

# EARN FRONTIER (March 27, 2012)



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

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**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...**

**The next Neighborhood Caucus is scheduled on the following date: April 16, 2012**

**Residents of EARN and anybody else can see the dates of our meetings and our newsletter on [Eastlehighearn.com](http://Eastlehighearn.com) Website ... Also known as the EARN Frontier**

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## **Agenda:**

**The neighbors present at the EARN Caucus March 19, 2012 looked over the detailed plans for the upcoming improvements to Hanover Avenue.**

**As a follow up - Richard Young, Director of the City of Allentown Department of Public Works will be present April 16, 2012 to clarify questions that people may have on the project**

**Previously work was done on the E. Hamilton Street-Hanover Avenue corridor from the Hamilton Street Bridge to Irving Street.**

**The present work contemplated will be from Irving Street to Tacoma Street.**

**We ask neighbors to make it their business to attend this Caucus to learn the details about this project.**

**East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES - March 19, 2012**

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

Present: Three officers (Dennis Pearson, Robert Jacoby, and Dave Schell) and eight neighbors were present.

President Pearson noted that in February we changed the bylaws concerning the fact that we will assume administration for the 501 (c) (3) that was formerly held by the Lehigh Valley Council for Regional Livability. As a follow up we filed a form 990-N with the IRS. Since we are a 501(c)(3) organization we are able to accept tax-deductible donations.

President Pearson noted that he has received the plans for the changes to Hanover Avenue, including a proposed traffic island in the middle of the road from N. Irving Street to Jerome Street to make it easier to cross where Our Lady Help of Christians Church is located. The plans were passed out to the membership to view and Richard Young of the City of Allentown will be invited to speak at our next meeting.

The waste-to-energy plant is again on, as City Council passed it last week by a vote of 4-2. Delta Energy claims that the building where the de-watered sludge will be burned will be a negative pressure so that no contaminants will escape into the atmosphere. Council gave Delta a 35-year contract, although the city has the right to buy out the company after ten years. The plant will be located next to the sewage plant at Kline's Island. The job will produce only twenty permanent employees after a larger work force for the construction. The job will be started as soon as possible.

Parks: The city was supposed to level the Keck Park where the ground is settling at the old dump, and rebuild the ball field. Some ground has been dumped there. Irving Park has a bit of subsidence around the end lines of the Hockey/Soccer field near the drains. There are also some divots in the ball field that might cause a danger to players and provoke a suit. The city has been asked to provide a roller to fix the ball field area since the school district does not have that equipment. Additionally, a batting cage has been installed in the area between the basketball courts and the pool.

The sloping land between E. Hamilton Street and Westminster Street is being developed with homes between N. Irving and North Filbert Street, although not as many as originally planned. We had objected last month that area landowners did not get notices of the development. The city told us that they notified only

limited landowners as to vacating streets, but that they had notified all area landowners of the project. We are still opposed to the project. Several homeowners have been moving out of the area.

Schell read his letter to Fire Chief Bob Scheirer and the chief's reply concerning the East Side Fire Station. In short, the station is currently being cleared of asbestos and other hazardous materials, which is necessary before the old building can be demolished. The city still expects that the building will be completed by mid-December 2012 and occupied by the end of that month. Chief Scheirer suggested that we might want to invite him to our May meeting to go over progress and plans. The group agreed that Schell would invite him to the May.

Bob Jacoby is moving the Christmas supplies out of the bathing house to our storage area this should be completed by March 31, 2012. We still need about 200' of 12-gauge wire for the pole since it was stolen. The police were notified

It was moved, seconded, and approved to authorize the officers to seek approval from the city and school district for next year's lights. The need for the future is to seek donations for the lights and for the scholarship fund. .

Schell gave a report on the mini-grant program and passed out copies of the proposed announcement and application form. He noted that there is no reason to continue to request information concerning the name and contact information of the financial aid officer at the school the recipient plans to attend since we have been making the payment payable directly to the recipient for the past several years. He also asked if there is anything that we should add to the form.

It was agreed to delete the financial aid officer contact information, to add "(if known)" to the question about school to be attended in the coming year, and to add "Proposed program of study (if known)" to the form. Schell will make the changes and get the information out to the Dieruff counseling office in the next few days.

