

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLD ALLENTOWN RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

November 2014

## LGBT Community Center Planned for Old Allentown

Adrian Shanker, Founder & Executive Director,  
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Ed Pawlowski joined me to announce the site of the future Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center.

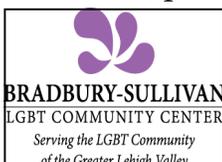


This will be the only LGBT center in the Lehigh Valley and will be located in the heart of Old Allentown at the long-vacant 1021 W. Turner St. Once completed, the 7,000 Square Foot building will offer direct services and cultural/educational programs for the Lehigh Valley and its LGBT community. Plans for the building include gallery space, community meeting space, a youth lounge, employee offices and meeting rooms.

We also announced that we've seen incredible support from the community. The entire design team inclusive of engineers, architects, attorneys and more (which includes two Old Allentown residents: OAPA President Christian Brown and Deborah Rabinsky) are all volunteering their services and we're confident that once the building is completed, it will be a great addition to the renaissance in downtown Allentown and the feel of Old Allentown in particular.

As a previous Old Allentown resident, I know that this is the perfect location for an LGBT community center. The project is quite large and it will take a great deal of money to redevelop this property. Support from neighbors is very much appreciated.

If you'd like to learn more, get involved, or support our efforts to redevelop 1021 W. Turner St., please visit:



[www.bradburysullivancenter.org](http://www.bradburysullivancenter.org)

or email

[adrian@bradburysullivancenter.org](mailto:adrian@bradburysullivancenter.org)

## *Community Need*

Local news has reported that homelessness has increased in our area. The majority of the unsheltered homeless were staying on the floor of a Parish office in the downtown area. The informal shelter was being supervised by the homeless themselves. The shelter was over capacity and other area shelters for women and families were full. There were over 700 homeless children in the Allentown School District last year as well as an identified gap of shelter space for childless couples.

Earlier this year the Commission to End Chronic Homelessness in Allentown was tasked with finding a better solution. A seasonal sheltering committee was formed and has created the 6th & Chew Winter Shelter at Alliance Hall. The Lehigh Conference of Churches is spearheading the effort in conjunction with the committee. The shelter will be open every evening from November 1st through April 1st.

More information can be found and donations made at [www.gofundme.com/Allentown-Winter-Shelter](http://www.gofundme.com/Allentown-Winter-Shelter). The Conference of Churches may also be contacted directly.



## Façade Grants Program

Grants for façade work for improvement to the front of houses in the Old Allentown District are available through the Old Allentown Preservation Association. Applications are being accepted for work beginning in 2015.

Funds are limited and will be approved and distributed in order of submission.

Complete information on the Façade Program as well as the application may be obtained at [www.oldallentown.org](http://www.oldallentown.org)



## The Allentown Preservation League . . .

Is an architectural salvage warehouse right here in Allentown (as the name suggests). It's a non-profit organization with the goal of preserving the architectural history of our town and, when the battle to save an entire structure is lost, recycling the architectural things of interest. There are three specific historic areas and their related organizations in Allentown but APL is an umbrella that unites all three in preserving and recycling history.



If you own a vintage house or just like interesting architectural details, this store is a necessity on your must-shop list. It is a great resource for anyone fixing up an old house but it's also an inspiration to someone with a creative outlook. Look at that leaning stack of old window sashes and see a cute garden mini-greenhouse, perfect for starting your tomatoes early. Look at the old doors, neatly separated by kind and see a really cool table or desk top. Random sections of old porch railing could keep Fido out of the garden or make a pretty enclosure for a small veggie garden. Vintage cornices, removed no doubt from a lovely old home, make stunning shelf brackets. Add a few hinges to some old wooden shutters and you've created an interesting privacy screen. Everywhere you look in the warehouse there's great ideas waiting to come to fruition.

The warehouse is staffed and organized 100% by volunteers. The staff is very helpful if you are searching for something specific. Donations of historic architectural pieces are greatly appreciated - items will be taken on consignment also - in case you've got an old door or claw foot tub lying around the garage.



APL is always looking for volunteers. Memberships are available to help support their efforts in the community.



