



The S.A.L.T. Communicator

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

October 2006

Coordinated by S.A.L.T. Chairman Ken McNatt

FIRE PREVENTION/SAFETY!

*Presented by Cliff Mortenson, CFI, Fire Investigator,
City of Wheaton*

Forty years ago we did not have fire drills in America. Then, one cold December day in 1959, a fire broke out in Our Lady of the Angels Roman Catholic School, Chicago. Ninety children and three nuns died that cold winter morning. No one was concerned about fire drills until then.

There were no laws mandating fire proof materials until one hot July afternoon in 1944 in Hartford, Connecticut, the Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey Circus had come to town and 7,000 people packed into the big top tent. That day, 167 died and three quarters of them were children.

A sixteen-year-old busboy was replacing a light bulb in a nightclub. He could not see where to screw it in, so he lights a match. That day 491 people died in a Boston nightclub called the Coconut Grove. No one cared about overcrowding, blocked fire exits, barred windows and crooked building inspectors... until then.

The statistics come out each year. There are 1.8 million fires a year; indeed every 18 seconds

a fire department is responding to a fire somewhere in our country. Some years 1,200 children die a horrible death in fires. Many years we lose close to four thousand people and for each death, multiply by four and that is how many of our people suffer debilitating burn injuries that scar and create disabilities for life. This year, 96 firefighters died in the line of duty in our nation.



This is why, fire prevention week is so important to you and me! The basis for Fire Prevention week is the Great Chicago Fire of October 9, 1871!

- ❑ It killed 250 people
- ❑ Left 100,000 people homeless
- ❑ Destroyed more than 17,400 structures
- ❑ Burned more than 2,000 acres in 27 hours

President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day Proclamation in 1920 and it is observed on the Sunday through Saturday in which October 9th falls. Some of the leading causes of fire in our homes are:

- ❑ Careless use of smoking materials
- ❑ Children playing with matches
- ❑ Candles (*use with extreme caution and care*)
- ❑ Arson

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Mission Statement

The purpose of Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council is to determine and to meet the needs of Senior Citizens by reducing crime and abuse and by enhancing safety through communication and education in cooperation with the Township, law enforcement agencies, and other community agencies and organizations.

(Fire Prevention continued from page 1)

Roughly only 2% of all arson cases are successfully prosecuted in the United States. In DuPage County, 55% to 65% of arson cases are successfully being prosecuted mainly as a result of the DuPage County Fire Investigation Task Force.

But what can you do to prevent fire in your home?

- ❑ Smoke detectors (*prevent loss of life*); check them regularly to be certain they are working
- ❑ Have fire extinguishers available
- ❑ Practice your way out of the home in case of a fire
- ❑ “Free” home fire inspection (*Call your fire department*)

Call “Your” Local Fire Department Today!

We Need You!

The S.A.L.T. Council is looking for volunteers to help at the **Senior Health Fair** scheduled for Friday, October 20, at the DuPage County Fairgrounds.

Please join us!

Contact Gail at 630.668.1616

Beware! Jury Duty Scam

Submitted by Bill Parbs

Most of us take that summons for jury duty seriously, but enough people skip out on their civic duty, that a new and ominous kind of scam has surfaced. Fall for it and your identity could be stolen, reports CBS.

Someone calls pretending to be a court official who threateningly says a warrant has been issued for your arrest because you did not show up for jury duty. The caller claims to be a jury coordinator.

If you protest that you never received a summons for jury duty, the scammer asks you for your social security number and date of birth so he or she can verify the information and cancel the arrest warrant. Sometimes they even ask for credit card numbers. Give out any of this information and your identity just got stolen.

In reality, court workers will never call you to ask for social security numbers and other private information. In fact, most courts follow up via U.S. mail and rarely, if ever, call prospective jurors.

Action: Never give out your social security number, credit card numbers or other personal confidential information when you receive a telephone call.

