



WEST MT. AIRY NEIGHBORS
6703 GERMANTOWN AVENUE, SUITE 200
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19119
215-438-6022 FAX 215-844-9167
E-MAIL: WMAN@WMAN.NET
WWW.WMAN.NET

WMAN NEWS

Annual Giving:
The Promises We Keep.
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MT. AIRY SERVICE DAY

Houston Playground's 5th Anniversary, a new group of volunteers committed to beautifying Emlen Circle, a service opportunity for folks who are passionate about Carpenter's Woods... there were many ways to get involved during the Mt. Airy Service Weekend, October 20th and 21st. Mt. Airy people proved once again that they are ready to pitch in to create an even more exceptional community.



Two of the youngest Mitzvah Mania volunteers plant bulbs in Emlen Circle at the intersection of Lincoln Drive and Emlen Street. Mitzvah Mania is a service project of the Jewish Federation. For more photographs of Mt. Airy Service Day, see pages 4 & 5.

SENATOR LEANNA WASHINGTON CONTINUES SUPPORT FOR WMAN

Senator LeAnna Washington, who represents West Mt. Airy in the 4th District, is a generous and valued supporter of WMAN programs. Senator Washington has provided essential funding for WMAN's core programs, crime prevention and public safety initiative, and community organizing. Here, Senator Washington meets with Liz Werthan, WMAN Executive Vice President to discuss WMAN's progress and future funding.



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Eat Your Heart Out!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Crime is one of the major issues confronting Philadelphia as a city – one need only listen to the rhetoric in this year's mayoral campaign, or take a look at the metro section of our newspapers, to know that. From the high homicide rate to the pettiest of burglaries, we are constantly made aware of crime throughout our neighborhoods. And we must choose how to respond.

What does West Mt. Airy Neighbors do about crime? We are asked that question on a regular basis, and I want to share my thoughts. These thoughts are both philosophical and practical.

First, the philosophy. It's important that we keep our eyes and ears open, crime-proof our homes to the extent possible, and report all incidents to 911. However, it's even more important that we not give up our freedom, our enjoyment of our community, and our sense of neighborliness. Let's avoid a

bunker mentality. And, let's understand that West Mt. Airy, while not crime-free, is one of the safest neighborhoods in Philadelphia. Most important, let's create the personal connections with our neighbors and others which will sustain us when we experience crime.

Promoting
safety:
neighbors
and WMAN
working
together

Now to the practical: What can WMAN do about crime? Here's what we are doing right now:

- **Serving as communications hub for crime and safety information:** Our Mt. Airy Safety Alerts are sent to 300 people in West Mt. Airy. In addition, when we hear of a crime in a particular part of the neighborhood, we send those safety alerts to all neighbors whose email addresses we have in that part of the neighborhood. We are also launching a new website which will deal exclusively with matters of public safety, to which other groups can link.
- **Promoting Town Watch and block organizing:** Town Watches and organized blocks represent the appropriate scale for organizing efforts, and WMAN supports efforts to organize formal Town Watches and informal block associations throughout the community.
- **Recruiting block captains and other volunteers:** WMAN has recruited nearly 50 Virtual Block Captains who have agreed to take responsibility for sharing our email alerts with their neighbors. Thus, information about crime and safety spreads quickly throughout the community. Also, we have distributed 20 free Graffiti Removal Kits to anyone committed to removing new graffiti within 24 hours. We have also established a Block Leaders Forum for those folks to share their good ideas and concerns with others working at the block level.

So, while WMAN cannot prevent crime, we work hard to make our community's response to crime an active and effective one.



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TIPS ON PREVENTING BURGLARIES IN YOUR HOME

- Install window security including vent locks, pin locks and jimmy proof latches.
- Improve or add outdoor lighting. This can include motion sensor lighting to save energy costs.
- Use home alarms all the time, including at night.
- Realize burglars “case” a house or block, often many times, prior to breaking in. Note suspicious people or cars.
- Install a sign about fire rescue for your dog - burglars avoid houses with dogs.
- Keep your cell phone by your bed, turned on, in case your phone lines are cut.
- Improve locks and window security on basement doors and windows.
- Do not leave ladders near the house.
- Note any upstairs windows that can be accessed via climbing. Keep them locked.
- Lock storm doors at night.
- Keep accessible storm windows closed, even in the summer, when the house is unoccupied or at night.
- Use light timers when you are out of town.
- Avoid marking “your parking spot” with a cone or chair, as it advertises when you are not home.
- If you are away for some time, have a neighbor pick up your mail and newspapers.

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EMLEN CIRCLE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

WMAN was proud to contribute to the success of the Emlen Circle Beautification Project, which is the brainchild of Mitch Bormack, a Pelham-area neighbor.