**Individual Memberships - \$10.00 / Family Memberships - \$20.00**

The warehouse is centrally located to all of the Lehigh Valley at 1518 W. Walnut Street on the second floor of a vintage warehouse

**NEW HOURS:** Thursdays from 5pm to 7:30pm  
in addition to regular Saturday hours - 9am to 12 noon  
610-437-1989 / [www.allentownpreservation.org](http://www.allentownpreservation.org)



### Old Allentown Preservation Association Board

**Chris Brown, President**  
**Gerry Pegues, Vice President**  
**Edward Morrison, Treasurer**  
**Angie Johnson, Secretary**  
**Directors**

**Joseph Calhoun**     **Shane Fillman**     **James Jordan**  
**Wendie Lazansky**     **Alex Rolon**     **Diane Teti**

To suggest an article or idea for the next newsletter email:  
[info@oldallentown.org](mailto:info@oldallentown.org) - TITLE: NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION



**Printed Courtesy of the City of Allentown on recycled paper**

## Cultivating Our Future Together

On October 19th, through a 2nd grant from the City's "Love Our City" Grant Program, the Old Allentown Preservation Association completed a 100' garden in the pocket park at Turner & Fountain Street. The pocket park has been revitalized over the Summer and the planting of the Holly, Spirea and Barberry bushes completed the West side. Many residents are enjoying the beautification of the park.

In September, twenty two new trees were planted on Chew Street between 8th & 9th. The Old Allentown Preservation Association financed the removal of old trees, the clearing of the tree pits, cutting new tree pits and obtaining the new trees. Volunteers and residents of Chew Street all worked together to complete the project before 9:00am!

The rose garden in the Union and West End Cemetery, planted in May, continues to be a success. Clearing of the weeds around and under the 100 year old fence is also helping to improve the appearance. The Cemetery Association is working on the removal of the large trees that have caused damage and are replacing them with smaller growth trees.



Take time to enjoy these great improvements to our Community!



### Old Allentown Preservation Association Membership

As you look around Old Allentown, take notice of the beautiful Bronze Plaques on some of the homes designating the year the house was built. These plaques are available through the Association at a cost of \$75. As a member, plaques are available for \$60 - a \$15 savings. House Tour tickets are \$15, as a member you will pay \$10. The newsletter will be emailed to you. Members are also invited to the Annual Meeting hosted by the Association.

Your yearly membership helps with promotions and on-going projects throughout Old Allentown. Membership applications and information are available at the OAPA Office, 147 N. 10th Street or via email by contacting [info@oldallentown.org](mailto:info@oldallentown.org).



# UPCOMING OLD ALLENTOWN COMMUNITY & CITY EVENTS

## Old Allentown Tree Lighting - Saturday, November 22nd - 5:30 pm

The Old Allentown Christmas Tree in the Pocket Park at 8th and Gordon streets will be lit to start the Holiday Season! A festive outing for your family!

## Allentown Tree Lighting - Thursday, December 4, 2014 - 4:00 -7:00 pm

Entertainment, Carriage Rides, Santa and More! Join residents of the City to welcome in the Holiday Season. PPL Plaza, 9th & Hamilton Streets.

## New Year's Eve Celebration - Wednesday, December 31, 2014

Celebrate Downtown! Entertainments and Fireworks at Hamilton & 7th Streets. Watch for details in the paper and online.

## Old Allentown Preservation Association Annual Meeting - Friday, January 9, 2015

The annual meeting will be held at the Allentown Brew Work at 6:30 pm. All Members and residents are invited. An overview of 2014 and projects for 2015 will be featured. Election of Board Members will also be held. Light snacks provided and beverages are available. If you plan to attend please email [info@oldallentown.org](mailto:info@oldallentown.org) to sign up.

## Electronic Collections Day - Saturday, January 10, 2015 - 12:00 - 2:00 pm

A truck will be located at the corner of Turner and 10th streets for drop off. TVø (tube & flat) Computers, Monitors, Tablets, Copiers, Printers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Speakers, Vaccums will be accepted.

Fall Mayor's Walk - We apologize for any inconvenience the mayorø walk cancellations may have created

*For complete details on all upcoming Old Allentown events check our website - [www.oldallentown.org](http://www.oldallentown.org)*



# 2014 America Recycles Day Events

Recycling has many rewards and benefits. It's good for the environment, reduces pollution, conserves energy and our natural resources, and saves money on trash disposal costs. And now you have a chance to win a \$25 gift card for recycling!

