



ALLENTOWN, PA

March 2023 Issue

# The Manor Vibes

Midway Manor's Official Newsletter

## From the President

David Tagg, President

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful and healthy holiday season. We're heading into the home stretch of winter and as of this writing, we've been pretty lucky to have had no big snowfalls.

We had a very productive year last year with many different activities taking place, including Easter, Halloween, soccer and basketball seasons. We also enjoyed several Christmas events, ending with Breakfast with Santa. All of these activities are only possible with the help of a dedicated core of volunteers who put in a huge amount of man hours to plan, prepare and pull off these events. Without their help, we would not offering the amount of programs we do now. We are ALWAYS looking for help in everything we do so if you are interested please talk to any board member or attend a monthly meeting. The more help we have, the easier it will be and the more we can offer. Read this issue to see what's happening this year in Midway Manor.

David Tagg, Presidente

¡Feliz Año Nuevo a todos! Espero que todos hayan tenido temporadas festivas maravillosas y saludables. Nos dirigimos a la recta final del invierno y, al momento de escribir este artículo, hemos tenido mucha suerte de no haber tenido grandes nevadas.

Tuvimos un año muy productivo el año pasado con muchas actividades diferentes, Semana Santa, Halloween, temporadas de fútbol y baloncesto, eventos navideños, para terminar con Desayuno con Santa. Todas estas actividades solo son posibles con la ayuda de un núcleo dedicado de voluntarios que dedican una gran cantidad de horas de trabajo para planificar, preparar y llevar a cabo estos eventos. Sin su ayuda, no estaríamos ofreciendo la cantidad de programas que ofrecemos ahora. SIEMPRE estamos buscando ayuda en todo lo que hacemos, así que si está interesado, hable con cualquier miembro de la Junta o asista a una reunión mensual. Cuanta más ayuda tengamos, más fácil será y más podremos ofrecer. Lea este boletín informativo para ver qué está pasando este año en Midway Manor.

## 2023 Officers

### OFFICERS

President	David Tagg
Vice President	Joseph Svetecz
Treasurer	Stephanie Sigafos
Secretary	Amy Feidler
Hispanic Community Coordinator	Enid Cruz

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Athletic Director	Marc Stewart
Website	Stephanie Sigafos
Audit	Ed Farrell
Security Patrol	Mike Valle
Activities	Various
Shed	Kim & David Tagg
Yardsale	Alice Romberger
Membership	David Tagg
Meals for Seniors	Vacant
Bulletin Boards	Alice Romberger
Welcome	Amy Feidler

## Inside this issue

[The Vibes Info.....](#)

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## Special points of interest

- MMCA celebrated 65 years of community service last year
- All families living in Midway Manor are eligible to join the MMCA
- MMCA meets monthly on the first Monday at Meals on Wheels or the Park
- Read this issue to learn what's going on in your community

*The Vibes is printed on recycled paper courtesy of the City of Allentown*



### ***Kids Need Kiwanis!***



*"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time"*

Attend our meeting and learn about the great things we do for children!

The Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast meets on Wednesdays at Noon and the last Wednesday of the month at 5:15 pm at the Borderline across from Giant

Contact:

Catherine Kane 610-776-8270, or

Andrea Naugle 610-740-9391, or

David Tagg at  
davidatagg@gmail.com

ALLENTOWN N.E. KIWANIS IS  
PROUD TO SPONSOR:

Midway Manor Community Assn.

Dieruff High School Key Club

Ritter Elementary Student of the  
Month

Bethlehem Catholic Key Club

Roberto Clemente Charter High  
School Key Club

Roberto Clemente Elementary  
Charter School K-Kids

## 2023 Calendar of Events

### Community Meetings / Events

All Meetings Held at Meals on Wheels, N. Sherman Street/Summer Meetings held at the Park weather permitting

March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5 —Monthly Meeting

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday April 1st

Halloween at the Park - To Be Announced



### **MIDWAY MANOR SECURITY PATROL**

Midway Manor has a neighbor, Mike Valle of East Highland Street, who has taken on the job of patrolling the neighborhood and reporting any suspicious activity that he sees to the Communications Center.

You may have seen him throughout the day driving through the Manor. His car has magnetic signs on the door identifying him as the Midway Manor Security Patrol. Unfortunately he is not able to patrol at night as we do not allow patrolling alone. If you would like to volunteer to help Mike, please contact him to find out the requirements to participate.

