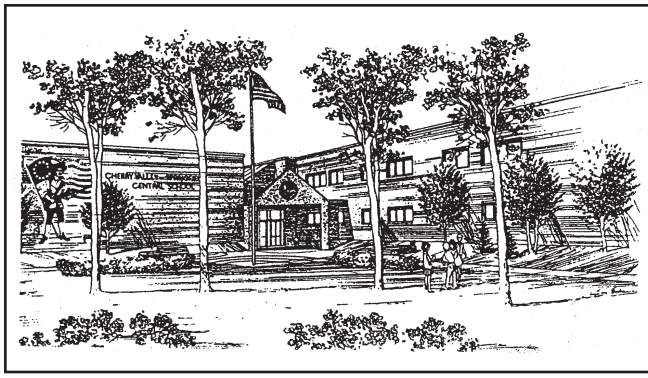
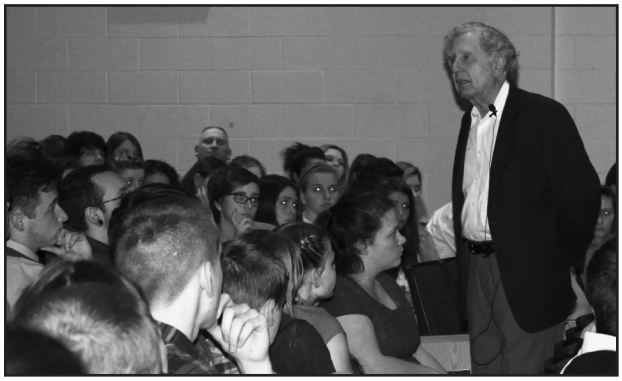


PATRIOT NEWS

Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School District

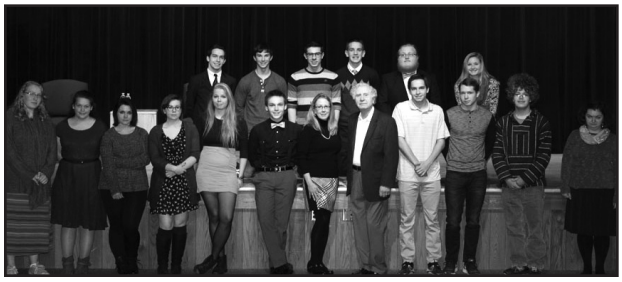
Volume 29, No. 5 January 2016

Guest Speaker Awes Students



On December 1, students were honored by the appearance of Holocaust survivor Murray Jaros, who was invited to come and speak with grades 9-12 by Ms. Bouck's *Speak Truth to Power* class. Mr. Jaros, now a resident of Niskayuna, spoke with quiet strength and unwavering hope about his experiences as a boy in Eastern Poland under the Nazi regime. He spoke at great length about the risks others underwent to help protect him and his family and about his faith in humanity, yet was unflinching in describing the horrors he witnessed. Afterward, he answered a few questions posed by students and later remarked upon the intellectual quality of their queries. He was even willing to have a brief interview with students **Nora Davis** and **Julia Dudley.** During the interview, Mr. Jaros fervently condemned bullying in schools and expressed his great respect for the power of language, stating that "language can be used as a sword and a shield." Ms. Bouck's *Speak Truth to Power* class was awed by his compassion and would like to thank him once more for coming in.

— *Honora Davis* and *Julia Dudley*



Movember

In November, high school biology teacher Mr. Wade Blanchard organized a team to raise money for the Movember Foundation. Similar to *No Shave November,* to show support for Movember male faculty and staff grew moustaches, or in some cases beards to raise awareness for men's health issues; mental health, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and physical inactivity. The vision of the Movember Foundation is to have an everlasting impact on the *face* of men's health.

The participants of this program were: Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Jaquay, Mr. Deboyace, Mr. Fralick, Mr. Lamouret, Mr. Blair, Mr. Keane, Mr. Drugatz, and Mr. Rhodes. Others, such as Ms. Bouck, Mrs. Arnot, and the Teacher's Association, donated money to support the Movember cause.

In total, the Cherry Valley-Springfield Movember group raised $300.

— *Rhiannon Davis-Fralick*

THANK YOU!

