

# EARN FRONTIER (August 15, 2011)



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

Web Site: [Eastlehighearn.com](http://Eastlehighearn.com)

**NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. Pearson**  
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**Next Scheduled EARN Neighborhood Event --- Saturday, September 17, 2011  
--- 1<sup>st</sup> Annual EARN Community Yard and Bake Sale Next Scheduled EARN  
Neighborhood Meetings --- Monday, September 19, 2011... (Candidate's  
Night for City of Allentown and School Board Candidates ) Monday, October  
17, 2011 -- 7:00 PM, St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1935 Hanover  
Avenue, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18109 ...**

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## East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES 7/18/2011

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. on July 18, 2011 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church....Present: Four officers (Dennis Pearson, Bob Smith, Dave Schell, and Bob Jacoby) and four neighbors.

The treasurer reported that the balance is unchanged from the last meeting with the exception of several cents additional interest.

The reading of the minutes was dispensed with, given that copies had been made available previously. There was no objection.

It was reported that there was a break-in last night in the Congress Apartments in which a 70-year-old resident was beaten

**Dennis Pearson reported that Erv's has plans to convert the BYOB club to a liquor licensed premises, stay open until 2 a.m., and change the entrance to the front of the strip of stores. The ownership would change to a new owner from South Carolina who would operate it as a nightclub. The current closing time is 12 Midnight.**

**Neighbors from the East Congress Street area have brought up concerns due to the late-night behavior from patrons of Club Horizon and Mezza Luna. An area realtor has approached the neighbors for a joint objection to necessary zoning changes. This would be at no cost to the neighbors involved. The case, which is an appeal of a previous zoning decision, will be heard in Lehigh County Court, and may be heard in September. The court has a choice of approving the previous ruling, overturning it, or ordering it back to the Zoning Board for reconsideration.**

**The group discussed whether the staggering of closing hours for the various bars in the area would make things better or worse. It was noted that within the past hour the Wawa at Union Boulevard and Airport Road had police tape across each entrance and a sign at the Union Boulevard entrance stating that the store was closed for renovations.**

**A number of businesses on Hanover Avenue have closed or moved recently, including 7-11, Bennett Toyota, and others. Additionally, Scants Greenhouse closed in the Lehigh Shopping Center. One neighbor related that the Sunoco station at Maxwell St. and Union Boulevard tacked a 50-cent charge on her card since she spent less than the minimum of \$6. There was no minimum charge/debit sign posted. The Hanover Avenue construction is supposed to be completed by the beginning of August.**

**Haven House, which has been a fixture at the Allentown State Hospital for some time, has been told that their lease will not be renewed, and they are moving to the 1400 block of Union Boulevard. We are not certain where exactly they are going, but the building that has the Allentown Women's Center is in that approximate address. The district justice office moved from Fenwick Street to the 1800 block of Union Boulevard. There is a child-care facility in the building just east of Career Link on Union Boulevard, and the present childcare on the State Hospital property will be staying there.**

**There will be a "newcomers" school at the Midway Manor School for new middle school and high school-aged students who are not fluent in English, who will go there before they are put in the schools that they will eventually attend. Given the age of the students, some of them may be driving to school, which might cause difficulties.**

**Some of the neighbors have expressed concern. Additionally, the kindergarten students who have been going to Midway Manor will be required to go to Ritter School, which would involve crossing Union Boulevard.**

**Dennis reported that we did not send the letter that we were to send to the School District administration concerning concerns raised by a neighbor at the last meeting. A neighbor maintained that the Allentown School District has too many administrators and expends excessive money to**

**maintain them. But what was reported was the fact that two of the four principals that were kicked upstairs as result of School District testing mandated under No Child Left Behind have resigned to take positions with other school districts.**

**Dennis also reported that some of the East Side neighbors who have formerly protested at the Allentown Women’s Center have joined protests at the abortion clinic in west Allentown. Protests were taking place during the weekend of Sportsfest despite the fact that no abortions were being performed on that weekend.**

**The form to sign up for the Neighborhood Yard Sale will be included with any newsletters distributed between now and the event. It will take place on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>—one week after the Midway Manor event. We will contact neighbors in the immediate vicinity asking for donations if they wish to hold a yard sale on their property at the same time.**