If you see him, wave and let him know you appreciate all he does in helping to keep our community safe!

### **CHECK MATE NUMBERS PROGRAM**

The Allentown Police Department has a program call **Check Mate**, which allows callers to report incidents using a check mate number instead of their names and address. The number also expedites the reporting process resulting in quicker police response.

Check Mate applications may be picked up at any Community Association meeting or by emailing a request to [info@midwaymanor.org](mailto:info@midwaymanor.org)

**The Manor Vibes can be found on the City's website in the Neighborhood Groups section - <http://allentownpa.gov/CommunityNeighborhoodGroups/tabid/195/Default.aspx>**



### Midway Manor Little Lending Library

The Little Lending Library located by the Community bulletin board on Pennsylvania and Ulster Streets has proven to be a popular stop for our neighborhood kids. There are books and graphic novels for all ages and we are continually adding new content and often add holiday and other thematic books based on the time of the year. We are always looking for suggestions and would be happy to hear from you! Leave a note with any thoughts or suggestions in the Library and we'll do our best to fulfill it!

### **THANK YOU SHERMAN STREET BEER COMPANY!**

The Bingo fundraiser in December raised \$395 for Midway Manor! We are fortunate to have such generous business owners like Beau and Casey who care about our neighborhood. PLEASE patronize them - they have an outstanding selection of beers and slushies. Watch for weekly Bingo and Trivia Nights and Food Truck Sundays!

### ***The Vibes Print Version Has Been Discontinued***

The Vibes began as a newspaper titled "I NEED A NAME" in March of 1958. Manor resident Lonnie Pepper Wentling won the naming contest in April of 1958 with the name 'MANORTONES.' At that time, Lonnie was a fifth grader at the Midway Manor School. Other names considered were "MIDWAY MANORETTES," 'MANORHITS,' and "MIDWAY MANORISMS." Lonnie won an Arvin Table Radio, valued at \$34.95. For years the newspaper was published monthly and it remained the Manortones until the 1980's when it was renamed The Manor Vibes.

We made the decision to switch to online issues of the Vibes which will be available on our FB page, website and sent via email. If you are not on our email list, please do so now so that you do not miss any news and announcements.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We rely on volunteers to ensure the successful running of our organization and the many programs we offer throughout the year. We have a small core group of dedicated volunteers who have been mainstays but like any organization, the more volunteers we have, the less work for all.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
HARD WORKING VOLUNTEERS WHO CURRENTLY  
SERVE ON THE BOARD  
AND COMMITTEES AND  
WORK TO ENSURE THAT  
OUR COMMUNITY IS  
SERVED!

### **NOTE TO DOG OWNERS**

Per City of Allentown ordinance, all pets are required to be leashed when off your property and while you're on walks. Also, please take your bagged poop home instead of disposing in the corner receptacles at the park - they are only emptied weekly and the odor can be overwhelming.

## ***65th Anniversary Special - From the 65th Gala***

***By Richard Wilburn***

65 YEARS AGO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF MISERY MANOR, AS IT WAS CALLED BY THE RESIDENTS BECAUSE OF THE MANY ISSUES AND THE LACK OF ATTENTION PAID TO THE COMMUNITY AT THE TIME BY THE CITY, A GROUP OF CIVIC-MINDED NEIGHBORS LED BY OLIVER JACKSON MET IN HIS BACKYARD TO DISCUSS HOW TO REMEDY THE PROBLEM.

AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, IT WAS DECIDED TO FORM A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WITH THE GOAL OF ADVOCATING AND REPRESENTING THE CITIZENS OF THE MIDWAY MANOR COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING MUCH NEEDED SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR THE KIDS.

IN NOVEMBER OF 1957, MIDWAY MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED AS A NON PROFIT CORPORATION.

THEIR MOTTO WAS "TO FOSTER NEIGHBORLINESS, GOODWILL AND FRIENDSHIP AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF MIDWAY MANOR AND TO ADVANCE, ENGAGE AND ASSIST IN SOCIAL AND CIVIC PLANS, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF IT'S MEMBERS AND THE RESIDENTS OF MIDWAY MANOR".

