

Old Town Neighborhood Watch

Otnw.tripod.com

May/June, 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).

May Meeting:
5/26/2010

June Meeting:
6/30/2010



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.

Street Festival Time! *by Anne Crothers*

The time is here! Our 11th Street Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 19th from 10 to 4 PM. As always, we will be closing down 11th Street between Turner and Chew Streets. Because of the very traumatic rain out last year, we picked a rain date of Sunday, June 20th, but we won't need it!

As always, we will have lots of activities for kids and families, plenty of food, and our intrepid DJ will be playing music we all like!

For those who have never been, we also have a drum circle, performances by the Parkettes, a kid's craft tent, and lots of organizations,

including the Baum Art School (new this year).

Every year our festival gets bigger, and gets different with new folks bringing cool new ideas. We try to have as much stuff for kids to do as we can since we have a million around here! We welcome people, churches, organizations, businesses, everyone to come and participate. There is no cost to come, just bring a table and we'll assign you a spot!

How can you get involved? Just come and bring your family! Want to do more? Come throw up a table and sell some stuff, it's



free for you and our crowd loves to shop! Want to do even more? We need ten brave souls to donate blood to the bloodmobile, if you are willing, let us know. We also always need help setting up from 8 am to 10 am and taking down from 4 pm to 5 pm. Even more? We need help manning tables for our stuff, and help in the kid's tent. We need lots of help all the time. Let us know what you want to do, and we'll be glad to see you! BE THERE!!!! 6/19!!!

Our May Meeting *by Anne Crothers*

Our speaker for May is not yet scheduled. We may need some last minute planning time for the street festival and I'd like to hear more about the "CSI" lab in Bethlehem. I guess you'll just have to show up to find out what happens!

After a rocky start, we have settled into our new home at the Youth Success Zone office at 250 N. 8th Street next to Nixie's Nail Salon. Alicia usually makes coffee for us and although our meetings have been very small as late, we have some

room to grow.

If you've never come to a meeting, come and share your concerns. Losing our space has hit us hard, 2010 will be our rebuilding year and then we will take over! Join us, May 26 at 7 PM!

Kow Thai, Revisited By Anne Crothers



Pad Thai is still on the menu, but you will find much, much more!

Customers of Kow Thai, Take Out have noticed that something is different. Like, everything! The business was changed hands last year and the new owner, Peter Phromsorn and new head chef, Nanchai Arsanam have brought a whole new energy. The food is BETTER! The curries are incredible. There is now an eat-in area for those (like me) too hungry and/or lazy to walk home again. The

menu is exciting, with plenty of vegetarian options and traditional dishes.

Peter learned about food from his mother. When he met up with Nanchai, he was impressed. Chef Arsanam has worked all over the US and is originally from NE Thailand. He brings traditional dishes and a world of sophistication to our neighborhood.

Karalee Chimongkolthing

rounds out the staff who seem to be constantly innovating. After my last eat-in meal. The team presented me with a dessert of banana and coconut wrapped in dough and fried. It was more than good and I will be back for more, soon!

Visit Kow Thai at 1201 W. Linden Street, Monday thru Saturday, 11 am to 9 pm. For more info see www.kowthai.com.

CE Roth Expands!! By Anne Crothers

C E Roth has been in our neighborhood for 105 years. As everyone knows, they bought the space next door and we've all been waiting for it to open up.

Sharon and I were going door-to-door begging for money for the street festival, as is our way, when we stopped by C E Roth. What

we found out was that our friends there needed some help! They had been counting on some grant money that fell through. . So for over a year, the owner had been working on the new space alone every night after the shop closed, sometimes until 1 AM.

We decided to help and

arranged a neighborhood work party to help spackle, paint, and do some carpentry. We would love to do another.

How can you help? Take your dry cleaning there, rent some tuxedos, offer to help paint, whatever you can. When this place opens, it will be worth it all!

"You were once wild here. Don't let them tame you!"
Isadora Duncan



Dorney Park has been around as long as our neighborhood!

Dorney Park: brief history from www.dorneypark.com

- 1860: Solomon Dorney opens a fish hatchery and picnic area.
- 1870: He adds carnival rides, games, a hotel and restaurant and a small zoo.
- 1899: The Allentown-Kutztown trolley adds a Dorney Park stop. The fare round trip? 5 cents.
- 1915: A casino, pool hall and roller skating rink is added.
- 1923: The Coaster is built of wood.
- During the Depression and WW II the park faces hard times but keeps on.
- 1985: Wild Water Kingdom opens.
- Today, there is always something new at Dorney Park! Enjoy!

