

EARN FRONTIER (January 1, 2011)



EAST ALLENTOWN RITTERSVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
P.O.BOX 1136, ALLENTOWN, PENNA. 18105
Web Site: Eastlehighearn.com
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. PEARSON
TEL. # (610) 434-1229...EMAIL: dpearson@enter.net

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 boundaries.**

**Next EARN Neighborhood Meeting --- Monday, January 17, 2011
7:00 PM, St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran Church, 1935 Hanover Avenue,
Allentown, Pennsylvania 18109 ...**

Now that the Allentown State Hospital is officially closed our attention turns to the lands reuse ... Please Come ... Guest --- Mike Hefele, Director of Planning, City of Allentown ... Hefele will talk about Allentown State Hospital Reuse ... We need your attendance and response

The payment of dues or membership fees is not required for being a member in good standing in EARN

... However, your voluntary contributions are needed to support special neighborhood operations for 2011...Except for government support for newsletters we don't receive government grants.

Possible activities for 2011

- Project Hass Christmas display
- Project Academia mini-grant for High School seniors
- Project Star Gazer Science Fairs

Any amount you can give will be helpful in accomplishing these missions ...
Send donations to EARN, P.O. Box 1136, Allentown, PA. 18105

THE EARN FRONTIER ENCOURAGES THE REPRODUCTION OF NONCOPYRIGHTED AND NON BYLINED CONTENTS FOUND WITHIN BY MEMBERS OF THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA IN THE NAME OF PROMOTING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S ACTIVITIES. THE EARN FRONTIER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE EAST ALLENTOWN / RITTERSVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC.

The following individuals served as EARN Officers in 2010:

President --- Dennis L. Pearson
Vice President --- David Schell
Secretary --- Vacant
Treasurer --- Robert L. Jacoby

The following Individuals were nominated as EARN Officers for 2011 at our December Meeting:

President --- Dennis L. Pearson
Vice President --- Bob Smith
Secretary --- David Schell
Treasurer --- Robert L. Jacoby

In January --- additional nominees for any officer position can only be presented at the January meeting accompanied by a petition signed by twenty-five (25) members of the association who actually attended neighborhood meetings.

Block Captains of the EARN organization are the one's responsible to distribute neighborhood meeting notices and newsletters to their delegated block areas, to call neighbors about regular and special meetings or important information, and to report problems and news back to the neighborhood board and membership.

A particular need for EARN is develop a battalion of block captains to reduce the workload on neighborhood officers particularly the neighborhood President.

Interested Individuals can call Dennis Pearson at (610) 434-1229...

Remember – we are a neighborhood association that cares about the concerns of our citizens ... We are an organization that cares about the welfare of our neighborhood ... What-is-more --- we care about the general health and welfare of the City in which we live.

EARN may recommend any action, policy or comprehensive plan to the City, School District, County, State, Federal Government or any agency or business affecting the livability of the neighborhood including but not limited to: land use, zoning, housing, community facilities , education, human resources, public safety, social and recreational programs, traffic and transportation, environmental quality, open space and parks.... What-is-more ... EARN shall assist City, School District, County, State and Federal governments in determining priority needs for the neighborhood.

What is puzzling to us is the little comment that has been reported in the Morning Call and spoken by city or state authorities in regard to Allentown State Hospital land reuse.

Indeed, December 31, 2010 has passed and the doors of the Allentown State Hospital have closed... The last resident of the Hospital actually discharged December 15, 2010... And, the discharged, retired or transferred former employees of ASH sought to achieve emotional closure at a dinner and party at Mahoney's on Hanover Avenue.

The position of the neighborhood before and after the closure is that we want to be involved in all planning and discussions related to reuse of Allentown State Hospital land. We want participation or representation in all City or State Committees organized to deal with this reuse. And a motion was made and passed at our December meeting that we make this point known to all appropriate officials in the city, the state and any development authorities given the task to bring new life to the land that now lays idle.

But what disturb us have been reports that hunters have trespassed on the 29 state acres transferred to the Allentown Commercial and Industrial development Authority and illegally poached for the wildlife that proliferate there. Allentown Police report at least eleven citations and arrests. Then too, we have heard reports that people have been seen attempting to salvage materials off the

historic state hospital main building a building the neighborhood wants historically preserved.

State Representative Steve Sammuelson has said that nothing will happen at the Allentown State hospital until the Hospital closes ...Well_as of December 15, 2010 the hospital is officially closed...The trumpet has sounded for the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association to go on red alert battle status.

Yet the truth is that nothing has happened on the 29 acres of State Hospital land owned by the City of Allentown because City Officials in these bleak economic times allege that they have failed to find a developer who could develop a site plan by a specified date. To us this means if the comments are true and not misleading that these officials could not work out a deal with a developer even when negotiations were out of public scrutiny by the media and the public was left in the dark as to what was to come or happen.

Residents living adjacent to the State Hospital property insist that there has been surveying of the property and environmental ground testing. Of course, City officials are mum on this if indeed it is happening. And these same neighbors know that the Allentown State Hospital is a prime candidate for being classified as a Brownfield Candidate due to the periodic dumping of material on the site.

The East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood, knowing full well that ACIDA has not lived up to what the agreement between the state and city had called for, and that a State Waiver may be required to extend it without penalty, formally asks our state and our elected state representative to use their authority to keep the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association informed of every step that is taken the rest of the way at the site. Which means that residents adjacent to State Hospital lands must be informed of all steps taken to find a developer and be accessible to plans for the re-use of the property each step of the way and certainly be part of the process.

Indeed the East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association does not have the status as a municipality or city agency but as an incorporated entity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania we are taking our responsibilities seriously.

Then too, we do not have a Borough status but technically we were once an unincorporated village and will act as a village to defend our interests against those who used their authority to make our city a financial nightmare and then put it on our backs to seek relief. But if the truth be told, we never caused the problem they did.

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