



The Allentown Neighbor

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Secrets of Allentown tour of homes is Sept. 14

By *Elizabeth Licata*

After a hiatus in 2007, Secrets of Allentown returns this year with some spectacular properties and—for the first time in recent memory—major media sponsorship.

The magnificent Clement Mansion (Red Cross building), 786 Delaware Ave. at Summer St., will be the starting point for a tour that includes approximately 11 properties.

The highlight of the tour is undoubtedly a rare public viewing of the Birge-Horton house, home to the Katherine Pratt Horton

Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This amazing property was left intact by Katherine Horton, who died in 1931, to the DAR, including its magnificent 18th-century furnishings time. Located at 477 Delaware Ave., the row house is part of the Midway complex and was designed by Green & Wicks. Two floors of this property will be available for viewing on the tour.

The house was built in 1895 for Henry Birge, the wallpaper magnate, and later became the home of Katherine Horton, widow of John Miller Horton, wealthy owner of an iron-smelting furnace in Black Rock. The Hortons had trav-



Birge-Horton House (DAR House)

eled widely in Europe where they purchased antiques and met dignitaries who were later entertained at the Buffalo residence.

After initial organization and scouting of properties by Christopher Brown, former Association president and former Secrets chair Bill Mahr, the co-chairs of Secrets 2008 are Board members Elizabeth Licata and LaVerne Peakes. Once again, award-winning designer Greg Meadows has created the poster, and the booklets are produced by Buffalo Spree Publishing.

Board member Gina Maramag has secured media sponsorships from the Bee Newspapers and Time-Warner Cable; both of the outlets will be running ads promoting Secrets.

The tour will take place on Sunday, Sept. 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a wine tasting offered from noon to 5 at the Troop I Post hall (Hamlin House), 432 Franklin St. There will be a shuttle to help transport participants between the properties and discount coupons to Allentown restaurants for all ticket holders. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of tour.

Tickets are available at Quaker Bonnet, Positively Main Street, Allentown Athletics, and through the Allentown Association office and tickets.com. For information, check 881-1024 or secretsofallentown.org.

The event benefits the Allentown Association, which receives no government funding for its operations to preserve and improve the community.

Volunteers are needed to help at the Clement Mansion and other sites on the tour. Volunteers work a three-hour shift and get to see the tour sites free. Please contact the Allentown Association at 881-1024 or allentown@bfn.org.

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Brown resigns, Parry takes on Association presidency

Christopher Brown has resigned as president of the Allentown Association and been succeeded by Wayne Parry who was first vice president.

Chris Brown, who also resigned as a member of the Board of Directors, said he found it necessary to reduce his commitments because of other responsibilities. He is a vice president in M&T Bank's Technology Division.

"It's sad for us," said Wayne Parry. "Chris was extremely valuable to the Association and this community, hard working, a tireless community advocate and a great leader."

"I will be president until the annual meeting in October," and Matthew Ryan, chairman of the board's Business Relations Committee, has expressed interest in the presidency, Wayne Parry told the board on June 17. The board elected

Matthew Ryan to fill the vacancy as first vice president.

Chris Brown had been president since Nov. 22, 2006. His nomination without opposition was announced Oct. 25 at the 2006 annual meeting. A recognized preservationist advocate, he has written on Buffalo history and preservation topics, and given walking tours. He has also served as president of the Kleinhans Community Association for eight years, and chaired the Secrets of Allentown tour of homes.

As president, he set goals for preservation, education and tourism, and worked hard on preservation issues. The Association, under his leadership, sponsored free seminars on Allentown architecture and home repairs, and offered walking tours this summer.

Work progresses at Theodore Roosevelt Site

By Molly Quackenbush

Substantial progress is being made on the major project at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site that includes a new addition on the footprint of the former carriage house and upgrades to the Wilcox Mansion.

Work got underway soon after the ground breaking on May 5. First on the agenda was the required archeology. The University at Buffalo's Archeological Survey was once again engaged and did a great job of investigating test pits and monitoring excavation of the carriage house basement. Next in line was utility realignment. All utilities that will service the Wilcox Mansion and the new carriage house have been relocated underground... a major achievement that greatly improves the site's visual and historic appearance.

