



Councilwoman Diller's Community Corner

5th District, New Castle County Council

August 2015

Councilwoman Diller's Committee Assign- ments:

Co-chair: Boards & Com-
missions

Co-chair: Community
Services

Chair: Subcommittee on
Aging

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activities and events.

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Vacation Safety Tips

Now is the time when many of you are taking advantage of the warm weather and making final plans to visit the beach, hike the mountains, or simply take a scenic road trip during a long weekend. Before you close the door and leave your home, take some time to ensure that your property is safeguarded against unwanted visitors while you are away. By taking a few precautions, you can relax and enjoy that much needed vacation without the worry of your property being invaded. Consider making your home appear as if it is occupied. Here are several steps you can take to deter burglars from invading your space when venturing off for a getaway.

- Notify your local post office to hold your mail: Piled up mail and unread newspapers are a sure sign of an unattended home. Another option for maintaining your mail is to ask a trusted neighbor to hold your mail and deliveries until you return.
- Make potential intruders think you are home: Use timers for your lamps and electronics. For a very small cost, you can time your lights, television, and stereo to turn on at any selected time of the day or night. Set the timers to go on and off as if someone was home. Another thought is - if you are going out of town for a week or more, consider hiring a lawn service to cut your grass or trim hedges while you are away. This helpful trick gives the appearance that someone is around and doing yard work.
- Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your property: Let your neighbors know when you will be gone and ask them to park their car in your driveway or in front of your house. Also, if your neighbors know you are not home, they will be more likely to call police if they notice suspicious activity near your home.
- Where is your spare house key? If you usually keep a spare house key outside, consider removing the key from its outside location, or give it to that trusted neighbor until you get home. Burglars are very familiar with the conspicuous plastic rocks, keys under the door mat, and keys strategically placed above the door frame.
- Avoid using social media: Keep your vacation photos and stories off of social media until your return. You may trust your connections, but friends of friends may not be so trustworthy. Also, double check your security settings on your social media account, and consider waiting to post those awesome vacation pix until you are back on the home front!

Mark Your Calendar

- **First Friday With Councilwoman Lisa Diller** - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Please join Councilwoman Diller on the First Friday of each month for an opportunity to talk about topics that are important to you and your community. Upcoming dates—August 7th, September 4th, and October 2nd at the Newark Senior Center.
- **Community Empowerment Event** - Saturday, August 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. UAW Local 1183, 698 Old Baltimore Pike, Newark, DE 19702. UAW 1183 and Word of Life Ministries have joined with various faith-based organizations and are partnering with agencies to offer free health care screenings, budgeting, resume writing, assorted school supplies, special activities for youth and free haircuts. Delmarva power will be assisting those in need of payment plans and energy assistance. For more information contact, Alena Bandy, at uaw1183finsecy@comacst.net or call 302-738-4500.
- **Diabetes Self-Management Workshops** - The Delaware Medical Reserve Corps (DMRC) are hosting several FREE diabetes workshops scheduled for the Newark area. September 19 – October 24 – Every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Newark Natural Foods, 230 East Main Street, Newark DE 19711 in the community room (Newark Natural Foods is located in the Newark Shopping Center where it recently relocated). Contact Kirsten Morris at 302- 831-6136 to register.
- **University of Delaware Faculty Jazz Quartet**– Sunday, August 30, 2015, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Newark Free Library, 750 Library Avenue, Newark, DE. Enjoy an afternoon of classic jazz music performed by Todd Groves, Harvey Price, Craig Thomas, and Tom Palmer. For additional information please call 302-731-7550.
- **Newark Community Day** - Sunday, September 20, 2015, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. University of Delaware Green from Memorial Hall to Main Street. The City of Newark's Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the University of Delaware, Christina School District, and the Downtown Newark Partnership present the area's premier fall festival on Sunday, September 20. This exciting event features fun for the entire family. For more information call the Parks and Recreation Office at 366-7000, or email parksrec@newark.de.us (Rain date: September 27)
- **Brookside Public Safety/Health Fair Day**– Saturday, September 26, 2015, 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Brookside Community Center, 900 Marrows Road, Newark. Join the Brookside Park community for their annual Public Safety Day filled with fun for the entire family! Meet your elected officials, police, and firefighters along with an exciting group of vendors. This is a free event. Unwrapped toys or monetary donations are encouraged to help support Brookside Park's annual holiday toy drive.