



THE RESIDENT NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- » **NAHRO 2011 National Conference & Exhibition**
October 23-25, 2011
St. Louis, MO
<http://bit.ly/rgrDqn>

EPA Helps Consumers Avoid Everyday Pollutants



Look for the label!

depression, birth defects, and cancer. "This is largely invisible to our eyes," says Janet Domenitz, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. "They aren't obvious, like a toxic spill where the river has turned a different color and the banks are foaming with pollution."

Research also suggests that everyday household products such as bleach and air fresheners may be linked to the development of asthma, a health issue that is becoming common.

The "Greener Products" section of EPA's Web site is designed to help consumers find a way to better health while "going green." The new tool allows users to easily search by product category, such as cleaning products, electronics, or food services. The site also offers information on cleaning products that bear the "EPA Design for the Environment (DfE)" label which marks products that are safer for the planet and our health. Additionally, it supplies information regarding electronics and appliances that use less energy and water.

"Greener Products" is an easy way for all Americans to learn how they can join efforts to prevent pollution for the benefit of individuals, communities, and the planet. "By purchasing greener products, consumers can help reduce air pollution, conserve water and energy, minimize waste and protect their children and families from exposure to toxic chemicals, while also creating green jobs," said Steve Owens, Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. "Pollution prevention is good for our health, our environment and our economy."

For more information, see: <http://www.epa.gov/greenerproducts>.

Make Your Development Safer through a Neighborhood Watch

Public housing residents across the country are joining law enforcement agencies to prevent crime and increase community safety through Neighborhood Watch programs. A Neighborhood Watch program is a group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together and in conjunction with local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve their quality of life.

Through Neighborhood Watch organizations, many public housing residents are working to help law enforcement agencies reduce drug activity, discourage vandalism, and maintain security. The groups are doing this by forming neighborhood patrols and reporting illegal activity to authorities.

Starting a Neighborhood Watch is simple. The Department of Justice recommends the following five steps to creating a successful watch program:

Step 1: Recruit and organize as many neighbors as possible.

You may want to start by introducing the idea at a resident council meeting and by posting flyers in common spaces. Residents should try and include the PHA staff.

Step 2: Contact your local law enforcement agency and schedule a meeting. Law enforcement officials such as police officers or sheriff's deputies will be able to help you with the Neighborhood Watch. Law enforcement officers can provide information, literature, training and a host of other important assets to help in building the new group.

Step 3: Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan. Prioritize the concerns, issues or problems that have been identified. Based on these priorities develop a plan to address these issues.

Step 4: Hold regular meetings and train on relevant skills. Schedule meetings where residents can receive training in crime prevention and community policing. Local law enforcement may be able to provide a number of training programs that will help residents work together to protect themselves and their communities.

Step 5: Implement a phone tree and take action steps. Take active steps in the community so everyone is aware about the Neighborhood Watch. Have a kickoff event to encourage others to get involved, start a newsletter, and continue training. Most importantly keep the group active and enthusiastic.

For more information on forming a Neighborhood Watch, see: <http://bit.ly/bS60A3>

Contact us:

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TIPS

Safety Tips for a Fun Filled Halloween



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

While Halloween is great time for costumes and candy, it is important to make sure your family has fun safely. Consider these tips to help you, your family, friends and neighbors be safe this Halloween season.

Light the night—without fire. Pumpkins are plentiful during the fall and great fun to turn into a Jack-O-Lantern. Instead of lighting Jack with a candle, consider a flashlight or a glow stick. Jack-O-Lanterns with candles should never be left unattended or placed near flammable material, such as curtains.

Know what's behind the mask. Dressing up in a scary costume for Halloween is part of the fun, but make sure your child's costume is safe too. Masks can make it hard to see and breathe. Consider nonflammable and nontoxic make-up as an alternative to wearing a mask. Costumes and all accessories like wigs and hats should be flame resistant. It is also a good idea to leave the sticks and swords safely at home. If you and your child will be out after dark, it's a good idea to decorate the costume with strips of bright reflector tape and carry a small flashlight, too.

Make sure there are no tricks in your treats. Kids (and even adults) often cannot wait to dig into the delicious candy collected while trick-or-treating. However parents or a responsible adult should inspect the goodies collected. Treats that can cause choking such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys should be removed. Inspect commercially wrapped treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

Finally consider these Halloween Road Rules for trick-or-treating:

- Walk and do not run.
- Make sure children cross streets at crosswalks and only with grown-ups.
- Stick with those that you know.
- Head out as a group and stay with the group.
- Stay on sidewalk and lit paths.

Have fun and be safe!

HELP CORNER

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) reports that 75% of fatalities occurred in a fire where there was either no smoke alarm or the smoke alarm was not working. Smoke alarms are an early warning signal that will prevent injuries and deaths from fire and minimize damage to your home. To maintain working smoke alarms, batteries should be replaced each year by picking a holiday or your birthday as the battery replacement day. The USFA web site (<http://1.usa.gov/auCHhg>) has resources and information on home fire protection and smoke alarms that can save the lives of you and your family.