

Old Town Neighborhood Watch

Otnw.tripod.com or
see us on Facebook

Nov/Dec, 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).

November Meeting:
11/24/2010 @ 7 PM

No Meeting in
December!



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.

Day of the Dead by Anne Crothers

For a change, OTNW
partnered on an event that
did NOT take place in our
neighborhood. We worked
with 7th Street on a Day of
the Dead celebration that
took place on Saturday, Oc-
tober 30th in the 500 block
of 7th Street (between Lib-
erty and Allen Streets).

What is Day of the Dead?
It's a Mexican celebration to
gather families and remem-
ber ancestors and those who
have gone before. We
brought this to 7th Street
for a different kind of event.

The street was alive that
night with plenty of food,
drink, shopping, music and
scary fun.

There was the first annual
"So Hot It's Cool" Salsa
tasting contest featuring
salsas by local chefs and
judged by the Allentown
Firemen.

There was a cemetery with
a place to leave a remem-
brance to ancestors. There
were fortune tellers and al-
tars with traditional items.

For shopping, Home and
Planet had a stand filled
with Mexican treasures.
Other local artists had hand-
painted tiles, jewelry and
spooky items.

There were live perform-
ances by local fire dancers
and actors. There was a
haunted house that scared

old and young alike.



The local restaurants had
street buffets, café tables
and Day of the Dead spe-
cials. There was also a cup-
cake lady who brought the
house down.

It was a great event and
one to plan for next year if
you missed it this time
around.

Christmas Village by Anne Crothers

Our October meeting was
a planning meeting to dis-
cuss having our successful
Christmas Village event
again next month. We were
looking at the pros and cons
and putting our heads to-
gether.

What went right? With

very little notice or adver-
tisement, the word spread
and we had tons of families
come down!

What went wrong? There
was too much glitter, too
much waiting, and photos
that jammed, died and just
didn't happen.

We are willing to try again!
It was a very fun day for
those who came and you
will be invited!

If you would like to be
involved in this planning
team, please call Anne
Crothers at 610-432-2168 .

Allentown City Council *By Anne Crothers*



Allentown City Council

The Allentown City website says that the mission of City Council is “to provide, in a democratic and transparent manner, efficient and effective services which will make the City of Allentown a better place in which to live, work and play”.

City Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers on the first floor of City Hall.

There are a number of different committees which cover many city functions and issues including public safety, public works, energy, etc.

In the past OTNW would attend council meetings from time to time related to crime watch issues. There is always time for residents to be heard.

There are council meeting groupies, people who attend every meeting. Some of these folks have a lot to say,

some just seem to grind the same axe over and over or come mainly to make trouble.

In the past, Tom Burke, a former city councilman came quite often to OTNW meetings. He would educate us about city matters and follow up on our concerns.

We may need to take a field trip to a city council meeting to check up on what the current folk are doing for us and our neighborhood.

Our City Budget

Mayor Pawlowski has submitted his 2011 budget and details about it are available on-line on the city website. There are some controversial issues, and planned expenditures including:

- 15th Street Bridge Replacement
- Refurbishing of City Hall’s 50 year old elevators

- 19th Street Theater District Infrastructure Improvements
- Hanover Avenue Safety Improvements
- Infrastructure Improvements in the Area of Sacred Heart Hospital
- Police Radio Upgrades
- Improvements to the East

Side Fire Station

- Numerous Street Replacements and Improvements throughout the City

If you are interested, take a look at the article about it on the City’s website at www.allentownpa.gov.

“Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky!”
Alfred Lord Tennyson

The Liberty Bell Shrine Museum

Fri., November 26 through Sat., December 31, 2010

the 2010 Holiday Season

at the Liberty Bell Shrine Museum

Featuring “Pip: the Mouse Before Christmas”

Holiday Puppet Show by Dr. George Creegan,

Special Holiday Exhibit: “Pennsylvania German Putzes and Manger

Scenes”, Lehigh County Senior Center Pennsylvania German Putz,

Pennsylvania German

Christmas Tree by Ann A. Wertman,

and Hess’s Toy Soldiers.

