



Old Town Neighborhood Watch

# Our Neighborhood News

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Printed Courtesy of the City of Allentown. Printed on Recycled Paper.

Jan/Feb, 2010

OTNW.tripod.com

## OTNW Meetings

*We meet the last Wednesday of every month from 7 to 8 PM*  
**Location: the Youth Success Zone office, 250 N. 8th Street (next to Nixie's Salon).**

### January Meeting:

1/27/2009 @ 7 PM

### February Meeting:

2/24/2009 @ 7 PM

*Nosotros tenemos un reunion el final miercoles del todos los meses a las 7 en el noche.*

### Reunion en Enero:

1/27/2009 @ 7 PM

### Reunion en Febrero:

2/24/2009 @ 7 PM

*Se habla ingles.*



## Santa Stops By Our Christmas Village! By John Krumenacher

On a cold December Morning, with thoughts of Christmas in their minds, children made their way down to Steve's Laundromat Parking lot, which had been transformed into a Christmas Village! Where cars once were parked, craft tents were erected for the Children to make a special holiday craft. Children made elf hats and Christmas cards for that special someone on their Christmas list.

Thanks to the generosity of the Alert Partnership, there was a Christmas tree for all to enjoy. It was decorated with earth-friendly renewable decorations for the wild-



life of our neighborhood. The birds and squirrels enjoyed pinecones covered with birdseed and peanut butter and special popcorn balls.

Santa soon arrived and greeted all the kids while photos were taken as he listened to all the Christmas wishes. Neighbors had the opportunity to meet new people, socialize

with friends, and spread some Christmas Cheer.

Over 200 people attended our first ever Christmas Village. The event was organized by OTNW with a lot of help from Target of Airport Road in Allentown. Neighborhood Housing Services donated the excellent Santa.

Target donated gift bags for the Children, decorations, and an assortment of things to make this a Jolly Christmas Village. Target also brought out some volunteers to help with the event.

**Thanks Target!!!**

## Our New Meeting Space! By Anne Crothers

We have been homeless for a while, and of course there has been drama in our search! We are not done forever, but we are done for now.

We will be meeting in the Youth Success Zone office at 250 N. 8th Street, next to Nixie's Beauty Shop. There is parking there and on the street, for those who don't want to walk in the cold!



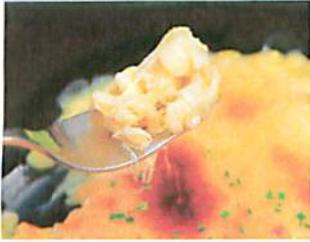
Our speaker for the January meeting will be Alicia Ruiz Orbin, the director of the Youth Success Zone to welcome us and to tell us more about their cooperative which has been in our neighbor-

hood since the summer.

She had requested to attend our meeting and when learning of our location problem, reached out a helping hand.

Youth Success Zone has not yet formally announced their program and our meeting will be a beginning of that. Come and get acquainted!

## Morton's Restaurant By Anne Crothers



Homemade macaroni and cheese at Morton's, 442 N. 8th Street!

Morton's Restaurant took over the 8th and Liberty spot vacated by LoBaido's. It's one of the only spots in our neighborhood with off-street parking. Morton's has brought a whole new soul.

Morton's is a family business, opened by Sylvia and Lloyd Morton in September. Sylvia grew up in Georgia and learned to cook by watching her grandmother. She brings Southern cooking to Allentown.

Morton's is known for catfish—a dish that I've heard is hard to do well—and they do it well! They cook everything from scratch, using fresh ingredients, from the collard greens to the ribs, to the sweet potato pie. This is tasty, comfort food that is perfectly seasoned and made with love.

The Morton's had a heart-breaking tragedy at the same time they were opening up. Their

daughter was in a serious car accident and was paralyzed from the waist down. She is still getting treatment and the family keeps praying.

Because of this, the grand opening never happened and will take place as this goes to print. Go to Morton's and see what you think. Sylvia says, please bring the kids—they are more than welcome—they are wanted!

## Parking News from Tamara Weller, Allentown Parking Authority

From the Allentown Parking Authority:

Did you know that the Allentown Parking Authority offers discounted monthly parking in our parking garages for neighbors who require parking after 5 p.m.? Call 610 437 3366 x 221 for details.

A representative from the Allentown Parking Authority

is always available to attend your monthly meeting, if your members have any parking-related issues to discuss.

The Allentown Parking Authority will undertake an ambitious lighting project in three of our oldest garages in 2010. The '600 Linden', 'Walnut at 9th' and 'Spiral' decks will re-

ceive lighting upgrades totaling almost \$1 million.

As always, if you require further details, feel free to contact me.

Tamara Weller

Executive Director

Allentown Parking Authority

610/ 437-3366 ext. 226

"Nothing endures but change."

