

# THE ALDAN CHRONICLE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 FALL 2011



## OUR SMALL TOWN BY MICHAEL CECI

I remember when my family first moved to Aldan in 1981 my mother would often marvel over how little had changed in the town since she knew it growing up here in the 1950's. "People still care in Aldan. They keep traditions. It still really is a small town."

As a child, I really had no idea what she was saying. We had just moved three miles from Folsom. Aldan had my grandparents and a nice pool and a really fun Fourth of July parade, but other than that it certainly didn't seem worth leaving behind my neighborhood friends.

That feeling changed after Santa started showing up on Christmas morning and after I made new friends at the pool and in the boys club. It was a great town. People actually did seem friendlier, and there definitely was more for a kid to do.

But it wasn't until I moved back to Aldan in 2006 to buy my own place as an adult that I started to appreciate fully what my mother had said years ago.

People in this town still do care. We keep traditions alive, like the Fourth of July parade and the Easter Egg hunt, while

creating new ones, like our Christmas tree lighting ceremony. We volunteer for Aldan Townwatch to keep the town safe and for the Boys and Girls Clubs to keep the kids active. It's the residents of this town who make Aldan what it is. We deserve a local government that actively seeks out our input before important decisions are made and one that works with us



*Borough Council Candidate,  
Michael Ceci*

to understand and comply with our local building codes. Unfortunately, too often, this has not been the case. I'm running for borough council because I believe that by involving our residents we can do even better. As an example, if I am elected, I will work on restoring the annual information card that so many people relied on to know who to contact in government and when important dates are. I will also actively seek out your thoughts on how we can make this town better.

If you have ideas for improving Aldan, please feel free to call me (610-626-6074) or email me (michaelceci@comcast.net) anytime. As a council member, I will represent everyone – irrespective of party. You've been making this borough great for years. It's time you had a voice on the council. Together, we can keep Aldan a beautiful, small town for generations to come.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Our Little Town*
- *The School on the Community Green*
- *Curbside Recycling...Finally a Reality*
- *Founders Day*
- *Boosters Celebrate Volunteers*
- *Aldan Census Info.*
- *Democratic Candidates*
- *A Short Walking Tour of Aldan*

## THE SCHOOL ON THE COMMUNITY GREEN BY FRANK LANE

When I first moved to Aldan in the mid-seventies, I was struck by the fact that this community had its public school in the town square. Certainly, I thought to myself, here is a community that values learning. As we settled in, I was pleased to learn that the community certainly did believe that education was the keystone for our democracy and that it was the primary means for their families' social mobility.

Later, I learned that the town was struggling with merger concerns, diversity issues, and taxes, but a solution was being sought in a spirit of compromise.

Forty years later, as a retired teacher, I feel proud of the fact that Aldan dealt with the first two challenges, but I'm puzzled as to why the current tax issue is not being addressed with the same spirit of compromise. In fact, it concerns me that the community's view of public education is being shaped by the narrow prism of taxes and that it is overlooking the assets that the public schools bring to the community.



*Frank Lane,  
School Board  
Candidate*

This narrow view is reinforced by political spin and by the unpatriotic idea that school directors should ignore their oath of office and sign a pledge that supports special interests.

William Penn is delivering educational services with the financial hand that it has been dealt, but we can and must do better. We cannot solve the revenue problem by cutting services and drawing money from the reserve fund to fund the operating budget.

More importantly, we need to pressure our state representative and senator to increase state funding for all schools. The current funding formula that requires 60% of the budget to come from local communities is grossly unjust to struggling school districts like ours.

As Aldan's school director, I will use my talents as a teacher and administrator to bring to the next generation a public education that will support each student in their journey toward the actualization of their potential.

As I look at the beautiful town square today, I see that the school is still there. I strongly believe that by working together we can keep it vital and enhance its effectiveness, so that Aldan can be proud of its public schools once again.

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING... FINALLY A REALITY

Thanks to the persistence of Aldan residents, along with a push from the Aldan Democratic Organization's 2009 campaign, curbside recycling will finally be a reality in Aldan Borough.

All details have not been disclosed but at the September 14, 2011 Aldan Borough Council Meeting, a contract was awarded to Suburban Waste Services for once a week recycling collections beginning in January 2012.

The Borough will pay a fee to Suburban Waste Services for collecting the recycling and will receive credit toward state grants for the tonnage collected, but Suburban Waste Services will receive any monies from the materials collected.

Because Aldan's population is less than 5,000, the Borough is not required to have curbside pick-up of recy-

clable materials under Act 101 which was passed during Democratic Governor Bob Casey's administration in 1988.