**We have contacted RCN and Service Electric about running the free yard sale announcements. They have told us that due to the number of nonprofit organizations wanting the free announcements they cannot guarantee how many times the promo will run. They have suggested that we might want to also go with a paid announcement, which \$10 weekly for each company, and which would guarantee a set number of showings. Do we want to do the paid announcements, and how much would we like to spend? We will also be advertising our event the previous week at the Midway Manor sale.**

**Schell moved that we spend up to \$150 in advertising and other promotional expense for the yard sale (seconded Jacoby). The motion was approved by voice vote. Bob Smith donated \$40 to the effort. We will also have coffee and hot chocolate for sale. Forms for participants are to be returned with payment to EARN, P.O. Box 1136, Allentown, PA 18105.**

**There is one correction for the newsletter of July 7, 2011—Helen Trump’s name was given erroneously as Hilda Trump. Our apologies.**

**It was moved by Bob Smith (and seconded by Diane Pitsko) to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Motion passed.**

**Respectfully,**

***David A. Schell, Secretary***

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**EARN operates in a geographical territory comprising The 14th and 15th wards of Allentown \*\*\* The membership of this neighborhood association is open to any individual resident, property owner, business, professional, industrialists, or representatives of non-profit organizations located within the neighborhood boundarie**

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**EAST Allentown-Rittersville Neighborhood  
COMMUNITY YARD SALE**

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**Saturday, September 17, 2011 --- 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**No early birds! .... One-stop shopping**

**Bake Sale – Coffee will be available**

**\*\*\*All proceeds to the scholarship fund\*\*\***

**Rain Date Sunday, September 18, 2011**

**To reserve your space, please complete the form below and send with your  
payment (payable to E.A.R.N.) to:**

**E.A.R.N...PO BOX 1136...ALLENTOWN PA 18105**

**Any questions??? Contact Christine 610-297-0454 and leave a  
message. Or [earnyardsale@hotmail.com](mailto:earnyardsale@hotmail.com)**

**If you are conducting a yard sale at YOUR residence we ask that you consider  
making a small donation of \$10 to the association to defray the cost of yard sale  
advertising.**

**Set up begins at 6 a.m. – NO EARLIER! PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE  
GRASS...**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# of spaces: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check or money order payable to E.A.R.N**

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## PROJECT HAAS

EARN has once again been granted permission to place holiday decorations at various locations in East Allentown by the City of Allentown. Irving Park, of course has been our prime spot. To refresh your memory, our initial holiday light display occurred in 1994. It was a special attraction and received praise from the City of Allentown Bureau of Parks as an added asset to the East Allentown area. This tradition has been renewed every year since and will continue this year for the 18<sup>th</sup> time.

**Consequently, the time is again at hand for the EARN Project Haas Christmas Decoration Committee to act in preparation for this year's holiday lighting event... This year be part of the setup team.**

What the neighborhood did in these prior years was to place a special holiday scene in the pool area, place lights around the entire roof of Irving Park's Bath House and turn the Park's Flag Pole into a lighted Christmas tree that a former Allentown Mayor called the "Sparkle Tree."

That is what we intend to do this year.

We are very appreciative of the financial and/or volunteer support that businesses and individuals gave to us last year and years past. ... **Can we count on your help again to promote our activity this year despite the trying economic times we all are experiencing.** We are very appreciative that companies like the PP & L provided high lift vehicles and essential manpower, which were very important ingredients in making the "SPARKLE TREE" become a reality these past fifteen years. And of course, the same ingredients will bring the "SPARKLE TREE" to life for the Eighteen year with your promotional, financial and/or volunteer support.