The carriage house is now taking shape. By the time you receive this newsletter, the second floor framing should be nearing completion. At the Wilcox Mansion, installation of a fire suppression system and updated heating, ventilating and air conditioning is well underway, restrooms are being rehabbed, the roof repaired, and exterior painting begun. This undertaking will further secure and preserve this local and national landmark, an important anchor in the Allentown district.

In addition to the expanded space and building upgrades underway, exciting new tours and exhibits are also being de-



Rendering of the carriage house addition at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site.

signed that will raise the national historic site's profile as a must-see museum. Increased visitation, both local and national, is projected.

Stay tuned for information on the site's reopening, expected in the next few months.

Molly Quackenbush is executive director of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site.



No patio for the Stillwater

The Common Council has put a stop to plans of the Stillwater for a large outdoor patio in the rear of the restaurant and night club at 481 Delaware Ave. in the historic Midway block of town houses.

“It’s resolved for now. They can make another run,” said Ginger Schröder, owner of a nearby town house and a leading opponent of the patio. The Council failed to approve permission for the patio, receiving and filing it on July 30.

The Allentown Association opposed the Stillwater’s planned patio and neighbors complained of problems of late-night noise. The city Preservation Board and Planning Board opposed the original plan for a deck, scaled down to a 1,900-square-foot terrace.

The controversial vinyl fence on the Virginia Place side of the Stillwater has been removed, and Ginger Schröder said she believes the Stillwater is now in compliance with city codes.

An adjacent town house at 491 Delaware Ave., much in

need of exterior restoration, has been purchased from the Stillwater interests by Scott Huber, who hopes to restore it as a single-family residence, Ginger Schröder said.

In other preservation news:

— The façade of the Katharine Pratt Horton Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter House

Preservation News

at 477 Delaware Ave. in the Midway block will be restored with missing pieces of two balustrades and decorative urns restored. The Preservation Board approved the plans Aug. 7.

— The city has sold a vacant lot at 388 Hudson St. to the owner of adjacent property, Howie Colon, 388 Hudson St., who is to maintain it as green space.

Preservation Board balks at “welcome” sign

The city Preservation Board threw multiple obstacles at a “Welcome to Allentown” sign planned at Symphony Circle, but left open the possibility that the sign may be permitted.

Daniel Culross, an architect and chairman of the Allentown Association’s Wadsworth St. Beautification Committee, has been working on the sign project for six months, and had secured a commitment for a city grant of nearly \$4,000 to pay for the sign.

When he attended the Preservation Board meeting July 24, he was barely allowed to speak about the project, first being subjected to lengthy negative comments from Tim Tielman, a board member. The board tabled the matter until Aug. 7 when it voted to “empower a committee to work with the Allentown Association to develop an appropriate sign.” Daniel Culross told the board city funding was assured only

until the end of August. Four Allentown Association representatives attended the meeting to support the proposal.

Harvey Garrett, the only board member to speak in favor of the sign, said the board should support the Allentown Association’s effort to promote and protect the historic preservation district and make it better known.

Christopher Guerra, another board member, criticized the sign’s design, although it is nearly identical to others previously approved by the Preservation Board, and its aesthetics, although the board has been advised that it cannot legally base its decisions on personal aesthetic judgments. He also criticized the proposed site, on the city right of way in front of First Presbyterian Church.

The design is similar to existing signs at Main and Allen Sts. and Hudson St. and Plymouth Ave.



Allentown rates as a “walker’s paradise”

By Jonathan White

Residents of Allentown can take pride in the fact that a national rating service considers their community one of the most walkable neighborhoods in the nation. In fact, Allentown rates as a “Walker’s Paradise.”

Walkscore.com has released ratings designating the most walkable cities in America. Using proprietary software and a rating scale that considers lifestyle amenities per person within walking distance of a neighborhood, Walkscore assigns a rating to each city as a whole and to each neighborhood individually. Among cities, San Francisco rated first overall with a Walkscore rating of 86 out of 100, indicating a very walkable city.

