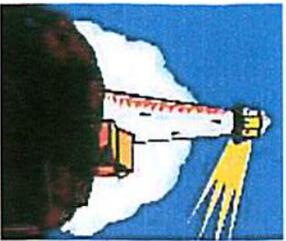


EARN FRONTIER (September 17, 2010) EAST ALLENTOWN RITERSVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Next Neighborhood Meeting ---
EARN --- Monday, October 18, , 2010
7:00 PM. St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran Church, Hanover Avenue

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Web Site --- www.eastlehighearn.com

Allentown State Hospital Update

The Allentown State Hospital opened nearly a century ago on Oct. 3, 1912, on 200 acres of woodlands along the Lehigh River. The hospital, then known as the Allentown Homeopathic Hospital for the Insane, initially admitted patients from Norristown and Danville state hospitals, which were

overcrowded. It was the first homeopathic institution of its kind in Pennsylvania, according to the state Department of Public Welfare. Under the homeopathic approach, diluted doses of substances are used to provoke healing responses in the body.

The patient population peaked at 2,107 in 1954. But in October 2009, the 97-year-old hospital had just 170 patients served by 379 employees.

Today the trend nationwide reflects a shift toward treating mental illness at smaller facilities, which advocates say is less costly and more effective.

Acting Public Welfare Secretary Harriet Dichter earlier this year announced plans to close the hospital by the end of the year. As of 9/10/2010 the population of residents at the Hospital is down to 59 with 187 employees as of 9/3/2010.

AGENDA ITEMS for OCTOBER 18th Meeting ---

- **November State/federal elections - Opportunity for candidates to speak**
 - **Neighbor Concerns**
 - **Updates Hanover Avenue**
 - **Updates Allentown State Hospital**
 - **Updates --- Neighborhood Planning and Zoning**
 - **project Haas Christmas Display**
 - **Neighbor ideas for Neighborhood events**
- If you come ... We will build a neighborhood of dreams ... If you come ... We have a better chance to be listened too...**

East Allentown-Rittersville Neighborhood Association, Inc.

August 16, 2010 meeting

Location - St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1933 Hanover Avenue

10 people present

President Dennis Pearson brought the meeting to order a little after 7:00 PM ... The standing order of this association is that General Membership meetings should be conducted in

an open town hall type of manner as much as possible ; that, the formal style business meeting should be utilized on limited occasions. That those members present at any General Membership Meetings constitute a quorum.

Minutes of July 19, 2010 Meeting..... Informal discussion centering on Our Lady Help of Christian Hanover Avenue problem and other areas of interest the neighborhood is involved with ... Mention was made that the Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski would start his tour of a portion of the EARN neighborhood at the Church

There was a motion to approve the minutes by Vice President David Schell and Seconded by Robert Jacoby ... Motion approved

Treasurer Bob Jacoby next gave the Treasurer's report ... He reported that \$628 was in the Treasury ... President Pearson said that \$500 of this amount was in the past held in a reserve for the Lehigh Valley Council for Regional Livability a 501 3 c organization which is now in hibernation due to the deaths of almost all it officers and board members and which soon may be declared defunct ... This money was to be used for a sign at the City's Fish Hatchery ... But City Officials never acted on this gift saying that all City signs were already taken care of ... Now this money is released for the use by EARN ...Pearson said as the last remaining member of LVCRL he has to make the decision to reorganize it through the recruitment of new members or allow its 501 c 3 status to lapse October 31, 2010.... EARN an incorporated entity organized like a 501 3 c entity could benefit from the continued existence of LVCRL through association with LVCRL and enjoying 501 3 c status through LVCRL's umbrella. EARN also has membership in the Allentown Crime Watch President's Council but the Crime watch council is neither incorporated or holds IRS official 501 3 c status. Without umbrella status under LVCRL or full IRS 501 3 C status on our own gifts to EARN although fully appreciated may not be tax deductible.

President Pearson reported that an Insurance payment of \$258 has been paid to Erie Insurance in preparation for this year's Project Haas Program ... President Pearson made the payment with his own funds ... The neighborhood said that Pearson will be reimbursed later when the neighborhood treasury is on more solid ground ... In May Pearson requested of the City that it give permission to use Irving Park for the neighborhood's annual Project Haas Christmas Display.... City permission again has been received and with this permission and insurance payment Pearson filed Indemnity forms with the PPL for the use of one their high lift trucks for Project Haas ... Kathryn Frazier of PPL said she will work on the required paper work for us to release the truck for Jim Bartley's use.