In addition, the neighborhood is very grateful that the Budget Store and Lock Village Self Storage granted us space in its self-storage business for the storage of these holiday decorations

Without volunteers to help repair and set up our displays, we cannot set up what we did before; and without financial support we would be hard pressed to improve our project. If you or any of your colleagues are interested in helping us contact one of the following individuals: DENNIS PEARSON 610-4341229, Robert Jacoby 610 435-3417. **DONATIONS can be sent TO EAST ALLENTOWN RITTERSVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, P.O BOX 1136, ALLENTOWN**



## **East Side Youth Center Report**

**The EARN Frontier must note that in the spring the East Side Youth Center supports many outdoor activities for youth in baseball, softball and soccer ... And we also note that including the East Side Youth Center's field at E. Claire Street, the only possible fields available for them would be at Irving Park or Keck Park ... Fields that in the spring are also used by Dieruff High School.**

**The problem reported to us in our May meeting essentially is that the East Side Youth Center must ration available times for these fields among the various teams organized in their soccer, softball and baseball programs ... And of course, coaches who might want to practice more are not able to do so and may be a bit unhappy about that ... In the fall, when soccer and football programs overlap, the need for more fields for practice also exist**

**Joe D'Annibale, longtime President of the East Side Youth Center does not deny the need for more fields to help facilitate the East Side Youth Center program ... He does not deny the desire of the Youth Center to either lease or buy land from the State for athletic fields on former Allentown State Hospital property ...And in addition, he would be delighted too if a dedicated football field and baseball fields would be available for the program at Keck Park as well ...**

**But as it stands, D'Annibale maintains that he has not yet received any word from the State whether the program could develop part of the grounds for athletic fields on lease or by purchase... He as spokesman for the Youth Center will comment on that should it happen.**

**Concerning the issue of East Side Youth Center constructing lights on these proposed athletic fields, D'Annibale does not rule out their construction should the Center by purchase or grant be deeded the land outright or if there is a long term lease as was given the owner of the half-way houses on E. Gordon and N Oswego Streets.**

**But D'Annibale again reminds us that the State has not yet decided anything, and he will report to us should they decide in favor of East Side Youth Center interests.**

**Concerning the issue of former Allentown State Hospital land itself, not much is happening ... Yes , Haven House will be relocated elsewhere ... The Donley Head Start facility has constructed a new treatment center for the care of young children ...and finally, the Allentown Police have been allowed to use part of the facilities for the training of its Canine force.... But that is all we know so far ... Otherwise like Sgt. Schultz in Hogan's Heroes, we know nothing**

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**On Monday, January 24, 2011, Future Green LLC was granted a variance to convert a vacant sanding bell manufacturing plant on 860-890 N. Kiowa Street into Offices & warehouse for a Fire & Water Damage Restoration Business and erect 2 flat wall non-illuminating signs dimensions 5' x 10' on the front and north sides of the building ... As of this moment the Company is preparing this building for future occupancy by the Company ... Welcome to the Neighborhood**

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**On Monday, February 28, 2011, Horsey Associates and Wynneco Associates was granted a Special Use Application to expand an existing cabaret known as Erv's Gentleman's Club BYOB located at 1245-1353 Airport Road into a print shop at west side, and expand the hours of operation until 2:00 a.m., being and expansion of a use granted by the Zoning Hearing Board under Application No. 49925 on September 30, 1993, with use being located within 500 ft. of a residential district not permitted (approximately 97 ft. existing), located in a Highway Business (B-3) District.**

**As it happened, the East Allentown-Rittersville Neighborhood Association joined a few residents living nearby the cabaret April 5, 2011 in an appeal of the Allentown Zoning Board decision of February 28, 2011 . The subject facility is a Cabaret, a form of "adult use". More particularly, a Cabaret means a club, bar, tavern, theater, hall or similar place which features topless female or bottomless male or female dancers, entertainers or employees, strippers, simulated sex acts, live or actual sex acts, or similar entertainers or entertainment.**

**The new owner of ERV's seeks to continue this adult use, but wants to convert the establishment from a BYOB Club to a genuine night club with a PA Liquor license to facilitate an extension of both hours and days of operations.**

**The before said appeal will be heard in the Common Pleas Court of Lehigh County September 14, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. .... The neighborhood association urges neighbors to show a sign of support for the appellants by sitting in on this Public Hearing ... The Court of Common Pleas has the following options concerning the plea: Rule in favor of the Zoning Hearing Board of the City of Allentown, Rule in favor of the Apellants, or send it back to the Zoning Hearing Board of the City of Allentown for a Re-hearing.**

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