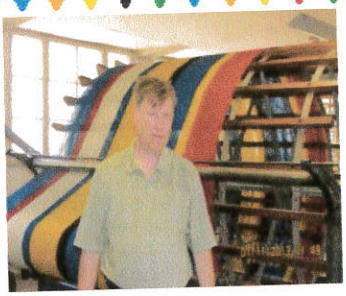
EARN FRONTIER (August 21, 2013)



EAST ALLENTOWN RITTERSVILLE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O.BOX 1136, ALLENTOWN, PENNA. 18105
Web Site: Eastlehighearn.com
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. Pearson
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Welcome to the EARN Frontier

Please Note --- Regularly Scheduled Neighborhood Meetings(Caucus) are held on the Third Monday of the Month at 7:00 PM ... The Location for our meetings is the St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 1933 Hanover Avenue...

- Next Neighborhood Meeting
- Monday, September 16, 2013
- St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown PA 18109

We are the Lookout for the Neighborhood

- President - Dennis L. Pearson
- Vice President - Denton Kriebel
- Secretary - David Schell
- Treasury - Robert Jacoby

Allentown State Hospital

The East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association has stated that it wanted to be part of any committee developed by the State, County, municipality, development corporation or any entity whatsoever that would govern the sale or redevelopment of former Allentown State Hospital.land.

Fact is, the Allentown Commercial and Industrial Development Authority once held 30 acres of the property since late 2009, which coincides with the time that the Pennsylvania Public Welfare agency seriously talked about closing the hospital. The term once being important, because ACIDA held the land on the condition it would find a developer to develop it for over 52 housing and other related health care needs. In the end, ACIDA never meeting those conditions, therefore the State took back the deed.

What is clear to us is that the three state representatives whom have served us since the redistricting from the 2000 census occurred ... None of them revealed to us this important information about the closing and none of them filled us in about pending or enacted legislation in regard the sale of Allentown State Hospital Land and neither did the Allentown City Council or the City Administration Don't you think the group dedicated to the preservation and protection of East Side interests should be told and consulted..

Fact is, only former representative Joe Brennan made an attempt once the closing was announced to give us a periodic census account until the Hospital officially closed.

As far as EARN sees it, we are the only group seeking to protect the livability and quality of life of all sections of East Allentown ..Indeed the City has needs but the livability and quality of life of all sections of East Allentown ought not be imploded to meet these needs... That is why we seek to be consulted about things that affect our area .... In all stages of planning not when decisions have already been made.

EAST SIDE FIRE HOUSE

It's finally going up and taking shape

East Allentown residents get last water and sewer bill from the City of Allentown as 50 year lease between the City and Lehigh County Authority goes into effect.

Lehigh County Authority's Mission:

To provide continually improved, sustainable, affordable and reliable water and wastewater service in the Lehigh Valley region which meets the needs and expectations of existing and future customers.

Their Vision:

To be the leading water/wastewater service provider in the Lehigh Valley region in every dimension.

Their Values:

LCA will always act in accordance with the following values:

Maintain working conditions that provide personal fulfillment, reward performance and personal initiative, encourage individual development and implementation of improvements, and ensure employee safety.

Actively seek guidance from and communicate with our employees, customers, municipal officials, community organizations and other stakeholders.

Provide service that protects the environment and enhances life in the community.

Constantly seek ways to improve LCA services by:

- **implementing more economical, efficient and effective ways of performing ongoing activities;**
- **evaluating and refining activities to ensure they achieve their purpose;**
- **striving to perform all tasks properly the first time, every time;**
- **treating all problems as opportunities for improvement; and**
- **seeking new and creative responses to changing needs.**

Pursue excellence in every effort.

PROJECT HAAS

The East Allentown/ Rittersville NeighborhoodAssociation ran its first holiday lighting program of certain community facilities in 1994-1995 and completed its 19th continuous run in 2012-2013. Meaning, the upcoming 2013-2014 Christmas season lighting program would be a landmark 20th run

Our idea was to place holiday decorations at the following city of Allentown facilities: Irving Park, Keck Park, Canal Park, the Jerome Street Islands, Kimmets Lock and the East Side Reservoir.

And also, invite students from neighboring Dieruff High School and other schools to play an annual role in the set-up, maintenance and take-down of the project

But In the end, we limited our project each year to putting up holiday decorations at Irving Park...The reason being finances and manpower.

The steps in this program are the following:

1) Purchase Insurance to cover property loss and injury to volunteers during set-up and take-down process.

2) Seek permission of the City of Allentown to use facility or facilities

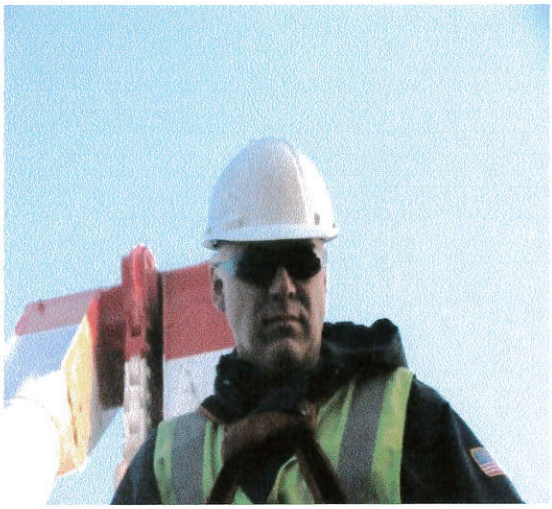
3) Make a request to the PPL for the use of 1 or more High Lift trucks for set-up and take-down ... This is done by volunteer PPL workers

