

# EARN FRONTIER (June 6, 2014)



**EAST ALLENTOWN RITTERSVILLE  
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
P.O.BOX 1136, ALLENTOWN, PENNA. 18105**

**Web Site: <http://pearson4pa133.com/>**

**NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. Pearson**

**TEL. # (610) 434-1229...EMAIL: [dpearson@enter.net](mailto:dpearson@enter.net)**

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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 2 Neighborhood Meetings
- Monday, June 16, 2014
- Monday, July 21, 2014
- St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown PA 18109

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### **We are the Lookout for the Neighborhood**

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



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East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood President Dennis Pearson visited Pittsburgh PA for the Spring Board of Director Meeting of the Pennsylvania Labor History Society in late April 2014 ... The PLHS Board of Director would like Pearson to help organize a PLHS Fall Conference in the Allentown - Bethlehem area. for September, 2015



L-R: Nick Molnar, Dennis Pearson, Rick Bloomingdale (Pres, PA FL-CIO), Howard Scott,(rear) Charles Lumpkin (PLHS Pres), Ken Wolensky, Rosemary Trump(past PLHS Pres), and Zachary Hause

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East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association President Dennis Pearson visited Los Angeles , California for the 33rd International Space Development Conference of the National Space Society this past May. With the NSS he has served as Chapter Chair of NSS Chapter since the 30th International Space Development Conference in Huntsville, Alabama.

He was 1st elected as Chapter Chair at the 29th International Space Development Conference in Chicago Illinois.

The National Space Society (NSS) is an independent, educational, grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to the creation of a spacefaring civilization

He is certified by NASA to borrow Moon Rocks for display at qualified events such as the 2004 Bethlehem Historical and Cultural Festival in Bethlehem PA

# Project Academia- Science

Next Meeting : June 16, 2014----

**Allentown School District 1st (resurrected) Science Fair --- May 29, 2014**

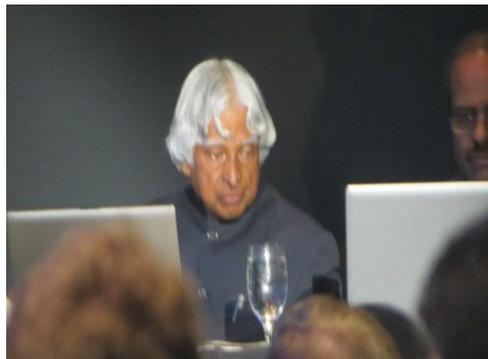
**With permission of the Allentown School District the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association in cooperation with the Lehigh Valley Space Frontier of the Lehigh Valley Council for Regional Livability offered the Kirk Shinsky Award to a High School Student and the Frederick Greenleaf Jr. Award to a Middle School Student.**

**Each award has a \$100 monetary award associated with the award.**

**Frederick Greenleaf Jr. in 1955 as an Allentown High School student had the distinction of being the first Allentown School District student to win 1st prize in the national science Fair. Our sources could not give any detail in regards to theme of that project.**

**Kirk Shinsky in 1970 as a Dieruff High School student also had the distinction of be a national science fair winner. Our sources tell us that his project dealt with creating a proton collider.**

**Unlike the neighborhood's now moth-balled mini-scholarship award the Project Academia-Science award recipients may not necessarily be from either the 14th or 15th Wards of Allentown.**



**Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam (  /æbdʊl kə'lə:m/; born 15 October 1931) usually referred to as Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, is an Indian scientist and administrator who served as the 11th President of India from 2002 to 2007. Kalam was born and raised in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, studied physics at the St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli, and aerospace engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology (MIT), Chennai...Kalam was a speaker at the ISDC Conference in San Diego in 2013 - Photo was taken by Dennis Pearson**

# Project Academia- Science - Continued

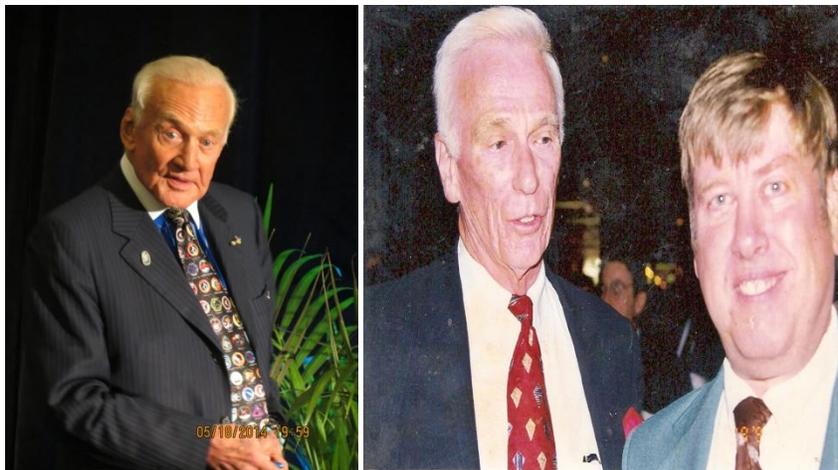
As far as Project Academia is concerned, the ASD Science Judges have determined that Josiah Stuart for his study of metal determination in solutions using the flame test has won the first East Allentown Kirk Shinsky award in the High School Division. Stuart for winning the Shinsky Award received \$100 from the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association. Stuart attends William Allen H.S.