Pearson reported on a meeting Saturday morning at his home concerning the history of the East Side. In 1962 (the city's bicentennial) the 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Civic Association had a book published: "East of Lehigh." We would like to update the book. It is our hope to have it written up by July, find sponsors for it shortly thereafter, and have it published by fall.

Pearson noted that we should have had the election of officers already by now but did not have the requisite ten members present during any of the recent meetings. Tonight we have eleven (counting the officers, who may be counted

for this purpose). Schell raised the question of where it says in the bylaws that we need ten to operate since the bylaws suggest that a quorum is whoever shows up. Pearson noted that this is a tradition going back to the CNO and that he does not feel comfortable taking such significant action as electing officers with a smaller number of neighbors present.

It was noted that the nominations so far are President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Smith, Secretary David Schell, and Treasurer Robert Jacoby. Pearson asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were none.

It was moved and seconded to approve the above slate of officers. The motion passed by voice vote.

Jacoby said that we would need help for the Christmas decorations in fall. It was noted that there is a new Dieruff alumni association, and possibly we can get them to help.

Adjournment moved and seconded and the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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### **Husky Pride Unleashed !**

The Dieruff High School Alumni created its web site <http://www.dieruff-alumni.org/> to make it easy to reconnect and share memories with classmates who either graduated from or attended Louis E Dieruff High School since it opened its doors during the fall semester of 1959.

This website will be the main source for information in regard to upcoming events sponsored or hosted by your newly formed all-year Alumni Association.

Even if you haven't attended a reunion, nor kept in touch at all since graduation,

update your profile and submit a photo or two. The Dieruff High School Alumni Association is certain your fellow classmates would love to hear from you!



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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 boundaries

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## **NOTES 26 --- (Neighbors of the East Side) --- Disbands**

**Helen Trump the 80 plus leader of NOTES 26 has held court at St. Luke's Lutheran Church on Carlisle Street for a few years since the death of the former leader of NOTES 26 Doris Kloiber ... Regularly Police Officers and Candidates for Office have made an appearance there --- Most recently Justin Simons - the successful Republican Candidate for State Representative of the 131st Legislative district ... The Feisty Mrs. Trump was not afraid to talk up City Officials who attended her meetings including Mayor Edward Pawlowski ... So no longer will we see this elderly lady from Maine slowly leaving her S. Carlisle Street home which shone with a welcoming red light to walk across the street with assistance from neighbors to get to the meeting she led ... As it happened there has been a steep drop off in attendance for NOTES 26 and the remaining members have decided to call it a day ... EARN welcomes all former NOTES 26 members to our meetings ... Why not --- We always considered them members of EARN even while attending NOTES 26 meetings**

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## **A Year of Celebration**

**In 2012 the City of Allentown I marked a monumental milestone – its 250th anniversary, or Semiquincentennial. Like our nation, our city has grown and changed during its long history. From a small village along Trout Creek to the third-largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Allentown has evolved from a small outpost to a major metropolitan hub.**

**Allentown has always played a significant role in the history and growth of our nation. We have been the protectors of the Liberty Bell and the First Defenders of the Republic. Our city has a proud history as an industrial and retail powerhouse that helped build America, put it on the road, clothed it and helped it communicate in new and innovative ways. Even today, as we enter a new millennium, the City of Allentown remains on the cutting edge of business and technology; a regional leader in culture, arts, sports and entertainment; a proud community eager to build an even brighter future on a solid past according to our political leaders. In 1962, our civic and business leaders came together to create a memorable Bicentennial Celebration that included an enriching variety of community events and commemorative ceremonies that still live in the memories of those who were part of that celebration. As we look ahead to 2012, can we equal and better that tribute.**

**Meanwhile, Lehigh county's actual Bicentennial birthday was on March 6, 2012. Organizers for this Bicentennial celebrated a two-day community celebration that took place on the weekend of March 10 and 11 at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex facility.**

place on the weekend of March 10 and 11 at the Allentown Fairgrounds Agri-Plex facility. The celebration recruited a multitude of community groups, churches, youth organizations and historical societies with displays, exhibits and cultural entertainment on the county's rich history, that included a variety of ethnic foods and beverages.