The District would like to thank the following organizations and people for supporting the CV-S Community: The Springfield Fire Department for their donation of a backboard; Laura Freer for her time and energy with sprucing up the flower beds (we will see bulbs in the spring that she planted this past fall); and The SADD organization for their planting of bulbs this past fall as well.

Superintendent's Message

Can you believe that we are half-way done with the 2015-2016 school year? It seems like just last month we were welcoming staff and students back to school. This is a busy time at school with winter sports in full swing, January regents coming up and we are in the process of hiring a new elementary principal. We will be interviewing candidates during the month of January with the hopes of having our new principal in place for a February 1, 2016 start.

It has been my goal since I started to bring the community into our building as much and often as possible. Two new programs we will be starting in February are opening the building up for walkers and opening our library computer lab up to community members.

Starting February 2, our library computer lab will be open Tuesday nights from 5:00-7:00 p.m. for HS students and adult use. It is one of our district goals to bring computer access to parents or adults in the community that might not have internet access at home. The lab will be staffed by an adult to assist users and answer questions. There is no fee for this program. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Also we will be opening the building to walkers starting in February to allow people to fight off the winter blues and keep up with their exercise plans. We will provide maps and distance information so walkers know how far they have gone; and we ask all walkers to please sign an insurance waiver. The building will be open for walking week-day mornings that school is in session from 6:00-7:20 a.m.

February continues to be an exciting month for Cherry Valley-Springfield Schools as we are moving to full recycling of school waste. Classrooms will have recycling bins, the cafeteria will have separation bins and all compostable waste will be added to our soon-to-be-created building recycling pile. Once in place we are expecting yearly savings of $5,000-$8,000 for the District. Full recycling will drastically cut-down on the amount of waste we have to pay to be removed from campus.

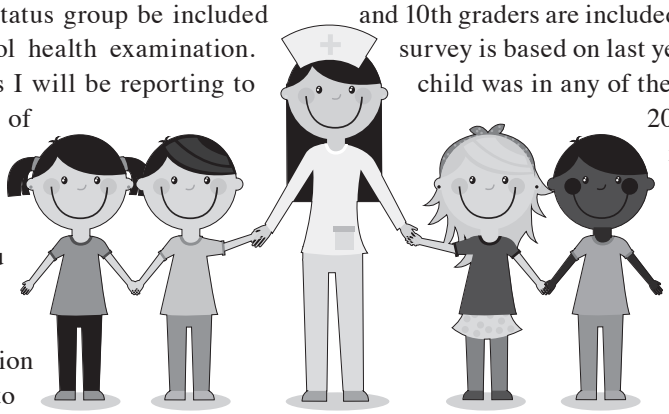
And finally, starting April 1, all families will be asked to designate no more than two drop-offs for their child at night on the school bus. We are having an extreme amount of difficulty getting students delivered to the correct location at night because families change where the child is being dropped off. We have several families that request a different drop off each night, which is very confusing for the bus driver. This also escalates if there is a substitute bus driver. Our goal is to get your child home safe. While I anticipate this taking some juggling for families, it is my hope that with three months' notice families can make preparations ahead of time. Thank you for your understanding with this.

We are moving into school budget season and the next few District Newsletters will provide our community members and taxpayers information on the upcoming school budget vote in May. We welcome you to come to school with budget questions or attend one of our Board of Education meetings to hear a budget presentation. Please continue to email, call and stop by the District Office with any questions you might have. Have a great month!

Sincerely yours,
Timothy R. Ryan
Superintendent of Schools

School Nurse Information

Cherry Valley-Springfield Central School has been selected along with numerous other NYS schools to compile data on student's Body Mass Index (BMI). BMI, which is based on height and weight, is used to help us decide if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Recent changes to the New York State Education law require that BMI and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. As a selected school to do this I will be reporting to New York State Department of health with only a summary or our status. No names and no information about individual students are sent; however, you may choose to have your child's information excluded from this survey report. This information is used by health officials to develop healthy programs for schools including nutritional programs and physical education opportunities. If you do not wish to have your child's weight status group information included as part of the survey please call or email me to opt out by January 20.



