



# NEWSLETTER

Serving the Allentown Community for Over Thirty Years

JULY 1991

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The Allentown Newsletter is published monthly by the Allentown Association Inc., 234 Allen Street, Buffalo NY 14201.

We regularly solicit articles from our members to be included in the newsletter. If you have any news to be included or ideas about articles please send them to the office address.

Regular articles which will appear monthly include:

#### **BUILDING...**

A particular building in Allentown will be selected for its architecture, historical value, or simple curiosity.

#### **PERSON...**

A special person will be selected for each newsletter who lives in Allentown. The person can be a businessperson, a resident homeowner, a renter - anyone who you think deserves some recognition for his/her contribution to the Allentown area. Call the office and nominate someone you'd like to know more about!

#### **BUSINESS...**

A business in the Allentown district which has been here for years, or may have recently opened.

## Night out...

*August 8th* This event is an opportunity for us to gather outside our homes to meet our neighbors and our police who help keep our neighborhood safe. Keep this evening open !  
...DW

## Sisti Park cleanup...

On Linwood and North St. is Sisti Park, which was dedicated over 14 years ago, and since has fallen into some disrepair. The park was recently cleaned up by a few members of the Association, including Diane Wolinski, David Peacock, Allison Kimberly, and Carole Holberg in time for the Allentown Art Festival, June 8th.

During the weeding, sweeping, branch trimming and flower planting operations there were found four spot lights and four street lights which are currently inoperable. Although the City of Buffalo has responsibility for this park and the Parks Department is liable for its upkeep, we have discovered that neither department claims liability for the electric bill to keep the lights on at night. We are attempting to rectify this as well as find a source of water in order to develop a perennial garden in front of one of the artworks. If you'd like to help with the garden, or have any suggestions, please call Diane Wolinski for details at 884-1640.  
...DW

## Building...

We can't think of a better building to start our "Building of the Month" than our very own 234 Allen Street offices.

Originally known as the "Hosmer Building", this structure is a prime example of a late 19th century commercial building (circa 1887). The three story brick structure sports a cast iron storefront with a projecting metal cornice supported by end brackets and medallions. Rumor has

it that the distinctive light fixtures on the front of the building were at one time used to light Niagara Falls!

In 1986 the Association purchased the Hosmer building and the two residential buildings attached on the rear. With the aid of a grant from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal and the seemingly un-ending efforts of our previous staff and administration the two townhouses in the rear were rehabbed and sold as low income housing.

This sale enabled the Association to pay off the mortgage on the 234 Allen St. building and many of you witnessed the burning of same at the last general membership meeting!

Our new project will be to develop the second and third floors...look for news of this in future issues. ...RLG

## Beautification Project

John Kelly spent some time weeding and cleaning out the garden area in front of the public parking area on Allen St. next to Jim's Steak-Out, in time for the Allentown Art Festival. Allison Kimberly, Carole Holberg, and Diane Wolinski planted pachysandra ground cover and begonias. They also planted petunias at Sisti Park, but with the dry weather we're experiencing, there's been some difficulty keeping the plants alive. Any ideas?  
...DW

## Dog owner alert...

Do you have a dog? Do you value your health? Do you know that there are MANY dogs in our neighborhood that must relieve themselves every day, maybe on your front lawn? Will you consider using a pooper scooper? A paper bag? A shovel? Are you aware that feces carry disease and germs? **PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOGS!** The health you improve may be your own!  
...DW

### NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ARE APPOINTED...

At the Board of Directors meeting on June 20, new chairmen were nominated and elected. The Events Chairman is Diane M. Wolinski, Action Committee is being co-chaired by Kim Mosgeller and Ellen Burns and Beautification Chairman is Hallie Howell. George Hardy is still Chairman of the Membership committee.

There is room for more leadership in the Allentown Association in other committees. Fund raising, Art Festival 1992, and World University Games 1993 among others, are all looking for leaders and assistants. The Association is YOU. If you can spare any time for any event, PLEASE don't hesitate! Many people make the load much lighter!

### Fall Home show...

The 7th Annual Show of Homes and Businesses is planned for early this fall. We are currently looking for approximately ten home or business owners who are willing to shine up their treasures to show! If you are interested in participating, please call 881-1024 or 884-1640 for more information. We are also looking for volunteers to help prepare the event. Please call the office or events chairman, Diane Wolinski (884-1640), if you can assist us in any way.

