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MANSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MedCentral Neighborhood Watch



SPECIAL

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Notification System
- Identity Theft
- Important Phone Numbers
- Curfew Information
- Columbia Gas Update

April 15th

May 19th

June 18th

July 15th

at 7PM

Located in the

**Robert Jones Conference Room
MedCentral**

Ritter Run Park Cleanup

We will be organizing a few dates for cleanup this year.

All those interested please contact the watch group for more information or check out our web site

MedCentral Neighborhood Watch Newsletter NEW NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Attention Friends & Neighbors

We would like to take the time and remind you of our next 4 Months worth of meetings.

We encourage you to take part in help keeping our neighborhoods safe.

These meetings are designed to help inform you of the many programs available to us in the community as well as discuss any issues you may have in your neighborhood.

With the many cut backs our city is facing we are working at better ways to communicate the problems that are in the neighborhoods as well as keeping people informed on the many changes taking place within the city.

Many of these changes are announced at our watch meetings ahead of time and the city uses these meetings to help notify the residence of changes that might be taking place in your area.. They have also used the meetings as a way to communicate their ideas and get the opinion from our residence on if they should proceed on certain issues.

With this in mind we are working with the police department in creating a notification system that can leave a phone message, text message on cell phones or send you an email on meeting reminders and crime updates for our area.

While we are in the process of bringing over the **already registered members** phone numbers in the neighborhood watch program if you would like to be contacted by email or text we are

collecting this information at the meetings or you can call the community policing office and have this added to you registration.

Each meeting we provide a map of the current crimes effecting the area for that month and give a chance for the neighborhood watch members to review the same information that is given to the patrol officers when working our area.

We also are looking for topics of interest from YOU!

This is your neighborhood and we want to hear from you!!

We have a few requested topics that we will be addressing over the next few months.

Sex Offenders
Foreclosures
Medicare
Home Security

If you have a topic, of interest please contact us to have it added

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft is a crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of personal identifying information (PII) such as Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers and uses them for their own personal gain. This is called ID Theft.

It can start with lost or stolen wallets, pilfered mail, a data breach, computer virus, phishing, a scam, or paper documents thrown out by you or a business (dumpster diving).

This crime varies widely, and can include

check fraud, credit card fraud, financial identity theft, criminal identity theft, governmental identity theft, and identity fraud.

**MY WALLET OR PDA WAS
LOST OR STOLEN
NOW WHAT?**

Identity theft can be a difficult crime for a victim.

Your life has been altered and you are faced with tasks that may be confusing and situations you don't know

how to handle. All too quickly, you will find that in identity theft cases the burden of proving innocence rests on the shoulders of the victim.

Your neighborhood watch group has discussed this issue, and can provide you with information to protect yourselves of this crime, but first you need to become involved and better prepared.

Join us and let us help you become more better prepared.

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO APPLES TO APPLES CHART



Negotiations between the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), the staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Columbia Gas of Ohio and other parties resulted in an agreement reducing the amount of Columbia's proposed annual rate increase and providing new energy efficiency programs for consumers.

The parties in the case agreed to:

- A five-year cap on recovery costs for Columbia's "Infrastructure Replacement Program" which will include replacement of potentially faulty gas risers, replacement of iron and steel pipe in its distribution system, and installation of automatic meter reading devices.
- Provide \$3 million, through Columbia's shareholders, over the next five heating seasons to assist low-income customers in the payment of bills.

- Improve customer service by allowing new customers to pay their security deposits in three monthly installments and providing information to help customers distinguish between authorized and unauthorized payment agents.

- A key point of contention during the rate case was the structure of Columbia's base distribution charge, which accounts for 20 percent of a customer's total bill and includes costs for meter reading, billing and maintaining the distribution equipment through which natural gas is delivered. The distribution charge consists of a flat-rate customer fee and a charge that varies according to the amount of gas a customer uses.

The PUCO approved Columbia's request to raise the flat-rate customer charge from \$6.50 to \$12.16 per month starting in December 2008, and again to \$17.81 per month in December 2009. The increases will be offset by a reductions in the usage-based portion, which will be eliminated the second year. The OCC opposed this change and believes that a fixed rate that everyone must pay regardless of income or the size of their home will have a harmful effect on low-usage, low-income customers and discourage them from conservation efforts.

This article can be found at www.pickocc.org
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
1-877-PICKOCC toll free

The PUCO produces the Apples to Apples charts to provide consumers with a snapshot comparison of current natural gas supplier price options and contract terms for individual customers. You may also want to check with your local government to see if your community has grouped together citizens into a buying pool to purchase gas. The PUCO updates the charts on a weekly basis and verifies each supplier offer to ensure accuracy. As with all contracts, consumers should carefully read and understand all terms and conditions before signing any forms or agreeing to enroll with a supplier for natural gas service.

It is highly recommended that you look at your invoices and compare what you are paying for natural gas.

To review your charges and compare with other companies visit:

<http://www.puco.ohio.gov/Puco/ApplesToApples/NaturalGas.cfm?id=4594>

We encourage you to join us in our effort to keep our neighborhoods safe and informed.

You can call the Police Dept. to locate a 'watch' group in your area then attend a meeting and sign up!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

911 Emergencies Only

419/522-1234

419/52-CRIME

Use to report drug dealers, crime suspects, wanted person, past and future crimes

Incidents in which life and/or property is in Immediate danger

Crimes "in Progress" or that have just occurred

Mansfield Police Department

Report suspicious activity or

crimes that have already occurred

information on joining a neighborhood watch group

24 Hr. Crime Hotline – Strictly Confidential

CURFEW HOURS & EXPLANATIONS

Ages 11 and Under , Must be in by Dark

Ages 12 through 15 , Must be in by 11pm

Ages 16 through 17 , Must be in by Midnight

All children must be with a parent or guardian

if they will be out past the above listed curfew times.