Equally, ASD Science Judges have determined that Ian Butz for his project titled "That's the Way the Ball Bounces" has won the first Frederick Greenleaf Jr. Award in the Middle School Division. Butz for winning the Greenleaf Award receive \$100 from the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association. Butz attends Trexler Middle School

Butz had strong competition from a 8th grade student from Harrison-Morton who put together a great science fair project testing air foils in a wind tunnel.

Please note - the EARN neighborhood intends to offer the awards authorized under its Project Academia- Science next year. Our thoughts are to establish an award or awards on the elementary level as well .

Of course, what awards we offer and the monetary awards we offer for each award will ultimately depend on what fundraising success we have to raise money for Project Academia-Science. And additionally we stress, Project Academia- Science encourages projects whose themes ate related to astronomy, earth science, space aviation, space settlement, space technology, space physics and engineering.



(L) Buzz Aldrin (born Edwin Eugene Aldrin, Jr., January 20, 1930) is an engineer and former American astronaut, and the second person to walk on the Moon. He was the lunar module pilot on *Apollo 11*, the first manned lunar landing in history. He set foot on the Moon at 03:15:16 (UTC) on July 21, 1969, following mission commander Neil Armstrong. He is also a retired colonel in the United States Air Force (USAF) and a Command Pilot. Aldrin was a speaker at the ISDC Conference in Los Angeles California in 2014 - Photo was taken by Dennis Pearson

(C) Eugene Andrew "Gene" Cernan (/ˈsɛr.nən/; born March 14, 1934) is a retired American naval officer, fighter pilot and NASA astronaut. He has been into space three times: as pilot of Gemini 9A in June 1966; as lunar module pilot of Apollo 10 in May 1969; and as commander of Apollo 17 in December 1972, the final Apollo lunar landing.

On Apollo 17, Cernan became the eleventh person to walk on the Moon and the last man on the Moon since he was the last to re-enter the lunar module *Challenger* after the mission's third and final extra-vehicular activity (EVA). (Crewmate Harrison Schmitt was the last man *to arrive* on the Moon, as Cernan left the module first.) Cernan was also a backup crew member for the Gemini 12, Apollo 7 and Apollo 14 space missions... EARN President Dennis Pearson is shown with Cernan at an earlier Los Angeles Conference. The Picture was taken by Astronaut Tom Stafford.



Dennis Pearson , NSS Chapter Chair Huntsville, Alabama

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## Project Haas- Storage

Bob Jacoby and Dennis Pearson signed a lease in late March 2014 for the storage of our Project Haas Inventory ... Basically it is a month to month lease intended to start immediately and end September 30, 2014 ... Normally from October 1 to

**March 31 most of this inventory is included in our Irving Park Project Haas Display... Under the terms of the lease the vender agreed to give us one free month storage. Our first payment for May will be made on or before April 25. We will be paying one half of the normal contract price ... Excluding any sales tax we will pay \$29.99 a month ... Or rounded off \$150 total .**

**Hopefully some good Samaritan will help us in the payment. Rounded off our insurance cost will approximately be \$265.00 ... Our charge for mail box permit about \$60**

**There is a need for someone to help with transportation of our Project Haas Inventory to our storage place on Quebec Street and in October back to Irving Park for the 21st running of Project Haas.**

**There is a need for someone to check the condition of our inflated balloons and lights in the future And also help us in setting up our project and later taking it done. To date the PPL has provided us a high lift truck to assist us in the set up and take down of the decorations on the flag pole. In fact this year we had the service of two high lift trucks and two PPL volunteers..**

**For 20 years we had the approval of the City of Allentown to set up or display in Irving Park as well as other places on the East Side if we so elected**



**Bob Jacoby supervising Project Haas activity at Irving Park**

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East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES January 20, 2014

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 20, 2014 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. State Representative Mike Schlossberg was also present.

Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2013. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby reported that we \$767.57 in our account. The amount was unchanged from last month. It was moved and seconded to approve the report. The motion carried.

Mike Schlossberg, Representative in the General Assembly, spoke to the group. The district that he represents (132<sup>nd</sup>) will have the East Side except for one district of the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward after the new redistricting goes into effect.

Some of the issues that will be coming up in the next year will be the possible privatization of the state liquor system and reform to the state pension system. The annual budget will have to be settled. The current state budget is about \$28 billion and it appears that we have a \$1.5 million hole in it at present.