Next President Pearson notified the group that Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski and many City Officials with him did indeed take a walking tour of part of the EARN neighborhood July 22, 2010 ... He visited the area of EARN between Sherman Street and Club Avenue known as Park Place during the Rittersville Era of its development Pearson said that the Strip club and BYOB place formerly known as the Flat Iron dating from the Central Park Amusement Park days is for sale He said that in the past resident's from Bethlehem Rittersville section joined with the Allentown Rittersville neighborhood to ask the Allentown Zoning Hearing Board to restrict the hours of operation and perhaps ban it ... The owner of the former flat iron had operated it under several names --- the GoodFellas -- Ba Bang a bing, etc.

President Pearson noted that he personally took his own tour of the neighborhood , a more extensive tour than Pawloski's, when he delivered 4,000 newsletters from Club Avenue to the Hamilton Street Bridge and from the highest heights of Lehigh Mountain to the Hanover Township Line. In regard to the issue of the possible closing of the ASD Planetarium , he said that school officials are looking into ways to perhaps save the planetarium. Pearson suggesting that the opening of a new planetarium in Bethlehem's new Broughal Middle School may have provided the incentive for Allentown officials to stay the execution of Allentown's own planetarium ... Of course, Bethlehem's new planetarium is digital and state of the art while Allentown's Planetarium equipment is more archaic but operable.

Next it was noted that construction work has commenced on the Hanover Avenue-E. Hamilton Street corridor between Irving Street and the Hamilton Street Bridge ... Mrs. Burke commented on the construction caused natural gas leak which forced the evacuation of many homes on E. Hamilton for many hours ... Dennis Pearson said that at a City Council meeting he asked Richard Young whether his contracted work true was trying to blow up that portion of the East Side ... All agreed that it was a bit of luck that no explosion occurred in the area as the result of the construction damaged gas line ...Bob Jacoby and Lois Morrell commented that in the fall when lanes become further restricted that traffic will be a mess ... And that East Siders may have problems getting to Downtown Allentown and the South Side and vice versa for South Siders and West Enders getting to the East Side ... Eleanor Hays mentioned that School Children given there is no light may have problems crossing the street from Overlook Park to get to Mosser School She also noted the planned future crosswalks to be constructed on Hanover Avenue and E. Hamilton Street.

David Schell mentioned an article in the paper about the construction of New England Avenue as a connection to American Parkway and Route 22 from Hanover Avenue ... He mentioned that construction has been delayed due to toxic materials found in the former railroad track area bed ... Waste material being more toxic closer to the former terminal building now headquarters for the Penrose Construction Company which built Overlook Terrace.

Dennis Pearson next commented that the Irving Street Swimming Pool had closed for the season ,, Jacoby said that most of the life guards had to go back to school ... Then asked Pearson when we could take our Project Haas things out of storage and transfer them to the Pool ... Pearson said perhaps by mid-September at the earliest or October 1st at the latest Then Pearson added that neighbors adjacent to the area expressed a deep concern about the behavior and activities that have been associated with individuals in about the Park's Basketball Court ... Suggesting that drugs are in play Pearson had told them to come to the neighborhood meeting to officially state their concern here/and state the concern before City Council Pearson said he told Bob Smith and Julie Ambrose who represent the School District at the Park and Recreation Committee about this concern...But Pearson said that he is very much concerned that these people ask us to act but never show up themselves to this meeting. That would be helpful for us if that show up

Ruth Marie Male who lives on Livingston Street said that she is new to the area and that is why she came to the meeting She said that most of this is new to her Both Ernie Atiyeh and David Schell said welcome and told her she will learn ... Jacoby asked her from where she came from ... She said

Florida ... Jacoby said the weather here now is slightly different then there Mrs Male said she is somewhat aware of the area as before she went to Florida she lived in Nazareth... Pearson said that despite some of our apparent problems East Allentown is one of the better areas of the City.

Eleanor Hay next noted that the neighborhood needs to be concerned about construction activity which is expected to take place between E. Hamilton and Westminster Streets and Irving and Filbert Street ... The area now being a tree covered that has a rising slope to the west.... She is concerned whether the construction company will use dynamite to aide in construction And is concerned about the density of the homes to be built ... She said that the initial developer committed suicide Pearson said that there is also an issue of homes bought on Westminster to make way for the project and unfinished construction ... Which Mrs. Hays said was not well constructed.