THE FIRST GOALS OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS TO FORM A SPORTS PROGRAM FOR THE HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN WHO RESIDED IN THE MANOR. BASEBALL AND BASKETBALL TEAMS WERE FORMED AND ALTEMOS OIL COMPANY WAS THE FIRST OF MANY BUSINESS SPONSORS TO PROVIDE UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE TEAMS THAT STARTED IN 1958.

OVER THE YEARS, MANY BUSINESSES GAVE SUPPORT, MONEY AND TIME TO THE MIDWAY MANOR SPORTS PROGRAMS. THEY INCLUDE JOE'S BATTERY AND TIRE, A-TREAT BEVERAGE AND SAMER INSURANCE. THIS SUPPORT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY WITH LONG TIME SPONSOR JOE'S BATTERY & TIRE, KOHUT FUNERAL HOME, SNYDER & WILES AND OTHERS.

AFTER GETTING SPORTS OFF THE GROUND, THE ASSOCIATION BEGAN TO TACKLE A MYRIAD OF NEIGHBORHOOD ISSUES RANGING FROM POOR DRAINAGE, UPPAVED ROADS, LACK OF STREET LIGHTING AND MANY OTHER ONGOING ISSUES. MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BEGAN ATTENDING CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND ADVOCATING FOR CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS, EVENTUALLY FORCING THE CITY TO START TENDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE MIDWAY MANOR COMMUNITY.

SINCE THESE EARLY BEGINNINGS, MIDWAY MANOR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HAS WORKED HARD TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MIDWAY MANOR. WE,-- ALL EAST SIDE RESIDENTS,-- STILL HAVE AN UP HILL BATTLE WORKING WITH THE CITY TO GET THE ATTENTION WE DESERVE.

ANTHONY IACOCCA BEGAN STREET LAYOUT AND DESIGN FOR MIDWAY MANOR IN THE LATE 1930'S. THE FIRST STREETS TO BE DEVELOPED WERE FROM CLUB AVENUE WEST TO VAN BUREN ST., FAIRMONT ST. SOUTH TO HIGHLAND STREET. MR. IACOCCA'S WANTED EVERY HOUSE ON HIS STREET TO BE DIFFERENT.

MR. IACOCCA MADE PLANS IN HIS ORIGINAL DESIGN TO HAVE LAND SET ASIDE FOR A PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER, A SCHOOL AND A CHURCH.

IN 1939, THE FIRST HOUSE CONSTRUCTED WAS THE DANENBURGER'S HOME AT 1120 NORTH WAHNETA. THE SECOND HOME WAS THE GORMAN HOME LOCATED ON THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF CONGRESS AND WAHNETA STS (THE TAGG'S HOME TODAY) AND THE THIRD HOUSE WAS THE FRITZ HOME LOCATED ON THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF CONGRESS AND WAHNETA STS.

POINT OF INTEREST: JIMMY GORMAN, KIM TAGG'S GRANDFATHER, LAID OUT THE ELECTRICAL GRID AND THE LOCATION OF THE UTILITY POLES FOR MR. IACOCCA AND IN RETURN RECEIVED HIS LOT FOR THE PRICE OF \$1. ALSO THE SPELLING OF WAHNETA STREET WAS "WAHNETAH" ON THE ORIGINAL PLAT.

## ***65th Anniversary Special - From the 65th Gala Continued***

### **DO YOU REMEMBER???**

YOHE'S DRUG STORE ON N. VAN BUREN ST.

LEONARD'S MARKET

GROMAN'S BAKERY

DR. STEIRSTORFER'S OFFICE

MINK'S CANDIES

A-TREAT BOTTLING

BOULEVARD INN

TRACEY'S SUNOCO

LEHIGH LUMBER

BOULEVARD HARDWARE

SELMA'S BEAUTY SALON

ALMART

SKATING ON THE ICE RINK SET UP ON THE SCHOOL'S PARKING LOT

THE ROSE GARDEN BETWEEN TACOMA AND VAN BUREN STS

CATCHING TADPOLES IN THE SWAMP

MEMORIAL DAY BIDDY BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

LIGHTS ON THE FIELD FOR FOOTBALL

### **PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS STARTED BY MMCA :**

SPORTS PROGRAMS:

BASEBALL, T-BALL, FOOTBALL, SOCCER, BASKETBALL

GIRLS SOFTBALL, KICKBALL

MIDWAY MANOR ADULT BOWLING LEAGUE

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS FOR THE CHILDREN

EASTER, HALLOWEEN, & CHRISTMAS

ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

DANCES AND SOCIALS

SECURITY PATROL

MIDWAY MANOR SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

SENIOR MEALS – JANET LAUBACH & CAROL YENEK

MANORTONES/MANOR VIBES

QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

PLAYGROUND UPDATE AND DEDICATION TO DR. MAX STERSTORFER

TEAR DOWN OF THE OLD AND THE BUILDING OF A NEW SHED ON THE SPORTS FIELD.

