

MIDDLETOWN

Crimefighting measures include lighting, police

Board chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer resigned after the meeting but will remain involved in the IGNITE program.

BY CHRIS ENGLISH COURIER TIMES
Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or .

Increased police patrols and trimming trees around street lights in the Cobalt Ridge and Quincy Hollow sections are among the actions being taken by Middletown officials as part of a new program called Initiatives by Government and Neighborhoods to Increase Teaming Efforts.

Township Manager Richard Gestrich announced the measures at Tuesday night's supervisors meeting. They came in response to concerns voiced by residents of the two sections at a March 4 IGNITE meeting, he said.

The program, pushed by board chairwoman Lisa Pflaumer, is an effort to increase communication and cooperation among township officials and residents to reduce crime and improve quality of life. It started in Cobalt Ridge and Quincy Hollow, two sections in the Levittown part of the township, because of e-mails and letters received from residents there in the last few months, Pflaumer said.

Gestrich said police patrols will be stepped up on Friday and Saturday nights for at least a month while police and residents talk about starting more neighborhood watches in the two sections.

Public Works Director Rick Wendel will have his crews trim any trees that might be blocking illumination from street lights, Gestrich said. Also, the township will look at moving a footbridge crossing a creek between the two sections that has been a trouble spot, he added.

In addition, assistant township Manager Frank Farry will contact residents and brief them on the procedure for erecting traffic-calming measures on streets in the two sections. Among the complaints at the March 4 meeting was speeding cutthrough traffic. Calming equipment like speed humps have been effective in other parts of the township, officials said.

Pflaumer, a supervisor since 2004, resigned from the board after Tuesday night's meeting. She wants to spend more time with her family and on her Dove Chocolate at Home business. The board will be looking to appoint her replacement during the next few weeks. Pflaumer said she will remain involved in the IGNITE program.