

# *Earn Frontier (July 5, 2016)*



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

Web Site: <http://pearson4pa133.com/>

**NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT and EDITOR DENNIS L. Pearson**

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## **Welcome to the EARN Frontier**

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...

- Next 3 Neighborhood Meetings
- Monday, August 15, 2016
- Monday, September 19, 2016
- Monday, October 17, 2016
- St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church
- 1933 Hanover Avenue, Allentown PA 18109

- **We are the Lookout for the Neighborhood**
- - **President - Dennis L. Pearson**
  - **Vice President - Robert R. Pandaleon**
  - **Secretary - David Schell**
  - **Treasury - Robert Jacoby**




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**The 32nd Annual Allentown Crime Watch Leonard Buck Banquet was held Thursday, April 21, 2016 at the Fearless Fire Station on South Front Street in Allentown. The evening featured a Keynote Address from Lehigh County Sheriff Joe Hanna and awards presented to Neighborhood Group Volunteers. Longtime EARN Member Robert L. Jacoby getting one such Award. Also there was the presentation of the Leonard Buck Award to Kenneth Heffentraeger of the 10 Ward Civic Association as well as the presentation of the Ben Gress Distinguished Police Officer of the Year Award to Allentown Police Officer Joe lanetta . Dennis Pearson of EARN served as Emcee of the event.**

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**The East Allentown/ Rittersville Neighborhood Association ran its first holiday lighting program of certain community facilities in 1994-1995 and just finished our 22th continuous run in 2015-2016...Like previous years, Project Haas was well appreciated by residents of the EARN neighborhood.... As we begin planning for a possible 23rd run, our main concern would be whether our traditional flag pole decorations can be repeated due to the tilt in the pole that appeared this year. And also how we can coordinate the repair of the flag pole with the**

**renaming of the playground in honor of East Side residents who fought and died in the Vietnam War.**

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**Lois Morrell longtime City of Allentown - Allentown School District Crossing Guard at the Corner of Irving and Andre Reed Way (E Washington Street) has decided to retire from that post at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. And has been honored by the Allentown City Council for her service to generations of School Children from Ritter Elementary and Dieruff High School.**

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**70" Flag Pole for years has stood the neighborhood well as the center piece of the neighborhood's annual Project Haas Display ... But now it is threatened by a tower of Pisa like tilt ... But new flag pole added to already rebuilt playground could be**

**dedicated to Vietnam War veterans ... Join the push to rename a section of Andre Park -- The East Allentown Veterans Memorial Playground**

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**East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES**

**March 21, 2016**

**President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on March 21, 2016 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

**Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Pandaleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and five other neighbors were present at the meeting as were Captain Dan Weidemann and Officer Mike Beidelman of the Allentown Police, and Ce-Ce Gerlach, Allentown School Director.**

**Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of January 18, 2015. [There was no meeting in February due to inclement weather.] It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.**

**Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The balance remains \$527.03. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.**

**President Pearson noted that the guest we were to have last month, dealing with a clinic for sexual offenders that had been opened on E. Pennsylvania Street, was not with us this month. It was an approved use in its block so no notice had been given to neighbors. According to Captain Wiedemann, most of their clientele are in drug rehabilitation although there are a few sex offenders being handled at that address. He suggested that we keep an eye on the situation as the weather gets warmer and the clients may be spending more time outdoors at the location.**

**Captain Wiedemann brought along some applications to the Citizen's Police Academy. The deadline for application is this coming Friday. Officer Beidelman reported on recent speed checks on the east side. They are clocking up to 58-61mph on American Parkway. They are also getting higher speeds on Jerome Street, among others.**

**President Pearson reported that the Leonard Buck banquet will take place on Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup>, sponsored by the Allentown Crime Watch. The cost is \$28—exactly what the Fearless Fire Company is charging the Crime Watch.**

**President Pearson reported that the school board is considering full-day kindergarten. There was some talk about having one of these locations at Midway Manor School, but it was feared that the Newcomer Academy (for non-English speakers) would be displaced. There is also a possibility if using Ritter School, but this would impact some of the students who are already there and the playground area. Current students would**

possibly be moved out of the main building and into the trailers that would be added in the back. This might also provide security issues. Director Gerlach noted that the Newcomer program is functioning very well

Allentown Police Chief Keith Morris showed up at this time from another meeting. He spoke about his vision for the police department and city. He praised the officers and said that he would like them to be out in the neighborhoods meeting the neighbors whom they are serving and protecting. They want to be proactive in community relations, and do whatever it takes within their budget to improve the quality of life of Allentown residents.

