



The Allentown Neighbor

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Allentown supports reuse of School 36 by charter school

The Allentown community has given strong support to a plan for reuse of School 36, scheduled to close in June, by Elmwood Village Charter School (EVCS) of 124 Elmwood Ave. which hopes to move its kindergarten and first and second grades there in September 2010.

A new proposal calls for temporary use of the School 36 building at 10 Days Park by Tapestry Charter School until its new high school is completed on Great Arrow Ave., when EVCS would take over the Days Park building.

The Allentown Association has written city and school officials stating its support of the proposed reuse of the School 36. The Board of Directors voted May 12 to support the proposal.

At two public meetings in the Allendale Theater in March almost all the 45 people attending were enthusiastic when EVCS representatives outlined tentative plans to use School 36 to house the charter school's primary grades.

Tapestry's high school division must move from leased space at St. Mary's School for the Deaf, where its high-school classes are now, and hopes to use the Days Park building for several months beginning in August, Joy S. Pepper, Tapestry director, said. The two charter schools have been working together on reuse of the building, she added.

Tapestry's lower grades are at 40 North St. in Allentown where it opened in 2001.

Lawyers for both charter schools are working on a possible agreement, John Sheffield, EVCS director, said.

In addition, action by the city to make the school available is needed, and the EVCS charter must be amended with approval by the Office of Public School Choice and the State Board of Regents in Albany, he said. EVCS dropped plans to try to occupy the building by next September because the lack of city and state action by May 15 leaves inadequate time for necessary al-

terations by September, he added.

An ideal scenario would be for Tapestry to use the building from September to January, which would give EVCS plenty of time to complete alterations and "get our students in there by September 2010," said Elizabeth Evans, a member of the EVCS board of directors.

"We have a long waiting list" of applicants for the school, John Sheffield, said at the March 26 meeting. The school opened in 2005 and now has an enrollment of 175 in kindergarten through sixth grade. Asked about the makeup of the school, the representatives noted that they maintain a multiracial student body and also have a significant number of disabled students.

"A lot of our families are interested in having the school go through the eighth grade. We formed a task force," said Elizabeth Evans, a member of the school's board of directors.

"We talked to Gary Crosby, chief financial officer of Buffalo public schools. He was very cooperative, frank and open to us. We're doing cost and staffing projections. Two buildings would mean additional expenses," she said.

Inside this issue

Protection from crime Page 2

Elizabeth Deichman's will Page 3

Kristy Meal of Rust Belt Page 5

Business news Page 6

Almanac Page 8

Please turn to *First Friday* Page 9

Calendar Page 10



How to avoid getting hit by crime

By *Tim Riordan*

It is high season for crimes of opportunity, namely car break-ins or car “popping.” Criminals, under the cover of night, or sometimes even in broad daylight, break into your vehicle and within a minute or two make off with everything they can find. Some hot items they are looking for are GPS systems, laptop computers, ipods, and tools, just to name a few. Car poppings are quick and easy and are over before you know it, leaving a feeling of violation and anxiety with the victims. The police are quick to respond to these calls; they are very aware of the problem and the quality of life issue that it presents.

Some things we can do to prevent ourselves and our neighbors from becoming victims: first and foremost, be aware of what is happening in your neighborhood and if you see criminal activity taking place, call 911 right away. Every call to the police gets a response and is logged in a system that they use to track types and location of crime. This information is used to justify additional patrols of problem areas, special detail cars, and potentially more manpower. Do not make yourself a target. This goes for personal safety as well as our homes and belongings. If you are going to be out of town, let your neighbors know and have them collect your mail and newspaper, or ask the post office to save it for you. You might consider hooking some lighting to a timer while you are away.

Consider putting motion-activated lighting at strategic points of your home’s exterior; this may prevent the criminal or alert yourself or a neighbor of movement on your property. Alarm systems on your homes and vehicles are less expensive than you might think, are a proven deterrent and provide peace of mind.

If you have been out in the neighborhood enjoying a

few drinks, don’t drive, but if you are walking please be careful. Believe it or not, sometimes it is obvious that you have had a few and you could find yourself an easy target, with little recollection of the details to assist police. Just try and walk with someone, cross the street to a more well lit area, make a phone call to a understanding friend with your whereabouts and destination and if you expect you are in imminent danger call 911.

