



Neighborhood burglaries still a problem

The police tell us the few weeks just before Christmas are prime burglary season. It seems some people like to steal things to get Christmas money or maybe even gifts. However, with Christmas now past tense, the trend in our neighborhood is NOT slowing down. Not what anyone wants to hear but we can't keep our head in the sand.

You may not think there is anything bad happening on your street, but with more people staying indoors during the winter, many folks don't see their neighbors to hear about any burglaries, but you need to know YOUR neighbors are being victimized, YOU could just as easily be next and you are not immune if you have a dog or alarm system (which some of these victims did have!)

Just a few weeks ago a house was burglarized near Rocket and Martinot in broad daylight and a few days ago a burglary was thwarted when a neighbor saw a

suspicious vehicle pull into the next door driveway, again in broad daylight. The suspects got away before the police got there, but with a description of the suspects and vehicle were stopped nearby and arrested.

A happy ending to what could have led to another very unhappy homeowner. Kudos to the neighbor who called it in. THANK YOU! I want them for my neighbor! With so many people working during the day, not only does it make it easier for the vandals to "get away" with crimes but it is harder to detect them. So if you ARE home, look out your windows and PLEASE call 911 if anything looks amiss, even if you are not sure. Better safe than sorry. You would want your neighbors to do the same for you.

REMEMBER, THE
NEXT HOUSE
COULD BE
YOURS.

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•Developing strong ties and effective working relationships with local government, police, officials and other agencies.

•Working in cooperation as a unified community to create a presence that is stronger and more influential than any one individual.

Our Mission

The Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association (BNA) is a group of dedicated neighbors working to improve quality of life through improved relationships and positive action. We welcome all residents in a spirit of friendship with respect for all individuals.

Our mission is:

- To continually improve the quality of life for ourselves and our neighbors.
- To foster communication, understanding and a sense of community in the area we serve.
- To ensure a safe and peaceful neighborhood.

We will accomplish this by:

- Building a strong association of neighbors with open communication providing opportunities to gather for social events and activities which enhance our area.

Neighborhood newsletter carrier still needed!

There are 80 homes on Edgeland St. who are no longer getting newsletters and 40 on S Pershing who will soon be on that list as well. When the delivery person stepped down after an extended period of service, we asked for volunteers to take over. Since no one stepped forward to fill in, none of the Edgeland residents received a newsletter this month, nor will they in the future unless someone or more than one person volunteers. Won't someone please step forward?

It takes about 45 minutes to deliver about 75 of them and even

Proudly Serving the Streets

of:

Bedford
Edgeland
Clifford
Culver
Rocket
Martinot
Roseview
Longview
Salisbury
Laurelton
Lawndale
Mapledale
Pershing
Westchester

less to do 40 and it's only once a month! A great way to get some exercise, maybe walk the dog and perhaps even meet some of your neighbors!

If you can help out, please e-mail bensohurstna@excite.com or call 234-1535

Our apologies to Joe Carlino for omitting his advertisement in last months newsletter.

Suspicious Behavior?

Normally the season just before the holidays is typically busy with break ins, However, this trend seems to still be continuing with 2 recent burglaries in the Rocket St/Martinot Ave area.

A lot of them are in broad daylight when people are at work. We can't stress enough to **CALL 911** if you see ANY suspicious activity in your yard or your neighbors.

What are some examples of suspicious behavior?

- Anyone looking into house, garage or car windows who doesn't live at that address.
- Anyone wandering around the property that doesn't live there.
- Anyone walking up and down the street as if they are looking for something.
- More than one person ringing a doorbell or knocking at a door while another person is around the back of the house.
- Cars pulling into the drive that don't belong there.

- Pushing trash dumpsters down the street beyond the driveway.



Now What?

Once you see something suspicious what should you do?

First, stay calm and call 911. If you don't want to give them your name, just say you are a concerned citizen.

Second, call right away, don't wait to see what they might do!..... It only take a few minutes to break in, take stuff and run.

Third, give the dispatcher the address or at least approximate address and tell them what the suspects are doing. While they are typing, the info is going out at the same time, so hopefully someone will be able to respond soon.

Fourth, try to get a good look at the suspects so you can describe them to police, approximate age, race, sex, clothing, shoes, unusual markings

on their body or clothing such as tattoos, piercings, logos etc., anything that might make them stand out and be easily identified.

Fifth, notice which direction they are headed and a description of the vehicle if there is one.