### Post no bills...

The street lamps on Allen St. are being used as dumping grounds for all types of hand bills and advertising including ads from other area bars, musicians, music lesson offers, political events, and summer college workshops. We have been collecting these bills as evidence to illustrate the need for KIOSKS on Allen Street in specific targeted blocks. The most infested areas have been found to be the corners of Elmwood and Allen, Allen St. from Elmwood to Wadsworth, and a small amount of signs on Allen St. between Delaware Ave. and Franklin St. The area from Franklin to Main on Allen is very clean! The posts are being scrubbed, wiped down, repainted, and cleared of new hand-bills at least twice a week.

We will contact various city officials to assess the problem and come up with a solution. In the meantime, we appreciate your assistance in keeping the posts clean of these bills. And by the way, posting these bills IS against the law! ...DW

### Street litter...

Perhaps you've noticed the millions of pieces of debris along streets in our neighborhood, especially in the Elmwood to Wadsworth block of Allen St. It has been suggested we install an "ADOPT-A-CAN" program in our business areas to deter littering of our streets. Previously, the City of Buffalo Parks Dept. provided trash cans, but the Sanitation Dept. did not recognize the responsibility as theirs in picking up the trash. Thus the trash cans

slowly disappeared from the area. If you support our efforts in sponsoring a trash can and maintaining it (i.e. putting it out weekly with your trash) in your block or in front of your business, please call and let us know. P.S. A note of special attention to businesses who clean the sidewalks AND street area in front of your shops.

WE NOTICE! THANK YOU!!! ...DW

### Christmas in July?

Do you think it's too early to start thinking of Christmas decorations, bustling streets, and the Christmas spirit? We don't! Since the Allentown Businessmen's Association disbanded last year, we have not had any decorations on Allen St. for the Christmas holidays. We would like to get some input from the neighborhood on what you would like to see done this year. Lights? Wreaths? Holiday caroling in costumes? Big red bows on the lamp posts? Street decorating contest? What do you have in mind?

We expect the businesses in Allentown also have their thoughts as well as budgets pre-planned for the season, and appreciate everyone's efforts AND donations to make our neighborhood the most beautiful in the city! A committee will be forming in September so we will have everything in place and up by the Thanksgiving weekend! ...DW

### Thank you...

to Mulligan's Brick Bar, Friends of the Night People, and Nietzches for the cooperative spirit they have brought to the Association. As part of the Association's renewed commitment to serving as the conduit for community dialog, we hope that we can encourage other businesses to participate too! ...DW

### "Friends" renovate...

Mr. Tom Wilder, Executive Director of Friends of the Night People, attended the Board of Directors meeting June 20 to inform us of the renovation plans taking place this summer to the facility on Hudson St. Mr. Wilder also brought blueprints of

the interior of the building. He assured us that the board of directors of the Friends of the Night People are very sensitive to the immediate surrounding area and the inconvenience the work may have on the clients of Friends as well as the neighborhood. Work should be completed in September of this year.

The "new" Friends will include an expanded waiting room area, more security, a fenced-in yard as well as new office facilities on the second floor with a possible expansion of services in the future. Since Friends of the Night People feeds 150-300 people daily, an increased food pantry storage area and kitchen facility is also being built. An increased waiting room area on the first floor will also decrease congestion for clients in line as well as keeping the line within the building, avoiding congestion, loitering and lines on the street. ...DW

## Hot dog!!!

The hot dog stand at the Allentown Art Festival was a huge success. Thanks to the efforts of over twenty people from the Association, and donations of equipment to our stand, our coffers have increased substantially. We are looking for someone to chair the event for next year, and document this (1991) event so we have as great, if not greater, a success next year! Please call us!

### Meetings...

Upcoming Board of Directors meetings: JULY 25, AUGUST 22. All Board meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Allentown Association Inc. office at 234 Allen St. MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND BOARD MEETINGS. AREN'T YOU A MEMBER YET? Call 881-1024 for a membership application.

## Person & Business...

When I first went looking for Fred Rzemek, (our Person of the Month) at Goody's Parlor (our Business of the Month) I couldn't find him there. Fred was at WKBW-TV, preparing a cooking segment for AM-*Buffalo*.