Regarding car poppings, don’t make it easy for a criminal. Do not broadcast that you have valuables in your vehicle by keeping them in plain view. Remember this is a crime of opportunity so don’t create one! You may think that since you will only be away from your car for an hour or so, it will be okay. Not true. These thieves are experienced and average under 60 seconds from start to finish, so consider locking your laptop in the trunk. Of course its easier to leave your GPS on the windshield or your ipod on its docking station, or even their respective docking stations in plain view but you will be quite upset when you come out to find them gone, so bring them with you when you go inside or lock them in the trunk. I will go as far as to suggest removing the circle of evidence that your GPS dock with the suction mounting leaves on your windshield with a cloth each and every time.

Get to know your neighbors, build true neighborhood unity, work together and watch out for one another. Enjoy your summer, be safe, be responsible and do your part.

Tim Riordan is chairperson of the Allentown Association’s Crime and Safety Committee

Grace Manor closes, building to be offered for sale

Grace Manor Health Care Facility at 10 Symphony Circle closed in March and the building is expected to be offered for sale as soon as agreement is reached with creditors.

Mark Schlant, a bankruptcy trustee, said he is working on an agreement with two state agencies holding liens, and expects to hire a real-estate agent when agreement is

reached. Grace Manor opened in 1998 as the city’s only African-American-owned nursing home. About 250 jobs were lost with the closing of the 167-bed home.

The building opened in 1953 as the Rosa Coplon Jewish Home and Infirmary.



Deichman will reveals a caring and generous woman

By *Pete Carroll*

Elizabeth Squire Deichman charmed many of her neighbors in Allentown, where she lived for over 40 years in a three-story brick house built in 1865, as well as many others she met in a long and productive life.

When Beth Deichman died March 6, 2008, at age 80 she left an estate of over \$1.2 million. She and her husband, Henry, who died in 1996, had no children, and a search by lawyers for the estate turned up no blood relatives.

Her will provides for a bequest, not yet disbursed, which could benefit programs in Allentown.

“Beth enjoyed people...she showed her caring for her friends by inviting them to her house to enjoy meals that ranged from simple to grand.”

She left over \$300,000 to friends and relatives by marriage, but she willed the bulk of her estate to charity, including \$100,000 to the Erie County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; \$100,000 to the Buffalo Zoological Society; \$50,000 to Cornell University School of Civil Engineering; \$50,000 to the Tiff Farm Nature Preserve; \$40,000 to the Meals on Wheels Foundation; and \$25,000 each to the First Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Doctors Without Borders USA; \$20,000 to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation; \$15,000 to Alley Cat Allies of Bethesda, Md.; and \$10,000 each to Women’s and Children’s Hospital and the Young Women’s Christian Association of Buffalo and Erie County .

A member of the first graduating class in 1956 of the University of Buffalo’s occupational-therapy program, she was a fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association, and co-founder of Potentials

Development providing therapy to older persons, and authored five books in her field.

“Beth enjoyed people and had many friends whom she visited often and they frequently came to visit her,” one of those friends recalled. “She showed her caring for her friends by inviting them to her house to enjoy meals that ranged from simple to grand,” she added.

She was an enthusiastic volunteer for Meals on Wheels, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, Garden Walk Buffalo and the Allentown Association, among others. Her home at 20 North Pearl St.

was on the “Secrets of Allentown” tour of homes and she would don Victorian dress and greet all visitors.

She also was fond of animals, especially cats. She wrote a book, collaborating with a friend and fellow writer, Veronica Breen Hogle, “Nine Cats: Nine Lives in the Tall, Narrow Brick House,” published shortly after her death by Aventine Press of San Diego.



Elizabeth S. Deichman, pioneer occupational therapist, volunteer, philanthropist, author and cat lover

In her will, Beth Deichman authorized \$25,000 “for the printing, launching, advertising and distributing this book” and hiring Veronica Hogle for a \$10,000 consulting fee for her assistance in launching the book. These were the only specific disbursements provided in the will that have not yet been carried out. Donna Sundell, executrix of the estate, and Veronica Hogle have not been able to reach agreement on financing the book launch. But as *The Neighbor* went to press, there were signs that an agreement might be reached, with contacts between lawyers for both sides.