Please note that only grades Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2, 4, 7 and 10th graders are included in this survey. Also, this year's survey is based on last year's students; therefore, if your child was in any of the listed grades during the 2014-2015 school year they would be included in this survey.

Thank you,
Chelsea Fassett, RN
School Nurse
607-264-3218
cfassett@cvscs.org

SADD and Reality Check Team Up to Celebrate the Great American Smoke Out!

Reality Check Youth Advocates in Cherry Valley, Springfield and Worcester partnered with their schools and communities to promote a tobacco-free New York during The Great American Smoke Out (GASO) on November 19. GASO is The American Cancer Society's annual event to encourage smokers to quit. Local Reality Check youth used the opportunity to encourage communities to stop tobacco marketing so that their peers do not have to struggle to quit tobacco addiction. The CV-S Reality Check Youth Advocates and the Cherry Valley-Springfield SADD group teamed up to celebrate the Great American Smoke Out. Reality check brought attention to the impact of tobacco marketing on youth of the community with bright colorful emoji's stating the they *Have Seen Enough* of big tobacco's advertising aimed at youth. Students and faculty alike signed emoji's and posted them in the entrance to the building on a *power wall*. A *power wall* is the term used to describe the massive walls of tobacco advertising at places like convenience stores and gas stations. The entire week before the GSO, morning announcements with key messages were read including facts like how 203 young people under 18 become daily smokers each week in NewYork State.

The power wall was a great success, over 180 students and staff at CVS participated. This event was a great opportunity for both reality check and SADD to work together raising awareness and promoting a healthy life.

— Danielle Viscosi

CV-S Library Claudia Lusk Memorial Fund

On September 1, Cherry Valley-Springfield School Community lost Claudia Lusk, a long-time CV-S classroom volunteer, active supporter of our annual book fairs and the 1,000 Books Program. To honor her many contributions to our school community, the PAC will be partnering with her family to establish a collection of books in her memory that will be housed in our LMC. Anyone wishing to contribute to the purchase of a library-bound hardcover book should send a check payable to: *CV-S PAC c/o Karen Rury, PO Box 85, Cherry Valley, NY, 13320*. Please note in the memo that the check should be used for the *Claudia Lusk Memorial*. Donations are welcome at any time ,but would be greatly appreciated before the end of January, so that purchases can be made in the new year.

Alumni Spotlight

This month's alumni spotlight features Vanessa Bley. Vanessa is a graduate of the Class of 2001. With her current career in the music industry, she bounces between Los Angeles and New York City, however she calls Cherry Valley her hometown. Vanessa currently is a member of two bands, Twin Danger and Beast Patrol. Both bands have had the opportunity to play at Star Theatre in Cherry Valley. According to Vanessa, her greatest professional accomplishment is being able to travel and perform her music. Her interests include composing, singing, playing both guitar and piano. She is also a part of several organizations including; VBley, Universal Classics, and Space Camp Radio. When asked about the most valuable lesson she ever learned, she states that it is to let go of what is holding you back. According to Vanessa, letting go is more important than knowing what to do next. If she had the chance to come back to CV-S she would choose to teach a class called, *Choose Your Own Adventure*. In this class she would share her advice that the world is big and to go out and explore it. As a student at CV-S, Vanessa's favorite teacher was the late Mrs. Donna Thienpoint. Mrs. Thienpont was both inspiring and very exciting. Ms. Bley learned many lessons at CV-S, the most important of which was learning to deal with a variety of personalities, which she has been able to apply to her career.

— Shannon Sears

Correction

In the previous month's alumni spotlight. Malala was erroneously stated as being from Iraq, but she is Pakistani.

Music Department News

All-State

Congratulations to **Zachariah O'Connor** for his outstanding performance with the 2015 NYSSMA Conference All-State Mixed Chorus. Students auditioned last spring at NYSSMA Solo Festivals across the state. Zach was one of 280 vocalists selected for this honor. He traveled to Rochester on December 3 and spent two and a half days rehearsing for the concert. The Chorus was directed by Sandra Snow from Michigan State University and featured the following choral selections: *Star Spangled Banner,* Francis Scott Key/ Smith; *A Prairie Sunset,* Cecil Effinger; *Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren from Geistliches Lied, Op. 30*, Johannes Brahms/ arr. Rutter; *Ezekiel Saw de Wheel,* arr. William Dawson; *I Carry Your Heart with Me,* Abbie Betinis; *Lullaby,* Daniel Elder; and *Blogodop,* Sydney Guillaume. Thank you to Erica McMyler for helping Zach prepare his audition piece last year, Sue Ethington for accompanying him on piano, and Anthony Dangler for working with Zach to prepare for this performance.

