

Noise Ordinance Exemptions Urged

The season of outdoor entertaining usually kicks off in Sylvania Township with graduation parties and the invitations are already out for gatherings in neighborhoods across the area. Sylvania Township police recommend the pre-party planning list include getting a noise-ordinance exemption.

Police Chief Rob Boehme said it is also the season when police officers begin to respond to noise complaints from residents near where the parties are taking place. Exemptions to the township noise ordinance are available through the police department the chief said and urged people intending to hold a party, particularly one which will be held outside, to apply for the exemption. People should call the department with their exemption request and one will be sent to the resident, he added. "People can also come in to pick one up, but if they call we can send one through regular mail, fax, or by email," he said.

The chief noted that the exemption request asks for the host's name, location, and date and time of the party, "and we ask if neighbors have been notified. "We've found that if people nearby know about the party in advance," the department gets fewer complaints. If approved, the exemptions are usually limited to 11 p.m. on weekdays and midnight on weekends and don't excuse extraordinarily loud noise or other raucous behavior. The chief said that the exemptions should be sought by people throughout the summer when they are planning family gatherings, block parties or other activities outdoors. Chief Boehme recommends whether an exemption should be granted and final approval rests with John Zeitler, township administrator. Mr. Zeitler said the exemptions are a good idea for residents adding that he hopes people hosting parties will be considerate of their neighbors and that neighbors will be tolerant of parties when they are one-time events.