

7) Landscaping & Plants

- Trim trees if branches hang too close to the house or electrical wires.
- Move sensitive potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area
- If you have an outside pond, pull and drain pumps and store inside
- Store or cover patio furniture

8) Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Buy extra smoke detector batteries and change them when daylight savings ends.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near your furnace and / or water heater.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they work.

9) Prepare for Emergencies

- Buy indoor candles and matches / lighter for use during a power shortage.
- Have flashlights available in bedroom, and entrance locations
- Find the phone numbers for your utility companies and tape them near your phone or inside the phone book.
- Buy a battery back-up to protect your computer and sensitive electronic equipment.
- Store extra bottled water and non-perishable food supplies (including pet food, if you have a pet), blankets and a first-aid kit in a dry and easy-to-access location.
- Prepare an evacuation plan in the event of an emergency.

By Len Hook 11.11.11

Downs Cultural Enrichment Center December 2011 Schedule	
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011 - 2:00 PM OSHER LIFE LONG LEARNING INSTITUTE MUSICAL HOLIDAY PROGRAM CAROLS AROUND THE WORLD	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011 – 10:00 AM OSHER LIFE LONG LEARNING CHORUS SINGS HOLIDAY FAVORITES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011 - 2:00 PM URSULINE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011 – 7:00 PM STEVE LEWIS BIG BAND
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011 - 7:00 PM THE STARLIGHTERS DANCE REVIEW	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011 – 7:00 PM STUDENTS OF CATHERINE WEBER PIANO RECITAL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2011 - 2:00 PM CHINESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER HOLIDAY CONCERT	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011 – 1:45 PM ST. MARK’S MINSTRALS IRVING BERLIN’S HAPPY HOLIDAY
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 - 7:00 PM THE CHORUS OF THE BRANDYWINE	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011 – 10:00 AM PULASKI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONCERT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM TOWER HILL HAND BELL CONCERT	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011 – 2:00 PM INGLESIDE SINGERS’ WINTER PROGRAM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011 – 7:00 PM FIRST STATE SYMPHONIC BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT	THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011 – 2:00 PM MICHAEL BORTON & HIS TRIO OF CAROLERS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011 – 7:00 PM BRANDYWINE VALLEY CHORALE HOLIDAY PROGRAM	HAPPY HOLIDAYS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011 – 2:00 PM PIANIST MICHAEL HUNTER WINTER SCENES PROGRAM	All are welcome to attend the outstanding events held monthly in the Downs Cultural Center. No fees are charged. On Street parking is available. Please do not park in the Parking Lot, as these spaces are Resident parking spaces. Thank you. Reservations requested at 575-0250 Ext 2244

# *Preparing Your Home for Winter*

## **1) Furnace, Heat Pump, Radiators, Water Heater**

- Have furnace or heat pump system inspected by a professional; provide annual preventive maintenance (PVM). Keep name/number of Service Company available for emergency.
- If heating is by a hot-water radiator, bleed the valves of each radiator (while system is running) by opening them slightly to remove air, and when water appears, close them.
- If oil, gas, or heat pump system, change furnace filter every two months or when dirty (especially with pets)
- If your home has a humidifier, drain and clean (white vinegar solution works well if calcium build-up) and replace element; test drain for functioning
- Remove all flammable material from the area surrounding your furnace.
- For electric water heaters, drain 1 gallon of water from the hot water heater annually to clean deposits from the electrical elements
- Use care in electric space heaters, since the wattage may exceed your breaker rating. Be sure flammable items are not near it.

## **2) Fireplace**

- Clean chimney every 3 years or sooner if used daily: call a chimney sweep to remove soot and creosote
- Check the mortar between bricks and repair if necessary
- Inspect the fireplace damper for proper opening and closing. Close when not in use to prevent heat loss (open damper is a major heat loss)
- Cap or screen the top of the chimney to keep out rodents and birds.
- Buy seasoned firewood (do not use pine). Store it in a dry place away from the exterior of your home.

## **3) Prevent Plumbing Freezes**

- Locate your water main in the event you need to shut it off in an emergency.
- Disconnect garden hoses from faucet. Drain all garden hoses- lay flat and then store
- Drain exposed piping if not used

- Where needed, -insulate exposed plumbing pipes and use heating tape.
- If you go on vacation, leave the heat on, set to at least 55 degrees.
- Turn-off water supply to the exterior faucets from inside the house, and you also need to drain water from it by opening up the exterior faucet.
- Vacation or Seasonal Shut Down - If you are leaving for a vacation or season you should always shut off the water supply. Additionally, the circuit breaker for the hot water tank MUST be off to prevent overheating

## **4) Prepare for ice and snow**

- Have snow shovel available
- Buy bags of ice-melt / sand
- Have ice-scraper & snow broom for car windows

## **5) Exterior, Doors and Windows**

- Inspect exterior for crevice cracks and exposed air entry points around pipes; seal them.
- Use weather-stripping around doors to prevent cold air from entering the home and caulk windows.
- Replace cracked glass in windows and, if you end up replacing the entire window, prime and paint exposed wood.
- If your home has a basement, consider protecting its window wells by covering them with plastic shields.
- Switch out summer screens with glass replacements from storage. If you have storm windows, install them.
- Remove or cover window air conditioners – seal all gaps

## **6) Inspect Roof, Gutters & Downspouts**

- Replace worn roof shingles or tiles.
- Clean out the gutters and use a hose to spray water down the downspouts to clear away debris to help prevent ice build-up and extra weight from wet leaves
- Consider installing leaf guards on the gutters or extensions on the downspouts to direct water away from the home.
- Clean exterior drains of leaves & debris