

June 3, 2008

Dear Freedom Green neighbors:

I am Don Stuart at 36 Samuel Lane. I write regarding the wireless networks many of us use with our computers. These are convenient, but they also create a problem. Many of our wireless devices are running unsecured. Ironically, wireless routers come with free security routines which encrypt the wireless signal the router sends out. The encryption "key" is different from the password that the router uses to prevent someone from changing your settings. Unless you have the security key enabled, anyone can connect to your network.

In recent days, (6 neighbors') "unsecured" networks are broadcasting into my home.

How do you know if your router is unsecured?

If you use a Windows operating system, right-click on the "Network Connections" icon at the lower right of your screen. Then click "Connect To A Network" and the computer will display a list of available networks, each of them designated as "Security-Enabled" or "Unsecured."

If you have an Apple computer, in the menu at the top of the screen, click the wireless icon and then select "Turn Airport On". Go to Apple > System Preferences and select the Network icon (third row down). Under "Location" select "Automatic" and under "Show" select "Airport". On the TCP/IP tab, "Configure IPv4" should be set to "Using DHCP". In the menu at the top of the screen, click the wireless icon. You will now see a list of available networks to join.

If you see that your network is listed as "Unsecured," please consult the manual that came with your router, or visit the manufacturer's website, and enable your router's security settings. If you want assistance, I will help as much as I can if you will call me at 423-0611.

Help prevent unknown people from accessing your computer and network.

Thank you!