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Tips on toy safety for Christmas buying

This holiday season, over 150,000 different types of toys will fill the shelves of over one million retail outlets. Toys varying from dolls to complicated spaceships will be purchased to enchant the lives of thousands of children throughout the world. Unfortunately, many of these toys are unsafe and will bring serious injury to children. Last year over 140,000 persons were treated for injuries resulting from toys.

The Lancaster Co. Association for the Blind urges you to make this holiday a safe one by following the suggestions of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission when purchasing new toys. Think toy safety by knowing the seven toy dangers:

1. Sharp Edges. Toys of brittle plastic or glass can easily be broken exposing dangerous sharp cutting edges. Wooden, metal and plastic toys sometimes have sharp edges due to poor construction;

2. Small Parts. Tiny toys and toys with small removable parts can be swallowed or become lodged in a child's windpipe, ears or nose. The squeakers in some squeeze toys can be removed and possibly swallowed. The seams of poorly constructed stuffed dolls or animals can break open and release small pellets that also can be swallowed or inhaled;

3. Loud Noises. Toy caps and some noise-making guns and other toys can produce sounds at levels that can damage hearing. The law requires the following label on boxes of caps producing noise above a certain level: "WARNING—Do not fire closer than one foot to the ear. Do not use indoors.";

4. Sharp Points. Broken toys can expose dangerous prongs and knife-sharp points. Pins and staples on dolls' clothes, hair and accessories can easily puncture an unsuspecting child. Even a teddy bear or stuffed

toy can have barbed eyes or wired limbs which can cut or stab;

5. Propelled Objects. Projectiles, guided missiles and similar flying toys can be turned into weapons and can injure eyes in particular. Children should never be permitted to play with adult lawn darts or other hobby or sporting equipment that have sharp points. Arrows or darts used by children should have soft cork tips, rubber suction cups or other protective tips intended to prevent injury. Latest studies show that in one year there were 1,700 projectile toy-related eye injuries to children under 15. In addition, BB guns alone accounted for approximately 12,500 injuries of which 1,350 were eye injuries;


6. Wrong Toy for Wrong Age. Toys that may be safe for older children can be extremely dangerous in the hands of little ones. Choose toys with care and keep in mind the child's age, interest and skill level; and

7. Electric Toys. Electric toys that are improperly constructed, wired or misused can shock or burn. Electric toys must meet mandatory requirements for maximum surface temperatures, electrical construction and prominent warning labels. Electric toys with heating elements are recommended only for children over eight years old. Children should be taught to use electronic toys cautiously and under adult supervision.

For information about

protecting the vision of children, write to: Lancaster Co. Association for the Blind, 244 North Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

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Mount Joy council (cont.)

[continued from front page] being proposed.

Raymond Miller was selected as auctioneer for sale of the house in Borough Park on April 4, 1981.

Borough Council will consider changing the rates for refuse collection to cover added costs of picking up excess refuse at some residences; some people have put out as many as 53 bags of refuse for one collection.

Non-uniformed employees of the borough will qualify for a two-week vacation after two years of service. Previously they were eligible for only one week of vacation after two years of service.

Council voted to accept a proposal from PennDOT that federal funds be used to build curbs but not sidewalks along Marietta Avenue, subject to two provisions: that PennDOT restore any sidewalks damaged in repairing Marietta Avenue, and that PennDOT officials explain at a public hearing for residents of Marietta Avenue why the state is no longer willing to repair sidewalks, as originally agreed.

A subdivision request from Perry and Linda Reesor for their property at Chocolate Ave. and Wood St. was granted.

A large delegation of citizens from Birchland Avenue presented a petition protesting a proposed development in adjoining Mount Joy Township. The proposed development would cause severe run-off problems for the residents of Birchland Avenue. Also, additional traffic would be fed into Springville Road, causing hazards. The Birchland Avenue people plan to attend the meeting of the Mount Joy Township supervisors to voice their objections to the proposed development. They also plan to

write the Lancaster County Planning Commission.

Mayor Gingrich turned over a report on evacuation plans, in the event of a crisis at T.M.I. to the borough office.

It was reported that fines up to \$7000 have been levied recently against trucks using borough bridges in violation of the weight limits posted for the bridges. Some of that fine money will revert from the state to the borough, eventually.

The borough manager reported that the U.S. Postal Service has been showing some interest in acquiring the former Friendship Fire Co. building, which is adjacent to the Mount Joy Post Office.

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