The Liberty Bell Shrine Museum is located at 622 W. Hamilton Street and can be reached at 610-435-4232.

Pip the Mouse
the tradition continues...

The Liberty Bell Shrine Museum
Allentown, Pennsylvania

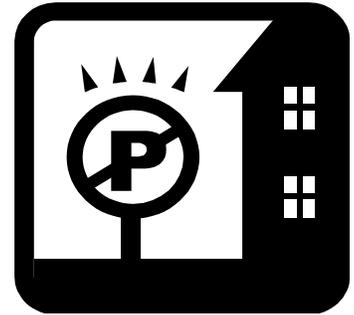
Parking News from Tamara Weller, Allentown Parking Authority

More neighborhoods are investigating the possibility of establishing a Residential Parking Zone. Several criteria must be met to establish this zone; including ensuring that a percentage of vehicles parked in the neighborhood do not belong to residents of the neighborhood. Another criterion requires that a majority of residents sign a petition supporting the establishment of this zone. If you have any questions

about this process, please call our office at 610 841 9090.

Are you moving or preparing some of your items for storage? If you are, and you are planning to utilize a mobile pod-like container that is intended to store your belongings prior to them being moved, please be sure that you are not inadvertently violating the 'unhitched trailer' ordinance. We recently noticed that a resident was utiliz-

ing a relatively small trailer from a storage company to store their items while they prepare to move. This trailer then is simply connected to a truck and driven to the new location. This practice is not encouraged as, technically, this vehicle is an unhitched trailer and cannot be left unattended on a City street. If you have questions about this ordinance, please call George Grazer at 610 841 8822.



A residential parking zone would keep non-residents off the street.

Double Parking! By Tamara Weller, Allentown Parking Authority

An issue of primary concern to many residents and drivers is the issue of Double Parking. However, many people are confused as to the exact definition of double parking. According to the City Ordinance, it is illegal for any vehicle to be parked 'in the lane ordinarily used by moving traffic or on the roadway side of any ve-

hicle stopped or parked at the curb or edge of the highway.' In other words, if a vehicle is stopped in a lane intended for traffic, even if the vehicle is occupied, it is in violation of the ordinance. Many people assume, incorrectly, that if the driver is still in the vehicle, and the vehicle is running, then it is

ok to stop for just a short period of time.

Tamara Weller
Executive Director
Allentown Parking Authority
allentownparking.com
610. 841.8826

" Surprised by joy."

C S Lewis

Christmas Trivia by Anne Crothers

Q. Are Santa's reindeer females?

A. Yes! Male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid December. Female reindeer keep their antlers until spring. Go figure!

Q. Are poinsettias really poisonous?

A. No! According to recent testing, this is a myth. A 50-pound child would have to consume 500-600 leaves to have any ill effects, which would most likely be an upset stomach.

Q. Are candy canes Christian?

A. Maybe. There are varying stories about the origin of candy canes. Some say the red part refers to Christ's blood and the shape is a J for Jesus, but there are other less Christian stories.



Have a Merry Christmas!

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

Smoke Alarms From NFPA.org/education



When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke alarms to give you time to get out.

Smoke alarms save lives. 65% of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms at all or none that work.

Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound
- An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a photoelectric smoke alarm is generally more

- responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or a combination alarm should be installed.
- Test alarms monthly by pushing the test button.
- Smoke rises; install smoke alarms following manufacturer's instructions high on a wall or on a ceiling. Save manufacturer's instructions for testing and maintenance.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps," replace battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms, when they are ten years

old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.

- Be sure the smoke alarm has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Alarms that are hard-wired (and include battery backup) must be installed by a qualified electrician.
- If cooking fumes or steam sets off nuisance alarms, replace the alarm with an alarm that has a "hush" button.
- An ionization alarm with a hush button or photoelectric alarm should be used if the alarm is within 20 feet of a cooking appliance.