They are in the high schools putting on presentations on drug use and other issues. He feels that they have in the past missed an opportunity in the middle schools, and wants to have a greater helping presence at that age level as well. They need to be present in those schools and have started a pilot program in South Mountain MS.

They have added some technology. They have in-car and are adding body cameras as well. These will play a role in both training, evidence, and operations. They are seeing a major heroin overdose problem in the area and have issued overdose medications to the officers in hope of saving lives. They have also added a larger presence on social media.

President Pearson mentioned the murder that we had in the area of N. Godfrey Street and E. Tilghman Streets. He and Secretary Schell were present at a meeting at the Overlook Park community building on February 26<sup>th</sup> concerning the matter. Schell reported briefly on the meeting. Captain Weidemann reiterated the caution that police give when people claiming to represent city departments or utilities ask to come into homes. All city employees or utility workers should show their ID card. If there is any question, call the police or 9-1-1.

School Director Gerlach noted that the public is invited to a community meeting with the school directors on April 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Building 21, which is located at the intersection of Lehigh Street and M L King Drive. She noted that the school board has new officers who want to get the public's feeling for the direction that the board is taking the district. There will possibly be other meetings besides this one, but the additional meetings are not certain—this one is. They want the public to be part of their decision-making and at present the only input that they get is in three-minute increments from public comments at school board meetings.

President Pearson noted that the holiday decorations are off the flagpole and building at Andre Reed (Irving) Park and are stored in the bathhouse. We will have to get a storage area for the items before the swimming season starts. There will probably be nothing on the flagpole next year as the flagpole is tilting significantly.

Secretary Schell handed out a flyer from Allentown Pothole Hotline. Potholes can be reported by calling the hotline 24/7 at 610-437-8775 or by sending an email via the city's

website, [allentownpa.gov](http://allentownpa.gov). An icon on the homepage links directly to the pothole page of the Public Works Department.

Schell also noted that he sent an email to Streets Superintendent Mark Shahda on January 24<sup>th</sup> concerning truck use of N. Kiowa Street between Union Boulevard and Hanover Avenue and the 1000 and 1100 blocks of E. Tilghman Street. We received no response to this, and may try contacting him again.

Finally, Schell noted that he had gotten information from the city about the Great Allentown Cleanup, which will take place this year on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

President Pearson advised that attendees at local baseball games should always be aware of what is happening on the field. His first umpiring assignment of the season—between Freedom and Notre Dame/Green Pond resulted in a ball hitting the pitcher in the head and knocking him out.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully, *David A. Schell, Secretary*

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## East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES

April 18, 2016

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 18, 2016 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Pandaleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and five other neighbors were present at the meeting as were Captain Dan Wiedemann and Officer Andrew Bloomberg of the Allentown Police.

Schell handed out a flyer on activities at the Allentown Public Library taking place in May and another about an expired drug collection that will take place on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Supremo Food Market at 602 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street and the Giant Market at 3015 W. Emaus Avenue.

President Pearson noted that there have been several resignations of city department heads since the last meeting, including city Managing Director Francis Daugherty.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of March 21, 2016. There were two corrections in that the minutes referred to the previous meeting as

being in January 2015, not 2016 and Captain Dan Wiedemann's name was misspelled. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The balance remains \$527.03. We have paid another month of storage at \$31.79 plus tax per month, but the money has not yet been removed from the account. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

Captain Wiedemann asked if there were any questions or issues to be brought up by those present.

