock doors at all times, set alarms if you have them, and lock cars after taking valuable items such as laptops and phones with you. If you are expecting a package and you know you won't be home when it's delivered, ask a neighbor to take care of it for you. Another tip is to secure windows with air conditioners, another entry point for thieves. If you can invest in a light with a motion sensor, it is an added deterrent to crime. We are all reminded not to hesitate to call the non-emergency number (610.437.7751) to report any suspicious activity. The recent Drug Take Back event yielded 1,504 pounds of medications. Neighbors are still invited to use the Medical Return Box in the lobby of the police station at 10th and Hamilton Streets. Remove prescription labels or blacken your name before depositing in the bin. The lobby is open 24/7.

Muhlenberg College Representatives Meet with Neighbors

Director of Residential Services, Jan Schumacher, and Director of Campus Safety, Brian Fidati, attended our August meeting to hear neighbors' concerns about students living in our neighborhood and to talk about how the college is taking a proactive stance regarding the behavior of students living off-campus.

There are 160 students living in college-owned or landlord-owned properties in our neighborhood. Ms. Schumacher outlined the application process students must go through to qualify for living off-campus. Students are given written guidelines about living in our neighborhood (trash, recycling, noise, parking, snow shoveling, etc.) and must sign that they've read them. It is suggested that student tenants give their phone numbers to neighbors so that if they have guests who are loud or music at high volume, neighbors can call them directly to complain. When students are given disruptive conduct reports, they are required to have a face-to-face meeting with Ms. Schumacher during which they are told to apologize to neighbors and asked to make plans to avoid this kind of behavior in the future. Depending on the severity of the disruptive conduct, the college can pull students out of off-campus residences and back onto campus housing even after one incident.

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**Our next meeting:
Wednesday, September 14
7:00 P.M**

Muhlenberg Area Community Watch meets the 2nd 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:
Wednesday, October 12
Wednesday, November 9**



MACW Contact Information:

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Newsletter Circulation:

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Newsletter Publication:

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Conducting meetings: Rotating responsibility

Presidents' Council meetings: Tom Burke 610.432.4079

Real Estate Letters: Gretchen Krasley 610.821.7716, Gretchenkrasley@gmail.com

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Brian Fidati, Director of Campus Safety, talked about how his staff works to maintain safety on and near campus. He has met with Allentown PSA II Captain Vangelo and feels that there is a good working relationship between campus and city police officers.

There are extra duty APD officers patrolling the area Thursday through Saturday. There are officers on foot patrol on or near campus. Officers are aware of houses where students live that are owned by the college and landlords. Neighbors with complaints were advised to call both campus safety (484.664.3110) and city non-emergency (610.437.7751). Campus police may arrive first on the scene of a complaint because they're closer, not to warn students but to quiet the area.

Neighbors voiced concerns about noise, parking, trash, and disrespect. They asked how often the college's discipline policies are reviewed and if and how the college monitors students' off-campus addresses.

Both Ms. Schumacher and Mr. Fidati will bring neighbors' concerns to the new Dean of Students.

Tree Planting in Our Neighborhood

At our June 8th meeting, Allentown's Arborist, Rick Howells, talked to us about the process of planting and managing trees in the city. He reminded us that neighborhoods with abundant trees have significantly fewer crimes than those without. Researchers think that this is because green spaces have a calming effect and encourage people to spend more time with their neighbors outdoors, bolstering community trust. For these and other reasons, trees are an asset to our neighborhood. As reported in the Fall, 2016 issue of West End Living, the West End Alliance is eligible for this project. They have identified Allen Street from 17th to 20th as the first area in which to focus.



In order for a tree-planting project to continue, Mr. Howells has to write and receive a grant specifying details about the needs and locations for future tree planting. Neighbors interested in hearing more about participating in a tree-planting project have contacted Gretchen Krasley by email. If you are interested in joining neighbors in getting informed about this project, contact us by email, gretchenkrasley@gmail.com. You will receive emailed updates about meeting with

Fireworks Display Saturday, September 24th at the Muhlenberg College Football Stadium



This year Muhlenberg College's Alumni Weekend will be held from Friday - Sunday, September 23-25. Neighbors are invited to join students and alumni at the fireworks display on Saturday, September 24th at 9:00 PM at the Football Stadium.

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-.531
 - 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.

New Neighbor Tip Sheet

We have a new up to date tip sheet with area guidelines about trash, parking, street cleaning, property maintenance, noise, and neighborhood resources. Maybe you'd like one even if you've lived here for a long time. Just ask for a copy via email (gretchenkrasley@gmail.com).

