Old Town Neighborhood Watch

Community Contact List

Our Neighborhood News

July/August, 2009

OTNW.tripod.com

OTNW Meetings

We meet the last Wednesday of every month at 7PM at St. Michael's Church at 916 Turner Street , the corner of 9th and Turner Streets (enter from the Turner Street door).

July Meeting:

7/29/2009 @ 7 PM

August Meeting:

8/26/2009 @ 7 PM

Nosotros tenemos un reunion el final miercoles del todos los meses en la iglesia San Miguel en 916 Turner a las siete en el noche.

Reunion en Julio:

7/29/2009 @ 7 PM

Reunion en Agosto:

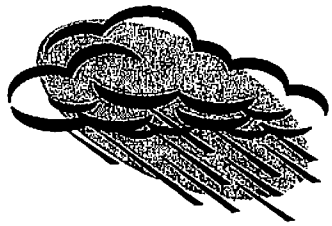
8/26/2009 @ 7 PM

Se habla ingles.

RAINED OUT!!!!!! By Anne Crothers

For the first time in six years, our beloved block party was rained out! Saturday June 20th was a very rainy day in a very rainy week. By 10 AM we had cancelled the DJ, the food vendors, the Port-A-Potties and all the entertainment.

The kid's tent was open and busy until 1 PM when we just gave up! The Smokehouse also showed up, even though they had received the bad news. They operated for hours with the die-hard kids who would NOT go home. Many of them told me they look forward to this event all year long.



There were some other die-hard stands who opened up, including a gourmet cupcake stand! As we were cleaning up, neighbors were still walking up with their families...in the rain. One woman told me that she had moved into the block just for the block party! Some cool teenage guys broke their usual reserve to say "Is that it?" as I was walking home sad...in the rain. That's all

folks...until next year!

We will definitely be planning a rain date for next year's block party. We will probably go back to our usual good weather—but from now on, we're going to be safe and not sorry.

I am dreaming of a holiday party for families to make up for some of this. If it looks like a possibility, I'll let you know. If you have ideas, let me know!

See you next time!

Our Meeting in July! By Anne Crothers

Our July speaker will be Freda Rafes, MSW from

Crime Victims Council of Lehigh Valley, Inc. She will talking about personal safety and prevention awareness; fraud prevention, crime victim assistance laws as well as on Crime Victims Council services.

Crime Victim's Council works to assist the victims of crimes with support through the

emergency room and court process, with support groups, counseling and more.

Come with your questions and concerns . I know there has been a security system scam artist on 11th Street this summer. What else and what can we do about it?

Join us on Wednesday, July 29th @ 7 PM at St. Michael's Church at 9th & Turner . Enter by the Turner Street door.

Summer in The City...every Tuesday!

The line-up continues!

Summer in the City takes place every Tuesday at the PPL Plaza, Hamilton Street, from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. If you are around on Tuesdays, please come down and check it out. The line-up is eclectic and goes until Sept. 29. If it rains that day, the rain venue is inside the Holiday Inn. For more info call 610-841-5808

Schedule:

July 21	Marlene Gilly Swingtet
July 28	Grey Sky Turn
August 4	Sarah Ayers Band
August 11	Todd Wolfe
August 18	Steve Brosky & Jimmy Meyer
August 25	Christy Jefferson & Vogon Poetry
September 1	Dan De Chellis Trio
September 8	BC & Company

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless ."

Mother Teresa

Allentown—Good Place to Live? Info from www.bestplaces.net

According to the Best Places website which rates a city's livability based on several factors, Allentown is way above the nation's average for both violent crime and property crime.

Violent crime, on a scale from 1 (low crime) to 10 (highest crime rate), is 6. Violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The US average is 3.

Property crime in Allentown, on a scale from 1 (low) to 10, (highest) is 7. Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. The US average is 3.

These statistics are based on past years and have probably shifted somewhat, but clearly we have a long way to go before we can be considered a "best place".

Mural Madness By Anne Crothers

Will we get a mural?

There have been two public meetings now at St. Michael's about the possibility of a mural coming into our neighborhood. Each time, this planning process was hampered by some pretty vocal opposition. The level of anger is high!

What's bad about a mural? I'm not sure but some attendees seem to feel that the process left their voice out. Others seemed concerned about what the mural would look like—which was of course the point of having the very meetings they were disrupting.