ALL WORK COMPLETED BY RESIDENTS OF MIDWAY MANOR

MAIN SHED CONSTRUCTED IN 1986 FOR SERVING FOOD AND SPORTS STORAGE.

ADDITION ADDED FOR SPORTS STORAGE

ADDITIONAL SHED PURCHASED FOR ADDITIONAL STORAGE

FIELD AND PARK MAINTAINENCE INCLUDING PLAINTING TREES, MAINTAINING PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, PARK BENCHES

FUNDRAISERS TO PURCHASE SPORTS EQUIPMENT

GAZEBO CONSTRUCTED AND LATER DEDICATED TO SUE DERINGER FOR HER DEDICATION TO MMCA

FIELD DEDICATION TO OLIVER JACKSON – TREE PLANTED AND MARKER PLACED

MEMORIAL FLAG POLE PLACED AT PLAYGROUNG AND DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF LONG TIME RESIDENT AND BOARD MEMBER WARREN WILSON

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PLACED AT FLAGPOLE

LITTLE LENDING LIBRARY PLACED IN CONJUNCTION WITH KIWANIS CLUB

"MAX THE MUSTANG" MASCOT DEDICATED IN THE MEMORY OF DR. MAX STERSTORFER

1959 & 1960 DR. STEIRSTORFER RAN A POLIO CLINIC OUT OF HIS OFFICE

OUR LATEST PROGRAM - COMMUNITY HISPANIC LIASION AND TRANSLATION SERVICE



# **Dieruff Huskies**

## **Join in the fun!**



**Saturday, April 1, 2023**

**7:00 PM - 11:00 PM**

**Fullerton Fire Company**

**851 2nd Street, Whitehall, PA 18052**

**Ticket Price: \$20**

**Includes beer, soda, & snacks**

**Music by DJs Harry Remaly & Tom Brunner**

# MEMBERSHIP MANIA 2023

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Your dues help to support a wide variety of programs we offer to our community such as the Shed and Shed/Sports insurance, Easter and Christmas Activities, Halloween, our sports programs and much more.

PLEASE fill out the form below and along with your payment, mail or drop off to :  
MMCA 1124 N Wahneta Street Allentown, PA 18109

ANNUAL FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DUES - PER YEAR  
\$15 FOR THE FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD  
\$10 FOR A SENIOR (60 AND UP) HOUSEHOLD

Any questions - send to [info@midwaymanor.org](mailto:info@midwaymanor.org) or to [davidatagg@gmail.com](mailto:davidatagg@gmail.com)

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## MMCA MEMBERSHIP - FILL OUT FORM AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADULT NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT (CHECK ONE) CASH \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NO. \_\_\_\_\_ VENMO \_\_\_\_\_

VENMO PAYMENT : [DavidTagg@midwaymanor](mailto:DavidTagg@midwaymanor)

# Dieruff High School Alumni Association

Husky Pride... Unleashed



## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **Dieruff Fandangle**

**A Mega-Reunion For All Classes**

**Saturday, July 29, 2023**

**South Mountain Grove**

[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)

Who Remembers these former Midway Manor Businesses?

## **BOULEVARD INN**

Mike Ciocca, prop.

*Specializing in*

**STEAK SANDWICHES**

**PIZZA PIES  
SPAGHETTI**

**HOAGIES  
HOME MADE SOUPS**

EVERYTHING MADE TO ORDER  
TO TAKE OUT

2204 UNION BLVD.

HE 5-9291

## **HANEY'S RESTAURANT**

**PLATTERS**

**SANDWICHES**

**HOME MADE PIE**

**BOTTLE BEER**

**—PLUS—**

**PIZZA**

**AS IT SHOULD BE**

**1048 UNION BLVD.**



# **Midway Manor**

## **Night at the Ballpark**



**FRIDAY MAY 12TH - ON THE PICNIC PATIO**

**\$28 PER PERSON**

**Gates Open at 5:45**

**INCLUDES:**

**GAME TICKET**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT 2 1/2 HOUR PICNIC BUFFET**

**UNLIMITED SOFT DRINKS UNTIL THE 8TH INNING**

**PIG IN A POKE RAFFLE ENTRY—ONE PER PERSON**

**Open to MMCA members**

**To Reserve your tickets, email: [info@midwaymanor.org](mailto:info@midwaymanor.org) with  
name and number of tickets**