All-County

The following students have been accepted into the 2016 All-County ensembles:

- **Elementary Band—***Arianna Bresee-Kelsey, Kyle France, Dylan Huff, Marijke Kroon, Brandon Preston, Oskar Webster* and *Emma Whiteman*
- **Junior High Band—***Caleb Carpenter, Natalie Davis, Makayla Gwinn, Mia Horvath, Sarah Lewis, Luke Loveland, Andrew Oram, Rebecca Phillips* and *Samantha Van Gelder*
- **Senior High Band—***Slade Brigham, Kaitlyn Ehlers, Hailey Erway, Mark Gustafson, Jacob Kroll, Karah Morton, Claudia Preston, Jared Tracy* and *Victoria Viscosi*
- **Junior High Choir—***Natalie Davis, Olivia Jicha* and *Samantha Van Gelder*
- **Senior High Choir—***Emily Burr, Honora Davis, Dorothy Oakley, Zachariah O'Connor* and *Amanda Pressly*
- **Vocal Jazz—***Zachariah O'Connor*

Susquehanna University Honors Band Festival

Congratulations to the following students for being accepted into the 2016 Susquehanna University Honors Band: Mark Gustafson, Anthony Hurley, and Jared Tracy. These students were chosen through an application and recommendation process. They will spend two and a half days in rehearsals and master classes, and will have the opportunity to see the University faculty in concert. The students will perform in the final concert, which will take place at the Susquehanna University Weber Chapel Auditorium on Sunday, February 21, at 3:00 p.m.

Updates from the Elementary Music Wing—3rd Grade General Music

The 3rd grade general music students have been busy testing for *belts* through the Recorder Karate unit. Students earn a belt after successfully playing melodies such as *Hot Cross Buns* and *Gently Sleep*. Playing the recorder provides young musicians a great foundation for learning other wind instruments. Additional benefits of recorder playing include increased coordination and teamwork through ensemble playing.

4th Grade Band

Beginning band students have been busy this year as they learn their instruments. Students have made great strides and continue to improve. Parents: Please keep encouraging your students to practice! Students are encouraged to practice 15-20 minutes a day in order to create a strong foundation to build upon as they progress in the band program.

5th Grade Choir

5th grade choir students performed three selections at the winter concert on December 10. The selections performed were Give a Little Love Away, Always Friends, and Frosty Hand Jive. Students sang in two and even three parts at times. Their program was well received by the audience.

Senior Band Performs at Farmers' Museum

On December 12 a group of Senior Band students performed holiday music at the Cooperstown Farmers' Museum's Candlelight Evening. The students performed on the balcony of the Bump Tavern for 30 minutes before taking in the festivities themselves. It was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season!

Senior Band and Choir Caroling

A group of Senior Band and Choir students (and alumni!) caroled around Cherry Valley in December. We ended the evening with a pizza party. Many thanks to Don and Janet Brigham for hosting our group!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who supported our fruit and candle fundraiser. The money raised will be used to purchase or repair equipment and supplies, provide additional opportunities for our students and celebrate our students' hard work. Mrs. Oram, Mr. Dangler and all of the students greatly appreciate the support of our community, our colleagues, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Keane, Mrs. Crisman and the CV-S School Board. This year's top sellers from each ensemble were: Senior Band: **Kaitlyn Ehlers;** Senior Choir: **BJ Webster;** Junior Band; **Vanessa Erkson;** Junior Choir: **Kalvin Grimm;** 5th Grade Band: **Nathan DePietro;** 5th Grade Choir: **Zachary Smoot**; and 4th Grade Band: **Erin Williams.**

Partial Winter 2016 Continuing Education Schedule

Check the school website (*www.cvscs.org*) for Continuing Ed. Info under the "Community" heading on January 4th for the FULL Winter Schedule.

