

EARN FRONTIER (April 19, 2011)



EAST ALLENTOWN RITTERSVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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Web Site: Eastlehighearn.com
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. Pearson
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Next EARN Neighborhood Meeting --- Monday, May 16, 2011... 7:00 PM, St. Peter's Evan. Lutheran Church, 1935 Hanover Avenue, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18109 ...

>>>> Become Involved ... Your participation can be building block for a great neighborhood

East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES 4/18/2011

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. on April 18, 2011 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church....Present: Three officers (Dennis Pearson, Dave Schell, Robert Jacoby), and eight neighbors.

Secretary David Schell had copies of the minutes of the meeting of March 21st, but most of those present already had copies of the minutes that had been printed in the newsletter. The minutes were not read inasmuch as copies were available for all present.... It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes as written. Approved without objection.

The Leonard Buck dinner was held April 14, 2011. Officer John Marcini won the Benjamin Gress Distinguished Officer Award. Another award was given to the responders to the recent gas explosion. A third award went to the President of the Allentown Crime Watch, Ernest Atiyeh. Atiyeh is also to be the director of a citizens on patrol watch.

The Allentown City Council by a vote of 4 to 3 (Yeas - Guridy, O'Connell, Eichenwald and Schweyer Nays - D'Amore , Donovan and Schlossberg) to give COPS a \$8,000 contribution from its own 2011 Budget allocation ... But the group's budget or business plan requires them to raise most of their first year \$150,000 annual budget from other sources . Protocol for the group is to call the police if they see anything suspicious, not take action themselves. The group has been given an office by Sacred Heart Hospital. Atiyeh will get \$10,000 per year for being director. The other members of COPS will be non-paid volunteers. Some other important members of COPS are Kenneth Laudenslager (the current Vice President of the Allentown Crime Watch) and Sergio Molino the Vice President of COPS. The Presidency of COPS has become vacant due to a concern about Insurance liability

Q: Where is the \$10,000 coming from? A: Not sure, part may in part be from the \$8.000 from the city.

Q: What part of the city will be patrolled? A: All areas, to be decided by Atiyeh.

There is now a police camera at N. Irving St. and E. Washington St. and another at N. Jerome Street and E. Washington St. Additional cameras have been installed inside Dieruff HS. All doors at Dieruff are now alarmed, so anyone wanting to leave early has to go out through the main entrance.

Discussion ensued on how the schools have changed in regards to discipline and attitude towards learning over the last several decades. Joanne Jackson, who is a candidate for the ASD Board was present at the meeting and spoke briefly of her past service on the board and her beliefs, and asked for the support of those present.

There was an incident in the Irving Park on April 14, 2011. A student from the Dieruff basketball was arrested for pistol whipping a man from Whitehall Township. We wonder whether the gun was actually his or confiscated from the Whitehall man in the course of the incident. If it was his, we wonder what was going on which made him carry weapon ... The same Dieruff basketball player was involved indirectly in a fight on an alley behind Kiowa and Kearney Streets. It appears that fights given the new police cameras in the vicinity may now be pushed out of the view of the cameras and discretely done elsewhere. The student who was arrested in the Irving Park incident away from the Washington street cameras seemingly was a good Samaritan in the prior incident, involving himself to simply breaking breaking up the fight in the process which was doing damage to a neighbor's yard. What led to the Irving Park Incident is unknown. It was hoped that the truth will come out and justice would prevail.

ASD recently passed a new curriculum and had a reduction in staff. This is also happening in Easton, Bethlehem, and other areas. Jackson noted that the difference is that none of the administration was cut as part of the reduction in staff. Pearson noted that many of the administrators are doing tasks required by state law, but the state is not providing sufficient financial assistance.

Discussion ensued on the four principals who were recently reassigned. Jackson noted that they had the lowest personnel rating and she believes that they should have been terminated. A question was raised on having some administrators (Principal Mike Marks, Technology principal Melissa Marks) present at our meetings to discuss behavior outside of school and other topics. This runs into the issue of how administrators should not disagree with school district policy, although the ALCU may take this policy to court.

Pearson mentioned that the school board may have been upset that so many teachers showed up at the curriculum hearings that the general public wasn't able to comment until late in the proceedings. Discussion resulted concerning the ways around the various tax and budget limitations in the law. Pearson also noted that educators are in a different situation than other "professionals" in that they are tied to being hired by a school district. Other professionals can go into business for themselves, but teachers cannot.

The Hanover Avenue construction was discussed. Jacoby advised not to try to go onto Hanover Avenue between 8 and 9 a.m. and from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. due to volume. It was suggested that we ask that no left turns be allowed onto Bradford in either direction since it ties up all traffic if somebody wants to make a turn and blocks the single lane. The same problem happens westbound next to Big Woody's Bar or at any other location where people are trying to make a left turn in the one lane areas.

Q: Who should be contacted with this? A: Mr. Young, the traffic engineer for the city. It was moved and seconded to contact Mr. Young about this.

Schell reported on the Project Academia mini-grants. He sent a cover letter, and the annual application and announcement to Beatrice Gambourg-Schuster in the Dieruff counseling office last Tuesday (4/12). The deadline for applications is May 2nd. We are giving two awards of \$200 each.

Pearson asked Jacoby for the treasurer's report. At present we have \$892.27 in the treasury, which includes a recent \$100 donation by an anonymous donor.