I remember the shouting when they wanted to turn a parking lot into a park. It seems that we communication sometimes by tearing at each other. I think this kind of angry communication defeats the purpose and actually prevents us from hearing each other.

When will we begin to really work together?

The Great Allentown Fair, Sept. 1-7 from Allentown Ahead

The Great Allentown Fair rolls into full force for Labor Day, starting Sept 1st and ending Sept. 7th. The fair is known for it's rides and games, it's culinary contests and even the Allentown Fair Queen Contest and scholarship. It is also known for it's entertainment.

Headliners this year include:

- Tim McGraw with special guest Chris Young
- J&J Demolition Derby
- Earth Wind & Fire and Chicago
- Jeff Dunham
- Brad Paisley with special guests Dierks Bentley and Jimmy Wayne
- Kelly Clarkson

In addition to the grandstand shows, there is the Farmerama Theater shows, the Music Tent, Agri-Plex animal exhibits, Agri-Land exhibits, and plenty of fun games and rides for children and adults.

The rides are provided by Powers Great America Midway, and offer wristbands for unlimited rides. Tickets for individual rides can also be purchased.

The Fair will have FREE admission on Tuesday, Sept 1, and will be free from noon to 2 PM on Sept. 2, 3 & 4. Wristbands for All-Day rides will sell for $20, but can be purchased for $15 in advance and for $12 on preview night.

The Great Allentown Fair was established in 1852

The Great Allentown Fair has pages on both My Space and Facebook and seems to appeal to residents and visitors of all ages.

There are always plenty of food vendors, and inside the Farmer's Market, which closes for regular business that week, retail vendors.

The Great Allentown Fair celebrates it's 157th year this year and plans to make it another great event. Plan to attend at least once!

See you at the Fair!

"Living in the past is a dull and lonely business; looking back strains the neck muscles, causes you to bump into people not going your way!"

Edna Ferber

Homelessness in Allentown by Anne Crothers

Allentown has homeless people. It seems that we only think about them on very cold and very hot days, but they are around every day. Sometimes we see them hanging around Hamilton Street. Sometimes they approach us at the gas station. Where do they go, what do they do?

Under the 8th Street bridge, in Tent City, there is another world. A world of hunger and deprivation, of addiction and mental illness.

We have some shelters in town also, the Allentown Rescue Mission and the Sixth Street Shelter. We may contribute at Thanksgiving, but what about the rest of the year?

Who hasn't experienced their share of failure? Who hasn't needed a hand up from time to time? Time to think about what else we can do as a community to help the invisible, the powerless, the homeless.

Under the 8th Street Bridge is another world...

Old Town Neighborhood Watch

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

Community Contact List

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

It's Census Time Again! by Michael Moore

The City of Allentown is gearing-up for the start of the 2010 United States Census. Mayor Ed Pawlowski and United States Census Bureau Philadelphia Assistant Regional Census Manager Nunzio Cerniglia addressed a gathering of more than 75 business leaders, community members and organization representatives at a kickoff meeting this morning at Bucky Boyle Park.

"It is vitally important that all Allentown residents are counted," said Pawlowski. More than 170 federal programs incorporate census population data into formulas that determine the range and level of funding available for cities. "In 2000 that meant $3,339 for every resident of the city over ten years," said Pawlowski. "Counting an additional 1000 residents in 2010 would mean an additional $3.3 million for the city. Every person counts."

Fernando E. Armstrong, United States Census Bureau Philadelphia Regional Director, states, "Alliances with partners like the City of Allentown are vitally important to achieving a complete census count. We rely on community leaders who are trusted messengers to help spread the word about the importance of the census to the community and to reinforce that completing the 2010 Census is easy and safe because all information remains confidential."

Census figures have wide-ranging impacts. Retailers, financial institutions and other private sector investors rely on census population data to reach investment decisions across cities. Census population indicators significantly contribute to the perception of a city, signaling economic prosperity and opportunity.

Pawlowski called on those in attendance to take a leadership role and work alongside our schools, our businesses, our community associations, our hospitals and our faith community to ensure that all Allentonians are fully counted in the 2010 Census.

Plan to participate by completing your census honestly and completely. We need everyone's help!