For a period in the late 1980s through the early 1990s, Aldan Borough did have curbside recycling of newspapers twice a month. After the market price for newsprint dropped, the Borough Council cancelled the pick-up.

Since that time, a voluntary drop-off container for paper and cardboard has been available at the rear of the Aldan Elementary School on Woodlawn Avenue.

There are also Delaware County collection igloos for glass and plastics behind the Giant Food Market on Oak Avenue. Both sites have been used faithfully by many Aldan residents.

In addition, Aldan Union

Church Boy Scout Troop #2 holds an aluminum can collection on the first Saturday of each month in the Municipal parking lot at Clifton Avenue and Providence Road.

The money from the aluminum is used by the Scouts to sponsor camping trips and other activities, including their four times a year trash collection along Providence Road from Oak Avenue to Lansdowne Avenue as a Penn Dot road sponsor.

All of the existing programs will be preserved under the one-year contract with Suburban Waste Services, and it is hoped that curbside collection will lead to greater participation and a reduction of waste going to the Delaware County incinerator in Chester.

Lowering the trash tonnage will reduce waste charges that the borough will pay annually and will increase the annual recycling grant from the state.



## ALDAN CELEBRATES FOUNDERS DAY

Aldan Founders' Day, celebrating the incorporation of Aldan Borough on September 22, 1893, occurred on Saturday, September 17th at the Historical Park on Providence Road.

Sponsored by the Aldan Historical Commission, the event included free food donated by local businesses such as Cocco's Pizza, a flea market and information booths by local civic organizations.

In conjunction with those festivities, the Aldan Police Department held "Safety Day". Fire and emergency equipment was demonstrated in the municipal lot at the corner of Clifton Avenue and Providence Road with activities for the children.

Aldan Union Church's Boy Scout Troop #2 also held a car show in the church parking lot across the street.

Music was provided by local band MoJo 13, featuring Aldan Council Member Mike Xavier, and by the Lukens Band which was sponsored by the Aldan 4th of July Association.

The Historical Commission's next event will be decorating the gazebo and the Trolley Museum for the Christmas season. They will also provide the hot cider and cookies at the Aldan Boosters' Tree Lighting ceremony scheduled for Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

## BOOSTERS' VOLUNTEERS NIGHT

The Aldan Boosters' Civic Association held a free "Beef and Beverage" on Saturday evening September 10th at the American Legion Building on Bonsall Avenue to honor the many volunteers who help make Aldan Borough a great place to live.

Members of eight civic groups—the Boys Club, the Girls Club, Townwatch, the Swim Club, the 4th Of July Association, Historical Commission, the American Legion, and the Boosters'—gathered for food, music and fun.

Many door prizes, some donated by local businesses such as Giant Food and First Impressions Salon, were awarded. A great

evening of camaraderie was had by all.

October is Aldan Boosters' Month in Aldan Borough. Please look for a donation envelope at your door to help fund activities like the upcoming Christmas events: Borough Tree Lighting; Santa's Mailbox; Best Decorated House and Christmas Morning Santa Visits.

For Santa visits, there is a sign-up form on the back of the donation slip, or you can email [aldansanta@gmail.com](mailto:aldansanta@gmail.com).

To join one of the many volunteer organizations, please visit our website at [www.aldanonline.info](http://www.aldanonline.info) for further information.

"OCTOBER IS  
ALDAN  
BOOSTERS'  
MONTH"

# ALDAN GAINS IN DIVERSITY, CONTINUES POPULATION LOSS

Census Data reveals that Aldan Borough continues to decline in population, 4,152 in 2010, but to grow in diversity. Aldan has fewer residents than at any time since 1950. After a peak population of 5,001 in 1970, there has been a 17% reduction.

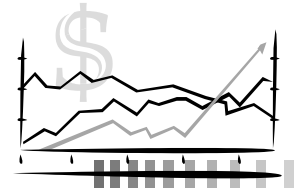
The largest losses since the 2000 census were in

children under age 18 (down 157) and in the 65 and older age group (down 63). The largest gains were in the 25 to 64 age group (up 58).

Since 2000, the split between males, 47.1%, and females, 52.9%, has remained the same. The percentage of non-white individuals – Asian, African-American, American Indian and “other”

– has increased from 6.6% to 23.7% of residents.

In conjunction with the decrease in children, the number of households (1824 total) with minors has also declined from 500 to 419. In contract, the population has increased in Delaware County by 1.5%, in Pennsylvania by 3.4% and in the United States by 9.7% from 2000 to 2010.