In recognition of Lehigh County's own "Fourth of July" there was fireworks, a short parade and some entertainment. Organizers touted it to be a star studded event as the Bicentennial Committee launched a Lehigh County Hall of Fame, inducting a class of living honorees who either were born, worked or lived at one time in Lehigh County.

What can East Allentown - Rittersville do to celebrate Allentown's Semiquincentennial?

What can East Allentown - Rittersville do to celebrate Lehigh County Bicentennial?

1. Update the 1962 booklet East of the Lehigh originally created by the now defunct 14th Ward Civic Association ... We can explore such topics as Midway Manor, Dieruff High School, Central Park, Walps, Western Electric/ATT/ Lucent. Agere Technologies, The Iron Pigs, Allentown State Hospital, Kline's Island, etc....;

2. Take a new look at the NOTES 26 Building Survey conducted by Dennis Pearson in 1978 and include other areas of the East Side in a new Building Survey;

3. Update the Neighborhood's Project Haas Christmas Display booklet ... The original concentrated on the Project from 1994 to 2008... This year's Booklet would bring us up to date.

To do this we need the help of neighbors to put this all together, to obtain sponsors to support the publication to and to market it ... Please Volunteer to help ...

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# Pennsylvania Elections: Dates & Deadlines

## Upcoming Elections

Election	Date
Presidential Primary Election	April 24,2012
State Primary	April 24,2012
General Election	November 6,2012

**Voting is a privilege, exercise it**

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## PA VOTER ID

Pennsylvania's State Assembly has approved the so-called Voter ID bill and PA Governor Tom Corbett has signed the Act, setting the stage for Pennsylvania to become the 16th state to require voters to show photo identification at the polls.

The Act won't be in effect until the fall presidential election.

The bill would mandate that voters show a photo ID such as a driver's license; a student, county, or municipal card; or IDs from a personal-care home.

If voters show up without a photo ID, they would be allowed to cast a provisional ballot, and then would have six days to present election officials with an acceptable ID.

The state Department of Transportation would also be required to issue free identification cards to those who apply and swear they had no other acceptable proof of identity for voting

Democrats, civil liberties groups, labor unions, the NAACP and others have complained that the bill will disproportionately hurt the elderly, the poor and the disabled, who make up the lion's share of voters who typically do not have photo IDs

If you are unable to attend your polling place in person on Election Day, you may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. To vote by absentee ballot, a voter must apply to the County Board of Elections for an absentee ballot. The County Board of Elections will send a paper absentee ballot to the voter. The voter then completes the ballot and returns it to the County Board of Elections

What you need to know about voting by Absentee Ballot due to the Voter ID Law

- New identification requirements take effect in November 2012.
- Voters must provide drivers license number, last 4 digits of Social Security Number, or a copy of an accepted photo ID when applying for an absentee ballot.
- Voters may provide identifying number to county over the phone, by email or mail.

- Identification will be verified by the county board of elections before the voters ballot will be counted. Voters have 6 days following an election to provide the necessary identification.
- UOCAVA voters and voters affected by the Voting Accessibility for Elderly and Handicapped Act are exempt.

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## PA Reapportionment

For East Allentown - PA House and State Assembly districts established after the 2000 Census remain the same as the proposed districts established after the 2010 Census were rejected by the PA Supreme Court. As it evolved, the 2011 Legislative Reapportionment Commission Public Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 2, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room One of the North Office Building has been postponed. This Public Meeting will be rescheduled for a later date. Until we hear more

- The 135th Legislative district now represented by Steve Samuelson comprises the following 15th Ward Electoral precincts --- 15-2; 15-3 and 15-4;
- The 133rd Legislative district now represented by Joseph Brennan comprises the following 14th and 15th Ward Electoral precincts --- 14-2 and 15-1;
- The 131st Legislative District of Justin Simmons comprises the following 14th Ward Electoral precinct ---14-1

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Established in 1976, EARN has seen a recent drop-off in membership and 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.

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.

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

Or visit EARN on the web: [www.eastlehighearn.com](http://www.eastlehighearn.com)

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