Education is one of his major concerns. Every time the state cuts the education budget we need to raise the local school taxes. As to roads and bridges, 25% of our bridges in PA are ruled as structurally deficient. We are better at building infrastructure than we are at maintaining it.

President Pearson noted that the Allentown State Hospital is under the control of the state General Services Administration and that is an issue of interest to the east side. Rep. Schlossberg said property is for sale, but intentionally will not go automatically to the highest bidder. GSA will work with the city to determine "best use." Inasmuch as it is not in his current district he is not directly in the loop with current progress on the matter.

Best use would not involve packing the area with townhouses since the city schools' finances would be hurt by a large influx of students. Currently the Allentown School District has 17,000 students, 2,000 of whom are in charter schools.

Secretary Schell noted that his PhD dissertation was on the politics that went into setting up the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board at the end of National Prohibition in 1933. He offered to send an electronic copy of the work to anyone who was interested in the matter.

President Pearson noted that that was an appropriate lead into the next topic we needed to discuss—the former Tony's Bar and Grill on Union Boulevard. He noted that he had spoken to owner Tony Elchaar while delivering the EARN newsletter to the area. At the moment the establishment is operating as a non-liquor fast food restaurant. The permit notice in the establishment's window, however lists the applicant as the Greater Slavonia Society of America, and the license as being from the Ukrainian Club of America. The establishment is supposed to be for a "catering cafeteria."

Secretary Schell read to the meeting the letter that he had written to Mayor Pawlowski on January 4<sup>th</sup> about the situation at Tony's Bar. The letter had been written at the instruction of the December meeting of EARN and expressed our concern that some of the problems that had occurred when Tony's was operating as a bar with live and recorded music might return if another liquor license was granted.

We noted that we had met with Tony Elchaar about this in the past and that we supported the operation of any legitimate business, including his, as long as it did not become a nuisance, which had been the case with the earlier bar.

Schell noted that he received a call from Assistant Chief George Medero within 48 hours after mailing the letter. Officer Medero thanked Schell for the letter and noted that he had spoken with Captain Schwartz, our previous contact on the matter, about it. The city is aware of the past problems and will be monitoring the situation closely. He expressed appreciation to the group that we were not calling for the closing of the business, merely that it does not become a public problem, and also thanked the group for its involvement. He noted that as previous head of the city's Vice Squad, he was always glad when neighborhood groups took an active interest in improving their areas.

Secretary Schell read the correspondence he had had with Neighborhood Coordinator Phyllis Alexander over the matter of 404 N. Jerome Street and our question as to whether there was an ordinance in the city to require a homeowner to carry homeowner's insurance. On the latter matter, City Clerk Michael P. Hanlon reported that there is no city ordinance requiring homeowner's insurance, although banks, of course, require it as long as one has a mortgage.

As to the matter of the home at 404 N. Jerome Street with the siding coming off, she wrote to Patrick Roels, Housing Inspector in the Building Standards and Safety Department, since she had been informed that he had been assigned this matter. Roels replied that he had been present at a hearing on the matter before District Magistrate Michael D'Amore on December 9<sup>th</sup>. One of the half-owners attended and assured the court that a contract had been signed for the repairs and they were to be completed within two to three weeks. The result of the hearing was that if repairs were not completed within thirty days the co-owners would be heavily fined and if they did not show at the hearing warrants would be issued.

It appears that no work has been accomplished on the property, and inasmuch as over forty days have passed since the hearing, Secretary Schell will inquire of Alexander as to the progress of the legal proceedings.

President Pearson noted that he had been informed several weeks ago the Bahama Mama's—the new name of the former Club Horizon—was to be closed within the next two weeks. Several of the Horizon management have supposedly gone to work for the Stratus nightclub in the same shopping center. Pearson noted that if the club does close and someone else wants to operate at that location they would have go through the usual application process. As part of this process, neighbors within 500 feet are to be consulted on the matter.

Pearson also noted that the legal proceedings concerning the alleged prostitution at Platinum Plus are still working their way through the legal system.

A neighbor raised the question of what specifically we had protested when Platinum Plus was being developed. Answer: the club was increasing in size and was switching from a BYOB club to a licensed liquor establishment. As a liquor licensee they were also allowed to have later closing hours, and that was another issue that we objected to. It was noted that the Redner's Market in the same shopping center is one of only two in the chain that is not open 24 hours—in this case supposedly due to problems with patrons of one of the nightclubs coming into the store after the club closed. We have gotten differing stories as to whether the patrons causing the difficulty were from Club Horizon or Platinum Plus.

Pearson read several articles of East Side news concerning the shooting on Westminster Street, the slowness in filling some vacancies on city boards, and other assorted matters.