Using the corner of Allen St. and Elmwood Ave. as the

center of the Allentown neighborhood, Walkscore calculates a walkability rating of 92, or a “walker’s paradise”, which ranks the Allentown historic preservation district among the most walkable neighborhoods in the country. Overall, Walkscore rates only 138 neighborhoods with the Walkers’ Paradise designation (having a Walk Score 90 or above) in the largest 40 U.S. cities.

Among the amenities within walking distance that contributed to Allentown’s high score are restaurants, shops, theaters, Kleinhans Music Hall, and the Market Arcade.

Results for Allentown can be viewed at <http://walkscore.com/get-score.php?street=194+allen+st+14201>.

By comparison, the Elmwood neighborhood, using the Lexington Co-Op as a center point, receives a rating of 83, which the Web site deems “very walkable”.

Allentown woman ticketed for ignoring stop sign, on a bike

By Sarah Gilewicz

At one point or another, we’ve all ridden a bike through town, maybe more so these days because of the price of gas. Most of us are also generally aware that bikers or cyclists are expected to follow the same traffic laws as drivers, but when is the last time you did?

Well, as a triathlete training for an Ironman, (the triathlon distance, a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile run), I’ve logged more than 2,000 biking miles this summer training for this race.

I found out the hard way, several weeks ago, that the police can and, in my case, will enforce these laws. I was pulled over on my road bike for rolling through an intersection. Granted this occurred in the suburbs on Grand Island, but the same could occur right here in Allentown.

I was shocked as were most people I told (who also

laughed!), but the police officer and judge I had to deal with were not as amused. My final punishment was a \$50 fine, but it could have been as bad as 3 points on my license and \$95!

I’m not writing this to suggest you cyclists should always come to a complete stop at every intersection, I still don’t. This is simply to remind you that we are legally expected to abide by the same “rules of the road” as vehicles; and if we don’t, can be punished at the same price, so be aware.

Finally, I’m a firm believer and supporter of bike helmets. You may be the most cautious biker out there, but you can’t control the drivers on the road, so wear a helmet if you’re going to be biking in the street!

Sarah Gilewicz, a College St. resident, is a director of the Allentown Association.

Help needed to plant trees

The Allentown Association is looking for volunteers to help plant over 30 bare-root trees in Allentown November 8 and 9. These trees are being supplied by Re-Tree Western NY and will be planted between the curb and sidewalk on city property on various Allentown streets.

Also, if you are interested in having a tree planted in front of your house we will be doing another planting in the spring.

Interested parties should contact Wayne Parry at wparry@roadrunner.com or 725-3655.



New businesses open in Allentown

By *Lura Hess Bechtel*

Joining Pawprints by Penny in Allentown's growing dog care business is Little Gracie's Dog Star, located at 2 Irving Place in the former June 2 Modeling School building. Beginning after Labor Day, Little Gracie's will offer full-time doggie day care, grooming, and in-home dog care care, such as daily dog walking in the Allentown neighborhood.

Little Gracie's — operated by Maria Faricellie, a registered nurse who has owned the building for over eight years — is the realization of a long-time dream for Ms. Faricellie, who also owns and operates the Dodge Kennels in Getzville. Maria Faricellie is a true animal lover, and has rescued doz-

ens of animals over the years. Resident at a farm extension of the Dodge Kennels are her chickens, geese, goats, dogs, cats, rabbits, reptiles and fish, all of which were abandoned by former owners. She will connect her two business with a shuttle service, so that Allentown residents can take advantage of overnight care at Dodge Kennels, and Dodge Kennel patrons can access the day care facility. Little Gracie's grand opening was initially scheduled for July, but was delayed due to Maria Faricellie's mother's illness.

Anticipated hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Grooming is by appointment; prices vary by breed and dog size. Call 689-8884 for more information.

Other new businesses:

Campieri's Gourmet Pizza, 888 Main St., 362-0161.

Dan Campieri, opened his restaurant a few months ago, serving "the best pizza in Buffalo." He fine-tuned his dough recipe after working at two other pizzerias and "the sauce is my grandmother's recipe," he says. Chicken wings, hamburgers, beer and wine are also served. Open for eat-in or take-out Tuesday through Saturday, 5 to 11 p.m.

Deborah Hill Interiors, 95 Allen St., 870-6803 decohill@adelphia.net.

