



The Allentown Neighbor

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How to revive Main St. border of Allentown, Medical Campus?

“The highest priority for attention and investment in Allentown is the Main St. corridor that is shared with the Medical Campus.”

This is the key finding and recommendation in a planning consultants’ study titled Allentown Neighborhood Strategy commissioned by the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus as part of its program to coordinate development in the medical campus with Allentown, the Fruit Belt and downtown.

In addition to Main St., the study provides recommendations for Allen St. and other parts of Allentown. These will be addressed in future issues of *The Neighbor*.

Main St., the eastern border of Allentown from Edward St. to North St., can be revitalized with a mix of residential, institutional, medical office and research units which “will put many more people on the street, increasing the feeling of safety,” the report says.

“At the ground level, new retail uses will front onto a vibrant urban street (with) broad, shaded sidewalks

and on-street parking,” and with a reconfigured Metro rail station and extension of Allen St. eastward, the report says.

The study says:

The Medical Campus has the potential to become a vital economic engine. Main St. improvements are likely to bring in more of the 8,000 employees of the Medical Campus to the east end of Allen St. as well as Main St. New infill development and restoration of historic buildings could bring in medical offices, research companies, residential and retail uses, however, “new development should meet the highest design standards and have the height and density sufficient to define the width of Main St. A parking structure in the vicinity should be seriously considered.

“Given the broad width of Main St. and its prominence as a city-wide thoroughfare, new development along this frontage should be of comparable scale and importance... Preservation of significant historic

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Headquarters for the Allentown Association’s Secrets of Allentown Tour on Sept. 12 is the new Visitors Center, right, at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site. See Page 3.



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School 36 is now Tapestry High, may be Elmwood Village Primary in 2010

Tapestry Charter School has rented the former School 36 at 10 Days Park from the city for the coming school year and will move its high school there in September.

Meanwhile, Elmwood Village Charter School (EVCS) hopes to acquire the Days Park building for its primary grades beginning in September 2010.

Tapestry signed a lease agreement for the city-owned building in July for \$13,000 a month and occupied the building in August, Joy C. Pepper, school director, said. It will enroll about 285 students in ninth through 12th grades while Tapestry completes its new high school building on Great Arrow Ave., a nearly \$7 million project. Tapestry's high school classes have been held in rented space in St. Mary's school for the Deaf since 2006.

Tapestry opened as an elementary school at North and N. Pearl Sts. in 2001. It now has 225 pupils in kindergarten through eighth grades there.

"We're excited to have our high school in our own building and we're glad the neighborhood is accepting us," Joy Pepper said. If the building on Great Arrow is ready, the high school may move there in the spring, but the move may come for the following school year, she

added.

Elizabeth Evans, an EVCS board member, said "we're still working on it, going over finances and options," with the hope of using the Days Park building for the EVCS primary grades in September 2010.

EVCS has received permission of the State Board of Regents to use the building and has obtained new appraisals and an engineer's study of the building, Liz Evans said.

EVCS opened in 124 Elmwood Ave. and now has an enrollment of 175 in kindergarten through sixth grade.

After School 36 closed in June, the Common Council gave permission for the city to dispose of the building.

The Allentown Association and the Days Park Block Club supported the efforts for educational reuse of School 36 which closed in June as a bilingual primary school under the Buffalo Board of Education in Allentown. Charter schools are public schools independent of the city school district.

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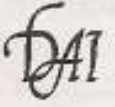
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Roosevelt Site, 20th Century Club on “Secrets” tour Sept. 12

This year’s Secrets of Allentown historic property tour, to be held on Sept. 12, includes both commercial and residential properties that have never been on the tour before and highlights some wonderful improvements to an important Allentown institution.

Truth be told, the Allentown Association had considered retiring Secrets, wondering if the event would be too difficult to organize, given the occasional difficulty of getting homeowners to participate. But thanks to a dedicated committee and enthusiastic property owners working together, the 2009 Secrets looks to be one of the best ever.

Tour headquarters (picture on page 1) will be 641 Delaware, at the brand-new Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site visitors center, an addition to the Site that was completed this year. Secrets visitors will be able to tour the Site, which has added some wonderful interactive displays and a new gift shop. The addition looks exactly like the carriage house of the original Wilcox Mansion, which was demolished some decades ago. From there, tour participants will see properties on Delaware Ave., Franklin St., Park St., Irving Place Arlington Park, Orton Place and Symphony Circle. Another featured property of this year’s tour is the Twentieth Century Club at 595 Delaware, which will only be open until 2 p.m. This magnificent property has never appeared on a Secrets tour before. Other exciting elements of this year’s Secrets include newly

converted commercial buildings and a few residential properties that have never been included before.