A neighbor from the 1200 block of E. Tremont Street reported on various break-ins and thefts in the neighborhood. He asked if we have a neighborhood watch. We do not have a crime watch as such but we do have a number that can be called anonymously. Vice President Kriebel gave him the information on that process.

A neighbor reported that there have been many hit and runs in the hilly area of the 400 and 500 blocks of E. Hamilton Street. These have generally occurred late at night and have involved property damage—vehicles being hit by cars heading up and down the Hamilton Street hill at a high rate of speed. All occurrences of damages have been reported to the police in a timely manner. The neighbor questioned whether a petition to the city was the appropriate next step for them to take.

The group was advised to call the city's traffic department and inform them of the situation. This could possibly result in a study of traffic counts and/or speeding in the area. The neighbor noted that in addition the area does not have the best street lighting and that more light could be used in the area.

Question: What is going on with the old Mosser School? All we know is that the building needs to be fixed before it can be inhabited again. The fire in the laundry room blocked the entrances to the building and the fire department had to come in from the roof to rescue the residents who were still there. It has an insect and rodent infestation. Beyond that we have no recent information.

Pearson noted that over 4,000 newsletters were delivered this month and that through his part in the delivery he has become aware that there are many more substandard housing units on the East Side than he had previously realized.

Question: Have we heard anything further in response to the speed check on N. Jerome Street? Answer: We have not.

A neighbor noted a snowplowing problem with N. Jadd Street, a small short thoroughfare that runs between N. Jerome and N. Jasper Streets. At its northern end it intersects with N. Jasper Street on an angle that some from the city have claimed is actually a private parking area. It is not—it is a named city street, and the neighbor usually has to call to get it plowed after a snow. Representative Schlossberg said that he will call the city about it tomorrow.

It was noted that some thieves have been scamming people for money outside various businesses in the area, including Bull and Bear Restaurant and an area laundromat. Patrons are being approached and asked for money needed for various "hard luck" problems, which vary depending on the person doing the scamming.

Treasurer Jacoby noted that he had received several compliments on our lights in Irving Park this year. He also noted that there was some damage to the displays, but that these took place after the holiday when the lights were turned off.

President Pearson noted that the East Side Fire Station is almost complete. He wanted to express the thanks of the group to Fire Chief Scheirer for his efforts to push the project along to completion.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully, *David A. Schell, Secretary*

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#### **EARN MINUTES February 17, 2014**

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on February 17, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Two officers (Dennis Pearson and David Schell) and four other neighbors were present at the meeting. Allentown Neighborhood Coordinator Phyllis Alexander was present as were Captain Tony Alsleben and Sgt. Rob Holler of the Allentown Police Department and Mark Lang, Co-Director of the L..Venture Charter School

David Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distribute. The motion carried.

A neighbor who lives near E. Hickory Street in the area running from Carlisle to Brook Streets noted that the icy street had not been cleared. She had called the streets department and was told that they will not clear it since it is a third class street. Additionally, there is a truck that is parked long term on S. Carlisle Street. The police should be called in such a situation. They will tag the vehicle and it can be towed if not moved in 72 hours. She was concerned that she will have to give her name and it will become known who complained, but was assured that she doesn't have to give her identification.

We still have no information on 7 S. Jerome Street concerning the overgrowth, trash, and vehicle parked in the yard. Phyllis Alexander will contact the appropriate authorities about the matter.

**The group discussed the trash and recycling collection during the recent snowstorms. It was noted that the city puts out a press release about the matter and posts a notice on the city website at [allentown.gov](http://allentown.gov) about whether they will collect/**

**Dave Schell read correspondence between Phyllis Alexander and Patrick Roels, Housing Inspector with Building Standards and safety concerning 404 N. Jerome Street. Former domestic partners own the home, only one of whom lives at the location. There was a hearing before Magistrate D'Amore on February 5th . The resident did not show for the hearing. The magistrate awarded the maximum fine. The other owner, who may not be aware of the situation, will be informed, and the bank (mortgage holder) will be informed of the situation.**

**Dave Schell also read a communication from Officer Beidelman of the Allentown police Department concerning several issues. First, the police have received numerous complaints about noise, suspicious activity, and parking at the Source Hookah Lounge off Hanover Avenue The police are monitoring the situation. Additionally, the police continue to monitor the speeding situation on Jerome Street as schedules permit. As to the speeding and accidents on the E. Hamilton Street hill, Officer Beidelman suggested contacting the Traffic Division or Captain Alsleben. As noted, Captain Alsleben was present at the meeting when this report was read.**

**Finally, Schell also read an item from the Morning Call's "Retail Watch" column concerning the changes at Bahama Mama's Nightclub, which opened on November 29th at the site of the former Club Horizon on Airport Road. The club's hours are 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.**

**Captain Alsleben noted that the liquor licenses for Bahama Mama's, Pitchers and Platinum Plus are up for review in April. These are three of six licenses coming up in Allentown that month. In regards to the application for a license at the former Tony's Bar on Union Boulevard, if the license to be transferred is another location within the city there will not have to be a hearing. If it is being transferred from outside city limits, but within the county there will have to be a hearing. The solicitor's office is looking into the situation and they will get back to us on the matter.**

The police will continue to monitor the truck traffic situation concerning N. Maxwell and E. Gordon streets. The affected neighbors were not present at this meeting.