November 15  
**America Recycles Day Contest!**

**Bin It To Win It!**  
by Recycling MORE  
in Allentown!

Register at:  
[www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov)



ALLENTOWN RECYCLES 

Two ways  
to WIN!!

**America Recycles Day Contest & Festival!**

**Drop It To Win It!**  
November 15  
15th & Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.



ALLENTOWN RECYCLES Visit: [www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov) 

### **Bin It to Win It!** Sunday, Nov 9 - Friday, Nov 14

- \$25 Visa gift cards will be given out to qualified residents who are recycling right!
- Residents must pre-register in order for your house to be randomly selected and checked for recycling.
- Place your blue and green recycling bins out by **8 pm on your recycling night.**
- Recycle in your blue bin: mixed paper, mail & magazines, newspapers, telephone books, cardboard & paperboard.
- Recycle in your green bin: steel, tin & aluminum cans & foil, glass bottles & jars, milk, juice & broth cartons, metal pots & pans.

### **Drop It To Win It!** Saturday, Nov 15

- Bring your recyclables to the Allentown Recycling Drop Off Center from 10 am– 2 pm & help the City Of Allentown and Lehigh County Juvenile probation raise money to benefit victims of juvenile crime!
- Register for a chance to win a \$25 Visa gift card!
- Free hot dogs! Games! Appearance by the Recycling Mascot!

Visit [www.allentownpa.gov](http://www.allentownpa.gov) for details

## Meet Your Neighbor Eleanor Geisinger

Submitted by: Diane Teti

While a lot of us call Allentown "home", our neighbor, Eleanor Geisinger has done so for 96 years! She has lived in the same house on Turner Street her entire life - the home where her grandfather moved his family when her mother, Annie Knerr, was only 8. When Annie married Eleanor's father, her grandfather, a carpenter, added a 3rd floor to the house where Eleanor was born in 1918.

Eleanor says she wanted to be a stenographer her whole life. However, when she graduated from William Allen in 1935, her parents made her go to college because her older sister had attended and graduated. She said back in those days parents put children first and no matter what one got they made sure the other did too. In fact her father, the Superintendent of Mails at the Allentown Post Office (and a postal employee from the age 18 to retirement!), didn't get their first family car until Eleanor graduated from Cedar Crest in 1939. When asked how she got to class she said the head of her department at school lived nearby. Every morning she would go the Dietrich Motor Car Garage, where PPL's garage now stands, the car would be called and would be waiting and warm with her in the back seat by the time her professor got there. After graduation Eleanor returned to William Allen where she taught typing and shorthand - the next best thing to being a secretary in her mind. She retired from William Allen after 30 years.

Although she has traveled to Europe two times and California twice Eleanor likes living where she is - a place she describes as wide open. She is near one of the cemeteries in our district, of which she says she has no fear. She hasn't been to the new arena yet, which she has read about and says "it's a fine thing." When asked if she had any words of advice for the Mayor, she says she doesn't have any complaints and considers herself to be a "contented cow."

Eleanor says she is well taken care of by her nephew and spends most of her time at home reading magazines or the paper - in which she also enjoys crossword puzzles. She says she does miss her old Buick which was given to her grandniece when Eleanor stopped driving. She does occasionally get out to the doctors and sometimes to her favorite Allentown restaurant the Hamilton Family Diner.

Eleanor is truly an original Allentonian!



### Homes for Sale in the District

The following houses are currently listed for sale in Old Allentown with a local real estate office. The Old Allentown Preservation Association is not selling these homes. We encourage you to take a drive by and contact the listing office for more information on these homes. Listings as of October 31, 2014

139 N. 10th #2 - \$775  
336 N. 8th - \$995  
434 N. Hall - \$20,000  
931 North - \$37,900  
108 12th - \$45,000  
110 N. 12th - \$49,000  
1128 Chew - \$55,000  
1135 Chestnut - \$59,000  
940 W. Chew - \$60,000



435 W. Liberty - \$64,900  
951 Gordon - \$65,000  
926 W. Chew - \$79,900  
324 N. 8th - \$110,000  
142 N. 10th - \$124,900  
140 N. 10th - \$134,900  
144 N. 10th - \$134,900  
245 N. 9th - \$389,900

