



**ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND ACTIVITIES ARE  
IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO OUR POLICE DEPT.**

*Quarterly Newsletter*

## **Dickson City Crime Watch**

**September thru December, 2007**

The 13th monthly meeting of the Dickson City Crime Watch was held on Tuesday, September 18th at the DC Ambulance Building meeting room. There were 48 residents in attendance.

CW President Roger Barren welcomed everyone and called on CW Secretary Angela Farris to read the minutes from the August meeting.

CW Treasurer Jack Horvath gave a complete treasury report including both income and expenses. The current CW balance is \$3306.36.

Roger reported that 13 more letters were sent out to area businesses and the business solicitation will continue with results being reported in the near future.

Officer James Szewczyk gave the residents his monthly safety tip. This month's topic was Vandalism and brochures were available for the residents to take home. He also commended some residents for being more alert and aware of what is going on around them. He said there has been a noticeable improvement in this area. This is what Crime Watch is all about.

The guest speaker was Mr. Robert Maguire, Gang Intelligence Officer at the Lackawanna County Prison, who spoke on "Gang Awareness" and "Graffiti." He said to remember the 4 R's when dealing with Graffiti: Read, Record (take a photo), Report (to police), and Remove. Mr. Maguire provided some excellent literature for the residents to take home. At the end of his presentation, he held a question and answer period which everyone like very much.

The 14th meeting of the Dickson City Crime Watch was held on Tuesday, October 16th, at the DC Ambulance Building meeting room. There were 35 residents in attendance.

CW President Roger Barren welcomed everyone and called on CW Secretary Angela Farris to read the September minutes.

CW Treasurer gave a complete treasury report including all income and expenses for the month. The new balance of the CW treasury is \$3331.36.

Roger reported on the placement of the CW Street signs. So far, 50 street signs have been placed throughout the borough. We will try to put up 50 more before the onset of bad weather. He said if anyone has a request for a sign, they should contact him.

Beverly Barren announced that, due to the great response to the first CW Newsletter which was printed and distributed in May, a second CW Newsletter has been printed and distributed to local businesses and churches. This Newsletter covers CW meetings from May thru August. Future Newsletters will be done on a quarterly basis.

Beverly also reported that a NNO binder was compiled which documents everything that occurred on August 7, 2007, for Dickson City's first National Night Out. It was available at the meeting for everyone to look at. A video of that event, done by Rev. Samuel Washington, was also shown at the meeting which everyone enjoyed seeing.

Officer James Szewczyk gave his monthly safety tip. This month he focused on Home Security. A Home Security pamphlet was available for the residents to take home.

The guest speaker was Susan Colborn, Branch Mgr., Fidelity Bank in Peckville. She spoke on Identity Theft. She gave each resident a packet of information regarding Identity Theft and what to do if it happens to you. She stated that approximately 1400 people a day are victims of identity Theft. She advised residents to review bank and credit card statements for any discrepancies, shred all appropriate mail and photocopy all credit cards in case they are lost or stolen. Everyone enjoyed and appreciated her presentation.

Roger announced that the next CW meeting will be on Tuesday, November 20th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Ambulance Building and adjourned the meeting.

The 15th monthly meeting of the DC Crime Watch was held on Tuesday, November 20th at the DC Ambulance Building meeting room. There were 22 residents in attendance.

CW President Roger Barren welcomed everyone and called on CW Secretary Angela Farris to read the October minutes.

Beverly Barren gave the treasury report from CW Treasurer Jack Horvath who was unable to attend the meeting. As always, it included all income and expenses. The current CW balance as of 11/20/07 is \$3531.36

Roger gave an update on the placement of the CW street signs. He reported that the last 50 CW signs have been put up throughout the borough. This completes the placement of the first 100 signs that were initially ordered thru F&S Supply. He also stated that an order for 100 more CW signs was placed thru F&S Supply on November 12th. Upon receipt of these signs, placement will continue as weather permits. Roger reported the following locations where CW signs have been placed: Maplewood at Crystal Park, Crystal Park, Witko St., Grant Court, Shady Lane at Crystal Park, Mary St., Pancoast St., Doloff Dr., Jennie, Harriet, Grier, Carmalt, Lincoln, Albert, Price, Jackson, Jermyn, Elm (both the street and the park), Dewey, Boulevard, Cherry, Oak, Ash, River, Enterprise and Eagle Lane. In some instances where above streets are separated by Main St. and/or Boulevard Avenue, additional signs will be placed. Roger has put in a request to DPW Chief John Lukasik for steel perforated posts to be installed, as workload permits, in several indicated areas. These areas are as follows: River St. @ 456 and 514 locations, Boulevard Ave. @ 532 and 703 locations. Miles Plot section: All streets because presently there are no steel posts in the Miles Plot area with the exception of Crystal park. Steel posts should be installed on opposite ends of the designated blocks.

Officer James Szewczyk gave his monthly tip. This month he focused on how to be street-wise and safe. As always, he provided informative pamphlets for the residents to take. He also reminded women not to leave their purses open or unattended in the shopping carts when in stores. His comments are always helpful and informative and greatly appreciated by everyone each month.

The guest speaker was Trooper Mark Prushinski of the PA State Police. He gave an excellent talk on the following issues:

1. Flashing your headlights at another driver is not a gang initiation which leads to gang violence against you.
2. At present there is no cell phone law in Pennsylvania prohibiting the use of cell phones while driving.

3. Be careful with the internet. MySpace accounts have caused a lot of problems for people with children who give out more information than they should.
4. Car seats must be used for children from birth thru age 8 as follows: Ages 0-4, regular car seats. Ages 4 thru 8, booster car seats.
5. There are gang members living here. Keep your eyes open.
6. There are also pedophiles living among us. To find out if there are any near you, go to the following website:  
[www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)
7. People generally make bad witnesses so the PA State Police devised a form to help them become better witnesses. Trooper Prushinski handed them out to the residents in attendance.
8. On the issue of terrorism, follow these basic rules: Keep your eyes open and tell what you see to the proper authorities. There is a toll-free tip line that you can call. The number is 1-866-326-7256.
9. Identity Theft can happen easily and to anyone. He suggested carrying only one credit card at a time with you and little to no cash. Also be careful not to have too much information printed on your checks and, when writing them in public, do not have them out where someone behind you or next to you can easily see and/or read them. It is also a good idea to get a free credit report once a year at the following website:  
[www.freecreditreport.com](http://www.freecreditreport.com)

Council President Barbara Mecca was in attendance and asked CW President Roger Barren for permission to address the residents. She explained that council was unable to vote on the LST tax at their last meeting due to the lack of a quorum. She stated that without this tax being implemented, our millage would have to be increased. There were four council members who did not attend the meeting and she asked the peoples' help in convincing at least one of them to attend the next meeting for this issue. It is of the utmost importance for the best interest of the residents of Dickson City.

Roger announced that, due to the Christmas Holiday, there would be no CW meeting in December. On behalf of the Crime Watch, he wished all residents a very happy holiday and a happy and safe new year.

The next Newsletter will be printed after the first quarter of 2008.