Captain Alsleben provided the group with current traffic statistics on crime year-to-date on the east side. Robbery is down 75%, aggravated assault down 25%, and total crime down 25% on the east side. Auto theft year to date is up. The captain noted that 90% of vehicle theft or theft from vehicles is from cars that are unlocked or left running. In cold weather some owners are running their cars to warm them up and going back into the house, are which times thieves strike. The public is strongly urged to keep their vehicles locked and not leave unattended cars running. Also, do not leave valuables visible in cars. As to auto makes, Hondas are particularly hot for thieves at present

The auto theft task force will show up for a subsequent meeting to make a presentation. We will attempt to announce the date of this presentation in advance. The police would also like to do another VIN etching with our group and the Midway Manor Association as a theft-recovery method. Another problem in the city of late has been the theft of tires and rims. If any neighbors see vans double-parked that often indicates that thieves are in the process of stealing tires or rims, and the police should be notified immediately. at 9-1-1.

Capt. Alsleben also provided information concerning homeless assistance, particularly in reference to homeless veterans. The city is continuing to urge the homeless to come in from the cold on particularly cold nights through Operation Blue Light. Additionally, Eladio Gonzales of the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living recently made a presentation to the Health bureau about services available for homeless or "near homeless" veterans. Mr. Gonzales is Director of the Veterans' Services Programs for four counties, including Lehigh. He can be contacted for further information concerning available services at (610) 770-9781, Ext. 118.

The Lehigh County Citizens Police Academy will be starting a program on March 18th. This program, for any interested citizens, will run every Tuesday from then until June 3rd, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tuition is \$50. Applications should be returned March 7th. Further information can be obtained from Officer Timothy Yanders of the Allentown P.D. at (610) 437-7719. Among the topics covered will be fingerprinting, firearms safety, court procedures, arrest procedures, and crime scene processing.

The Allentown P.D is hiring. They are looking for 120 certified individuals. The window will be open for this process until March. They will also be hiring non certified individuals 000 that process will open in March or April, and will be announced at the time.

Dennis Pearson has heard that the dedication of the east Side Fire Station will take place Tuesday, February 18th at 11 a.m. although we have heard nothing official. (The dedication took place on Thursday, February 20th).

Mark Lang of the proposed L. Venture Charter School spoke to the group about the school and the state of education today. While he has great respect for educators, he is concerned that we are doing things the same way that we have done for years --- feed information, via textbooks and other materials. Another method is to give students problems to solve that they can see direct application and value. The students are given projects to work on and student-directed learning. This involves retraining the teachers from being providers of information and answers.

The Charter School is proposed for center city Allentown. He asked to speak with us and asked what our views on the matter are. Some present raised concerns about the impact that the charter schools have on the budget of the public schools --impacting Allentown greatly. Charter Schools are public schools --- publicly funded -- and thus cannot charge tuition. Charter Schools were originally designed (Mr. Lang Said) to become innovators. Many today, however, have become alternative schools --- stressing certain areas such as music or art, but still doing things the same way as traditional schools.

Dennis Pearson observed that we need to have more emphasis on libraries at the east side schools such as Ritter and Mosser, since we no longer have an east branch of the public library. Pearson noted that Ritter is the only city elementary school consistently meeting the math standards.

Mr. Lang said that the directors are focusing on grades 6-12 for the Charter School. The proposal has been brought before the Allentown School Board and will probably be voted on within the month. If approved it would start in fall. If not, they intend to appeal the decision.

Dennis Pearson reported that the Christmas Light displays has been turned off. Things have been removed from the pool area but due to the weather we still have not been able to take the lights off the pole.

Phyllis Alexander gave the group copies of a city-supplied brochure on contacts for various city services---"City Contacts for Citizen Services."

They're being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at \*;15 P.m.

Respectfully David A. Schell, Secretary

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East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES March 17, 2014

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on March 17, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (Dennis Pearson, Denton Kriebel, Bob Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and twelve other neighbors were present at the meeting.

Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Robert Jacoby reported that there is \$767.57 in our treasury. His report was approved by a voice vote.

Dennis Pearson recommended that we do not sponsor a mini-grant to Dieruff High School this year, but rather spend the funds on a several awards for a citywide science fair that the Allentown School District is sponsoring in May. He suggested that we have two awards of \$100 each for winners, one at the high school level and one at the middle school level. This proposal was moved and approved by a voice vote. Schell will inform the Dieruff counseling office of the fact that we will not be issuing mini-grants this year but doing this instead.