For years proprietor Deb Hill and her husband found

themselves frequently making the drive into Buffalo from their home in Wanakah. Then last year, they decided to move into the city. "We are season theater ticket holders, we love the local restaurants, my shop and a majority of my clients are in the city and North Towns, it just made sense," she said.

Deb Hill Interiors relocated to Allentown from 1807 Elmwood Ave. in May. Specializing in high end upholstery for furniture and window treatments Deb Hill has been in interior design for 15 years. Her new storefront also has a selection of new furniture and antiques. After touring "Secrets of Allentown" Sept. 14, stop in to see how Deb Hill can transform your living space into a showcase.

Donna Sturges, Enamel Jewelry, 500 Franklin St., 882-4211, DonnaSturges@gamil.com.

Donna Sturges, who has showcased her wares through Wild Things on Lexington Ave. for 16 years, will use the space as her studio to host jewelry-design classes.

"I've lived in Arlington Park and always loved Allentown. I'm excited to now be part of this community as a business owner," she said.

Though the space is not currently set up as a shop with store hours, Donna says, "plans are developing."

Dress by Design, 43 Allen St., 206-8973, dressby-design.com.

Kathleen Vacanti oversees this workshop producing dresses in customized classic styles.

Eyes Downtown, 902 Main St., between Virginia and Allen Sts., 855-1721, eydedocbob@eyesdowntown.com.

A new name for the optometric practice known as King Optician at 902 Main St. for 40 years. Robert H. Hornberger, O.D., is the owner and optometrist. Another office is located in the Statler Towers lobby.

Falafel Bar, a Mediterranean Eatery, 69 Allen St., 882-2680.

Oded Rouvenpoor has opened his third restaurant of this name, joining the five-year-old eatery at 1009 Elmwood Ave. and another in Amherst, offering specialties from many Mediterranean countries, including falafels, seasoned chickpea fritters with parsley, onion and potato. Lunch and dinner, eat in or take out. Monday to Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays noon to 8 p.m.

North restaurant, Hotel Lenox, 150 North St.

Kim Rossi and Bill Regan, owners of Mulligan's Brick Bar, have reopened the North, serving dinners from 4 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and plan to begin Saturday evening hours in September.



Calendar of Events

Allendale Theater, 203 Allen St. Theater of Youth presents "Diva by Diva", a celebration of women, a Curtain Up event, Sept. 19, 8 p.m., Sept. 20, 3 and 8 p.m. "The Box Car Children", play for ages 7 and up, by Barbara Fields, adapted from the novel by Gertrude Chandler Warner, Oct. 10, 7 p.m., Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 2, 6, 2 p.m. For information and tickets, call 884-4400.

Allentown Association, 14 Allen St., Board of Directors meets Sept. 16, Nov. 18. Annual meeting, Oct. 21, 7 p.m., Allendale Theater, 203 Allen St. Business mixer, Sept. 25, 6 to 8:30 p.m., Café 59, 59 Allen St. Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St. For information call 881-1024 or email allentown@bfn.org.

Art Dialogue Gallery, 1 Linwood Ave., Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fine Arts League annual fall juried open exhibition, Sept. 5 to Oct. 10. Annual dinner at Buffalo Club, Oct. 6, call for details. Buffalo Society of Artists annual fall catalog exhibition, Oct. 17 to Nov. 21. Artful Gifts exhibition and sale, Nov. 28 to Dec. 30. For information call 885-2251.

Betty's restaurant, 370 Virginia St. at Cottage St. Prints by Joel Lewistky, Sept. 8 to Nov. 9, opening reception Sept. 8, 6 to 9 p.m. "Birdland", paintings and sculpture by Mary Weig, Nov. 10 to Jan. 11, opening reception Nov. 10, 6 to 9 p.m.

College Street Gallery, 244 Allen St., Wednesday, 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, 5 to 8 p.m.; Friday, 4 to 8 p.m. Exhibit of paintings Sept. 4 to Oct. 5, opening reception Sept. 5, 8 to 10 p.m. Works by Neil Mahar, Oct. 9 to Nov. 1, opening reception Sept. 5, 8 to 10 p.m. Neighborhood Art Exhibit, mixed media, Nov. 6 to Dec. 7, opening reception, Nov. 7, 8 to 10 p.m. For information call, 882-9727.

