

Neighborhood News

January Meeting Highlights

Tom Mulligan ran the meeting. Mike Schlossberg, City Council Vice President and candidate for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, spoke briefly about local issues including the arena, additional police officers in the coming year, the Queen City Airport, and code enforcement. PSA 2 Captain Morris was on hand to update us on criminal activity in the neighborhood. Tom Mulligan's patrol of the neighborhood brought information about possible zoning and code violations. Tamara Dolan, Executive Director of the Parking Authority, spoke to us about parking issues city-wide and those we raised at our last meeting. Highlights of her presentation include:

- **Cars parked on the street and not moved for 72 hours or more aren't ticketed. Why not?** This is a violation of a city ordinance. The Parking Authority depends on your calls about this issue.
- **Why does the Communications Center need to know the make and model of a suspicious car?** Officers who respond to a call for suspicious cars pay attention to these details. The more information they have, the more quickly they can act.
- **What constitutes "illegal parking?"** There are many ordinances regarding illegal parking. Ms. Dolan gave highlights that might be common to our neighborhood. Public safety is the guiding principle in parking ordinances.

Cars parked on city streets must be registered and inspected.

Cars parked more than 6 inches from the curb.

Cars parked too close to an intersection. [25' from intersection with curb lines or, if no curb lines exist, then 15' from the intersection of the property line; 30' from an intersection regulated by a traffic light].

Cars blocking garage entrances. Even if the garage is yours, it's illegal. Parking across a narrow street from a garage thereby restricting their driving out of their garage is illegal.

Parking on sidewalks. This blocks clear access to people using wheelchairs.

- **There's a white line painted on Parkway Boulevard west of Ott. What does that mean?** This is a "traffic calming" technique which gently reminds drivers to slow down.
- **Who places the Pedestrian Crossing signs on the streets?** These free-standing signs are put in the center of the streets by someone at the nearby facility (i.e., Phoebe Home on Turner Street near). The management of these signs is Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Allentown Police Department.
- **Strangers park in my driveway. Why can't the Parking Authority ticket them?** If you have a sign, "No Parking - Private Property," posted and you call the Parking Authority giving them permission to come onto your property, they can ticket the car.
- **What's new?** In downtown Allentown, technology is being used to gather data on areas/times of greatest demand. The parking deck at 6th and Linden will be closing in March, 2012 because of underuse.



**Our next meeting:
Wednesday, February 8**

7:00 P.M

**Christ E.C. Church
2135 Tilghman St.**

Muhlenberg Area Community Watch meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. at Christ E. C. Church 2135 Tilghman St., Main Floor

We invite residents of any neighborhood in the city to join us!

**Future Meetings:
Wednesday, March 14
Wednesday, April 11**

MAC Contact Information:

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Conducting meetings: Rotating responsibility

Presidents' Council meetings: Tom Burke 610 432-4079

Real Estate Sales Letters: Gretchen Krasley 610 821-7716, Gretchenkrasley@aol.com



Got a house for sale or rent in your neighborhood? Gretchen Krasley sends out letters to realtors and owners about the student overlay guidelines. If you see a For Sale or For Rent sign, call Gretchen at 610-821-7716, or email her at Gretchenkrasley@aol.com. Thanks, Gretchen for helping to preserve the residential character of our neighborhood.

Practice Safe Snow Shoveling

The Allentown Health Bureau suggests the following guidelines to avoid or at least lessen back injuries and falls:



- Make sure that your grip and balance are solid.
- Tighten your abdomen as you lift.
- Keep the shovel close to your body.
- Bend your knees, not your back.
- Use the strength of your thigh muscles to bring you to an upright position.
- Increase your leverage by keeping your bottom hand low and toward the shovel blade. This allows you to use the strength of your arms and shoulders to take the load, instead of your back.

Snow Way Out Program

Designed for seniors who need help removing snow from their sidewalks, seniors may sign up for the "Snow Way Out" program. Applications are available on the city website, www.allentownpa.org by clicking on the "SERVAllentown Logo" and at the senior center, at 1633 W. Elm Street, Allentown, PA.

- Click on "Snow Removal Application", download application, fill it out and send it to the Lehigh Senior Center.
- The senior center receives applications for snow removal services and qualifies each applicant. Applicant is then put on a list.

Volunteers wanting to participate in the program may sign up to perform snow removal by going to the city website, www.allentownpa.org and clicking on the "SERVAllentown Logo". Joshua Keller the city's volunteer chief service officer receives all volunteer applications and performs a background check. Once volunteer is approved a copy of application is sent to the Senior Center for their records. If you have questions about this program, call Mr. Keller at 610 437-7688.

After you've finished shoveling snow.....

Browse online for information about our neighborhood and city.



Want to check public assessment records (type of house, owner, etc.) of any house in Lehigh County? Go to <http://www.lehighcounty.org>. Click on "Assessment Records," select "Property Address" in the Search Method Window, then follow the instructions for entering the address.



Help Allentown Celebrate its 250th Anniversary

Volunteers are needed in many areas. Visit the website, www.allentownpa.gov/250 for complete information about this year long celebration and upcoming events.

Phone Numbers to Know

- City Information Desk 610 439-5999
 - Code Enforcement 610 437-7661
 - Code Enforcement Rental Licensing 610 437-7694.
 - Community Problems (neighbor disputes) 610 437-7773
 - Crime Prevention Unit 610 437-7719
 - Emergency Medical Services (paramedics) 610 437-7531
 - Emergency Medical Services (non-emergency) 610 437-7751
 - Garbage Complaints 610 437-8729
 - Graffiti Busters 610 437-8729
 - Graffiti in Progress 9-1-1
 - Housing Compliance/Inspections 610 437-7697
 - Leaf Pickup 610 437-7587
 - Police Calls (non-emergency) 610 437-7751*
 - Rental Unit Inspections 610 437-7695
 - Sewer Back-up 610 437 7639
 - Sewer Emergencies after hours 610 437-7751
 - State Representative Jennifer Mann 610 821-5577
 - SWEEP (Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste) 610 437-8729
 - Weeds/Grass Overgrowth 610 437-8729
 - Yard Waste Recycling 610 437-8729
 - Zoning 610 437-7630
- *When calling 610 437-7751, remember that anything that impairs the peace, dignity, and decorum of the neighborhood is considered "disruptive conduct."

Tip for calling 9-1-1

If you hear an intruder in your home, stay where you are and call 9-1-1. You don't have to say anything, just leave the line open and don't hang up. This works with land lines and cell phones alike.



I will prepare resumes for returning military personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan free of charge.

Contact me at mikekrasley@aol.com.