As always, there is a wine tasting planned at the Hamlin House, 432 Franklin. The tour takes place from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 on the day of the tour, and members of the Allentown Association may purchase tickets for \$13.

Tour participants will receive a bound, four-color booklet with information about all the properties as well as a map with trolley stops and a list of Allentown restaurants that will be offering discounts

for Secrets visitors who show their tickets.

The Secrets committee is co-chaired by LaVerne Peakes and Elizabeth Licata with help from Andrew Eisenhardt, Gina Marameg, Melissa Dayton, Chris Brown, Caitlin Crowell, Joe Fell, and Jonathan White. The Secrets poster design has once again been created by artist Greg Meadows, of The Martin Group.

2009 Secrets of Allentown tour ticket prices

Advance sale: \$15

Day of tour: \$20

Allentown

Assn. members: \$13

Allentown Assn. annual meeting is Oct. 13

The annual meeting of the Allentown Association will be held Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Allendale Theater, 203 Allen St.

A review of the past year and plans for the future will be discussed. Light refreshments will be served.

Members will elect the Board of Directors. A maximum of 21 and a minimum of 15 directors will be elected. The Nominating Committee headed by Holly Holdaway will present its recommendation for election to the board.

Officers — a president, at least two vice presidents, a secretary and a treasurer— will be elected by the

board at a subsequent meeting.

Directors will be elected for a two-year term under revised bylaws adopted in May, and may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. Previously directors were elected for one-year terms.

The board adopted another bylaw amendment Aug. 11 stating “no current director will be prohibited from eligibility for three successive 2-year terms as a director if otherwise qualified to hold office in accordance with the by-laws [sic] and not sooner removed.”



Allen West at 10, a big hit

The annual Allen West Festival June 13 and 14 chalked up the biggest success in its 10-year history, setting a record for number of vendors, and earnings for the sponsoring Allentown Association.

Allen West is the Association's biggest fund-raiser and it provides a major contribution for the non-profit organization's efforts to preserve, improve and promote the Allentown community.

Credit for the success goes to Gretchan Grobe, a former Association president who has chaired Allen West for seven of its 10 years, including the first five and the last two festivals. Allen West relies on a small army of volunteers, she noted.

"The weather was beautiful both days. Everyone was happy. A number of vendors reported record days," she said.

She expressed special thanks to the major sponsors, the M.J. Peterson Real Estate Agency and the Copy Store, 51 Court St. and the Allentown Village Society, sponsor of the Allentown Art Festival, held east of Elmwood Ave., at the same time as Allen West takes place on Allen St. west of Elmwood and on Wadsworth St.

Andrew Eisenhardt, Association executive direc-

tor, and board member Melissa Dayton and Vice President Timothy Riordan did a tremendous amount of work, Gretchan Grobe said, She also expressed thanks to City Hall personnel including Susan Gonzalez of the city special events office, Leonard Sciolino, city parking director, and Marilyn Tuberdyke of the county Health Department.

The festival included 147 booths, a record, including 109 artists, 14 food vendors, 12 non-profits and nine businesses. Net earnings for the Association totaled \$15,426.

Allen West was started by the Allentown Association with the cooperation of the Allentown Village Society to provide an orderly and monitored oversight to the periphery of the Art Festival. Allen West provides a funky selection specializing in locally made crafts in contrast to the Art Festival offerings. Although the Allentown Association and the Allentown Village Society are frequently confused, they are separate organizations. Since 1958 the Allentown Village Society has operated the nationally recognized Allentown Art Festival, said to be the biggest outdoor art show in the country.

The Neighbor has a new printer and ad arrangements

The Allentown Association has a new printer and new advertising arrangements for *The Allentown Neighbor*.

Beginning with this issue, the publication is being printed by Vilardo Printing of Buffalo. The Board of Directors chose this company after seeking proposals from several Buffalo print shops. The decision was taken after Liturgical Publications Inc. of Cleveland declined to renew its contact with the Association under which it printed the publication without charge and retained the revenue for the advertising it sold.

The Association is now selling advertising for *The Neighbor* which can be arranged by contacting Andrew Eisenhardt, Association executive director, at

(716) 881-1024 or allentown@bfn.org. Current advertisers have been continued in this issue. The board has voted to include free business membership to advertisers.