Pearson also said that the North Face of Lehigh Mountain is almost totally built upon that pressures are existent to expand construction to the South Face as evidenced by the stalled development above River Road near Keck Park Pressure is there to ruin the tree-covered South face of Lehigh Mountain ... Even the City wants 30 acres of Allentown State Hospital Land from the state to sale and be developed to help solve its budgetary problemThese problems ever raising from the days of Joe Daddona who opened the door for Section 8 and low-income housing in Allentown and suburban development all detrimental to Allentown and who set precedent by financing the City Budget by using federal and state funds to pay salaries which Daddona obligingly increased time after time until he caught holding the cookie jar by federal authorities and his federal dollar toy for salary use was taken away from him A lesson some other Allentown Mayors did not learn

Pearson said that next to the Senior Citizen High rise at Central Park there is another planned develop

Finally, the last piece of business was the followingDue to the lack of attendance of neighbors at times we wanted to reorganize our neighborhood through election the terms of the neighborhood officials per bylaws were extended to times we could otherwise hold an election By policy at least ten neighbors are needed to nominate and elect officers ... Please Note --- The Allentown Community of Neighborhood Organizations which EARN was a member before CNO ceased operations for good in 1987 required that for a neighborhood election be recognized by that group at least ten members of the community must participate in the balloting ... EARN has followed this policy procedure even when CNO went out of business as an unstated but formal part of the bylaws as of 9/30/1987.

Indeed there were a few times we had more than that but due to the issue at hand it was inappropriate to divert from that to address this issue ... Consequently like the what's its name battery rabbit our terms went on and on and the Board became smaller due to deaths....

For the moment this problem was solved as President Pearson or should we say Acting President Dennis Pearson called for a motion to retroactively make official the election of all current officers for 2007, 2008 and 2009 ... The motion was made by David Schell and Seconded by Mrs Hays After discussion the motion was carried unanimously ... Meaning that Dennis Pearson is once again officially President, David Schell is once again Officially Vice President and Bob Jacoby is once again officially Treasurer And the situation with the Secretary remains the same ... It is still vacant with the President providing the minutes.

Hopefully, the neighborhood can now go forward to recruit new Board members and Officers if need be for 2010 for our scheduled November election ...

Please Note --- A neighborhood Association should not be considered a sub group for any political party or any other political issue oriented organization... A neighborhood organization promotes the well-being of the communities building infrastructure and the public safety of its people and other necessary livability issues ... As a norm people are not rushing to compete for neighborhood positions at least this has not been the experience of EARN ... Since 9/30/1987 the policy procedure for the Nominating Committee has been to look within the Board of Directors for the high leadership of the neighborhood and look within the interested membership to fill any Board vacancies What is not wanted is a partisan takeover of the EARN neighborhood to specifically promote the interests of political candidates no matter what political office they are seeking.

The most important motion was next made to adjourn the meeting by Davis Schell and it was seconded by Lois Morrell ... The next meeting date is September 20 and hopefully somebody will volunteer to serve as Secretary and other individuals would be willing to serve as Board Members Hopefully Mike D'Amore, Lou Hershman, Bob Smith , David Jones ,our State Representatives as well as other residents of the EARN would find the time and willingness to attend our meetings ...We will be much stronger for that and would also be willing to plan for other neighborhood gathering or activities which could bring neighbors together.

Respectfully submitted Dennis Pearson -President of EARN

Numbers to Know ---

- Police-Fire - Ambulance --- 911
- Police - Non Emergency --- (610) 437 - 7751
- Police Chief Roger Maclean --- (610) 437-7777
- Police - Vice Unit --- (610) 437 -7726
- U.S. Congressman Charles Dent (15) --- 610-861-9734
- State Representative Joseph Brennan (133) --- 610) 882-1510
- State Representative Karen Beyer (131) --- (610) 791-6270
- State Representative Steve Sammuelson (135) --- (610) 867-3890
- State Senator Pat Browne (16) --- (610) 821- 8468

- City Planning - (610) 437-7613
- Recycling/Graffiti Removal --- (610) 437-8729
- Code Enforcement --- (610) 437- 7695
- Zoning Office --- (610) 437 - 7630
- Health Bureau --- (610) 437- 7760
- Water Resources --- (610) 437-7642
- Parking Authority --- (610) 437-3366
- Mayor Ed Pawlowski --- (610) 437-7546
- Allentown City Council -- (610) 437-7539-
- Dennis Pearson --- EARN President --- (610) 434-1229
- Robert Jacoby -- EARN Treasurer --- (610) 435-3417
- David Schell --- EARN Vice President --- (610) 435-1586

Issues related to the Construction of a new Fire House

We understand that the City of Allentown has applied for two grants related to its fire protection operations in the City of Allentown. One of these grants is for a purchase of a new pumper and the other grant for the reconstruction of the East Side Fire House.... At the current time these grant applications are under review by an undetermined grant agency, therefore no word has been received yet whether the City of Allentown will be successful in receiving its grant requests.