El Museo, 91 Allen St., Thursday through Saturday, noon to 5, and by appointment. For information call 884-9693.

First Presbyterian Church, Symphony Circle, **St. Louis Catholic Church**, Main and Edward Sts., and **St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral**, Church and Franklin Sts., free guided tours of the three churches Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, beginning at St. Paul's at 10 a.m., transportation not provided.

Homeownership Center of Buffalo, 560 Delaware Ave., suite 101. Free orientation for prospective home buyers, Sept. 8, 16, 30, Oct. 8, 20, 27, Nov. 5, 10, 18, 6 to 7 p.m. Home-buyer education classes (fees charged), day classes, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1; two-session evening classes, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Sept. 23 and 24, Oct. 21 and 22, Nov. 11 and 12. For more information, www.homefrontbflo.org or call 856-2952.

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 220 North St. Exhibit on Star Trek, through September. Exhibit on the abolition of the slave trade, to open tentatively in mid-October. Tuesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call 886-3656.

Kleinmans Community Association, monthly meetings, Sept. 20, 10:15 a.m.; Oct. 15, 6 p.m.; Nov. 15, 10:15 a.m., Heart of the City Neighborhoods, 42 Plymouth Ave.

Kleinmans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, classical series: "Opening Night with Itzhak Perlman", Berlioz., Respighi, Bruch, Sept. 27, 8 p.m. "Tchaikovsky's Pathétique", Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m., Oct. 4, 8 p.m.; "Beethoven's Second Symphony", Oct. 18, 8 p.m., Oct. 19, 2:30 p.m. "Grieg Piano Concerto", Nov. 1, 8 p.m., Nov. 2, 2:30 p.m. "Max Valdes Returns", Ives, Fauré, Saint-Saens, Nov. 15, 8 p.m., Nov. 16, 2:30 p.m. "Rhapsody in Blue", Gershwin, Ravel, Poulenc, Nov. 29, 8 p.m. Pops series: "Bernadette Peters, Broadway Superstar", Sept. 20, 8 p.m. "Play Ball! The Music of Sports", Oct. 11, 8 p.m. Oct. 12, 2:30 p.m. "A Tribute to Billy Joel", Oct. 25, 8 p.m. "Marvin Hamlisch's Tribute to Irving Berlin", Nov. 8, 8 p.m. "Space Wars", Nov. 9, 2:30 p.m. "Cirque de la Symphonie", Nov. 22, 8 p.m., Nov. 23, 2:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 885-5000.

Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Hotel Lenox, 140 North St. "Community of Elsewheres", photography by Alice O'Malley focusing on residents of Manhattan's Lower East Side. Sept. 6 to Oct. 8, reception for artist, Sept. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5; Sunday, Monday, by appointment. For information call 882-5777.

Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St., paintings by John Kehoe, through Sept. 30, "Visions of the Meeting House", sketches, paintings, photographs of the 1868 Friends Meeting House, Oct. 1 to 31; paintings by Bill Hutchinson, Nov. 1 to Dec. 31.

Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen St. Play, "Jesus Hopped the A Train", Sept. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 8 p.m. Reading by Sean Thomas Dougherty and Forrest Roth, Sept. 1, 4, 3 p.m. Just Buffalo Literary Center poetry reading, Sept. 17, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, 7 p.m. Poetry reading by Kristen Prezellitt, Oct. 25, 2 p.m. Art exhibition, September, works by Joe Zimmerman, opening reception Sept. 7, 2 to 5 p.m. For information call 885-9535.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (Wilcox Mansion), 641 Delaware Ave. Closed for renovation and expansion. For information call 884-0095. Anniversary and awards luncheon honoring Joanne Falletta and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Mary Seaton room, Kleinmans Music Hall, Sept. 24, noon, call for reservation information; Theodore Roosevelt's 150th birthday celebration, Oct. 27, call for information.



Business mixer is Sept. 25, new parking pay machines to be discussed

The Allentown Association's Business Relations Committee is hosting its semi-annual business mixer Thursday Sept. 25 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The event will be held at Café 59 at the generous invitation of proprietor Leon Rung.

