

Circle Ginny Homeowner's Association

Established 1978

Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the Circle Ginny Homeowner's Association is to protect and preserve the value of the privately and commonly used property.



From the President

Happy holidays from our family to yours!

As we wind down 2012, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of the CGHOA board members for their help this past year. Any success we enjoy is dependent on your encouragement and support.

So, from my house to yours, best wishes for a safe, prosperous and happy new year.

I hope 2013 is everything you hope it will be and more!

Brenda Williams



Coming Soon

The 2013 Financial Statements will be issued to all homeowners in March.



KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE

We encourage all residents to be alert concerning "normal neighborhood activity". Reporting suspicious activity in our neighborhood is a good way to keep Circle Ginny a safe place to live. Calling 911 is always appropriate in an emergency but it's okay to notify your block captain if you see something doesn't look quite right.

- East Captain: Cindy Downey (1929)
- West Captain: Brenda Williams (1905)



During a snowstorm, DO NOT park on the street so the snowplow can do a good job and not damage the sidewalk and curbs. The Association pays for snow removal this is not a service provided by the City of Middletown.

2013 Wish List

- Replace/Repair entrance light post.
- Repair lamp post lamps.



DUES REMINDER \$\$

CGHOA assessments are due January 1, 2013 and considered past due if not received by February 15, 2013.

Beyond Winter

Over the winter glacier
I see the winter glow,
And through the
Wild-piled snowdrift
The warm rosebuds below.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Bask in the glow of fireplace safety.



More than one-third of Americans use fireplaces, wood stoves and other fuel-fired appliances as primary heat sources in their homes. Unfortunately, many people are unaware of the fire risks when heating with wood and solid fuels.

Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote buildup in chimneys and stovepipes. All home heating systems require regular maintenance to function safely and efficiently.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) encourages you to practice the following fire safety steps to keep those home fires safely burning. Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility. Fire Stops with You!

Keep Safety First

- Remember to open the flue on the fireplace before starting the fire.
- Equip the fireplace with a metal screen to catch burning embers or shifting logs.
- Keep combustible objects a minimum of three feet away from any fireplace.
- If the fireplace is gas operated, be sure to move the gas valve to the "closed" position when you are not using it.
- Never use a fireplace for grilling food or burning holiday wrappings.



Keep Fireplaces Clean

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations and flammable materials.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to ensure complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting into the room. Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.

Tips for Winterizing Your Home

Is your home prepared for winter?

Here's a tip to help protect your home during cold spells.

Keep freezing pipes from bursting

Frozen water in pipes causes pressure to build and could result in the pipes bursting at their weakest point.

Pipes in attics, crawl spaces and outside walls are particularly vulnerable to this concern, especially when they're subjected to extra cold air coming through utility line holes.

Follow these tips to help keep your pipes from freezing:

- Fit exposed pipes with insulation sleeves or wrapping. The more insulation the better.
- Use caulking to seal cracks and holes in outside walls and foundations near water pipes.
- Disconnect garden hoses and turn off the water supply to spigots.
- Keep cabinet doors open during cold spells to allow warm air to circulate around pipes, especially in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Allow a slow trickle of water to flow through faucets connected to pipes that run through an unheated or unprotected space. (If your house is going to be vacant during a cold spell, consider draining your water system.)

Slow Cooker Beef Pot Roast



1 (5 pound) bone-in beef pot roast
Salt and pepper to taste
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour, or as needed
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon butter

1 1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon tomato paste
2 1/2 cups chicken broth
3 medium carrots cut into chunks
2 stalks celery, cut into chunks
1 sprig fresh rosemary
2 sprigs fresh thyme

Directions

1. Generously season both sides of roast with salt and pepper. Sprinkle flour over the top until well coated, and pat it into the meat. Shake off any excess.
2. Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat until hot. Sear the roast on both sides for 5-6 minutes each, until well browned. Remove from the skillet and set aside.
3. Reduce the heat to medium and stir in mushrooms and butter; cook for 3-4 minutes.
4. Stir in onion; cook for 5 minutes, until onions are translucent and begin to brown. Add garlic, stir for about a minute.
5. Stir in 1 1/2 tablespoons flour; cook and stir for about 1 minute. Add tomato paste, and cook for another minute.
6. Slowly add chicken stock, stir to combine, and return to a simmer. Remove skillet from the heat.
7. Place carrots and celery in the slow cooker. Place roast over the vegetables and pour in any accumulated juices. Add rosemary and thyme. Pour onion and mushroom mixture over the top of the roast. Cover slow cooker, turn to high and cook the roast for 5-6 hours, until the meat is fork tender.

PREVENT HOME BURGLARY

American homes are victims of burglary about every 15 seconds, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The typical homeowner suffers a loss of nearly \$2,000 in stolen goods or property damage. With the national economy getting worse, burglary is again becoming a more common crime.

If you have a high deductible on your homeowner's insurance policy, you'll likely have to pay out of pocket to replace your stuff. But for a small investment, you can make your home less appealing to burglars in the first place.

1. *Prune your shrubs - Bushes, shrubs and trees can offer an intruder places to hide and camouflage signs of a break-in. Trim back any overgrown vegetation so that your home's windows, porches and doors are visible to neighbors and passersby.*
2. *Draw the blinds - Use shades, drapes and other window treatments to keep potentially tempting household items out of view*
3. *Don't advertise new purchases - Be sure not to draw undue attention to your home by discarding empty boxes at the curb with your trash -- a big problem during the holidays.*
4. *Get motion sensors - Adequate nighttime illumination is critical, because a dark or poorly lit property makes it easier for a burglar to go about unseen.*

5. Set timers indoors - Using timers that are hooked up to indoor lights, as well as radios or televisions. "Setting a timer to switch on about 30 to 45 minutes before it gets dark makes it appear more like someone is really at home, and combined with a radio or TV activating during the day and evening, that impression can be even more convincing."

6. Reinforce entry points - Sixty percent of all burglaries take place at ground floor doors and windows, so it makes sense to "harden" these entry points.

7. Shield windows near doors - For existing doors with windows, installing a protective barrier of quarter-inch Plexiglas over any existing glass. Attached properly, it can prevent the burglar from breaking the window and either opening the door's lock from the inside or getting into the house through the opening.

8. Install deadbolts - A deadbolt should be installed on every exterior entry door. The bolt should have a throw of at least one inch. Insurance companies and locksmiths recommend Grade 1 or Grade 2 deadbolt locks on exterior entryways.

9. Use common sense - But the best form of protection is to simply lock all your doors and windows whenever you

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*"You will find that it is necessary to
let things go; simply for the reason
that they are heavy. So let them go,
let go of them. I tie no weights to my
ankles."*



Just for Laughs

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool... After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' 'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

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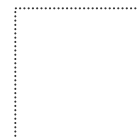
An elderly gent was invited to his old friends' home for dinner one evening. He was impressed by the way his buddy preceded every request to his with endearing terms-Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc.

The couple had been married almost 70 years, and clearly they were still very much in love. While the wife was in the kitchen, the man leaned over and said to his host, "I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife those loving pet names."

The old man hung his head. "I have to tell you the truth," he said, "I forgot her name about 10 years ago."



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Name
Street Address
City, State Zip Code