



The Allentown Neighbor

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Merry Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
Happy Kwanzaa
Best Wishes for
the New Year

Allentown's Christmas list: lots of holiday events

Santa Claus is coming to town... Allentown! He and other familiar Yuletide characters will be seen in traditional animated displays in store windows on Allen Street, Elmwood Avenue, Main Street and Franklin Street.

The nine window displays were purchased by the Allentown Association with an \$18,000 city grant and are sure to be a big hit among Allentowners and visitors young and old.

The animated displays will provide a bright seasonal setting for Allentown's busy schedule of Christmas events.

The Victorian Christmas Extravaganza on Saturday Dec. 16 will be a highlight with horse-drawn carriage rides departing from the Towne Restaurant, Allen Street and Elmwood Avenue, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. An open house with refreshments will be held at the Allentown Association office, Allen and College Streets, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Caroling will ring out on Allen Street Dec. 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. Singers will include the Hutchinson Family Revival, a re-enactment of a 19th Century popular music group, specializes in songs of the Civil War and other musical Americana. It was founded in 1997 by Richard Price of Days Park. Carolers from St. Louis Church and other singers will also perform.

The Theater of Youth holiday production, "A Little House Christmas" will be presented at 2 p.m. Dec. 16 and all Saturdays and Sundays from then until Dec. 30 in the Allendale Theater, 203 Allen Street. It will also be presented Wednesday through Fri-



Santa's elves lend a hand getting his antique car going. This animated display is on view at Hyatt's, 910 Main St.

day, Dec. 27, 28 and 29, at 2 p.m. and at 7 p.m. The play is based on Laura Ingalls Wilder's celebrated "Little House" books. Call 884-4400 for tickets.

The Victorian carriage rides will again be offered on Saturday, Dec. 23, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., leaving from the Towne Restaurant, which is providing the rides that day.

The Wilcox Mansion, also known as the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site at 641 Delaware Ave., will be decorated in the theme of a "Victorian Christmas in the City of Light," recalling the Pan American Exhibition in Buffalo a century ago. The historic house will be open for tours Dec. 2 through 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Allentown's traditional Christmas celebration was ready to get underway Friday evening Nov. 30 with a tree lighting at Grace Manor Nursing Home on Symphony Circle, with Santa on hand and hot dogs courtesy of Jim's Steakout.

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Christmas events *continued from page 1*

Judging of Christmas windows of Allentown merchants will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16.

The animated Christmas displays being introduced this year are expected to invoke for many the traditional window displays of the old Adam Meldrum & Anderson Co. on Main Street in downtown Buffalo. The department store's Christmas windows of animated Victorian holiday scenes are a fondly remembered tradition of generations of Buffalonians.

The Allentown window displays were produced by Hamberger Displays Inc. of Old Bridge, New Jersey, whose settings have attracted shoppers of all ages wherever they have been exhibited throughout the country.

The displays, in addition to the design pictured on page 1, can be viewed at these businesses: Allentown Cleaners, 224 Allen, gnome on ladder with snowman; El Museo Gallery, 91 Allen St. gnome with pony cart; College Street Gallery; 224 Allen, Santa's workshop elves; Eminent Design, 191 Allen, toy shop elves; Java Temple, 57 Allen, Santa with list and elf packing sack; Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen, elves packing sled; Light Makers, 125 Elmwood, carolers; Holiday Inn, 620 Delaware, girl selling mistletoe to purchaser.

The windows are expected to generate considerable holiday excitement, and benefit our neighborhood's merchants. After Jan. 7 the displays will be stored at the Allentown Association office for use again next year.

Eminent Design is providing financial support for the Allentown Christmas Extravaganza.

— Pete Carroll

St. Louis Church receives grant for exterior preservation

St. Louis Catholic Church, one of Allentown's most visible and significant architectural treasures has received a \$250,000 federal grant for renovation of the exterior of the historic church.

The grant will enhance one of the first building people see when entering downtown Buffalo via the Kensington Expressway, and will protect a historically significant structure and enhance the beauty of Main Street, The Buffalo News reported Oct. 20.