**PAYMENT OPTIONS : CHECK MADE OUT TO MMCA, CASH,  
MONEY ORDER OR VENMO TO [davidtagg@midwaymanor](mailto:davidtagg@midwaymanor)**

## CITY OF ALLENTOWN -

### Contact NUMBERS

Allentown City Hall

610-439-5999

Building/Permits

610-437-7592

Code Enforcement

610-437-7694

Garbage Complaints

610-437-8729

Police Non Emergent

610-437-7751

Recycling & Trash

610-437-8729

Streets

610-437-7639

## Midway Manor Community Association

PO Box 4236  
Bethlehem, PA 18108

[www.midwaymanor.org](http://www.midwaymanor.org)

Email :

[info@midwaymanor.org](mailto:info@midwaymanor.org)

Facebook : [facebook.com/  
groups/136048290175/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/136048290175/)



## Midway Manor 2022 Citizen of the Year

### Stephanie Sigafoos

The Citizen of the Year for 2022 was awarded to Stephanie Sigafoos. Stephanie has been volunteering in many aspects of MMCA for the past 4 years and is currently serving as Treasurer. She also manages our Social Media outlets and coordinates PAL events. She can also be found helping at the Snack Shed and is instrumental in our Activities Committee, helping with planning the many events we offer and working hard to ensure they are a success.

She was presented with a plaque from the previous winner, Andrea Naugle



## DID YOU RENEW / PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Memberships are now due. See the form in this issue for more information

Memberships are an essential means to help support the programs we provide to Midway Manor such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween, Breakfast with Santa, Youth Sports, Snack Shed, Insurance and much more

## ***FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR***

**Marc Stewart**



The winter Basketball season started and ended just as fast as it seems Winter has. Our 3 teams began practicing and competing in the City of Allentown basketball league all the way back in mid-December. Let me tell you Manorites, I couldn't be prouder of the almost 40 children and 4 great coaches involved.

Coach Melissa Stewart led the Girls team of 9-12 year olds. As word spread we had almost 15 girls a night at practice! These girls worked so hard and had a great leader. Jonathan and Dennis Gumbs led our 9-10 year old boys team and even began practicing at Dieruff High School! Their commitment is something I dream of when Volunteers come forward for the children in the community. Lastly, this season would not have happened so smoothly without the help of Tanner Steidel. He assisted each team and was always at every game for all 3 teams! He helped myself with ours 11-12 boys team and saw the adversity the boys went through all season long. From winning our first game to losing by dozens these boys never gave up and as I said to all the teams, "if it was easy, everyone would be playing". The commitment and relentlessness all the teams and coaches showed all season was the best I've ever been around. Saying I'm proud of the players, coaches and parents, who always supported them, would be an understatement. We will conclude our season at the end of February with a pizza party at Ritter Elementary. The ASD does a great job in working with us for our practices and I would like to thank them and the City Recreation department as without them we would not be able to do what we do for the children.

**SOCCER TIME** - it is now time to transition into Spring soccer! It will start in April and last until the first week in June. We hope we get more **VOLUNTEER** Head Coaches this Spring to offer more teams. We are currently accepting sign ups for 6-14 year olds who are interested in playing. Practices would be at the Park during the week and games on the weekend starting in April. Please visit the website to sign up and please reach out to [midwaymanoryouthsports@gmail.com](mailto:midwaymanoryouthsports@gmail.com) with any questions or interest in Volunteering to Coach. We cannot offer these programs without Volunteer coaches!

### ***The Snack Shed***

The Snack Shed, located at the park has been a source of funds for Midway Manor for over 40 years. It is open during any events sponsored by MMCA at the park including Spring and Fall Soccer, Halloween, Neighbor to Neighbor and other events.