I spoke with the customers instead. "The best milk shakes." a Days Park resident and Goody's regular remarked.

"They have phosphates. That's why I like this place." commented another customer.

Ice cream delights and desserts are not the only things served at Goody's Parlor. Along with milkshakes, banana splits and other classic treats, Goody's also serves sandwiches, salads, soup, stuffed potatoes and chili. Goody's chili is classic Cincinnati Chili and is dished up five different ways.

There are other chili selections, too. Buffalo Firehouse Chili - loaded with coarse ground chuck steak, beans and chilis; Vegetable Chili and Black Bean Chili, which is served with dollop of sour cream.

My second attempt to visit Fred was no more fruitful. He and the Goody's staff were at the Taste of Buffalo, spooning up 150 gallons of chili to the crowds, along with Coney Dogs and Goody's Peanut Butter Torte.

In addition to Goody's, Fred Rzemek is responsible for the restoration of several buildings in Allentown, including restoring the building at the corner of College and Allen, home of "The Studio". The Studio offers fitness classes for the fit (and the unfit) and is run by Jan, Fred's wife, a professional ice skater.

Fred and Jan have staked both their personal and professional futures in Allentown. Fred considers Allentown the most interesting neighborhood in the city. This Rzemek commitment has been previously recognized by the Allentown Association. In 1991 they were awarded the Beautification Award for commercial buildings for 224 Allen Street.

Fred thinks Allentown's future is going to get more interesting and wants to be part of it. As he explained to the Buffalo News recently, "My restoration business is concentrated here and I don't intend to move that concentration at all."

Goody's Parlor, located at 224 Allen Street, is open 11 am to 11 pm and offers free delivery to downtown and Allentown from 11 am to 2 pm. Stop in, sit at the counter, and order a phosphate. Ask for Fred, maybe you'll catch him there...MS

DID YOU KNOW THAT AS OF 6-20-91 THE ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP HAS INCREASED TO 239 + MEMBERS? This is the highest membership we have had in 11 years! Let's keep growing. There is strength in numbers!

If you would like to become a member or know someone else that would, call the office or better yet call George Hardy (Membership Committee Chairman) at 884-0001 during the evenings or 881-3900 daytimes.

## BBQ in the park...

George Hardy was the brave and daring soul that decided that we should have a Chiavetta's chicken Bar-B-Que in Days Park. Brave because the date was set for July fourth, the day many people might have other family obligations. Daring because up until the last minute we didn't think the weather was going to cooperate at all.

At 10:30 that Thursday morning, George, Toby, Joe and I gathered at the Association office. Using Joe Sole's aging flatbed truck we loaded all of the Association's tables and chairs plus more on loan from the First Presbyterian Church. By 1:30 pm we had them set up in the park. Phil Mistretta also provided and helped set up a booth that he uses for other charity events.

All this was conducted among intermittent rain showers that provided an opportunity to differentiate the optimists from the pessimists. Some were sure that the rains would keep our neighbors home, leaving us with egg on our faces as well as 80 unpaid-for chicken dinners on our hands. Those fears were doubly reinforced when John Kelly and I drove to East Angola to pick up the chicken. We encountered more rain than this writer has seen in a long time. Rte 5 had at least four low spots that had numerous cars flooded out including one so deep we had to circle around up and over the sidewalk to get by. As we

did this I observed one luckless fellow in the middle of this "lake" with his door open trying to bail himself out!

Nonetheless, by the time we returned, the skies began to clear up and almost as if on cue, by the appointed hour of 5 o'clock the weather was absolutely perfect for the event.

People began to arrive in groups of five and six. Soon a festive crowd had assembled and the proverbial "good time was had by all". Good conversation and neighborly fellowship ensued. Babies were there for politicians to kiss and jokes both good and bad were told, not to mention the fact that the chicken was excellent. All in all it was one of the best community gatherings I have seen since becoming a member!

In the late summer or early fall (perhaps the first weekend after Labor Day) we plan to have a hot dog and hamburger cookout. watch these pages. ...RLG

## News Flash...

You may not have heard it here first, only because so many people seem to be so excited about it! The Allentown Association is once again going to hold that much celebrated **Annual Blizzard Ball**. This event will be held sometime in the late fall or early winter. I hear that those involved have great plans, so keep an eye out for further developments in these pages because this is the one event of the year you don't want to miss! ...RLG

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