The Neighbor has a circulation of 2,000 of which 300 is mailed to paid members and 1,700 is distribution free, with Artvoice providing free delivery to Allentown retail outlets.

Please patronize the advertisers who make the Neighbor possible, and thank them for their support. Businesses will find advertising in the publication an economical and effective way to reach the Allentown community.



Rental units proposed on Cottage St.

Two houses, each with four rental apartments, would be built on two vacant lots on Hudson St. at the west end of Cottage St., just outside the boundary of Allentown, under a proposal of the non-profit Heart of the City Neighborhoods with a \$1.5 million grant from the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

The Allentown Association Board of Directors has not taken a stand on the proposal, but Matthew Ryan, Association president, said representation from Allentown would be sought on the boards of the Heart of the City Neighborhood and a new non-profit corporation which will operate the properties.

About 60 people attended a public information meeting called by Heart of the City Neighborhoods in the Allendale Theater July 13. Several people voiced support for the project

“This conforms to my vision of what this neighborhood should be. Hudson St. certainly needs investment. I have confidence in this project,” said Aaron Bartley, a Plymouth Ave. homeowner.

Two or three speakers opposed the project, citing possible traffic and trash problems, or expressing a preference for owner occupancy. A number of Hudson St. homeowners who attended the meeting but did not speak, are said to oppose the project and have taken their concerns to Assemblyman Sam Hoyt.

Stephanie Simeon, Heart of the City executive director, said tenants would have annual household income of between \$27,040 and \$54,000, with rents set at 30 percent of their monthly income. But it would be possible for prospective tenants with lower income to obtain a voucher for the difference between 30 percent of monthly income and the minimum rent..

The houses would be built on vacant lots at 294 and 298 Hudson St., a few feet west of Plymouth Ave. They would be energy efficient, air conditioned and have parking in the rear, she said. The apartments would have two and three bedrooms for a maximum size of five persons per household.

The houses would be part of Heart of the City’s strategy to develop the Plymouth Ave. and Hudson St. neighborhood, and the organization has a good rehabilitation record and has been active in the neighborhood for 10 years, Stephanie Simeon said. “We’ve done a needs assessment. There’s a need of affordable housing” in the neighborhood, she added.

The project needs approval of the city Planning Board, which was expected to act on Aug. 25. At press time, Stephanie Simeon said approval was expected because an environmental review, which had held up approval on July 28, has now been received by the Planning Board. Previous approval lapsed because the houses were not built within the time limit.

Nursing home building is for sale

The Grace Manor nursing home building at 10 Symphony Circle was expected to be offered for sale in September, with a real-estate agent named to market the property.

Vacant since March, the Grace Manor Health Care Facility had operated since 1998 as Buffalo’s only African-American nursing home. About 250 jobs were lost

with the closing of the 167-bed nursing home. It opened in 1953 as the Rosa Coplon Jewish Home and Infirmary.

Mark Schlant, a bankruptcy trustee, said agreement has been reached with two state agencies holding liens, and court approval to sell the property was expected by Sept. 1.



Taking a look at vacant lots

By Matt Ryan

As a historic preservation district, development in Allentown is closely scrutinized. Plans need to be reviewed by several city hall departments, then there is an additional level of oversight by the preservation board. This is all intended to keep Allentown's present character.

Sometimes structures just don't last the test of time. Demolition for various reasons is a fact of life. When the structure is torn down and an empty lot is left to take its place, it is noticeable to say the least.

A recent example is 7 Wadsworth St., torn down last year as it became a hazard due to neglect and disrepair. Now this lot, just around the bend from Allen, sits vacant as the new owner works on his plans for its use going forward. The Allentown Association has been involved in the direction of the plans as the neighborhood and the owner are faced with the ques-

tion "what would be best in this space."

Another example is the northwest corner of Allen and Park Sts., where a lot in the heart of Allentown sits vacant. Recently the Association had a very preliminary conversation with the owner about plans for the lot. As a long time supporter of Allentown the owner was very open to suggestions from the Association. We are looking forward to working with him as a vision evolves.

The Association does not give permission or decide what development is approved. It does, however, speak on behalf of the neighborhood when asked to weigh in on these projects. Fortunately, the city departments, especially the Preservation Board, give this comment considerable weight. As we look to work with these owners on plans for the vacant lots, we'd like to hear your thoughts. Please e-mail matthew.ryan@allentown.org.