Dennis Pearson reported on the storage of our Christmas materials. In addition, Bob Jacoby suggested that we ask for the city's permission to leave the tree on the pole so we don't have to worry about taking it down and putting it back up again in fall. If we put the cord high enough on the pole so that it cannot be reached the tree will probably survive the year since it came through the winter without damage.

Dennis Pearson announced that there will be a public hearing on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. concerning the transfer of a liquor license from Lower Milford Township to Tony's Pizza at 1139 Union Boulevard. Dave Schell read the public notice to the meeting. The group discussed the various types of licensed premises and how this will impact the usage. We would like to get information prior to the meeting on the various violations that had previously taken place at his location.

No progress is visible at 404 N. Jerome Street. Another complaint was filed on February 6<sup>th</sup> and the co-owner was found guilty. The other co-owner was served notice and at the next hearing a warrant will be requested for the owners. Schell will ask Phyllis Alexander to see if a warrant has been issued for the arrest of the owner.

Large trucks trying to make the turn at E. Gordon and N. Maxwell Streets is still a problem. In addition, trucks are parking in the area.

Dennis Pearson received a call today from someone near the corner of N. Graham Street and E. Tilghman Street. The person noted that the paint has worn off the speed humps and he requested that they be repainted since they cannot be seen. The group noted that there is a sign announcing the speed hump before each one. We can, however, bring this to the attention of the city.

Dennis Pearson noted that an article in the local paper reported that the city's Director of Public Works, Richard Young, might be appointed to a county position in Northampton County.

E. Hickory and S. Carlisle Streets—still problem with a truck parking for extended periods of time. In addition, the vehicle not cleared of snow so it was impossible to see around or through it for oncoming traffic. The police were called and reported to the neighbor that as long as the person is parked legally they can do nothing about it. We were under the impression that a vehicle could not stay in the same position without being moved for over 72 hours. It appears that this law, if still in effect, is not being enforced by Allentown.

Dennis Pearson spoke of the situation at Keck Park. It has not been fully used since being renovated several years ago. Supposedly the grass in the field was supposed to be allowed to establish itself. The park is still being underutilized, and there appears to be some problems with the layout of the ball fields.

The group discussed the placement of UGI gas meters outside in front of the properties. UGI has refused several requests to move meters from the front of the buildings without the homeowner paying for the work.

The Stratus nightclub has changed its name to Chicago. The former operator of Mezza Luna is again part of the club's operation.

Dave Schell read the invitation from Phyllis Alexander to help with the planning for the 2014 Leadership Institute or the Allentown Neighborhood Summit. The next meeting of the Leadership Institute planning committee will be on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 p.m. in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room in City Hall. The Neighborhood Summit planning committee will hold its first meeting in late April or early May. This summit will take place in fall. If anyone would like to help with either planning committee they may contact Phyllis Alexander at (610) 437-7679.

They're being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully, *David A. Schell, Secretary*

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EARN Minutes April 21, 2014

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 21, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Three officers (Dennis Pearson, Bob Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and eleven other neighbors were present at the meeting. Captain Tony Alsleben of the Allentown Police Department was also present, as was Phyllis Alexander, Allentown Neighborhood Coordinator.

Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby reported that the balance is unchanged from last month at \$767.57. We needed to remove our decorations and other goods from storage. The goods have been put into a storage facility on Quebec Street. The first month will be free. Rental will be \$31 monthly thereafter. The treasurer's report was approved as read. Treasurer Jacoby asked for a vote to approve the expenditure of funds for the rental. The lease is for five months, and we are getting a discount from the storage company. It the moved and seconded to approve the expenditure, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Captain Alsleben reported that area liquor licensees Platinum Plus, Bahama Mamas, and Pitchers all have hearings in the near future with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board. Bahama Mamas has thirty incidents involving the police, Platinum Plus has thirty-six incidents, and Pitchers has ten. There are other PLCB incidents that did not involve the Allentown Police.

The liquor license transfer was approved for Tony's Bar by a 4-2 vote by City Council. The Council had been given the data on police incidents at that location, but Capt. Alsleben noted that he was limited in his ability to give the Council report on previous incidents. Tony Elchaar was not present at the hearing and is not supposed to be part of the new operation that has the license. The approval specifies that there are to be no bands, no D.J.s, and no rental of the premises to other groups. The location was approved despite the police report that this was not a logistically feasible place for such activity. Capt. Alsleben asked us to reach out to him if we have incidents and concerns once the business restarts.

A neighbor noted that at the city council meeting it was said that the doors will not open until the site is up to code, and asked if we can get a list of requirements in the code. We should be able to since it is public information. Specific issues raised were the amount of parking required, necessary electrical inspection, and adequate lighting. We also have been led to believe that the building and surrounding property have different owners.