Heraclitus

## Census Reminder from 2010.census.gov

Every 10 years a census is required by the US Constitution. It counts every resident in the US. The results allocate money for:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools

- Senior Centers
- Bridges, public works
- Emergency services

The number of seats our state has in the US House of Representatives is also determined by this count.

In March, census forms

will be delivered. There are 10 short questions and a postage-paid envelope provided. If you **don't** mail it back, someone may come to your house to follow up.

Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law!



The 2010 Census starts in March/April

## Social Security News from Liz Foster, Philadelphia Manager

### GET YOUR BENEFIT VERIFICATION BEFORE THE CHILL SETS IN

By Liz Foster

It's that time of year again – when many states offer energy assistance to people who have low income and resources. Under the energy assistance program, your state may help with the cost of heating your home during the winter. But to get it, in most cases, you'll need to provide proof of your income. If you get Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, you can get proof of the amount of your benefit quickly and

easily by going online. Just visit

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

There are a number of reasons you may need written verification of your benefit amount, besides energy assistance programs. Whatever your reason, Social Security makes it easy for you to get the written verification you need at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). Just look in the left column under "What you can do online." expand the "If you get benefits" section, and select the "Request a Proof of Income letter" link. The letter can be used for any reason that someone re-

quires proof of your income. In addition to offering proof of your income, the letter is an official document that verifies your Medicare coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. The letter does not include your Social Security number.

From the time that you complete the online request, it will take about 10 days for you to receive the proof of income letter in the mail. If you need one sooner, you'll want to call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or visit your local Social Security office.



**Need energy assistance?  
There are programs available to help you.**

**"God gives, but  
man must open his  
hand."**

**German proverb**

## History of Valentine's Cards from [www.stvalentines.org](http://www.stvalentines.org)

Valentine's day is a celebration of love. The tradition of exchanging Valentine's cards is said to have begun as early as the 1400s. By the 18th century, Valentine's cards began to be manufactured on a large scale.

The first US publisher

of Valentine's was a young woman from Massachusetts. Cards were mainly at least partly handmade until the late 1800s. In the early 1900s a card company called Norcross began to manufacture Valentine's cards and were soon followed by other printers. The popu-

larity of the cards has increased over the years. Except for Christmas, Valentine's Day has the most postage associated with it.

Send a card to someone you love—it's part of history! To be green, send e-cards or recycle paper and make your own!



**Happy Valentine's Day!**

## OTNW Community Contact List

### Emergencies Call 911

Abandoned Vehicles	610-437-7751	Neighbor Disputes	610-437-7773
Animal Control	610-437-7535	Noise Complaints	610-437-7679
Building Inspections	610-437-7592	OTNW	610-432-9537
Code Enforcement	610-437-7661	Parking Authority	610-437-3366
Child Abuse	610-437-7798	Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751
City Council	610-437-7556	Police desk	610-437-7753
Disruptive Tenant	610-437-7616	Police Quality of Life patrol	610-437-7611
Fire Code Violations	610-437-7758	Recycling	610-437-8729
Garbage Complaints	610-437-8729	Snow Removal (Sidewalks)	610-437-7596
Graffiti	610-437-8729	Street Cleaning	610-437-7636
Historic Architectural Review Board	610-437-7613	SWEEP Program	610-437-8729
Housing Inspections	610-437-7697	Traffic Signs & Signals	610-437-7735
Juvenile Bureau	610-437-7741	Vacant Property Issues	610-437-7604
Liquor Control Enforcement	717-783-8250	Vice/Narcotics	610-437-7726
Mayor Ed Pawlowski	610-437-7546	Weeds/Grass Overgrowth	610-437-7604
		Zoning	610-437-7630

## Saying Goodbye to Axel by Anne Crothers

Starting a new year and a new decade is about new beginnings. It's also about saying goodbye. The Allentown Police Department lost a trusted friend in 2009, Axel, one of the dogs on the K-9 team. Axel died of cancer on October 22 after serving our city for six years.



Axel's devotion to duty. They described his two personalities, a fierce working persona, and a gentle off-duty personality, fond of belly rubs and affection.

It's hard to lose a best friend, and that's what the APD lost when Axel died. We all benefited from his presence and his service.

There are usually four K-9 dogs at all times, and they are valued members of the APD. Go dogs!



Axel was 8 years old. He was partnered with Sgt. John Hill when he was 18 months old. They trained at a K-9 school in Ohio and then hit the streets of

Allentown.

Axel was used in regular patrols and for drug detection. Axel was involved in several arrests and in 2006, he was awarded a commendation for bravery for his part in capturing a shooting suspect by tracking him down in dense woods.

A memorial service was held on Nov. 5th followed by a wreath-laying at the Allentown Police Academy. The service was an emotional experience, more than one tear was shed when recalling