Matt Ryan is president of the Allentown Association

Business News

Campieri's Gourmet Pizza & Pasta at 888 Main St. is now open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. serving homemade wraps, salads and soups. Evening hours are Monday through Saturday from 5 to 11 p.m.

Deborah Hill Interiors is moving around the corner to 569 Delaware Ave., opening Sept. 5, from 95 Allen St.

Mirror Mirror Makeup Shop has opened at 152 Allen St., hours Thursdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fridays 6 to 9 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., other days by appointment, 524-0999.

Swing dance classes are being offered by Venus and Mark Brighton Tuesday evenings at the Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St.. See venusandmark.wordpress.com.

Hamlin House
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www.studiohart.com



City seeks funds for Bosche Building

The city has applied for \$500,000 in Restore New York funds for reinforcement and interior demolition of the Bosche Building, 918 Main St., and a building at 916 Main with which it shares a wall.

A response is expected in September, according to Sandra Miller, a planner in the city Strategic Planning Department.

The four-story brick building, owned by the city, is in imminent danger of collapse. It was built in 1891 by the Bosche Brothers Carriage Co. for its offices and show rooms.

The Allentown Association has been trying for at

Preservation News

least two years to have at least the building's façade saved as part of the 19th century streetscape on the west side of Main St. between Allen and Virginia Sts.

An Allentown Almanac

The Allen St. Gallery District was named "best place to buy art" in Buffalo Spree's Best of Western New York for 2009...

Congratulations to Matthew and Erin Moscati on the birth of their son Lucio Tomasso Moscati on June 11...

First Presbyterian Church appears nearly ready to make exterior renovations to the historic building and tower....

St. Louis Church is preparing a video, "Cornerstone of Faith —St. Louis Roman Catholic Church, Buffalo,

N.Y.," expected to available soon...

Buffalo CarShare continues to grow, with 80 members in August and seven cars, five based in Allentown, one in the Elmwood-Summer area, and space for another was being sought in Elmwood-Ferry neighborhood...

Christina Akers, a former Allentown Association executive director and an Allentown resident, is now on the staff of Assemblyman Sam Hoyt.

The Allentown Neighbor

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Housing, pedestrian amenities urged for Main St.

Continued from Page 1

buildings should be a high priority...

New infill construction on both sides of Main St. should take cues from adjacent historic buildings regarding scale and massing and should be at least three stories tall on small lots and up to five or six stories along the street wall on larger lots with greater massing and height set back from the street frontage to minimize winds at street level.

Many of the historic buildings on the Allentown side of Main St. are on an appropriate scale, but "Main St. today lacks a consistent character in terms of use and physical form. There is little sense of place, which is exacerbated by surface parking lots and low-rise buildings on the edge of the medical campus...Demolition over the years has left a ragged quality...New construction tends to be at much lower density, with some buildings only one and two stories tall," and often lacking architectural detail.

"The gapped-tooth pattern of buildings interspersed with surface parking is a tremendous disincentive for walking, where pedestrians lack the safety and the interest provided by continuous storefronts along their path."

The study criticizes a proposal for a landscaped median in the redesigning of Main St. from downtown northward with the reintroduction of vehicles in the downtown portion.

"Landscaped medians tend to divide a street, blocking views and promoting faster traffic," limiting retail potential, the report says. It recommends instead wide sidewalks with trees, tables, and seating, and narrower traffic lanes. Several historic buildings lack

parking, and in some cases rear egress, the report notes.

"A more continuous retail frontage will enliven the street, making it feel safer and more attractive and will provide needed services to the employees of the medical campus," and will tie together the Main and Allen St., retail areas, the planners say.

The Main St. boundary has only about 165 units of housing, not enough for a critical mass, the study says, adding "a significant increase in housing...will make the corridor feel more vibrant and safe."

The study recommends stiffer standards for new buildings, façade grants, wider and landscaped sidewalks, code enforcement at the Red Jacket, and a task force of the city, the Medical Campus, the Allentown Association and property owners to address problem properties.

The study is the consultants' final draft and may be modified slightly before it reaches its final form, said Drew Eszak, a planner in the city Planning Division.

To become part of the city's comprehensive plan, the study would have to be approved by the Common Council, and the Medical Campus board would have to approve it for it to be part of the master plan for the campus, he added.

The study was prepared by Sasaki Associates and Madden Planning Group of Watertown, Mass., for the Medical Campus in cooperation and partnership with the City of Buffalo. The consultants heard Allentowners' comments at two community meetings during the study, begun in early 2008.