Our Communication Center *from Debbie Nichols*

Here in Allentown, our Communications Center is staffed with twenty eight dedicated professionals who provide first class emergency service to our citizens and public safety officers. Answering 911 and non-emergency calls, dispatching Police, Fire and EMS units, accessing local, state and nationwide databases and monitoring the city's camera network are just some of the tasks the staff performs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In 2009, the Communication Center answered over 215,000 calls and dispatched over 147,000 calls for service with a level of professionalism that exemplifies the true spirit of public service.

Of equal importance is the staff of the Technical Services Bureau. Their hard work and effort keeps all the radios, computers, bells and whistles working properly, allowing the Comm Center and Public Safety

Officers to effectively and safely do their jobs.

OTNW has toured the Comm Center and seen the amazing camera system. If you would like to go again, please let us know. Do to the small size of the building, these tours are limited to ten people at a time.

OTNW send our thanks to the staff for all of their hard work. If you have to call, say thank you!



Comm Centers Operators work 24 hours a day.

The Caring Place Faces Closing Down

The Caring Place is located at 931 Hamilton Street and has been a special place for children in Allentown for more than a decade. They work with school age children and teens engaging them in creative and positive activities and giving them alternatives to gangs, drugs and all the things we don't like.

What a shock to hear this month that this amazing organization is facing closing. They were counting on some grants that just never materialized and before they knew it, they couldn't meet their operating expenses. The dedicated staff has been continuing to work without pay, but that can't last forever.

To help the Caring Place stay open helps us keep these children in a positive environment. To make a donation see their website at: www.caringplace.org. There will be a fundraising event at Hava Java at 526 N. 19th Street on May 13th from 5 PM to 10 PM. Come by if you can. Let's help keep the caring going!

"...What do girls do who haven't any mothers to help them through their troubles?"

Louisa May Alcott

Allentown Poetry Nights *by Anne Crothers*

In my professional life, I recently hosted a poetry reading and to accomplish that, I stumbled into a world of poetry, right under my nose. I met an amazing artist and poet named Yodi, a member of the Chan Arts group. He hosts regular poetry readings at Hava Java,

Allentown Brew Works and local colleges.

I was entranced! There were people there, young and old, reading poetry, playing music, sharing their deepest thoughts with each other. Want to join us?

- Hava Java hosts poetry

every Tuesday night at 8

- Word Wednesday is the 2nd Wednesday each month at the Allentown Brew Works

Yodi's sites are:
yodiobono.spaces.live.com
urbanlullabies.blogspot.com



Got poetry? Share it!

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



911 reaches the Allentown Com Center

Calling 911 forwarded by *Debbie Nichols, Allentown Planning Clerk II*

Know WHEN to call 911.

9-1-1 is for emergencies only. You should only be dialing 9-1-1 if someone is hurt or in danger, or if you are in immediate need of police, fire, or medical assistance.

Know WHEN NOT to call 911.

Inappropriate use of the 9-1-1 system wastes resources and ties up the lines at the 9-1-1 center, and nobody wants to be on hold when they are in the middle of a real crisis.

Know your phone. 9-1-1 can be contacted from pretty much every device that can make phone calls

(traditional landline, cell, VoIP), but the information that accompanies your call to the 9-1-1 center can vary drastically amongst technologies and between geographic regions.

Know where you are. This is probably the most important information you can provide as a 9-1-1 caller, so try to be aware of your surroundings. Be as detailed as possible.

Stay calm. When you are on the phone with 9-1-1, you are their eyes and ears. Try not to panic. If you are crying or yelling, it can be hard for the 9-1-1 operator to understand you. If you

can pull yourself together, and answer the 9-1-1 operator's questions, the faster they can get services to you.

Never hang up. You may have called 9-1-1 by accident, or your situation may have resolved itself, but it is important to let the operator know this. If you end the call abruptly, they will assume that something has gone wrong and may send help anyway. Make sure the call taker tells you it is ok to disconnect before you hang up. They can dispatch responders to your location without disconnecting from the call, so, hold the line.