**ON NOVEMBER 8, ELECT**

<p>Judge, Court of Common Pleas (vote for 4) <b>Michael Schleigh</b></p> <p><b>Nathaniel C. "Nate" Nichols</b> <b>G. Lawrence Demarco</b> <b>Sally Ann Heckert-Bikin</b></p> <p>County Council, Delaware County (vote for 3) <b>Keith Collins</b> <b>Lin Axamethy Floyd</b> <b>Jayne Young</b></p>	<p>District Attorney, Delaware County <b>M. Kendall Brown</b></p> <p>Magisterial District Judge, 32-1-26 <b>John J. Perfetti</b></p> <p>School Director, William Penn School District, Region 1 <b>Franklin L. Lane</b></p>	<p>Council, Aldan Borough (vote for 4) <b>Michael W. Ceci</b> <b>Paul L. Krueger, Jr.</b> <b>Sarah E. Robertson</b> <b>Ben R. Williams, III</b></p>
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## A SHORT WALKING TOUR OF ALDAN BY BEN WILLIAMS

Recently, while taking a leisurely neighborhood walk in Aldan Borough, my eyes were drawn to an array of beautiful, inviting residential homes positioned on extra large lots with a spacing pattern that allows for the homeowners to express their individual life style. Aldan is prominently promoted as the “Community of Homes,” and as one walks and views the different styles of architecture, a person would certainly have to agree with this tag line.

This town has a rich, diversity of styles. There are A-frame, Arts and Crafts, Bungalow, California style homes; Colonial, Concrete Block/ICF design, Contemporary, and Craftsman style homes, to name a few. This variety of building styles provides a

sense of beauty that makes Aldan a visually stimulating place to live and raise a family.

Some of these homes are adorned with lush plantings including colorful and diverse flowers as well as majestic trees. The variety of trees brings a strong sense of seasonal change. The colors, the blooms and the sound of the breeze through them, as well as the lush green lawns, provide additional, attractive features to many of these residences.

However, each year many homes lose more and more of their majestic trees. This fact concerns me because if Aldan loses one of its primary assets it will impact the value of the community. We cannot sit back and take

this asset that Aldan holds for granted, but as citizens we must work to protect and expand it by including these things of beauty in our

community planning. This is why I’m a candidate for council. As a starting point, I would work to activate the tree commission and develop the green space between the station and the swim club.

This effort would enhance the Maryland Ave. section of our community.

As I walk around town, I am reminded of why I moved to Aldan. It is indeed a community of beautiful homes.



*Borough Council Candidate,  
Ben Williams,*

# Harvest Gathering

Help the Aldan Democrats "Harvest" seats on Aldan's Borough Council by joining the Aldan Democratic Organization in meeting and greeting the

## 2011 Democratic Candidates

at the home of Donna Henry, 618 W. Magnolia Avenue, Aldan  
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday, October 30, 2011



RSVP at AldanDemocrats@gmail.com or  
call Dan Procopio at 610-675-6226.  
Please Respond by Monday, October 24, 2011  
Yes, I plan to attend: \$20/person ~ \$35/couple ( \$20 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_ )  
( \$35 x \_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_ )  
\_\_\_\_ No, I cannot attend: Here is a \$ \_\_\_ donation to  
the Aldan Democratic Organization  
Please make personal checks payable to Aldan Democratic Organization  
Send to: ADO, PO Box 655, Aldan, PA 19018



## ALDAN'S COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October



Saturday, October 29  
Medication Take back  
Municipal lot-Clifton &  
Providence  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 30  
ADO's Harvest Gathering  
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
see above for details



Monday, October 31  
**HALLOWEEN**

### November



Tuesday, November 8th  
Election Day  
Aldan Elementary  
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday, November 11  
**VETERANS DAY**



Thursday, November 24  
**THANKSGIVING**

Beginning  
Thanksgiving Day  
**SANTA'S MAILBOX**  
Providence and Clifton  
Avenues



### December



Saturday, December 3rd  
Aldan Boosters'  
Christmas Tree Lighting  
Ceremony  
Aldan Historical Park  
6:30 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Sunday, December 25

Boosters' Santa Visits  
to Aldan's Children



Mon. & Tues.  
Dec. 26 & 27  
Boosters' Best  
Decorated House Judging.  
*After sunset  
turn your lights on!*

PAID FOR BY THE ALDAN DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

Michael Ceci, Chair, P. O. Box 655, Aldan, PA 19018

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