— *Pete Carroll*

Evening event Sept. 26 at Elmwood Village School

Elmwood Village Charter School will present "Evening in the Atrium," Saturday, Sept. 26 from 7 to 11 p.m. in the school at 124 Elmwood Ave.

The event will include an art show, wine tasting, silent auction, and will be the second annual fund-

raiser for the school. It will be a 21-and-over event, with a cash bar.

Tickets are \$35 at the door, \$25 in advance. Call Andrea Rodriguez, ticket chairperson, at 228-8889.



First Friday circuit proves a hit

By *Ed Castine*

The First Friday event series that was spearheaded by the local galleries and artists in Allentown is going strong and growing. Since beginning in May, additional galleries and retailers have joined the founding group to add to the diversity and reach of the event which continues on the evening of the first Friday of each month.

As it was hoped in the initial meetings that brought this about, this has really become a community-driven cultural event in our neighborhood, and one to be proud of.

Founding members of the group including Indigo Art, Gallery Hart, and Buffalo Big Print have reported increased traffic over the last few months. Reports from the Aug. 7 First Friday recounted hundreds of visitors, including many new faces. Many visitors were carrying the gallery/restaurant map produced by the Allentown Association while other visitors cited publicity in The Buffalo News, Artvoice, Buffalo Rising and other local publications. Channel 7's AM Buffalo program covered the story in July, spreading the reach to the broader Western New York community. Live performance has also become a part of the event. Galleries such as Buffalo Big Print and College Street Gallery had musicians playing. B West Studio had poetry and multimedia performances and Indigo Art had the featured artist drawing in the gallery during the event.

In addition to galleries, neighborhood retail stores and restaurants have joined the fray. Allen Street Dress Shop, Quaker Bonnet Eatery, Merge, and Betty's provided additional venues for artists to exhibit their works. Campieri's offered a "Penne Party" to coincide with the August event. While most restaurants and bars don't feel a need to boost an already strong Friday night turnout, some are getting involved just to strengthen the community and boost their neighbors and they should be commended so be sure to patronize them and show your appreciation.

While the majority of the reports are positive and things are trending in the right direction, we would love to see stronger commitments from some. There have been a few incidents of galleries not opening when they said they would and some only participated in one or two events. If you need help to make it happen, please ask for it, because there are a lot of people who would be willing to jump in and make this work even better, for the sake of the neighborhood and our city.

If you are interested to learn more or to keep up with the latest participants, please visit the First Fridays portion of the website at www.allentown.org/FirstFriday.html.

Ed Castine is chairman of the Allentown Association's Business Relations Committee.



Calendar of Events

Allendale Theater, 203 Allen St. Theater of Youth 2009-2010 begins Oct. 9. For information and tickets, call 884-4400.

Allentown Association, 14 Allen St., Secrets of Allentown tour of historic sites, Sept. 12, see page 3. Annual meeting Oct. 13, 7 p.m., Allendale Theater; Board of Directors meets Sept. 8 and Nov. 17, 7 p.m., 14 Allen St. For information call 881-1024 or email allentown@bfm.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. Niagara Frontier Water Color Society annual juried exhibition, through Oct. 2. Regional Artists Exhibition, juried by Judy Beecher, Oct. 9 to Nov. 13. Annual Artful Gifts Exhibition, Nov. 20 to Dec. 30. For information call 885-2251.

Buffalo Big Print gallery, 78 Allen St., For information call 884-1777.

College Street Gallery, 244 Allen St., Wednesday to Friday, 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday 2 to 8 p.m., Sunday by appointment. Photography and paintings by 15 artists in coop, new show opens Sept. 4. For information call 856-2839.

El Museo, 91 Allen St. For information call 884-9693.

Elmwood Village Charter School, "Evening in the Atrium." Sept. 26, see page 8.

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. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, 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. 14 and 28, Oct. 6 and 20, Nov. and 30, 6 to 7 p.m. For more information, www.homefrontbflo.org or call 856-2952.

Indigo gallery, 74 Allen St., Tuesday to Friday, noon to 5, Saturday, noon to 3. "Remarkable," works by 12 artists in various media, Sept. 1 to Oct. 10. "Sentient Beings," works of Polly Little, Jacqueline Welch, Mary Weig, Lynn Northrup, Oct. 16 to Nov. 17. Metals by Rachel Timmins, Nov. 23 to 30. For information call 984-9572.