We rely on a network of volunteers to help during these events. There are various tasks from manning the front taking orders to working the griddle or the fryers. The Shed menu has a varied assortment of food from hamburgers, hotdogs, French fries, pierogies, ice cream, sodas to candy and snacks. We also serve breakfast when we have early morning soccer games.

We also accept donations of goods that can be utilized such as paper goods, plasticware, soda, Gatorade, coffee, tea, etc. Other items we accept are small appliances in good condition such as coffee makers, crockpots, pots and pans.

**BUT**, the most important need is **YOU!** We typically like to have at least 3-4 people manning the shed at any given time. If you can help for an hour or all day, we can use you. If you are interested in helping out this season, please contact David Tagg.

# How to Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft

This pricey exhaust system part contains precious metals, and thieves want it more than ever

Catalytic converter theft is on the rise and to a shocking degree. Theft of this pricey part rose 325 percent nationwide between 2019 and 2020, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). In New York City, the police department reported that converter thefts had risen from 211 to 802 over that same period, and jumped to 3,705 in 2021.

The catalytic converter is an [exhaust system](#) part that's necessary for your car to pass safety and emissions inspections in many states. Some vehicles have more than one, and the NICB says replacing stolen converters can cost as much as \$1,500 to \$3,000. [Trucks](#), which are higher off the ground, are at greater risk, simply because the converters are easier for thieves to access. The [Toyota Prius](#)—a popular gasoline-electric hybrid with two converters—is a favorite target, according to the NICB. Also at risk are [street-parked vehicles](#) and trucks parked overnight in unattended lots.

Catalytic converters contain platinum, palladium, and rhodium—expensive precious metals that react with exhaust gasses, heat up a ceramic honeycomb element, and convert harmful combustion byproducts, such as nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide, into less harmful gasses. Prices for the three metals have spiked over the past few years. According to Kitco, a website that tracks precious metals trends, the current price for an ounce of platinum is \$1,000, while palladium costs more than \$2,300, and rhodium—which is extremely rare—costs more than \$20,000.

Assuming a thief can access the underside of a vehicle, converters are easy to remove with battery-operated power tools, or in some cases, even simple hand tools. Scrapped converters can then be processed to remove the precious metals, which is what makes them so valuable to scrap metal dealers and thieves. According to a recent article in Waste Advantage magazine, a typical catalytic converter contains 3 to 7 grams of platinum, 2 to 7 grams of palladium, and 1 to 2 grams of rhodium. (There are just over 28 grams in 1 ounce.)

Some states—including the Carolinas, Indiana, and Texas—have passed laws requiring scrap metal dealers to ask for vehicle titles or other documentation before they'll buy used catalytic converters. A number of other states have proposed legislation. But for people worried about getting ripped off now, NICB says there are some steps that can be taken to protect your car.

**Anti-theft devices:** Catalytic converter anti-theft devices are available from various manufacturers and range from steel plates protecting the underside of the vehicle to cages made from steel cables that are meant to discourage thieves from stealing a converter by making removal more time-consuming, which in turn increases the thief's exposure to getting caught. Alarms—both full vehicle systems and special converter-specific ones—also can be effective deterrents. Talk with a trusted mechanic to see what they recommend for your vehicle. Anti-theft solutions can be pricey, but they often cost less than a new catalytic converter.

**Secure parking:** Park overnight in a locked garage, or in a well-lit, enclosed lot if you can. If you're parking in a driveway, consider installing motion sensor lights. If you're parking on the street, try to pick a well-lit one with plenty of traffic.

**Report theft:** Even if you drive an older car and it doesn't seem worth it, alert local law enforcement and your insurer if your catalytic converter does get stolen. Statistics can help legislators pass laws that make it tougher for thieves to sell stolen parts.

NICB says insurance policies can cover replacement of a stolen catalytic converter, but only if there's a comprehensive policy in place. Comprehensive insurance covers events like theft and weather damage, but many people who have older, less valuable cars don't carry it because the premium isn't worth the potential payout if something goes awry.

Most people who are leasing or making payments on a car are required to carry comprehensive coverage, but whether or not someone files a claim on a stolen converter depends on the policy's deductible and how much it costs to replace the part. For example, if you have a \$1,500 deductible to keep your monthly premium low, you wouldn't file a claim on a repair that cost \$1,200.

The best option, though, is prevention. Even if your insurance covers replacement of a stolen catalytic converter, parts delays and repair shop backups are common right now, meaning you may have to wait a while for repairs.



