

Media Gets Aggressive On Safety

by Joan Gallagher
Town Talk Staff Reporter

The Borough of Media will undertake a new public safety program aimed at preventing burglaries at homes and businesses through a systematic series of meetings and inspections beginning in October.

Councilman Robert McMahon revealed the plan at last week's council meeting. Over the next year, he explained, 118 "home meetings" (approximately one per block) will be held at the home of a neighborhood volunteer every Thursday evening except the third, plus some Saturdays.

Present at the meetings will be a representative from the County Crime Prevention Unit, a council member, and a police officer, who will speak about safety, demonstrate home security checks, and conduct on-the-spot inspections of neighbors' homes if requested.

The meetings will help neighbors meet each other, exchange ideas, and learn how to look out for each other, McMahon said. In addition, the group will choose someone to serve as its liaison with the police department.

McMahon said seven requests have been received so far from persons wishing to host such gatherings. If no one on a particular block volunteers, individuals will be called and asked to hold a meeting, he said. Residents will be notified of meetings through form letter invitations and follow-up calls.

time.

The three are all qualified officers currently engaged in either police or security work and have been certified through the police academy, a condition of their being considered for the posts, according to Mayor Frank Daly.

In other business, Council unanimously approved a tentative agreement with Local 437 of the International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, the union representing the borough's non-uniformed employees. The three-year contract, effective June, 1983, is a first for the borough and will ensure stability in both the wage force and personnel costs, said Council President James Cunningham.

Council also unanimously approved a motion to take steps to

demolish the structure on the Haines Tract, which was further damaged by a recent fire, since the owners have not complied with Council's previous requests to tear down the hazardous building.

A moment of silence was observed at the

beginning of the meeting in memory of Judson Laird of Rose Valley, according to Cunningham, "a good friend of this borough" whose participation in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs led to improvements in local government.

The new program will also affect businesses. McMahon said three of the borough's 55 cash businesses operating after six p.m. have been inspected for safety so far, to be followed by inspections at the remaining 200 open only during the day. In addition, businesses will be encouraged to have their alarms hooked up to the police department.

The new program is part of a stepped up crime prevention effort announced three weeks ago by Chief Gerald Olmsted. Also underway are the formation of a citizens' auxiliary police force and registration of emergency phone numbers for businesses and offices.

The police department will strengthen its manpower by hiring two part-time police officers, Robert W. Stanley, of Chester, and Mark Raffaele, of Brookhaven; its woman power needs will be met by Lauren Smiley, of Media, the borough's first female police officer, also part