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 220 North St. Tuesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Spiritualism manuscripts, through December. For information call 886-3656.

Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, classical series: Opening Night: "Ode to Joy," Sarasate, Bach, Beethoven, Oct. 3, 8 p.m. Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 1, Kenneth Fuchs, Shostakovich, Oct. 17, 8 p.m. and Oct. 18, 2:30 p.m. Mahler Symphony No. 4, Schoenberg, Oct. 31, 8 p.m., Nov. 1, 2:30 p.m., Viennese Festival, Viennese Masters, Joseph Marx, Mozart, Kreisler, Beethoven, Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m. and Nov. 14, 8 p.m. Viennese Festival, City of Dreams, Schubert/Webern, Strauss, Nov. 21, 8 p.m., Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. Pops series, Johnny Mathis, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. Chris Botti, Oct. 10, 8 p.m. Spectrum: A Tribute to Motown R&B, Nov. 7, 8 p.m. For tickets and information, call 885-5000.

Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Hotel Lenox, 140 North St. Reopens Sept. 1, Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5; Saturday, by appointment. For information call 882-5777.

Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St., September, "Faces of Buffalo, collages by Brian Nesline. October, paintings of Allentown by Linda Schlitter. November and December, paintings by William Hutchinson.

Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen St. September, art by Sue Mishler, reception Sept. 20, 3 to 6 p.m.. October, art by Kelly McDonald. Theater, "Brazen Food Varlets," Oct. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, call for information. Book release, graphic journal by Salvatore Sciandra, Oct. 16, 6 p.m. Poetry reading, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.. November, art by Liz Switzer. For information call 885-9535.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (Wilcox Mansion), 641 Delaware Ave. Special program featuring Joe Wiegand, Theodore Roosevelt re-enactor, Sept. 13, 2 p.m.; call for details. For information call 884-0095.



Allen Town

By *Lonnie B. Harrell*

In the heart of a city lies haven's rest
 Good people, melodies, and harmony's zest
 To sing a lullaby to all mankind
 It's the artistic community of poets, painters,
 dancers and words that rhyme.

Boutiques, Bistros, and little stores
 Fancy ladies, silhouettes in open doors
 Summer madness, festivals and more
 Goodies, romance, and fun galore.

Then creeps the tint of browning leaves
 A hint of fall is in the breeze
 Hypnotic colors from eons past
 Say the season's changing with a blast.

But do not despair there's much to do
 Romantic fires before the morning dew
 Warm cider wine, grapes and you

Touching the glow from the fire's light
 Sipping love songs in the still of night
 Kisses sweet, endearments purring
 Emotions rising, and eros stirring.

When darkness lifts from the web of dawn
 And the light of day becomes its pawn
 Puffs of frozen rain begin to appear
 The wind is howling, winter's here
 Holidays and candlelight
 Ignites the world when comes the night
 The streets of Allentown are alive
 For darkness falls a little past five
 Festive moods begin to arrive
 And a city awakens to the sounds and thrives.

O Allentown, what secrets doth thy bowels hold
 As I'm swallowed up in enchantment,
 And warmed from the cold.

Birds chirp and flowers bloom.
 Lovers sway, hold hands and swoon.
 Allentown, such a beautiful thing,
 Now embracing the birth of spring.

O Allentown, there are so many reasons
 To visit you in all seasons,
 A world within a community
 Sharing love, peace, and unity.

Lonnie Harrell is proprietor of the Allen Street Connection

Two Mariner St. residents are remembered

Luis Comacho Jr., a Mariner St. resident, died June 6. A longtime Allentown resident, he was the partner of William Mahr and son of Luis R. and Librada Comacho.

Fikke Stikkel, a Mariner St., resident, died May 30. He was the husband of the former Inka Blondeau and father of nine, grandfather of 10 and great-grandfather of eight.

The Allentown community extends condolences to their survivors.

Lenore Bethel-Cooper, arts advocate

Lenore Bethel-Cooper, an advocate and supporter of El Museo Francisco Oller y Diego Rivera in Allentown and numerous other arts organizations in Buffalo's black and Hispanic com-

munities, died June 1 at the age of 40. She was remembered in a tribute by Colin Dabkowski in *The Buffalo News* to her productive life cut tragically short.



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):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allen West Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Secrets of Allentown tour of homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Hot Dog Stand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Crime Reduction | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Office Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership/PR | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> 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.
14 Allen Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
Visit on the web: www.allentown.org

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