Police related issues should be brought to Capt. Alsleben's attention. He can check on code violations, but that is not his direct area of enforcement. A neighbor asked about how violations can be reported without having to identify oneself. This can be done through the "checkmate system," but one can also call and make a report while declining to provide identity. It was noted that the captain can also be contacted by email, but that email is generally public information in that it is "discoverable" in the event of future litigation, so that is not the best way to contact him if anonymity is desired.

Secretary Schell said that he had heard that one of the attorneys involved in the case had sent a threatening letter warning a neighbor about complaining. Schell noted that while people can be sued about anything, they can't be successfully charged if the facts that they are reporting are true.

It was noted that the PLCB still has to approve the liquor license at this location. Additionally, we have some questions as to whether the correct procedure was followed in this City Council approval since there was no testimony on the matter was at the council meeting itself, not at a hearing prior to the council's meeting, as should have been the case. Finally, the neighbors present thanked Capt. Alsleben for his help in the matter.

The captain noted that the chief of police wanted to be with us tonight but was unable to be here due to a conflict. He will attempt to get to the next meeting. The captain briefly noted some recent crime statistics. The homicide on N. Nelson Street involving the auto purchase set up on Craigslist was solved. The biggest issue at present, not only on the East Side but also throughout the city, involves thefts from cars. The worst time for this to occur has been Monday nights. Of seventeen such reports, sixteen involved the vehicles being unlocked. In many cases the things stolen were left in plain view. The police have started a new process of putting "report cards" on vehicles. If the car that is parked on the street is locked and doesn't have valuables in plain view a note is put on the vehicle noting that it "passed," but if it is found unlocked a "failed" report card note is put on the vehicle advising the owner of the chance they are taking. The captain repeated an item from a previous meeting that rims and tires being stolen are also a major issue. The thieves are quite quick at the theft and the police should be called in the event of suspicious activity of this sort. Question: what about graffiti "tagging" of buildings. Answer: Call the police and they will come and take pictures and investigate further action on the matter.

In response to a question, Dennis Pearson noted that the annual Leonard Buck program honors police officers who did an excellent job over the past year and also a citizen who did likewise. Former crime watch leader Leonard Buck started this, and this year's event will take place on Thursday (4/24) at the Fearless Fire Company Social Hall, its usual location.

It was noted that a neighbor from the Walnut Street area has been taking pictures of code violations in that area. These are reported to the appropriate city agency. Inspectors have been sent out to investigate, but nothing has been done. Phyllis Alexander will give the neighbor the person at city hall to be contacted on the matter. She noted that under Pennsylvania law the city is limited in what can be done beyond repeatedly citing and fining the owner. Dennis Pearson commented that the emphasis for inspections appears to be in the downtown area, not the east side. It was noted that some of the projects funding this work are Community Development Block Grants, which are given for a specific geographic area of the city. If the east side is beyond that geographic area the funds cannot be spent to do similar work in this part of town.

Phyllis Alexander suggested that we invite people from the appropriate city departments to our meeting. We should give them the topic that we wish to discuss, and if possible provide them in advance with some of our questions so that they can bring the necessary information with them. Some other neighborhood groups do this. This could involve Code Enforcement and other departments. We may not agree with the answers that we would get but would understand the philosophy and operation methods, and they would better understand our concerns.

There is little new to report on the situation at 404 N. Jerome Street. Additional fines have been imposed and the case is moving forward.

Question: What is the city policy on animal control concerning skunks? We will have to find out. Will animal control take action on the matter or take charge of the animals if city residents trap them. Phyllis Alexander took the neighbor's name and will get back to him with the answer.

It was noted that in some areas vehicles, particularly wide pickup trucks, are parking in part on sidewalks, as they apparently fear that their mirrors will be broken off by passing traffic. This is most likely a violation and the information will be passed along to the appropriate parties. This is particularly a problem with E. Livingston Street, which is quite narrow. Possibly this street should be changed either to make it one-way or to allow parking only on one side of the street. ....

Secretary Schell noted that he informed Dieruff that we would be replacing the mini-grants for two awards at the science fair this year. President Pearson said that he has been in contact with the school district about this and the awards will be given on May 29<sup>th</sup>. They're being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. .... Respectfully, *David A. Schell, Secretary*

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East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES May 19, 2014

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 19, 2014 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Three officers (Dennis Pearson, Bob Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and four other neighbors were present at the meeting. Allentown Chief of Police Joel Fitzgerald was also present, as were two other officers.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of April 21, 2014. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby reported that the balance from last month at \$767.57. We paid \$29.99 for storage making our balance \$737.58. The report was approved by voice vote. This month we will have the storage expense and will also have expenses of \$200 for the science fair awards. The awards will be named in honor of two national science fair winners from Allentown.