Pearson announced in regards the neighborhood yard sale in Irving Park that Mrs. Christine Breslin, Bob Wilburn, and he will have a meeting this coming Thursday at 6:30 p.m. about the sale at Wilburn's place. Brief discussion followed on the sale.

Pearson reported that Allentown, Salisbury, and Lehigh County have developed a plan for the Lehigh Mountain area along the Lehigh River. Allentown has been providing money to purchase some additional land on the other side of the river for a park from its Trexler Estate Account, to be known as Walking Purchase Park. Gates will be put on Constitution Drive to keep people from making drug deals and dumping garbage in the area.

Composting. Lehigh County wants to get out of the composting business and several suburban municipalities would like to get together with Allentown for composting. Allentown is reluctant to get involved with this, feeling that the city had been "burned" in past years when the city became involved with suburban municipalities in western Lehigh concerning wastewater.

There have been some problems recently with car stripping and chop shops. Suspicious activity involving a group of young people working on a vehicle should be reported to 9-1-1. Jackson's crime watch group is having

a VIN etching in the near future and will inform Pearson of the date, time, and location so that our members can take our cars to the site for a VIN etching.

There is a problem around the McDonald's on Union Boulevard with patrons tossing trash. And the word is out that Skunks may be in the area who may have rabies

Pearson asked if there was any further business. There being none, the meeting adjourned by motion at 8:20 p.m. Approved by voice vote.

Respectfully,

David A. Schell, Secretary

2011 City of Allentown Summer Concert Series in East Allentown ... Please attend these concerts -----

Saturday June 4, 2011 --- Allentown Band --- 7:00 PM --- Midway Manor

Saturday June 25, 2011 --- Marine Band --- 7:00 PM --- Midway Manor

Saturday August 6, 2011 --- Marine Band --- 7:00 PM --- Irving Park

East Allentown-Rittersville Neighborhood Association Mini-Scholarship Award Program for 2010-2011

The East Allentown-Rittersville Neighborhood Association Inc. (EARN) will once again offer a mini-scholarship grant to at least two graduating high school seniors who live in the 14th and

15th Wards of Allentown and who intend to continue their formal education at institutions of higher learning. The amount of each mini-scholarship award will be at least \$200.

Important criteria to be considered for these mini-scholarships are the following:

***** The student must reside in the 14th or 15th Ward of the city of Allentown (zip code 18109).**

***** The student must intend to continue his or her education beyond high school at a college, or at a technical or trade school.**

***** The student need not be an A student; but must be motivated enough to be successful in meeting the academic requirements of the school he or she plans to attend.**

***** Applicants should demonstrate some need for assistance. The mini-scholarships are intended for graduating seniors who do not expect to receive scholarship assistance from multiple sources.**

Applicants should receive an EARN Mini -Scholarship Application from the Guidance Office of Dieruff High School and return the same to the their Guidance Counselor , who will forward it to the neighborhood association

Funding for this program comes out of the neighborhood treasury which depends on donations from neighbors and other fundraising events to fulfill the needs of this neighborhood program as well as other neighborhood programs...

For this neighborhood program to continue for 2011-2012 we need our neighbors to help us ... By definition all the residents of the East Side are members .. We repeat ... There is no dues structure for membership. But we do appreciate and accept donations from individuals and businesses to carry on our programs. Send these donations to EARN, PO Box 1136, Allentown PA 18105

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

- ✓ **Know what is happening in your neighborhood and be a part of the flow of information – have your voice heard.**
- ✓ **Have a direct communication link with local government officials and other influential groups.**
- ✓ **Help to preserve and improve East Allentown.**
- ✓ **Plan social activities for your neighborhood.**

Current Issues we have been dealing with now and in the past:

- **Safety concerns on Hanover Avenue**
- **Pending closing of the Allentown State Hospital and future reuse of the land.**
- **East Allentown Fire Station Reconstruction or Relocation**
- **Keck Park Rehabilitation**
- **Allentown Women's Center**

Let's get together, share our ideas, thoughts, and feelings and work cooperatively to make Allentown's east side a better place to live.

Can you think of other issues we should be dealing with

All neighborhood residents and guests are welcome ... This is your neighborhood ... Help it be a strong one ...Get Involved ... Be part of the adventure ... Be a Frontiersman for the neighborhood.

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

Or visit EARN on the web: www.eastlehighearn.com

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 occasional government support for newsletters we don't receive government grants.

Fun Ideas for a Neighborhood Day:

Block party ; Welcome new neighbors; Yard sale; Book exchange; Create a neighborhood babysitters list; Talent show; Art show ; Kids performance or play; Battle of the Bands ; Karaoke party; Outdoor movie screening; Arts and crafts festival; Neighborhood walking tour; Nature walking tour; Make a photo scrapbook or video of your neighborhood (and send or email it to NND!) ; Share resources (for example, extra produce from garden, tool sharing); Kite flying; Blood drive; Food drive; Bake sale for charity; Assemble "Party Buckets" with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, etc.; Provide a basket of kids' books with a neighborhood theme

Possible activities for 2011

- Project Hass Christmas display
- Project Academia mini-grant for High School seniors
- Project Star Gazer Science Elementary/Secondary Fair
- Neighborhood Yard Sale/Neighborhood Day

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

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