Check It Out Here:

<http://www.snopes.com/crime/fraud/juryduty.asp>

Pretexting: Your Personal Information Revealed

Submitted by Joe Vanest

When you think of your own personal assets, chances are your home, car, savings and investments come to mind. But what about your social security number and your bank and credit card account numbers? To people known as “pretexters,” that information is a personal asset, too.

Pretexting is the practice of getting your personal information under false pretenses. Pretexters sell your information to people who may use it to get credit in your name, steal your assets, or to investigate or sue you. **Pretexting is against the law.**

How Pretexting Works

Pretexters use a variety of tactics to get your personal information. For example, a pretexter may call, claim he’s from a survey firm, and ask you a few questions. When the pretexter has the information he wants, he uses it to call your financial institution. He pretends to be you or someone with authorized access to your account. He might claim that he’s forgotten his checkbook and needs information about his account. In this way, the pretexter may be able to obtain personal information about you such as your social security number (SSN), bank and credit card account numbers, information in your credit report, and the existence and size of your savings and investment portfolios.

Keep in mind that some information about you may be a matter of public record, such as whether you own a home, pay your real estate taxes, or have ever filed for bankruptcy. It is not pretexting for

another person to collect this kind of information.

Pretexting can lead to “identity theft.” Identity theft occurs when someone hijacks your personal identifying information to open new charge accounts, order merchandise, or borrow money. Consumers targeted by identity thieves usually don’t know they’ve been victimized until the hijackers fail to pay the bills or repay the loans, and collection agencies begin calling the consumers for payment of accounts they didn’t even know they had.

If You Think You’re a Victim

If you think you’ve been a victim of pretexting, **contact the Federal Trade Commission as soon as possible.** To file a complaint, or to get free information on any of 150 consumer topics, call toll-free, 1.877.382.4357 or use the complaint form at <http://www.ftc.gov/>. ■

Credit Card Applications!

In the past 20 years, the credit card industry has increased five fold the number of mailings sent to customers who are pre-approved. In 2004, there were over 5.23 billion letters offering credit cards sent to Americans. Tired of receiving these credit card offers?

Visit www.optoutprescreen.com
or call 888.567.8688

to remove your name from the mailing lists of those receiving credit or insurance offers.

The S.A.L.T. Council would like to extend a special thank you to **Rita Peckhart** from “The Meadows of Glen Ellyn” for supplying delicious cookies for the S.A.L.T. Council meetings!

Home Instead Senior Care – Support that Fits Your Lifestyle!

Submitted by Athena Rebapis, Community Director



Home Instead Senior Care is the world's largest and most trusted provider of comprehensive, companionship and home care services for seniors. These services are provided through a network of franchise offices located throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Portugal, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Saying good-bye to familiar surroundings, and the comfort and security of home, isn't always necessary. Home Instead Caregivers help older adults with everyday tasks that allow them to live independently, no matter where they call home. From a few hours a day, up to 24 hours, seven days-a-week, including weekends and holidays, thousands of older adults receive help with everyday tasks like meal preparation, reminders to take medication, laundry, light housekeeping, shopping and errands.

Our services are designed for practically any living arrangement where an older adult simply needs human interaction and help with day-to-day activities. You can receive personal care, meal preparation, medication reminders, laundry, light housekeeping, escort for shopping and errands and respite care.

These services are offered through an independently owned and operated franchise office with staff and CAREGivers who are responsive to your needs and engaged in our community. We personally introduce you to CAREGivers who are thoroughly screened, trained, insured and bonded, matched to your preferences, professional, reliable and dependable.

As their employer, we handle all the responsibilities of taxes, social security, scheduling, benefits, insurance and workers' compensation.

Covering West Suburban Cook and DuPage Counties

Home Instead Senior Care • www.homeinstead.com

475 W. 55th Street • Suite 105 • LaGrange, IL 60525 • 630.835.0600

DuPage County Human Services Seniors & Caregivers' Health Fair

Friday, October 20, 2006
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
DuPage County Fairgrounds
2015 W. Manchester Road
Wheaton, 60187

The fair provides information, education and services to all DuPage County Residents and flu shots are available by appointment.