The Gothic Revival church at Main and Edward Streets was profiled in the September-October issue of The Allentown Neighbor.

SPECIAL
Holiday Hours

December 16-23
8:30-8 pm Mon.-Fri. 8:30-6 pm Sat.

HYATT'S
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Quality at a Reasonable Price.

910 Main Street near allen street
Buffalo (716) 884-8900
Open 8:30-6 Mon.-Fri. 10:00-5 Saturday
other stores - Clarence/Rochester



City provides new trees along Allentown streets

Nearly 30 new trees have been planted along Allentown streets this fall, bringing an unusual new species from China to the neighborhood.

The saplings were planted in November along the city rights of way between the streets and the sidewalk by a city contractor. Two-thirds of the trees were provided by a city matching grant to the Allentown Association, and the remainder were provided by the city at the request of individual property owners.

Trees were planted along Mariner, Park, College, North and Cottage Streets and Irving Place. Most replaced trees which had died or been damaged, and will carry on the neighborhood's tradition of leafy, tree-lined streets.

The new trees are primarily katsoras, "an exotic species from China which grows to 40 to 60 feet high and have beautiful heart-shaped leaves," City Forester Andrew Rabb said. Although new to the neighborhood, they are ideal for urban residential streets, providing shade but not growing too large, the forester said.

Once winter is over, they will need a good soaking of water every week. If there is not a heavy rainfall in any week, residents should give a heavy watering to the sapling next spring and summer, he said. The care of the trees by residents will be the association's match for the city grant, and residents who requested trees agreed to water them.

Residents wishing to have a tree planted in front of their house next year should telephone Kathy Toepfer, Allentown Association executive director, at 881-1024.

An Allentown Almanac

The Nov. 20 snow storm not only left Allentown streets clogged with abandoned cars, but hundreds of commuters spent the night in our neighborhood. Over 200 persons found refuge in the fire station at Elmwood Avenue and Virginia Street, and 80 were still there at noon on Nov. 21, firefighters reported...

The snow storm wiped out a planned party at the Hamlin House Nov. 21 for volunteers in the Sept. 24 Tour of Homes. The Board of Directors decided to send them movie passes usable at the downtown Market Arcade Film Center...

The Tour of Homes this year was the most successful ever in financial terms, the board was informed....

Kathy Toepfer, our executive director, recently attended a conference in Kansas City on community schools. The Allentown Association is fiscal monitor for after-school programs at School 77, on Normal Avenue and School 18 on Hampshire Street.

George Sax, who is moving from Irving Place to Park Street, came to the aid of a man stricken on Allen Street as George exited Gabriel's Gate the day after the big snow storm. George asked the restaurant staff to telephone 911, but it was busy. He then stopped a car taking Mayor Anthony Masiello home, and Masiello's driver made the call for an ambulance. Sadly, we're told the victim died soon after being taken to a hospital...

Paul Beaudet of St. Mary's Square says the REAL Millennium will begin this New Year's Eve at midnight, not last Jan. 1... Get ready to celebrate...

Several Allentowners attended a conference Nov. 13 at the University at Buffalo Amherst campus on "Traditional Neighborhood Design: a 'new urbanist' alternative." The new urbanism aims to bring the amenities we have in Allentown, such as stores a pleasant walk from homes, to new suburban developments...

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



COME JOIN US.

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

If business, name proprietor or manager _____

Telephone (____) _____ Best Time To Call _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL (please check):

- Sustaining \$50.00 Individual \$15.00 Contributing \$100.00
 Household - Family \$20.00 Patron \$250.00 Business \$25.00

All membership contributions are tax deductible. • Make checks payable to: The Allentown Association, Inc. • Amount Remitted: \$ _____
Your Continued Support Is Greatly Appreciated

Would you have any interest in volunteering to assist with any of the following activities?

- Beautification and Litter Control Fund Raising Business Development Membership Solicitation
 Crime Prevention Special Events Housing and Preservation Board of Directors

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