

Old Town Neighborhood Watch

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see us on Facebook

Jan/Feb/March 2011



Old Town Neighborhood Watch

The Old Town Voice

OTNW Meetings

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

January Meeting:
1/26/2011 @ 7 PM

No Meeting in
February!

March Meeting:
3/30/2011



About OTNW:

We are the crime watch
group for the Old Allen-
town Historic District, the
area from Hall Street to
12th, Liberty to Linden
Streets.

We speak English at our
meetings, but want all of
our diverse neighbors to
attend. We will help you
get heard!

Printed courtesy of the City of Allentown on recycled paper.

Christmas Village 2! *by Anne Crothers*

Well we did it again. At the last minute. With almost no advertising. We held a Christmas Village for the kids with Santa and a kid's tent and our book tent on Saturday December 11 at Steve's Laundromat at the corner of Turner and 11th. Target joined us with free coffee and kids stuff. Santa was giving out coloring books and candy canes.

It was not as well attended as last year, but there was always plenty of kids hanging around. They made Christmas cards and cool crafts to take home. An impromptu chalk fest sprung up complete with a hop-

scotch contest. Some cool Christmas dogs came by. All in all, it was a wonderful day.

This was our second year holding the event and we did it with less fuss than last

year. To be part of our next event, the Street Festival, email to Healing-works@enter.net. We welcome participation from all, and as always, all our events are free to attend.



Our January Speaker *by Anne Crothers*

Timothy Salgado, our former liaison with the APD, now our connection to the LC District Attorney's office, will be joining us to talk about cases he has had, and to give us an update into how things work at the DA's office.

Salgado used to attend every OTNW meeting and is truly missed, but not forgotten. We will welcome him back eagerly!

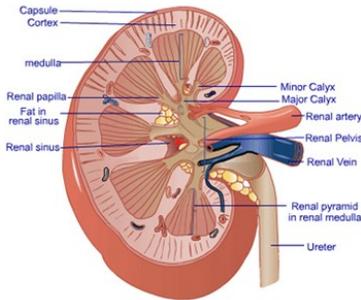
We will also have a visit from a new leadership program that is part of Weed & Seed and will be looking to

recruit people from our neighborhood to hone their leadership skills.

Join us! January 26 at 7 PM at the Youth Success Zone Office, 250 N. 8th Street.

There will be no meeting in February!

Free Kidney Screening *By Rachel N'Diaye*



Check your kidney!

26 million people in the United States with kidney disease and most are not aware of it.

The National Kidney Foundation is planning a free kidney health screening for World Kidney Day, Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Allentown. Please help us to spread the word about this important screening.

The National Kidney Foundation will be holding a free health screening, the

Kidney Early Evaluation Program - KEEP

Thursday, March 10th

10am to 2 pm

JCC of Allentown

702 N. 22nd St.

Allentown, PA, 18104

KEEP is a screening for kidney disease that is open to those with high blood pressure, diabetes or a close family history of either of

these conditions. This free screening includes urinalysis, lab work and a consultation with a physician or nurse practitioner. There are their decreased kidney function. You can find more information at www.keeponline.org.

Appointments are recommended and can be made by calling 1.800.697.7007

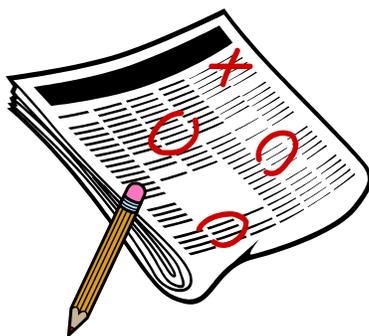
"No snowflake falls in an inappropriate place."
Zen Saying

Same Sex Coverage For City Workers

At the end of January, City Council will vote on whether to provide medical coverage for same-sex partners of city employees. This should not affect the city budget as it only effects a small minority of employees but it will be a new era for civil rights in Allentown.

Because same-sex marriage is not legal in Pennsylvania and also not recognized, employees would have to provide documentation of binding legal ties to their partner before benefits would be awarded. It is estimated that this would effect possibly 4 employees.

It is felt that this is fair legislation that would help provide coverage for those few that can't access it any other way. OTNW was invited to the vote and attended earlier discussion meetings in support of this legislation.



Jobs needed here!

Unemployment...

The unemployment rate for the Lehigh Valley reached a peak in July, 2010 of 10.1%. By November it was down to 8.9%.

There were many people in our neighborhood who were out of work six months ago, from every

Force. Slowly, I saw my friends back to work. Some were called back to jobs they used to have, some found new ones.

I'm sure there are still people looking, and the rate is still high, but it does feel like things are beginning to

break. It's scary to be out of work, and to rely on unemployment benefits to pay bills.

I hope things keep growing and I hope we are all good neighbors to each other when things are good AND not so good.

Award for Artists from the Chen Arts BlogSpot

The Allentown Arts Commission's 23rd Annual Luncheon is planned for May 5, 2011; Nominations due January 21, 2011

Arts Ovation announces that nominations are now being accepted for awards to be presented at the Allentown Arts Commission's Annual Luncheon.