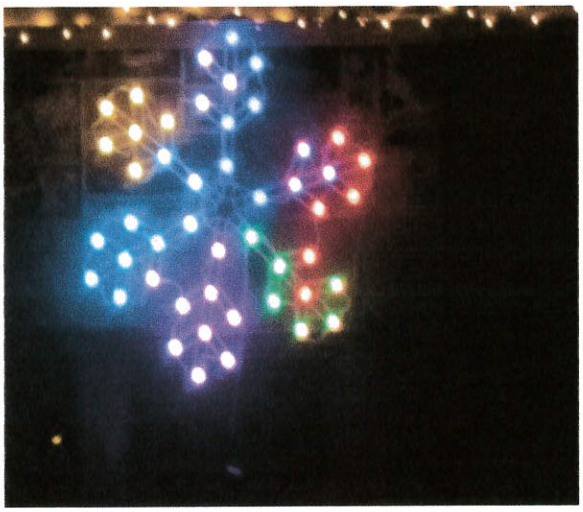
4) Purchase new displays and accessories.

5) Remove items from storage and put them back when project is done for the year.

There are costs involved in Project Haas which the neighborhood must pay and it would be nice if people help us meet these costs. Costs include: Storage, Insurance, Light bulbs, wiring, and other displays

Gifts can be sent to EARN, P.O Box 1136, Allentown, PA 18105





Neighborhood Association

MINUTES

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on August 19, 2013 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (Dennis Pearson, Denton Kriebel, Robert Jacoby and Dave Schell) and ten other neighbors were present at the meeting. In addition, Officer Beidelman of the Allentown Police Department was present.

Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2013. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby announced that we changed banks to avoid service charges. Our present balance is $442.57.

Dennis Pearson announced that the location of our storage on East Allen Street will no longer be free as of late September, but will run $25/month. If we get permission to put the lights up we can put the balance in the storage area at the Irving Park until spring. We will hold off our decision on whether to have the scholarship next year, but that does not need to be determined until March.

We have not yet gotten the written permission from the city to hold the Christmas lights, and will wait until we get that before asking PPL for their assistance. PPL requires that we have permission and insurance. We do have insurance. Pearson spoke of our other expenses—possible city fees for park use for a special event such as a yard sale, post office box, and insurance.

Given the fact we don't charge dues for membership, we certainly need donations from the public or other fundraises to raise money for our needs.

We briefly discussed use of the state hospital property. The Allentown Community and Industrial Development Authority (ACIDA) had a year to develop a portion of the property, but failed to do so and the property reverted to the state. We continue to suggest that it be used for a veterans' facility, and would like the building that faces Hanover Avenue to be saved for historic purposes. The water tower is also a landmark.

Pearson has spoken with Mr. Paraszczak, the owner of the property in the 400 block of North Jerome Street damaged by Hurricane Sandy. He claims that he is going to do something with the outside of the property but also had damages inside and is trying to get insurance to cover that property as well. The property is unsightly and will get worse as the outside is not fixed. As far as 324 N. Jerome Street, the weeds are growing again and the city has been notified. The group discussed what needs to be done about bringing this to the city's attention in a manner that gets action. Schell said that he had written a letter following the July meeting but that it was not sent since the property looked relatively presentable at the time, and we were unable to find the identity of the owner from the Lehigh County assessment website. There is now a sale sign in front of the property and we should be able to get the contact person from it.

We had a brief discussion on articles from the newspaper about recent robberies on the East Side and other law breaking in the area, including a large fight at the Hess station.

Christopher Tiscio, manager of Club Horizon, reported that the club had met with the neighbors on East Congress Street and have been working with them. The neighbors have his number and call him to deal with matters as they arise.

Tony's Bar on Union Boulevard is now closed.

It was asked if there was any need for the emergency call box at Keck Park. The phone has been removed but the push button remains for hitting 911. The police have been

getting numerous false calls from the box and have gotten no legitimate calls recently. We will see what we can do about the situation.

The East Side Fire Station is finally taking shape. The steel framework is up.

The Irving Park swimming pool is closed for the season. The batting cage frame was bent, although it looks like that has been repaired.

Would we like to have the yard sale at Club Horizon? We are not yet certain and will get back to Club Horizon on the matter. If we do it, it will probably be in September or October.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfull y ---*David A. Schell, Secretary*

Established in 1976, EARN wants your input and ideas. If you live, operate a business, or simply have a vested interest in Allentown's East Side, please come!

Know what is happening in your neighborhood and be a part of the flow of information – have your voice heard.

Have a direct communication link with local government officials and other influential groups. * Help to preserve and improve East Allentown. +++Plan social activities for your neighborhood.**

Let's get together, share our ideas, thoughts, and feelings and work cooperatively to make Allentown's east side a better place to live. All neighborhood residents and guests are welcome ... This is your neighborhood ... Help it be a strong one ...Get Involved ... Be part of the adventure ... Be a Frontiersman for the neighborhood.

Have any questions? Contact: Dennis L. Pearson, President 610-434-1229 dpearson@enter.net

Or visit EARN on the web: www.eastlehighearn.com or WWW.pearson4pa133.com