This event facilitates communication between the business community and the Association as well as among fellow Allentown business owners. Since starting these events two years ago, the committee has seen positive results.

The special guest speaker will be Leonard Sciolino,

director of the City Parking Enforcement Division who will discuss the move from parking meters to parking pay machines. All Allentown business owners are welcome and encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

"The Business Relations Committee is charged with being the voice of the business community on the Association board" said Matthew Ryan, committee chair.

"This event goes a long way towards keeping us up to speed on the concerns of Allentown's business community and helps communicate the Association's endeavors to business owners," he added.

Plan for Medical Campus, Allentown, Fruit Belt, due in September

How the development of the Buffalo-Niagara Medical Campus can yield maximum benefits to Allentown will be a focus of a consultants' report expected in September.

The report will be an "implementation strategy" for development and redevelopment affecting the medical campus and Allentown as well as the Fruit Belt and downtown.

At a community meeting June 11 for Allentowners, Main St.'s role was discussed as both the boundary and the link between Allentown and the Medical Campus.

The Main St. stretch between Edward and High Sts. was described as a site for medical-related and residential use, with new construction, rehabilitation for historic properties, and transit-oriented development.

Daniel Culross, an architect and Allentown resident, said, "Without mixed use, the Medical Campus will be a fortress abandoned at night." High density residential is needed on Main St., he added.

Pedestrian-friendly medians and landscaping on Main St. would be helpful to ensure a mix of uses, it was suggested.

Discussion also touched on the Allentown stretch of Delaware Ave., with new construction and rehabilitation of some office buildings called for.

The Family Dollar store site at Elmwood Ave. and Virginia St., with underused parking, was cited as an opportunity.

The report is being prepared for the Medical Campus and the city by Janne Corneil of Sasaki Associates of Woburn, Mass., and Kathryn Madden, an independent planning consultant.

About 25 Allentown residents and business representatives attended the session in the Olmsted Center for the Visually Impaired. Another session for Fruit Belt residents was held June 12.

The Allentown Neighbor

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Grants still available to minimize gas meters

Now is a good time to apply for a grant to minimize the appearance of a gas meter in the front of your property.

Liz Kolken applied for and received a grant to camouflage meters in front of the historic 1868 Friends Meeting House at 173 Allen St. And says she is “delighted” with the results.

Grants of up to \$200 for a single-family house or \$500 for an income-producing property are available under the Allentown Association’s gas-meter beautification program.

Along with other fall chores, homeowners may have their ugly gas meters well camouflaged by the time the snow flies.

The program is open to owners of properties in any historic preservation district in Buffalo, not just Allentown.

So far, seven grants have been awarded, six in Allentown, one in the Linwood Preservation District.

“It’s working very well,” said Peter Grine, who reviews applications and approves grants for the Allentown Association, which administers the program. “Some people have asked for more money than the grant guidelines allow,” but all applications have been approved to the limit of the guidelines, he said, adding, “people are happy with a little help.” He hopes to receive more applications, especially from other preservation districts.

Some people have been very creative. Holly Holdaway camouflaged a gas meter at her home at St. John’s Place and Wadsworth St. with a metal trellis holding plants.

Liz Kolken, owner of the Quaker Bonnet Eatery and the adjacent Meeting House, now a two-unit apartment dwelling, said she learned about the grant program by reading *The Allentown Neighbor*.

“The meters were so intrusive that I wanted to cover them,” she said. She decided not just to tone down the gas meters, but to landscape the entire front of the historic building. She learned from Buffalo Reuse that she could buy foundation stone from a house demolished on Wadsworth St., and she purchased plants, including a miniature maple tree, from the Buffalo Botanical Garden. As the project was larger than hiding the gas meters, she spent more than the grant amount.

“I’m thrilled the way it turned out,” she said.

Where a gas meter has been installed between the façade and the curb, the property owners may apply for a maximum grant of \$200 for a single-family house or \$400 for a structure of two, three or four units with multiple gas meters. A matching grant is available for income-producing properties not owner-occupied, with an allocation of \$50 per meter and a \$500 maximum.



