

Old Town Neighborhood Watch

Otnw.tripod.com

March/April, 2010



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).

March Meeting:
3/31/2010

April Meeting:
4/28/2010



About OTNW:

We are the crime watch group for the Old Allentown 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.

Step Away from the Cell Phone! by Anne Crothers

Time to switch to hands free! City Council has voted to enforce a hands-off policy toward cell phone calls and texts while driving in our fair city. Hands free calls are still acceptable. This is an attempt to increase driver alertness and reduce the number of accidents.

Actually, a study conducted by the University of Utah in 2006 showed that both kinds of calls were a problem. In the study, while on either type of cell phone (hands-free or hand-held), drivers were more likely to rear-end the car ahead of them than when

they were undistracted. They were also slower to brake and to accelerate after braking while on either type of cell phone.

No differences were seen between the use of hands-free or hand-held cell phones while driving. The conversation itself -- not the device -- may be the biggest distraction.

"Clearly the safest course of action is not to use a cell phone while driving," the researchers write. They add that when they interviewed participants after the study, most hadn't realized that their driving was worse while on the cell phone.



Hands free only!

The car seems to be a convenient place to make calls, but in truth, we all know we drive most safely when we are completely focused on the road.

First-time offenders will be warned, second-time offenders will be fined. Time to hang up!

Our March Meeting from Sharon Smith

Our speaker for March will be Leonard Lightner, Rehab Supervisor for Allentown City Bureau of Standards and Safety. He is making the rounds to neighborhood groups to discuss some programs for the neighborhood.

Specifically, he would like to partner with neighbors in dealing with and targeting vacant properties, problem and absent landlords, and other neighborhood headaches.

We all know how one bad property on a block can

reduce the quality of life for everyone. Please plan to attend and bring addresses of problem rentals or vacant properties in your neck of the neighborhood.

The meeting will be Wednesday, March 31 at 7 PM at 250 N. 8th Street. See



*Dennis Mendez
from Target*

Target's Been Giving! By Anne Crothers

Just by pure luck, the LV Target giving representative, Dennis Mendez, happens to live in our neighborhood. It was Target's generosity and amazing Christmas spirit that transformed our tiny holiday event into the tremendous success that it was. What didn't make the paper due to space considerations was the tremendous generosity that Target also showed to a neighborhood family in crisis.

Just before Christmas, Target made the dreams come true of a little boy in our neighborhood who is struggling with cancer. He received everything on his Christmas wish list and so did his two siblings, his foster sister and his foster parents. They also received all the fixings for an amazing Christmas dinner. This was from not just Target, but the employees of Target who also gave on their own.

This enthusiasm can be traced to Dennis Mendez. His infectious caring and energy seems to spread to others. Currently he has been working with the Pediatric Cancer Foundation. He will also be working with survivors of sexual abuse, and of course, the OTNW Street Festival.

A big thank you to Dennis for the amazing work he is doing for Allentown.

Parking News from Tamara Weller

Miscellaneous notes from the Allentown Parking Authority.

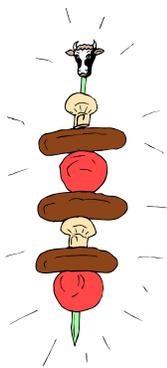
- The Allentown Parking Authority recently converted an empty lot in the 100 block of Oak Street into neighborhood parking. If you are interested in learning

more about parking in this lot, please contact Marge Hopkins at 610 437 3366 x 221. This lot is available for neighbors, as well as employees of Harrison Morton School.

- For those of you who pay to park at a meter: Make sure you take ad-

vantage of our 'cash key' program. You can purchase a meter key, add as much 'parking' on the key as you'd like, then use it around town in place of coins at single-space meters. Call Marge at 610 437 3366 x221 for details.

**"Slow down and
enjoy life."
Eddie Cantor**



*Food outside the
ordinary.*

Four Aces Grill

Just outside our neighborhood at the corner of 13th and Hamilton, the Four Aces Grill has opened for business. In a space that has housed a number of failed cafes, a tasteful renovation has made all the difference. For those who haven't tried it, the décor is lovely, espe-

cially the large sliding door/window that will open up to patio seating once this weather starts warming up.

Known for exotic meats like bison and unusual presentations, the Four Aces has been a more upscale addition to the Allentown foodie

scene. They have just added a breakfast service and appear to be here to stay.

Looking for something different? Check out the Four Aces Grill. 1301 Hamilton Street, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Homebuyer's Supermarket *from Michael Moore*

If you're interested in buying a home, you can learn everything you need to know before making your decision by attending next week's Allentown Home Buyers Supermarket. Representatives from realty companies, lenders, title companies, insurance companies and more will be on hand on Saturday, March 13, 2010 in the Annex Building at Ag Hall at the Allentown Fairgrounds at 17th & Chew streets in the

city. The event will be held from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free. It is sponsored by the City of Allentown's Bureau of Building Standards & Safety and the Allentown Redevelopment Authority.

Among other things, attendees will be able to view property listings, learn about down payment assistance programs and fixed rate loans for rental property owners and get insurance quotes. Free seminars and

classes on various subjects of interest to homebuyers will be held every hour.

Details on the city's Homesteading Program will also be available at the event. Under the program, the city takes abandon or blighted properties and converts them to Homesteading properties. Homesteading property will be conveyed to successful applicants on a conditional deed basis for one dollar (\$1.00).



Learn about home buying and special programs.

Our Street Festival is Scheduled!

The 11th Street Block Party/Street Festival for 2010 has been scheduled for Saturday June 19th. Because of our rain problems last year, the rain date will be Sunday, June 20th. Yes we learn something every year. The festival will be from 10 to 4 and is for all family members. As usual, we will have activities, food, flea

market, education and much more. Our DJ will be back and taking requests.

How can you be a part? Lots of ways, here are a few:

1. Attend with your kids!
2. Volunteer to help with set-up, clean-up or at a booth.
3. Set up a table and sell

flea market items, do face painting, or sell cold sodas.

4. Get your church or favorite organization to participate.

For any or all of the above, the cost is FREE and we would love to have you. It's our favorite day of the year!

" Knowing your own darkness is the best method for dealing with the darkness of other people."

Carl Jung

Easter Eggs *from www.holidays.net*

Of all the images associated with Easter, the egg is the most identifiable. The egg symbolizes fertility and new life. Decorating eggs for Easter started centuries ago.

Originally, Easter eggs were painted bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring.

They were also used in egg-rolling contests or given as Easter gifts.

After being decorated, the eggs were exchanged by lovers or romantic admirers, just like valentines were. In medieval times, eggs were also given to the household

servants as gifts.

Many different cultures have Easter egg traditions and special ways of decorating them. The internet has many wonderful images of eggs from all over the world.



Have a Happy Easter!

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
Police Non-emergency	610-437-7751	Zoning	610-437-7630

Keep Your Identity Safe!



Identity theft is a pain!

See these guidelines.

1. Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED.'
2. When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card, DO NOT put the complete account number on the 'For' line. Instead, just put the last four numbers.
3. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box, use that or your work address instead of your home ad-

dress.

4. Place the contents of your wallet on a copy machine. Do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. Keep the copy in a safe place.
5. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. Keep the toll free number and your card numbers where you can find them.
6. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards, etc., were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent, and this is

a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important:

7. Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number.

1. Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

2. Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

3. Trans Union: 1-800-680 7289