There is a problem at East Columbia and American Parkway in that people shoot right through the intersection. The stop sign is clearly visible but possibly could be augmented by a white line painted in the street. Cars also go dashing through the stop signs at E. Hamilton and N. Irving Streets. Also noted were continuing problems with late night noise at several properties.

There are continuing problems also with trash being left or blowing around. The property owners should have the responsibility for cleaning up around their properties. At one-time city inspectors came through several times during the course of the summer checking on this sort of thing, but it appears that this procedure has been ended.

Captain Wiedemann noted that the expired drug pickup is also in effect at the police offices at 10<sup>th</sup> and Hamilton Streets on a regular basis. He again noted that city officials will always have an ID card when they come onto property.

The Leonard Buck banquet will be this coming Thursday at the Fearless Fire Hall. As usual, it will recognize both police and civilians. The Leonard Buck Award this year will be the head of the Allentown Tenants' Association, Kenneth Heffentrager.

A manager from Harry's U Pull It auto recycling on N. Plymouth Street addressed the group. He noted that there had been some concern expressed due to the several fires at that location, but that as the new manager of their three locations in Allentown, Pennsburg, and Hazelton, he had overseen the expenditure of \$1.5 million between the three locations to improve environmental safeguards at all locations. He spoke of his background and length of time in the recycling business and some of his background. In response to a question he spoke of the method used to remove all fluid from the junked vehicles, and noted that after the vehicles have been on site of a number of months they are removed to a scrap dealer to be ground down and melted or reused. [Secretary's note: I had a horrible head cold and was not hearing well, so I did not get his name. Apologies.]

President Pearson read from a letter to VP Pandaleon from Veronique N. Valliere acknowledged our expressed concerns concerning their clients, some of whom are court-involved clients who are mandated for treatment. Some, but not all, of these are

sexual offenses. She noted that their group sees the community as their primary client, and works with local law enforcement to lower the recidivism rate of offenders.

Further, she noted that in “the case of all types of offenders, knowledge is power. Recidivism increases in neighborhoods that restrict offenders because the community cannot identify them.” She expressed pleasure that our association is proactive in this area, urged us to contact their group with any concerns, and noted that any contact with children would be a violation of probation or parole and could result in incarceration. Residents can find out more about their work at [www.vallierecounseling.com](http://www.vallierecounseling.com).

In other business, President Pearson:

- Brought various Morning Call articles of various police activity on the East Side to the group’s attention
- Noted that the flagpole in Andre Reed (Irving) Park is leaning and that we probably could not put decorations on it safely next year if it is not repaired or replaced. He further noted that many Allentown parks no longer have flagpoles, and if the pole is replaced we hope it would be large enough to put our annual decorations on it.
- Noted that there are periodic proposals to make changes to Andre Reed Park. There is some talk of putting a pavilion in where the playground currently exists. We would like to see the pool remain either there or some other place on the East Side since the nearest other city pool is at Jordan Park.
- Stated that we have been advocating a return of the planetarium to Dieruff HS.
- Noted that the school district plans to bring in a private company (Camelot) to deal with special education students.
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There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully, *David A. Schell, Secretary*

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## East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES

May 16, 2016

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 16, 2016 at St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Pandaleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and seven other neighbors were present at the meeting as were Captain Dan Wiedemann, Officer Andrew Bloomberg, and Sergeant Ron Schlagel of the Allentown Police.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of April 18, 2016. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The balance remains \$527.03. We owe \$63.58 to President Pearson for two months' rental fee. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

Sergeant Schlegel introduced himself—he is a seventeen-year veteran of the force.

One neighbor asked about the time limits to move one's vehicle registration to Pennsylvania. There is a requirement to change one's operator's license within thirty days if they are full-time residents of Pennsylvania. If the family is still maintaining a home out of state, there is no requirement to move the auto registration. Likewise, if the owner of the vehicle is living out of state the vehicle may still be registered in the other state. Insurance must be informed where the vehicle is primarily located.