Mitch led a team of energetic and dedicated volunteers in raising funds and in-kind donations for the complete renovation of Emlen Circle (at Lincoln Drive and Emlen Street) one of the signature gateways to Mt. Airy. Many people contributed time and money to make this improvement a reality, including core group members Allyson Katzman Bormack, Alice Berman, Dan Husted, Laurie Churchman, and Jonathan Ziegert. They contributed before the event, and served as site coordinators for the work itself.

These contributors and sponsors are especially acknowledged:

- Anonymous Donor in honor of Mitch Bormack and Allyson Katzman Bormack
- Elfant Wissahickon Realtors
- Germantown Jewish Centre
- Laurel Hill Gardens
- Lincoln Terrace Apartments
- Mitzvah Mania Volunteers



MORE THAN
150 VOLUNTEERS
PARTICIPATED IN
MT. AIRY
SERVICE
WEEKEND.

I found a worm!



Below: Russell Carter, Pelham area neighbor, at the helm of the rototiller



Top left: Elfant Wissahickon Realtors partners Paul Walsh and Bob Elfant are atop the dirt pile. Right: Carol Davis, Bob Elfant, Dennis Chapline, and Nancy Elfant take a short break. Below: Mitch Bormack, leader of the Emlen Circle Beautification Project, and Larry DiFranco of Elfant Wissahickon. Below Right: Christopher Plant of Elfant Wissahickon digs in with the rototiller.



THE CHILDREN'S KINGDOM AT HOUSTON SCHOOL REBUILDING AND 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Children's Kingdom at Henry Houston School was built in the pouring rain in October, 2002. For its 5th Anniversary, the weather cooperated, with Saturday, October 20th dawning sunny and warm. Volunteers from Philadelphia Cares Day, Houston students and alumni, and neighbors joined together to sand and oil the wood, spread 60 cubic yards of fresh wood chips, and otherwise prepare the playground for more kids' play.

Organizers of this event are grateful to:

Greater Philadelphia Cares
Coffee Junction and Café
Golden Crust Pizza
InFusion Coffee and Tea Gallery



Children's Kingdom Rebuilding Leaders pause for a break. From left, Ken Campbell, Rusty Prall, Houston Principal Kim Newman, and Carol Davis.



Volunteers from Philadelphia Cares Day worked hard to revitalize the playground.

MITZVAH MANIA AT CARPENTER'S WOODS

Friends of Carpenter's Woods welcomed Jewish Federation volunteers on Sunday, October 21st to undertake several needed projects: cleaning dumped construction and yard waste from the North Mt. Pleasant side of the park; litter pick-up; creating fencing, and animal and bird habitats, from fallen trees and bushes; and preparing a site for an innovative natural art installation by Louise Barteau Chodoff.



Left: WMAN Board member Della Lazarus and Carpenter's Woods neighbor Margaret Funderburg feel strong after a morning's work in the woods.

Right: Mitzvah Mania volunteers stand in front of their handiwork, a pile of dumped brush turned into a habitat for birds and small animals.



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THE PROMISES WE KEEP: WMAN ANNUAL GIVING

Each year, we ask you to support our Annual Giving program. You might ask: Why support WMAN this year? To make a compelling case for your contribution, we went back to the letter we sent you last year, asking ourselves how we answered that question in the past. Last year we made specific promises to strengthen our community over the year. How did we do? Here's how:

WE PROMISED TO:

- ① **Strengthen our capacity to communicate with you** by recruiting a neighbor on each block who will disseminate information about public safety and community concerns through email.
- ② **Continue to increase our responsiveness to community needs** by establishing a **Quality of Life Committee** to facilitate neighborhood responses to issues which affect the quality of life of residents; and to pool our knowledge, resources, and networks to work effectively in promoting public safety.
- ③ **Add a staff person to work directly with neighbors** who need help on specific issues such as abandoned cars or traffic problems.

HERE'S THE STATUS OF THAT PROMISE:

- ① **ACCOMPLISHED:** We have recruited nearly 50 Virtual Block Captains who are committed to sending our Mt. Airy Safety Alerts to their neighbors. In addition, our information is carried on at least 4 neighborhood list serves, extending our reach to thousands of neighbors.
- ② **ACCOMPLISHED:** WMAN's Quality of Life Committee has become an essential forum for community problem-solving.
- ③ **ACCOMPLISHED:** Our Community Relations Specialist, Milt Cohen, stands ready to assist you. Milt can be reached at the Mt. Airy Help Line at (267) 286-8174 or wmanhelp@hotmail.com.

The bottom line: **WMAN keeps its promises.** We hope you will agree with us that WMAN is an effective, efficient community organization worthy of your continued support.

You may make your contribution using our secure server at www.wman.net or send your check in the enclosed envelope. And while you are at our website, check out what else WMAN is up to. Thanks!

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT WMAN'S WORK IN MY COMMUNITY.

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The official registration and financial information of West Mt. Airy Neighbors may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Your contribution is tax-deductible. Please make check or money order payable to WMAN and mail to WMAN, 6703 Germantown Avenue, Suite 200, Philadelphia, PA 19119.



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