Sixth, keep in mind the police have to prioritize their responses. Even though you may view this as urgent (and it is), a fight, stabbing or murder might be happening elsewhere making it impossible for them to respond as quickly as you might like.

Seventh, **REPORT ALL** suspicious activity, break ins, and even attempted break ins, no matter how small, even if it is something as simple as a garden hose. This could lead to something bigger. They keep track of all this information and like a puzzle, fit pieces together to form a bigger picture.

And finally, remember the house you save could be **YOURS** someday!



Bensonhurst meeting minutes Jan 2011

Vice President elect Brian Managan standing in for Heather opened the meeting with around the room introductions and then introduced our guest speaker.

Guy Rossi, retired RPD police officer currently working at the Public Safety Building on Scottsville Rd for Homeland Security Management Institute (HSMI) and MCC was on hand to talk to us about protecting ourselves during home invasions and what we can do to minimize our risk for being a target.

We found his talk to be extremely interesting and informative. Thanks to Brian for arranging this.

From there, Officers Belliard and Cannon talked about some of the recent arrests made which they hope will help quell the recent robberies in our area. One of the arrests made was when a neighbor on Greeley St called

police with suspicious activity. The suspect was still in the house when police arrived. Just another example of why we need to call 911.

Another arrest involved 2 teens going door to door with shovels who were arrested for attempted burglary, but keep in mind not everyone you see walking around with snow shovels is criminal. They also said the gas station was cited for noise.

Cathy thanked the group for both the food and monetary donations given in December for a needy family in our area for Christmas.

A meeting with RGTS will be held on Wed Jan 19th regarding the possibility of removing or relocating the bus stop on Clifford Ave near Revella across from the gas station.

Stucko's will reopen in mid Feb once remodeling is finished with a new name and new owner but with much of the prior staff. The new name will be Lombardi's and will focus on the restaurant portion of the business.

Market America
Elaine C. Lalka
585-802-0112

Holiday Shopping?

Log onto: marketamerica.com/elainelalka
Sign in as my "Preferred Customer" and shop our "Mall without Walls" with over 5000 partner stores.
You'll find the best prices AND receive up to 50% CASHBACK on your purchases...and it's FREE to use !!

Elections which were supposed to take place last November were held now. All offices were up for grabs. The only nomination from the floor was for secretary. Cheryl Robinson agreed to the position with Carol O'Keane acting as back up whenever she could not attend.

The 2011 Slate of Officers

President	Heather Henry
Vice President	Brian Managan
Secretary	Cheryl Robinson Carol O'Keane
Treasurer	Paul Zimmer Peg Aderman

The motion to accept the slate as it was seconded and voted on. Congratulations to the newly elected officers.

The meeting ended as usual with the 50/50 drawing. Next month meeting Thurs Feb 10th.



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Why not join us at our next meeting on Thursday, February 10 at 7pm at Johnny's Irish Pub 1382 Culver Road?

Meetings are located in the Red Room separate from the bar area.

There is a ramped entrance also separate from the bar.

All meetings are informal, positive & all are encouraged to participate.

BNA does not charge dues or membership fees.



Paid Ad Information

The Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association will gladly publish your business card sized ad for a donation of \$50 per year. That equals a total of 12 monthly issues delivered to 700 homes, business, and government agencies. The money collected is used to help cover printing expenses as the Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association is 100 % organized by volunteers. Please use the contact information on the back page for additional information. Thank you.



Newsletters are published monthly and delivered prior to each meeting.

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

Send all materials to bensonhurstNA@excite.com

Pictures are also welcome.

Important Contact Information

<p>BNA Voicemail: 585-234-1535</p> <p>BNA Email: bensohurstNA@excite.com</p> <p>BNA address: PO Box 90411 Rochester, NY 14609</p> <p>BNA website: bensohurst14609.org</p>	<p>Neighborhood Service Center 585-428-7640</p> <p>City Hall services - 311 non emergency www.cityofrochester.gov</p> <p>NBN and PCIC website: http://sites.google.com/site/nbnsector8/Home</p>	<p>Sex Offender site: www.familywatchdog.us</p> <p>Do Not Call List: www.donotcall.gov 1-888-382-1222</p> <p>911- Any suspicious activity or emergency</p>
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Upcoming Events

February 10 - BNA monthly meeting- 7pm in the side room of Johnny's Irish Pub

March 10 – BNA monthly meeting

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**BENSONHURST – A
COMMUNITY OF
NEIGHBORS!**

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