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	DATE/TIME	FEE
ADVANCED NATURAL SOAP MAKING: Learn the benefits of 3 different options for your cold process soap base including castile and get the basics of formulating your own recipe. Goat's milk, honey, herbs and a blending of scents will be used in addition to 2- color swirls. You must have attended the Beginning Natural Soap making in order to take this course.	Maria Gelnett, Certified Soapmaker	Saturday, March 12 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	$65/1 class Includes most supplies
AIKIDO: Learn a Japanese martial art! "Aikido is a non-violent martial art that promotes harmony of the mind, body and spirit . . . " Ages 10 thru adult welcome. For more information, call the instructor at (607) 547-6201.	Linda Cox	Tuesdays: 5:45-7:00 p.m., Starting January 12	$36/6 classes
AWAKEN YOUR INTUITIVE SELF: Are you ready to discover, explore, and learn to develop your intuitive abilities? This series of 4 classes will help you reconnect with your natural inner knowing through games, guided meditation, intuition exercises and discussion in a positive supportive setting. Learn simple effective techniques to identify and strengthen your intuitive connections.	Mary Bergen	Wednesdays beginning January 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.	$35/4 classes
BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP (adults): Create and finish a handcrafted wastebasket. All materials are included in the course fee.	Susan Hardy	Tuesday, February 9 6:15-8:45 p.m.	$28/1 class and materials
BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP (students grades 3 and up): Create a simple basket for your "stuff." All materials are included in the course fee. Adults welcome too.	Susan Hardy	Tuesday, February 9 3:15-5:45 p.m.	$17/1 class and materials
BEGINNING BEEKEEPING CLASS: Sponsored by the Leatherstocking Beekeepers' Association, topics covered in the class will include Honey Bee Biology, Starting Out, Bee Equipment, Managing the Beekeeping Year, Diseases and Pests, and Products of the Hive.	Leatherstocking Beekeepers' Assoc	Saturday, January 23: 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *Snow Date: January 30*	$30/1 class light refreshments provided
BEGINNING NATURAL SOAP MAKING: Create your own old-fashioned cold processed healing bar soap. Go home with 30 bars of colored (swirled), herbed and scented soap (lavender, lemongrass, cinnamon and more). Some supplies such as pots, rubber gloves, etc needed.	Maria Gelnett, Certified Soapmaker	Saturday, January 30 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	$55/1 class Includes most supplies
CREATE WITH CRICUT: Create several winter-themed and Valentine's Day projects (cards, envelopes, gift bags, 3-D crafts, stencils for etching) from a variety of materials (paper, fabric and vinyl). Learn about machine settings and experiment with a variety of cartridges.	PJ Johnson	Wed. January 20 and 27: 6:00-8:00 p.m. AND/OR Saturday, January 16: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	$30/2 classes and some materials
HEALTH SCIENCES APPLIED TO COACHING: Required course for NYS Coaching Certification. Selected principles and concepts in physiology of exercise, kinesiology, psychology related to coaching. Emphasis placed on the mechanics, recognition, prevention and proper care of athletic injuries.	Jordan Jaquay	Wednesdays beginning week of February 10, 7:00 p.m.	$120/15 classes
JR. KARATE I: (3rd Block starts January 4)	Brian Cox	Mondays: 5:30-6:30 p.m. beginning January 4	$23/6 classes
JR. KARATE II	Brian Cox	Mondays: 6:30-7:30 p.m.	$23/6 classes
BEGINNING ADULT KARATE: (starts January 8)	Brian Cox	Fridays: 5:30-6:30 p.m. beginning January 8	$23/6 classes
JR. KARATE III	Brian Cox	Fridays: 6:30-7:30 p.m.	$25/6 classes
ADULT KARATE	Brian Cox	Mondays and Fridays: 7:30-9:00 p.m.	$38/6 classes

