



Spring 2012

Allentown nonprofits, businesses announce partnership for revitalizing Old Fairgrounds neighborhood

A blend of public organizations and private enterprises hope to turn a center city **Allentown** neighborhood battling blighted properties into a magnet for recovery.

Standing in front of the worn-down, fire-ravaged and vandalism-plagued property at 536 Allen St. in the Old Fairgrounds neighborhood of the city, officials from various city housing and revitalization nonprofits joined residents, city officials and U.S. Rep. **Charlie Dent**, R-Lehigh Valley, to learn of a project aimed at kick-starting responsible homeownership in the community. **"You really make this neighborhood great,"** Dent told neighbors. **"Allentown is blessed."**

Unveiled at the gathering was a \$1.17 million plan by the city's Housing Association and Development Corp. to rehabilitate seven center city homes in the Old Fairgrounds neighborhood. During the event, officials announced a \$250,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh. The application had the sponsorship of KNBT, a division of National Penn Bank. **Allentown** is pitching in an additional \$209,000 in rehabilitation subsidy and operating support to fund the project.

The seven properties slated for full restoration have been donated by the Allentown Redevelopment Authority after acquisition from a few years back through money provided by the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

The program is lauded by officials as a terrific example of combining public and private dollars to revitalize troubled parts of the city. **"This is a wonderful partnership,"** said Allentown Director of Community and Economic Development Sara Hailstone. **"No one entity can do what we're doing here today."**

The rest of the funding comes from corporate contributions to the Housing Association and Development Corp. under Pennsylvania's Neighborhood Partnership Program and proceeds from the sales of the homes. Among the private enterprises that have supported the program are Air Products, PPL Electric Utilities Corp., Wells Fargo and First Niagara Bank, according to project officials.

Millie Canales, president of the Old Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association, half-jokingly referred to herself as the official property manager of the burned-out hull at 536 Allen St. Canales said she picks up trash and chases loiterers from the home's front stoop.

"It tears me apart because being a homeowner in my family was always so important," Canales said of the community's problem of blighted properties.

"This is a community. It doesn't matter if you're a renter or a homeowner. What matters is that we don't see an orange sticker on the window," Canales said, referring to a notice of a blighted property. **"Every day, it's getting better."**

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/allentown/index.ssf/2012/04/allentown_nonprofits_businesse.html



Special points of interest:

- HADC PARTNERSHIP
- MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
- ST LUKE CHURCH
- YOUTH SOURCE

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OFNA BOARD

Pres: Milagros Canales
milystore@yahoo.com

Vice Pres: Lois Lewis
redbrick@yahoo.com

Treasure: Pat Jackson
savedjack@gmail.com

Snow Way OUT!

SERV Allentown is part of AARP Pennsylvania's "Create The Good" program. It encompasses support of Cities of Service, a national bi-partisan coalition of mayors cities of all sizes working together to engage citizens in helping to solve pressing local challenges.

Senior citizens that own homes in Allentown can find an application for the "Snow Way Out" program on the city website under SERV Allentown Logo, or may pick-up an application at the senior center. All applicants for snow removal services must deliver their application to the Lehigh Senior Center, located at 1633 W. Elm Street, in Allentown. Once a senior qualifies for the program, their application is kept by the Senior Center and forwarded to a neighborhood group president. Youth are also able to apply for the program to serve as volunteers by visiting the same SERV Allentown logo link on the city website. All volunteer applicants must deliver their applications to the volunteer chief service officer, Joshua Keller located in City Hall, 435 Hamilton Street, Allentown. Volunteer applicants then go through an approval process which includes a background check. The volunteer chief service officer collects approved applications and forwards them to the neighborhood group president.

Joshua Keller
Volunteer Chief Service Officer
610.437.7688

Rick Daugherty
Executive Director
610.437.3700



Membership information

2012/2013 OFNA MEMBERSHIP

Our 2012/2013 OFNA membership campaign is underway. The annual fee per is \$10.00 per household. Our mission is to provide a pleasant and safe environment in which to live. It is composed of neighbors helping and caring for neighbors. We also help the children and youth of Old Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association find and utilized the many resources our community has to offer. Many holiday activities are also planned for our community. Please join and be a part of helping to keep OFNA the best neighborhood in Allentown. Membership includes participation in association events including decorating contests, children's activities, and sports. Use the attached envelope to mail or drop off your check (payable to the Old Fairgrounds Neighborhood Association) to:

Patricia Jackson
446 N 6th Street
Allentown, PA 18102
savedjack@gmail.com
Please like us on FB

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Fairgrounds/163127243717914>