Annual Auto Inspection

Saturday, November 4, 2006
St. Daniel's Church,
101 W. Loop Road, Wheaton

This FREE service is open to all seniors in Milton Township.

Come and bring a friend. No personal information is requested in order to participate.

Scheduling/Information: 630.407.6500 or 1.800.942.9412

Senior Home Sharing

Submitted by Maria George, Assistant Resident Manager, Senior Home Sharing



“Senior Home Sharing”! You can guess what this not for profit organization provides. Yes, it provides for seniors age 62 and over, the opportunity to live independently in a safe, affordable, family style home. The purpose or mission of this organization is to maintain costs at a reasonable level in order to serve lower income aging persons. Volunteers are needed to provide friendship, to walk with, talk with, and laugh with the residents.

Senior Home Sharing is celebrating 25 years of success in 2006. Homes are located in Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Lombard and Naperville. Some of these facilities are apartment rather than a single residence. In a Senior Home Sharing residence, six or seven seniors and a live in manager create an extended family together in a single family home. The manager provides home cooked meals and encourages interaction between residents, volunteers and the community.

Residents appreciate the balance between the privacy of their own room and the companionship provided by others. In addition, the Director of Resident Services provides regular assessment and case management, ensuring a smooth transition into one of our homes or apartments. They also serve as an advocate for the residents. The organization has a project based housing choice voucher program, which assists qualifying residents. Resident's monthly fees range from \$865 to \$1625. The staff and residents work closely with the DuPage Housing Authority to obtain rental assistance, based on the seniors' income. Resident fees include meals, utilities and the support services of the staff.

For More Information or to
Schedule a Tour Call:
630.407.0440
www.seniorhomesharing.org



TOP
10

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Submitted by Ken McNatt, S.A.L.T. Council Chairman

1. Don't be afraid to request an identification card from deliverymen or strangers.
2. Never allow strangers to enter residence.
3. Have your paycheck or government check sent directly to your bank account.
4. Never give your personal information to strangers, such as birthday or social security numbers.
5. Never withdraw money for a stranger.
6. Request a copy of your credit report once a year. Investigate any suspicious accounts or activity.
7. Shred or cut important information before discarding.
8. Don't carry your social security card. Leave in a secure location at home.
9. Get estimates before doing renovations. Do not pay for work in advance.
10. Keep your home (in and out) well lit at night and keep your curtains closed at night.



Look for your next
S.A.L.T. Communicator
in February 2007!



Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

S.A.L.T. Council Members

Ken J. McNatt, Chairman • Joe Vanest, Vice Chairman • Jodi Hefler, Glen Ellyn Senior Citizen Coordinator/Community Relations • Gail Hinkle, Social Services Coordinator
Bill Mennell, Ways & Means • Bill Parbs, Director of Communications

DuPage Sheriff's Office

Jim Hatcher, Director of Senior Services • Cpl. Randy Groh, Deputy Sheriff Liaison

Chief Greg Berk, Wheaton Fire Chief • Sue Davison, Medicare Advocate CDH
Chief Phillip DiMensa, Winfield Fire District • Marcy Fairbank, Community Nursing Service
Rich Janske, Wheaton Police Dept. • Fire Chief Jerry Kleinwachter, Warrenville Fire Dist.
Debbie McKenzie, Glendale Heights Police Dept. • James Monson, Glen Ellyn Police Dept.
Clifford Mortenson, Wheaton Fire Dept.

Citizen's Committee

Larry Gage • Sister Peg Ivers, St. Daniel the Prophet • William Krick • Rose Palma
Patricia Terkovich, Arden Courts • Jeanne Pitra • Horace Polglaze • Don Russell
Claude de St. Paer • Charles Schlabach • Barbara Smith • Ron Smith

In Cooperation with DuPage Sheriff's Office - John Zaruba, Sheriff

- ▶ Fire Prevention
- ▶ Home Instead Senior Care
- ▶ Senior Home Sharing
- ▶ S.A.L.T. Special Events
- ▶ Protecting Personal Information

HOT Topics

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