Liz Kolken displays the landscaping using stone, plants and wooden flower boxes to hide gas meters at 173 Allen St. An Allentown Association grant program partially paid for the project.

The Allentown Association website, www.allentown.org, has technical guidelines for the grants. Property owners may use plants or other materials to mitigate the intrusiveness of the gas meters as long as the guidelines set by National Fuel to ensure access to the meters, are followed. Applications forms may be downloaded from the website or obtained by contacting the Association of 14 Allen St., Buffalo 14202, telephone (716) 881-1024. Call if you have questions.

Urban Roots Garden Center, 428 Rhode Island St., (716) 362-8982, www.urbanroots.org, in cooperation with the Allentown Association, will help applicants choose appropriate plants and install them at a flat rate to be included in the application.

Or, applicants may apply for a do-it-yourself reimbursable grant and do the work, then submit receipts and a photograph of the completed project.

The grants are financed by a \$25,000 contribution from the National Fuel Gas Co. Foundation.



Allen West Festival is biggest yet, “a great success”

More than 125 vendors participated in the ninth annual Allen West Festival, the largest ever.

“It was a great success,” thanks to an army of about 40 volunteers who worked very hard and did a terrific job, said Gretchan Grobe, chairperson for the event.

The festival was held in conjunction with the 51st annual Allentown Art Festival, sponsored by the Allentown Village Society, June 14 and 15.

Finances are still being checked, but Gretchan Grobe expects the proceeds to total about \$25,000 for the Allentown Association’s programs to preserve, protect and promote the Allentown community. The Allen West Festival is the Association’s largest fund-raiser.

“Everything went well, there were no problems. We had an emergency medical technician who handed out Band-aids,” said Gretchan Grobe, who had been working for 10 months planning the event.

She cited Andrew Eisenhardt, Melissa Dayton, Matthew Ryan and Sarah Gilewicz among many hard-working vol-

unteers.

The Allentown Association sponsors the event, with the cooperation of the Allentown Village Society, during the Art Festival to keep the area west of Elmwood Ave. safe and free of disorderliness and unregulated vendors. The emphasis is on locally made crafts and refreshments.

An Allentown Almanac

About 3,000 people stopped by the Allentown Association office to pick up maps for the **Garden Walk** on July 26 and 27. Many were from out of town: Cleveland, Rochester, Toronto, and even Seattle...

St. Louis Catholic Church is continuing its renovation with caulking, painting and repairing its stained glass windows... Congratulations to its pastor, the Rev. **Salvatore Manganello**, who has been named a monsignor...

First Presbyterian Church has received a state grant and Preservation Board approval for replacement of a portion of its roof and copper gutters...

Mayor **Byron W. Brown** was among the many who bought a hot dog at the Allentown Association’s refreshment stand at the Allentown Art Festival. Revenues were down this year, largely the result of poor weather, but the stand provided excellent exposure for the Association, said **Jonathan White** who headed the all-volunteer ef-



Minos Conway, a Delaware musician visiting for Buffalo’s Infringement Festival, plays with his band at the College St. block party Aug. 3. Michael Mulley photo.



Reilly sees planning as key to development

Buffalo's new economic development commissioner sees planning as a major key to boost the city's economy.

Meeting Aug. 19 with Allentown Association representatives, Brian Reilly said he hopes the city will have a new zoning code within two years to replace a 50-year-old code. He was named head of economic development, permit and inspection services July 8 by Mayor Byron W. Brown.

Milwaukee, where Brian Reilly worked previously, "succeeded because it got a new city planner and plan" and has enjoyed economic growth, he said.

His newly reorganized department will "focus on customer's needs," he said. Business people should know what to expect, "where the bar is set," and the community

will decide where to set the bar, he added.

He pledged to work toward redevelopment of the School 36 site on Days Park for condominiums when the school closes next June. He also pledged an effort to make the city's permits and inspections procedures more effective, and said he would look into possible curb replacement and repaving on Allen St.

He and his administrative assistant, David Granville, met with Wayne Parry, president; Matthew Moscati, housing and historic preservation chairman; Andrew Eisenhardt, office manager; Deborah Ellis and Pete Carroll of the Association.