A question was also raised about people parking too close to corners. It is the city's responsibility to paint the yellow lines and this program was abandoned more than a decade ago. The statute governs violations—fifteen feet from a corner—not the painted line. Cases where visibility is severely impaired by people parking too closely to a corner can be reported to the police.

Captain Wiedemann described some technology that can be used remotely with one's smart phone to indicate that one is still home (Ring Video Doorbell—[www.ring.com](http://www.ring.com)). He also suggested that some people give the impression that someone is home by simply leaving a coffee mug on the counter as though someone on the premises left it temporarily.

We have received complaints about trash not being cleaned up around the Popeye's and other restaurants on Hanover Avenue

A question was raised about the railroad crossings that are no longer in use. The statute provides that even if the tracks have been removed and the track blocked, school busses are still required to stop unless the owner of the tracks posts a note to the effect that the track has been abandoned.

A question was raised about the responsibility of a vehicle driver when a back-seat passenger tosses trash from the vehicle. Captain Wiedemann noted that the owner of the vehicle is responsible in that situation, and that one signs a statement to that effect when their annual vehicle registration is processed.

President Pearson noted that we received an invitation presentation of Commendation Awards on Wednesday, May 18th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. He noted that he also received another call from neighbor on N. Oswego Street that an area business's trucks are blocking the street.

President Pearson reported on various items in the local newspaper since our last meeting, both concerning various crime news from this part of town and good news from Dieruff High School.

Among other items, Dieruff again received sixteen Freddy awards nominations for their musical. In this they are tied for the most number of nominations with Parkland High School.

Pearson also reported that the International Buick Association will be meeting at the site of the old Boulevard Drive in during July. During part of this the St. James Street connection used as a shortcut will be closed.

It was noted that N. Plymouth Street is and has been in rotten shape for years. A neighbor said that when they inquired of the city they were told that the city does not want to improve that stretch of street, fearing that it will then be used as a speed-inducing shortcut to get to American Parkway. A neighbor also noted problems with dirt flowing off of the property at the old Mosser School at Carlisle and Union Streets onto neighboring streets during heavy rains.

President Pearson noted that the Leonard Buck banquet of the Allentown Crime Watch was a success, and further noted that Treasurer Bob Jacoby received an award for his service.

There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully, David A. Schell, Secretary

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## East Allentown Rittersville Neighborhood Association MINUTES

June 20, 2016

President Dennis Pearson called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. on June 20, 2016 at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Present: Four officers (President Dennis Pearson, Vice President Robert Pandaleon, Treasurer Bob Jacoby, and Secretary Dave Schell) and twelve other neighbors were present at the meeting as was Officer Mike Beidelman of the Allentown Police.

Secretary Dave Schell handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting of May 16, 2016. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Jacoby gave his report. The account balance remains \$527.03. We owe \$95.37 to President Pearson for three months' rental fee @ \$31.79/month. It was moved and seconded to approve the report as read. The motion carried.

President Pearson congratulated Lois Morrell on retiring from here forty-four years as a crossing guard in front of Dieruff High School.

President Pearson noted that the neighborhood was involved in the science fair, during which several awards were made on behalf of EARN. At the high school level, the winner of the Kirk Shinsky Award was Allen Potter of William Allen HS on "Solar Panels." The Frederick Greenleaf Jr. Award was won by Peter Capote of Harrison-Morton MS for his project "How does the angle of a football kick affect its pathway?" Jakob Tyson of Harrison-Morton MS won the Space Faring Civilization Award for his project "Magnetic Linear Accelerators."