The public is invited to submit their nominations in writing or via email in the following categories:

1. OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN VISUAL, PERFORMING OR LITERARY ARTS: may be an individual and/or arts organizations;
2. OUTSTANDING SERVICE OR CONTRIBUTIONS: may be an individual who has had a major impact on the arts through devoted service in a volunteer capacity; an individual, business, foundation or organization who has had a major impact on the arts by

contributing financial and/or in-kind resources;

3. EMERGING ARTIST/SERVICE/CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD: a new award created in 2009 in any of the above categories for emerging talent, service or contribution.

Applications for nominations are available by emailing Susan Rutt at allentownartscommission@gmail.com, or calling Susan Rutt at 610-791-3497



Art lovers speak out!

Empty Buildings By Anne Crothers

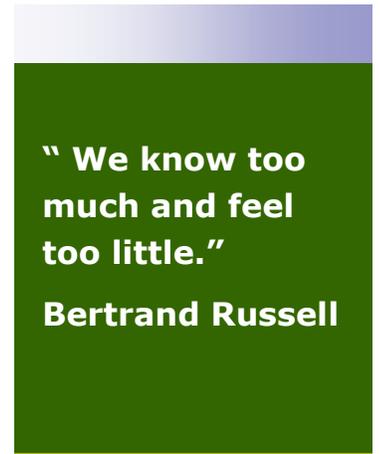
Who dreams of opening their own business? Who is willing to open it in the neighborhood? There are so many empty commercial properties just lingering, waiting in limbo for someone to kiss them to life.

Recently, on the corner of 12th and Linden, a new notary and tax service opened

and seems to be doing well. And in other location, brave souls have opened up their dream businesses. But there are still lots of beautiful properties sitting empty. Some of them can be had for a song, but after sitting empty for so long, it's not clear how much work it would take and how expensive it would be to get them

back in shape. And we've all watched CE Roth struggle with little support in bringing a neglected property back to life.

I'm not sure how this will turn around but it feels like an exciting project. My vote is for a cappuccino place on the corner of Turner and 11th. Bring it!



Valentine's Day Trivia by www.corsinet.com

- 15% of women in the US send themselves flowers on Valentine's Day!
- 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men however.
- About 1 billion cards are exchanged each Valentine's Day.
- About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- Around 110,000,000 roses, mainly red, will be delivered for Valentine's Day.
- Cupid is associated with Valentine's Day because he is the son of Venus, goddess of love and beauty. It is believed that Cupid's arrow magically makes people fall in love.
- Have a happy one!



Happy Valentine's Day!

Emergencies Call 911

Abandoned Vehicles	610-437-7751
Animal Control	610-437-7535
Building Inspections	610-437-7592
Code Enforcement	610-437-7661
Child Abuse	610-437-7798
City Council	610-437-7556
Disruptive Tenant	610-437-7616
Fire Code Violations	610-437-7758
Garbage Complaints	610-437-8729
Graffiti	610-437-8729
Historic Architectural Review Board	610-437-7613
Housing Inspections	610-437-7697
Juvenile Bureau	610-437-7741
Liquor Control Enforcement	717-783-8250
Mayor Ed Pawlowski	610-437-7546
Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751

Neighbor Disputes	610-437-7773
Noise Complaints	610-437-7679
OTNW	610-432-9537
Parking Authority	610-437-3366
Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751
Police desk	610-437-7753
Police Quality of Life patrol	610-437-7611
Recycling	610-437-8729
Snow Removal (Sidewalks)	610-437-7596
Street Cleaning	610-437-7636
SWEEP Program	610-437-8729
Traffic Signs & Signals	610-437-7735
Vacant Property Issues	610-437-7604
Vice/Narcotics	610-437-7726
Weeds/Grass Overgrowth	610-437-7604
Zoning	610-437-7630

Professor Crothers! By Anne Crothers



NCCC wants this guy!

Sam Crothers has begun teaching classes at Northampton County Community College on the rainforest! The first class was in October, 2010 and was just a one hour lecture for students of the 50+ variety. The class went so well that Sam was invited to be part of a lecture series where you have lunch at the Hampton Winds as part of a “Lunch and Learn” series. He will lecture for an hour, then have lunch, and then have an hour for questions and discussion.

If this class is also well received, the next step is to just be invited to have an

ongoing class there as a part time instructor. NCCC became aware of Sam after a Morning Call article last year which detailed his experiences and especially a trip to Ecuador in 2008 where he discovered a new species of orchid. The orchid was later named for him and he received some press coverage as a result.

Sam has been travelling to the rainforests of Central and South America as a visitor, researcher and guide for over 20 years. He recently took an excursion to remote Colombia where he may have discovered another new species of orchid.

Sam will be in Ecuador for February and plans to do some compiling of research he has done for a guide book he is writing on the frogs of Suriname.

Sam also started a Facebook rainforest education page called Rainforest Journeys and gives rainforest facts to his subscribers and posts photos from all over the world. Sam’s website, www.RainforestJourneys.com also gives information on scheduling guided tours of the rainforest.

Interested in the rainforest? You may want to take Sam’s class at NCCC!