LET'S PAINT A WINTER SCENE!: The subject of this acrylic painting class will be a chickadee on a branch in a winter setting.	Anna Halkowich	Tuesday, January 19 6:00-8:00 p.m.	$25/1 class Includes supplies
KNITTING FOR BEGINNERS: A basic knitting class in two parts. During Part 1 (first 2 weeks) learn to create a simple knit 1, purl 1 rib scarf. Part 2 (next 3 weeks) includes instruction on knitting a beanie-style hat. Take one or both parts. Students responsible for purchasing their own supplies. Suggestions for materials will be given upon registration.	Kathy Gardner	Mondays: January 25 and February 1/scarf 6:30-8:00 p.m. Mondays: February 8, 22, 29/hat 6:30-8:00 p.m.	$40/5 classes/hat and scarf $20/2 classes/ scarf $28/3 classes/hat
YOGA: This yoga is a gentle practice allowing the body to open at its own pace. Using props for support, poses are held without effort or force. Deeply relaxing. Wear loose fitting clothing and bring a yoga mat.	Bonnie Fayssoux	Tuesdays beginning January 19 Thursdays beginning January 21 5:45-6:45 p.m.	$36/6 classes $8/walk-ins
ZENTANGLE: Come *tangle* with us! The Zentangle Method is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. Create beautiful images, increase focus and creativity, and receive artistic satisfaction.	Rebecca Carter	Tuesday, February 9 6:00-8:00 p.m.	$22/1 class w/ kit $15/1 class if you have your own kit
ZUMBA: A Latin-inspired dance-fitness exercise program for cardio and toning. Will also do some work with light hand-weights (2-3 lbs). Sign up for Tuesday evening or Thursday evenings or BOTH! New students may try a class for FREE!	Suzanne Fine	Tuesdays beginning January 19: 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays beginning January 21: 5:30-6:30 p.m.	$36/6 classes walk-ins $8/class Join the class at any time

Please Join Us!

Please Join Us!

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Home Phone #_____

Cell # _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

Email Address:_____

Course Title: _____

Amt. Paid Cash:_____

Amt. Paid Check:_____

COURSE REGISTRATION INFO—
Registration begins on January 4, 2016

- **Pre-**registration can be done **BY PHONE** (607-264-3265, ext. 518) or **EMAIL** *(pjohnson@ cvscs.org)* but must be followed up with payment by mail or dropped off at the CV-S Main Office c/o PJ Johnson.
- Registration **IN PERSON** can be completed on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00-10:00 a.m. in Room 144 with Continuing Ed Coordinator, PJ Johnson, or dropped off at the Main Office during school hours.
- Registration can also be completed **BY MAIL** with payment and the completed form sent to **Cherry Valley-Springfield CS Continuing Ed Program, c/o PJ Johnson, PO Box 485, Cherry Valley, NY 13320.**
- Enrollment in most classes is limited. So sign up early! Only those registered will receive course changes, updates, or cancellations info. Classes without minimum enrollment will be cancelled.
- Checks for all courses should be made payable to **CV-S Continuing Ed.**
- If school or after-school activities are cancelled for any reason, Continuing Ed classes would also be cancelled.
- Non-district residents are welcome to attend Continuing Ed courses at CV-S.

U.S. Fire Administration

Winter Fires

Safety Tips for the Home

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of woodburning stoves and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs.

All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

Kerosene Heaters

- ✘ Be sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- ✘ Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- ✘ Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- ✘ Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- ✘ Use ONLY the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.
- ✘ Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.
- ✘ Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

Furnace Heating

- ✘ It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- ✘ Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- ✘ Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- ✘ Check the flue pipe and pipe seams. Are they well supported and free of holes and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- ✘ Is the chimney solid, with cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- ✘ Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

Finally...

- ✘ Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke alarm, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.
- ✘ Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family.
- ✘ Contact your local fire department for advice if you have a question on home fire safety.

Wood Stoves and Fireplaces

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

To use them safely:

- ✘ Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36") from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- ✘ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- ✘ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- ✘ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- ✘ The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- ✘ Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- ✘ Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- ✘ Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite theses materials.
- ✘ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

Other Fire Safety Tips

- ✘ Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- ✘ Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- ✘ If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry an amp load. TIP: Choose an extension cord the same size or larger than the appliance electrical cord.
- ✘ Avoid using electrical space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- ✘ Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame, otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a laboratory tested device such as a hand held dryer for thawing.
- ✘ If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all the windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- ✘ If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.

For more information or copies of this publication, please contact:
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16825 South Seton Avenue • Emmitsburg, Maryland 21727
800-561-3356 • www.usfa.dhs.gov
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Happy New Year!