**Additionally, there was a science fair at Ritter. The winners were 1st Place: Aaron Tyson for “Plant Growth with Different Light Sources,” 2nd place was Zane Childs for “Which paper towel is the most absorbent?” and 3rd place to Daniel Antar for “The effects of Soil pH on plant growth.”**

**Pearson also noted that the city has put in a new playground in the Irving Park (Andre Reed Park). He noted that he has asked the city to change the name of the playground to the East Allentown Veterans Memorial Playground, honoring the seven east side veterans who gave their lives in the Vietnam War. The city has responded with a memo on how to change the designation and the matter and Council may consider the matter.**

**Secretary Schell read a message that he had received from the city’s Bureau of Health and Animal Control concerning a rabid skunk that had been captured in a resident’s kitchen in the vicinity at 4th and Allen Streets. The door had been left ajar and the skunk came in contact with the residents’ two dogs, which were not vaccinated for rabies. The dogs are therefore now under a six-month quarantine, per Pennsylvania Department of Revenue protocols. Residents were urged to make certain that their pets’ rabies shots are up to date, and noted that if you are bitten or scratched by a strange animal you should seek medical attention immediately.**

**Pearson noted that the crime watch organization has requested for sales tax from the state. If approved, this would cover the neighborhood associations. He also noted that the next meeting of the city crime watch organization will be in September.**

**Code enforcement has been made aware of an auto business in the alley behind Club Avenue and the police have taken steps as well. There is another person doing work on cars in the parking lot at the former liquor store on Club Avenue.**

**Officer Beidelman reported on other recent enforcement activities, including speeding on Jerome Street, an altercation at the Irving Pool, other traffic violations, bike thefts, and various domestic situations.**

**A neighbor noted that she understands that Big Woody’s is going to be moving into the Allentown Commons shopping area at Hanover Avenue and Maxwell Street, and expressed concern about the mix businesses in the area (bars, food service, and child care) plus potential behavioral, noise, and trash issues. The neighbor suggested that we invite the owner to one of our meetings before the move to express our concern in a friendly manner, as she was certain that he wouldn’t want the same trouble at the new location as he has unfortunately had at the present location.**

**The group discussed a number of small garages and “chop shops” that are popping up in the area around Bradford Street.**

**Secretary Schell handed out a list for anyone who has not yet been added to our email distribution list and would like to get our periodic minutes and other mailings.**

**There being no further business, adjournment was moved and seconded, and the meeting adjourned  
at 8:08 p.m.**

Respectfully, David A. Schell, Secretary

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The Solar Impulse Airplane is a Swiss long-range experimental solar-powered aircraft project, and also the name of the project's two operational aircraft.

Top speed: 50 mph

Wingspan: 208' 0"

Weight: 3,527 lbs

Length: 72'

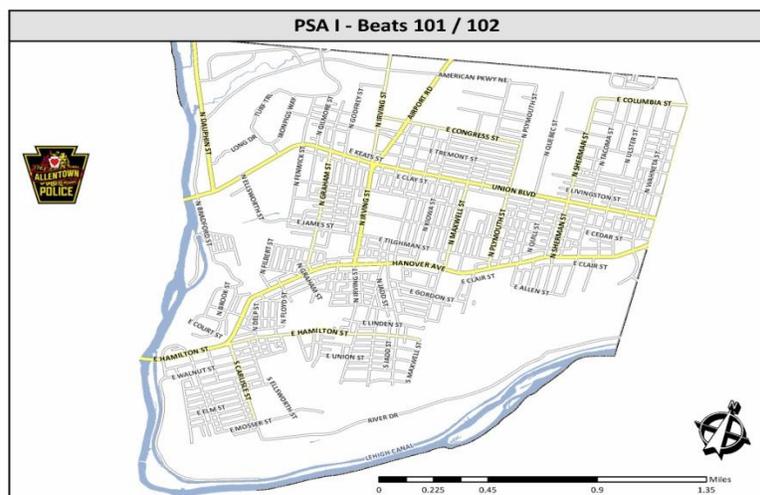
Cruise speed: 43 mph

Range: 957.5 mi

Manufacturer: École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

It was a great sight to see this experimental airplane fly slowly over the East Side of Allentown, slowly maneuvering back and forth boat style over Andre Reed Park aka Irving Park

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The EARN FRONTIER is printed courtesy of the City of Allentown on recycled paper