Dennis Pearson noted that Denton Kriebel has resigned as association vice president due to health considerations. Pearson noted that Kriebel did much for the association during his term. Dave Schell noted that the bylaws provide that in the event of a vacancy caused by resignation, the remaining officers are to choose a person to fill the remainder of the term. He asked that anyone who would be interested in the office or would like to suggest someone else for it make his or her interest or his or her suggestion known to the officers.

Schell reported on various email correspondence he had received since the previous meeting:

- Capt. Tony Alsleben wrote on May 7<sup>th</sup> that the police Traffic Unit had conducted a detail that day at the Ritter Elementary School, with a focus on double parking and child safety. They stopped ten vehicles and issued seven citations. They had conducted a similar operation the previous week at Mosser Elementary School.
- Phyllis Alexander, City Neighborhood Coordinator, wrote after the last meeting that she had communicated with various city officers concerning items raised at our April meeting:
  - A collapsed wall on E. Walnut Street. This was referred to Mr. Dave Parker.
  - Animal control (specifically skunks). It was noted that only licensed trappers may trap skunks in Pennsylvania. The Allentown animal control officers are not licensed officers. If a skunk appears to be sick or injured the matter should be reported to animal control. If it is merely a nuisance a person can hire a trapper at his or her own expense. There is a list of trappers at [allentownrecycles.org](http://allentownrecycles.org).
  - The city is aware of the blighted property at 5 S. Jerome Street, and Code is checking into the matter.
  - The continuing problem with large trucks attempting to turn at E. Gordon and N. Maxwell Streets was referred to Traffic Planning and Control, as were the traffic problems in the narrow 1100 block of E. Livingston Street.
- Schell communicated with Patrick Roels from Building Standards and Safety about any further progress to the blighted property at 404 N. Jerome Street. Mr. Roels replied that there had

been an additional hearing before Magistrate D'Amore on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Again the owners did not show and again they were fined the maximum amount. The property is in the pre-foreclosure stage with Wells Fargo Bank, which has registered the property on the national VacantRegistry.com site. At present we are still not certain when the repairs will be addressed.

- Schell also asked Ms. Alexander today if she had anything further to report to the members this evening. She sent additional information on the Leadership Institute on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> (9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), at the Sacred Heart Hospital Conference Center, 421 W. Chew Street. The event is free and lunch is provided. If interested, neighbors are urged to contact Alexander at 610-437-7679 or [phyllis.alexander@allentownpa.gov](mailto:phyllis.alexander@allentownpa.gov). There are sessions for both adults and teens.

Dennis Pearson introduced Chief of Police Fitzgerald to the members and offered him the floor. The chief said that he has been making the rounds of neighborhood meetings, has been greeted warmly, and asked if we had any questions or comments. He had seen our previous meeting minutes via Capt. Alsleben.

Dave Schell offered to include him on the minutes' distribution, but said that he realized that the chief had many items to deal with and we didn't want to overload his in-box. Chief Fitzgerald replied with thanks, but noted that he asks each area captain for a monthly report, and that this material comes to him via Capt. Alsleben's report.

Dennis Pearson noted that the controversial Club liquor license transfer from Lower Milford to Allentown for the former Tony's Pizzeria and Bar address on Union Boulevard has been approved by the Allentown City Council by a vote of 4-2 in favor. We are hoping for the best in the way things work out going forward. This is a club license, and since the club has been moved geographically the group will need new members to continue. In response to a question from Dave Schell, Pearson replied that as a club license, patrons of the establishment must be club members or their guests. The chief noted that the police will continue to work with EARN on enforcement.

Schell had a question about traffic stops, as he notices that often these involve two or three police vehicles. He wondered if that was standard practice or if it indicated a more serious reason for the stop. The chief replied that the matter of backup varies based on resources, who is on duty, other calls on those on duty, and so forth, but that multiple vehicles on the scene does not necessarily mean that it is a felony stop.

The group discussed traffic enforcement. The police do have different levels of enforcement depending on time of day or where they receive the most complaints. They try to deploy officers to problem areas and times to get a larger number of major violators.

A neighbor noted that there is a developing problem with the dumping of garbage—household, appliances, automotive, plus bags of garbage—along Bradford Street near where it passes under the Tilghman Street Bridge. If the material is not cleared up it attracts further dumping. This can be a problem in other areas of the city as well, such as on the south side off of Constitution Drive. In addition to police watching the situation, they are trying to get the railroad workers to keep an eye on the areas along the railroad right of way and report problems.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully, *David A. Schell, Secretary*

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**This house needs a fix up --- Do you agree or do you not agree?**

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If you live, operate a business, or simply have a vested interest in Allentown's East Side, please come! to our next neighborhood meetings in June and July ... 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. **That's why we are the EARN Frontier.**

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