40 years ago: Sculpture Court opens

From *The Allentown News*, December 1968

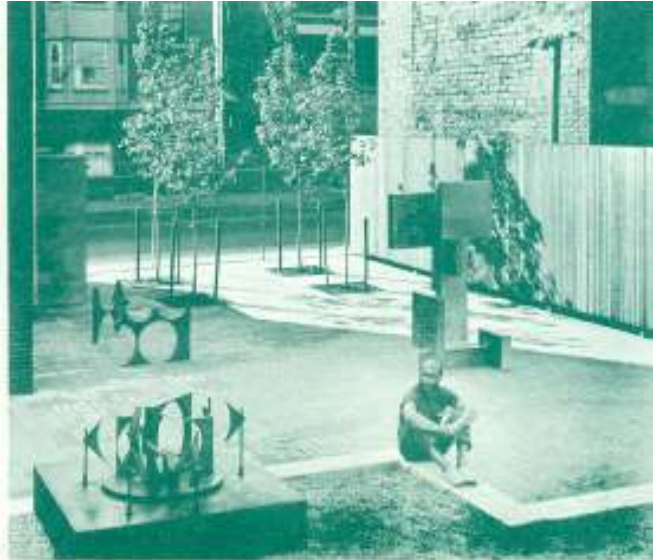
One of the most striking endorsements of the Allentown area is the newly completed Solomon Sculpture Court at 189 Allen Street. The formal opening was held on Friday, October 11. This most attractive city park, planned and executed by Jack Solomon as an adjunct to his studio, is open to the public, both adults and children, for their enjoyment. We feel Mr. Solomon is to be highly commended for this most welcome and imaginative contribution to our community, not only from the standpoint of the fine works of art on display but also because he has chosen to locate it on a busy street where people from all walks of life can share the pleasures it provides instead of [encasing] it behind museum walls.

* * *

Forty years later, many Allentowners remember fondly the Solomon Sculpture Court between 189 and 191 Allen St., with access also from nearby Elmwood Ave. at the crossroads of our community.

Many of us, also, don't recall precisely what happened to it. Did it meet its demise gradually, or come to a sudden end?

The site of the Sculpture Court has fallen upon hard times, a sad fate for this iconic resource, a symbol of



Allentown's relationship with the arts.

The building housing the long-vacant storefront at 189 Allen St. has undergone severe deterioration. It's owner, Michael Cramer of Toronto, has engaged a Buffalo architect to design remediation and the city Preservation Board has granted permission to rebuild the façade and erect a fence along the side (where the Sculpture Court once stood) and erect a front gate.



East end of Allen St., with Days Park in view on the right, circa 1930. Photo from the Allentown Association collection.



Annual meeting is Oct. 21 at the Allendale Theater

The Allendale Theater, which the Allentown Association was instrumental in saving in 1980s, will be the site of the Allentown Association's annual meeting at Oct. 21.

The Allendale, now home to the Theater of Youth, is at 203 Allen St.

The meeting will include election of directors and reports on the Association's activities in the past year

and the coming year. Light refreshments will be served.

It will be an opportunity for new members to join and for other members to bring their e their dues payments up to date.

In 1986, the Association and the Theater of Youth reached agreement on joint renovation of the Allendale's exterior and interior renovation.

ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please select a membership level:

- Benefactor \$1,000
- Patron \$500
- Contributing \$250
- Sustaining \$100
- Business \$50
- Family \$40
- Individual \$35
- Student/Senior \$20
- A generous gift \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

If business, name of manager _____

Please make checks payable to: Allentown Association, Inc.

Mail to: Allentown Association, 14 Allen St., Buffalo NY 14202

OPTIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (Please check the committee of interest to you):

- Allen West Festival
- Beautification
- Membership/PR
- Secrets of Allentown tour of homes
- Crime Reduction
- Fundraising
- Hot Dog Stand
- Volunteer Office Staff
- Board of Directors

The purpose of the Allentown Association, Inc. is to serve its community. It does that through efforts to beautify the neighborhood; to encourage historic preservation and property maintenance; to promote appropriate business development; to fight crime and to protect and enhance Allentown's unique urban ambiance.



THE ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Visit on the web: www.allentown.org

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