It is very likely that the East Side Fire house may be rebuilt at its current site on the Corner of E. Green and N. Irving Streets. ... If this be so, all the personnel and equipment located there need to be relocated and transferred for the duration of construction activities to another site -- perhaps the Hibernia station located at the corner of Ridge Avenue and Tilghman Street some distance away and across the Lehigh River ... This has been done before when Irving Street for some reason has been closed or if heating problems occur in the 1950's built building. Firemen currently assigned to the building say that during construction those designers thought of providing heat to the building as an afterthought not part of original designs.

Being a two bay station, the East Side Fire House can house 2 fire engines. Before a revamping of staffing practices of the Allentown Fire Department a number of years ago each engine had a crew of two people. A decision was made by the then current Mayor and Fire Chief a number of years ago to house only one active engine (Engine 13) in the East Side Fire House containing a two man crew leaving the 2nd Engine there in storage. The East Side Rittersville Neighborhood Association for public safety reasons never was comfortable with this City decision as it happened on more than one occasion that report offs and vacations sometimes had the effect of closing the station for the lack of personnel at least temporarily. At a later date the Fire Pumper left there in storage was removed to be replaced by a boat for river rescues. And in accordance with a Fire Study authorized by the Allentown City Council, the staffing pattern for Engine 13 was increased to four men on board.

When I originally wrote this communication our one fire engine was out on a mission leaving no equipment and personnel in the fire house ... Yes the fire boat was still there, the back bay door open, and a flat screen TV set remained on with no one watching it ... Some years ago when the East Side Fire Station responded to Airport Calls and all equipment in its bays were out on a mission a mutual aid agreement between the City of Allentown and Hanover Township resulted in a fire engine coming in from Hanover Township to supply us with secondary protection should another incident break out on the East Side ... This time there was no mutual aid response to respond to second incidents if they occurred.

Knowing Allentown past practice where things scheduled for East Allentown or budgeted for East Allentown disappeared to other sections of the City at whim... We trust that the funds if received are

actually used for the reconstruction of the East Side Fire House. But we also have concerns about the process of rebuilding...

Now the temporarily closing of the East Side Firehouse is not like the closure and rebuilding of a McDonald's restaurant that occurred here a few months ago... There are other fast food restaurants we can go too if not McDonald's... Our only other fire stations or former fire stations became social halls where merged in a two bay fire station on Irving Street in the mid 50's before Dieruff High School was yet opened. The plot of land that became Dieruff was essentially a Strawberry Field which entertained an occasional Circus. It was saved from being a housing development when its developer went bankrupt during the great depression in the 1930's ... The adjacent lot which became Irving Park was also destined to be a housing development but the Great Depression caused those plans to be changed and the City of Allentown with the use of Trexler Funds bought the property and made it into a park.

Unfortunately, the East Side of Allentown is like an Island.... Access to the East Side is depended on two bridges ... And engines must travel on heavily traveled roads to get to most sections of East Allentown... Union Boulevard in the summer time will also be congested with traffic going to the Baseball game...But Ken Laudenslager a Fire Policeman says that is not much of a problem for them or the fire department ... Maybe so but with restricted lanes on the E. Hamilton Street- Hanover Avenue corridor due to construction activities traffic will be slower and more congested.

A number of years ago we demanded that ambulances be stationed on the East Side during bridge construction and anytime traffic congestion would cause problems for the ambulance response time to the East Side... Now we say for the same reason - response time – which our one engine must in some way remain on the East Side somewhere during the construction... Which means the City must find a place where the equipment can be stored when not out on a mission and where the Crew can be housed day and night when not out on a mission as well...

Currently the East Side Fire House is located at a site quickly accessible to Hanover Avenue ... Union Boulevard.... And all East Side points.... That is a need that must be still met should the fire house be rebuilt on its current site.

If the Fire House is rebuilt on a different site in the East Side ... The Current Fire House can be used until the New Fire House is built... But the requirement must be for the new house is that it be quickly accessible to Hanover Avenue ... Union Boulevard ... And all East Side Points ... Which means it must be centrally located.

Report Graffiti in Progress to 911 or Report Graffiti you see on any Property Call 610-437-8729

REMEMBER --- The Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings --- Monday, October 18, 2010 ---7:00 PM. St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran Church, Hanover AvenuePlease come --- We need you there ... The Following meeting will be held November 15, 2010,

Please note --- This newsletter was printed by the City of Allentown on recycled paper ...