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City Information Desk 610 439-5999
 Code Enforcement 610 437-7661
 Code Enforcement Rental Licensing
 610 437-7694.
 Community Problems (neighbor disputes)
 610 437-7773
 Crime Prevention Unit 610 437-7719
 Emergency Medical Services
 (paramedics) 610 437-7531
 Emergency Medical Services
 (nonemergency) 610 437-7751
 Garbage Complaints 610 437-8729
 Graffiti Busters 610 437-8729
 Housing Compliance/Inspections
 610 437-7697
 Leaf Pickup 610 437-7587
 Police Calls (non-emergency) 610 437-7751*
 Rental Unit Inspections 610 437-7695
 Sewer Back-up 610 437 7639
 Sewer Emergencies after hours
 610 437-7751
 State Representative Jennifer Mann
 610 821-5577
 SWEEP (Bureau of Recycling and Solid
 Waste) 610 437-8729
 Weeds/Grass Overgrowth 610 437-8729
 Yard Waste Recycling 610 437-8729
 Zoning 610 437-7630

Welcome!

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

417 North Seventh Street, Allentown,
 PA 18102
 Ph. 610-434-3943 • Fax 610-434-237
 Email:
 info@stlukeslutheranallentown.com

Parish Administrator:

Mrs. Leslie E. Talago

Like us on FB

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/56415925981/>

Upcoming Events:

ESL Classes

Mondays & Thursdays 8:45–10:45 am and Wednesdays 5:00–7:00 pm. Class is free. There is a charge for the book. Call the church office for more information. The above times do not reflect new summer hours.

Starting May 6

NEW Service Times

English Service 9:00am
 Sunday School 10:00 am
 Spanish Service 11:30 am

Mother Daughter Brunch

May 6th at 10:00am

Please join us in celebrating all Mothers and Daughters. Entertainment, food and fun. RSVP by May 3rd.

Donations will be accepted to offset the cost of the event.

OFNA NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

PLEASE COME OUT ON APRIL 24, 2012 . OFNA will be hosting a

OLD FAIRGROUNDS NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP.

Please come out and join us to clean up our neighborhood. There will be prizes given to the best Street .

After clean up , We will all meet at Steven Park to Celebrate and meet your neighbors.

Sign up today @

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Fairgrounds/163127243717914>



Allentown Youth Source

<http://www.allentownyouthsource.org/>

A collaboration of HYPE, Jordan Heights Neighborhood Partnership, Allentown Weed and Seed, and the City of Allentown, the Allentown Youth Source is an online network and community designed to connect youth more deeply to activities and services offline.

This project is dedicated to increasing young people's access to youth resources and programming within the City of Allentown—through a website for youth planned, organized, and developed by youth. In addition, this initiative focuses on increasing young people's engagement in the community, provide an avenue for positive self-expression, and work to promote young people as leaders for a healthier community.

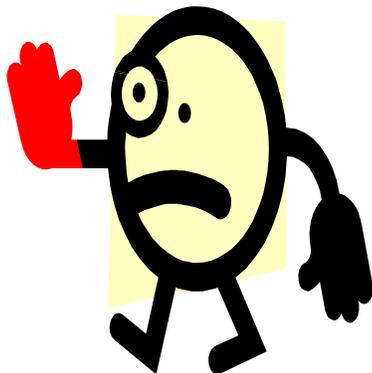


OFNA Resident Richie Ramos has been a member since the beginning.

Citizens Helping Eliminate Crime

CHEC-Mate, designed by the Allentown Police Department gives Allentown residents a way of calling the police anonymously to report suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. Request a CHEC-Mate card by calling 610-437-7522 or attending one of our meetings. In 4-6 weeks you will receive your card with a number assigned specifically to you. When call the communications center, you give only your CHEC-MATE number on the card. CHEC-Mate is a confidential way of reporting crime to help make your neighborhood safer!

Take extra care to protect yourself, your family and your property. Please report suspicious people, vehicles, or activity to the police. The police non-emergency number is 610 437-7751. In an emergency call **911**.



BAKERS DOZEN

Anyone who would like to join our group, we bake on special occasion. Please contact Milagros Canales @ millystore@yahoo.com or 484 764-4037.

Thank you for your continuing support of OFNA.



Mayor's Aluminum Cans Recycling Challenge

Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski recently announced the "Mayor's Aluminum Cans Recycling Challenge." Allentown will join other cities across the country in a U.S. Conference of Mayors contest that rewards cities for recycling aluminum beverage cans. A total of \$90,000 will be awarded by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and Novelis Inc., through the sponsorship of the nationwide "Cans for Cash Challenge" which promotes the recycling of aluminum cans. "We have a fantastic recycling program in the city," said Pawlowski. This is our opportunity to show the rest of the country." The contest runs for a four week period. Allentown's challenge will begin Sunday, April 1 and run through April 28.



Visit <http://www.allentownpa.gov> for more information.