# **Neighborhood News**

## **ELECTRICAL SAFETY**

During a typical year, home electrical problems account for 67,800 fires, 485 deaths, and \$868 million in property losses. Some of these fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are caused by the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

#### The Cause

Most electrical fires result from problems with "fixed wiring" such as faulty electrical outlets and old wiring. Problems with cords and plugs, such as extension and appliance cords, also cause many home electrical fires. Many avoidable electrical fires can be traced to misuse of electric cords, such as overloading circuits, poor maintenance, and running the cords under rugs or in high traffic areas. The home appliances most often involved in electrical fires are electric stoves and ovens, dryers, central heating units, televisions, radios and record players.

## **Safety Precautions**

- · Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring.
- Frayed wires can cause fires. Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- · Use electrical extension cords wisely and don't overload them.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in the bathroom and kitchen.
- When buying electrical appliances look for products which meet the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) standard for safety.
- Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons and hair dryers.
- Keep clothes, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters.
- If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet.
   Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Never overload extension cords or wall sockets. Immediately shut off, then
  professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that
  flicker. Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- Check your electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If the cords are frayed
  or cracked, replace them. Replace any tool if it causes even small electrical
  shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.
- Finally, having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire.
- And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

#### Schedule of Events

April 8, 2008 7:00 PM - WWNW Meeting @ Jeanette Barrett Civic Room

April 12, 2008

8:00 AM - FireArms Class Must Register before 4-8-08

April 12, 2008

8:00 AM - W.Wetumpka Yard Sale in W.Wetumpka Neighborhood

April 19, 2008

8 AM-W. Wetumpka Clean-Up Day Dumpsters at Football Field

### Please Remember...

You are not being asked to take personal risks, only to serve as extra "eyes and ears" and to report information on crimes and suspicious activities promptly to:

9-1-1 for emergencies (crimes in progress or lifethreatening situations)

or

(334) 567-5321 for non-emergencies or (334) 567-1336 for the Secret Witness Line

The police will take action on those reports.

For more information call Mary Peck, 567-5082 or Elizabeth Rhodes, 567-0450.

## **Neighborhood Watch Events for April**

The month of April is filled with Neighborhood Watch Events. On April 12th, the Wetumpka Police Department is having a FireArms Class at Fire Station 1 on S. Main St. at 8am till 12 noon. Classroom instruction will cover Criminal and Civil Law, Firearms Safety, Fundamentals of Shooting and Maintenance. The firing range portion of the class will be held at the Wetumpka Police Dept. Firing Range at 1pm. Citizens interested in attending will need to pre-register by April 8th, please contact me, Elizabeth Rhodes for an application. Class is limited to the first 25 citizens. Also, on April 12th members of the WWNW and individual participants will hold a Yard Sale in our West Wetumpka Neighborhood from 8am-until. Each participant interested in having a Yard Sale must get a Yard Sale license from City Hall for 50ç, as well as, gold and black balloons which you may call Elizabeth Rhodes or Mary Peck to obtain which will help identify that you're a part of the West Wetumpka Community Yard Sale. Last year, Tuskeena Street was an ideal place for our Yard Sale. If you would like to set up there you may contact some members of the WWNW who live on Tuskeena St. or you can always host the yard sale in your own yard. And lastly, if you can't sell those items for the yard sale, you can toss them out the next Saturday on April 19th when the WWNW has its fourth Clean-Up Day from 8am-12 noon. Dumpsters will be located at the Wetumpka Football Field. If you or someone you know needs assistance in discarding anything, please contact me and we will make arrangements to pick it up and discard it for you. If you would like to volunteer with Clean-Up Day please contact me, Elizabeth Rhodes. A cookout will be held afterwards for volunteers. If you have any questions about these events or would like to volunteer, please contact me or Mrs. Mary Peck.