Please turn to next page



52nd Art show and 10th Allen West are June 13 and 14

The Allen West Festival is celebrating its 10th year and the Allentown Art Festival its 52nd on June 13 and 14 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Started by the Allentown Association as a way to organize Allen St. west of Elmwood Ave. during the Art Festival, sponsored by the Allentown Village Society, the first Allen West Festival had 37 vendors, most uncovered, and it poured rain on Sunday. It has grown each year and is now the Allentown Association's biggest fundraiser. This year it will have more

than 150 vendors filling Allen St. between Elmwood and on up Wadsworth St. to Hudson St. Vendors come from 11 states but the emphasis is on local products.

"Last year we introduced our non-profits section in the Holly Farms parking lot complete with a player piano. Look for its reappearance. Our volunteer committee is working hard, planning lots of surprises," said Gretchan Grobe, Allen West chairperson. To join the team of volunteers call the Allentown Association office at 881-1024.

Unresolved "cat book" issue holds up disbursements from estate

Continued from Page 3

Records in Erie County Surrogate's Court show that \$830,000 has been paid to charities and individuals, and approximately \$20,000 has been authorized for administrative expenses of the estate, leaving approximately \$350,000 in the residual estate, part of which may be allocated to administrative expenses.

The will provides that 20 percent of the remaining estate go to the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo Inc. Half of this amount is to be for the foundation's "general use and purposes, with a preference that the income from this fund be used to benefit programs in the geographic area commonly known as 'Allentown' in Buffalo." The other half is to be "for the benefit of the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter."

It also provides for 15 percent shares to the Buffalo Zoo and the Tiff Farm. The remaining half of the residual estate is left to four individuals, two receiving 15 percent each, and two each receiving 10 percent.

Beth Deichman and Veronica Hogle met in the 1980s. In 2007, Veronica Hogle recalls, "we rekindled our friendship and she asked me if I would help her write a book about how her late husband introduced her to cats and how much joy the stray and homeless cats gave her. We got together many times while she told me the story of each cat's life. Then, we rewrote the stories from the cats' point of view. She is listed as the author and I am the editor. The back cover of the book states that proceeds from the

sale of the book will be donated to agencies that help cats to be cared for and be placed in good homes."

"When I see cats, flower gardens, and groups of elegant women with silver hair, wearing colorful clothes, hats and white gloves, taking time to preserve their old friendships over an elegant meal, I remember Elizabeth Squire Deichman. She had beautiful soft brown eyes and a friendly smile. She was gracious, gentle, kind generous, accomplished, colorful, elegant and humble. It was an honor to know and work with Beth, the cat lady of Allentown," Veronica Hogle said on OurEcho, a writers' Web site.

Beth Deichman's will also provided for 1,000 copies of her book, or profits from the first 1,000 copies, to be given to the Erie County SPCA, with remaining rights in the book to Veronica Hogle.

The unresolved issue of the book has also held up the disbursement of the residual estate. So far, 700 copies have been printed, paid for by the estate, and 300 have been sold. The book is available and has been reviewed on Amazon.com and other Web sites.

"She really trusted me to do this book. It's a huge disappointment," Veronica Hogle said.

Donna Sundell, the executrix, was asked if she was opposed to disbursements to promote the book. "Not at all. But in order to close the estate we needed a contract," and no agreement has been reached, she said.

Barbara Carr, SPCA chief executive officer, declined to comment except to say Beth Deichman was "a good friend of the SPCA for at least the 16 years that I've been here. She was always generous and kind."



Kristy Meal of Rust Belt, more than just a bookseller

By *Caitlin Crowell*

Rust Belt Books, at 202 Allen, is the only bookstore in the world where you can buy both an early detective noir novel and a pair of velvet spats, homemade by College St. musician and muse Rose Bond. It's the only store featuring an enormous, and wonderful, oil painting by Henry Fowler, a second grader. And it's the only bookstore in Allentown, which means that it has to do more than just sell reading matter.



Kristy Meal *Mike Mulley photo*

"We've got a lot of great neighbors that come into here," says owner Kristy Meal. Here's one now: a nurse who has moved into the neighborhood and is browsing while she waits for her mattress to be delivered. She prowls the shelves with the intensity of a pro, but then announces that she's never been in a used-book store before.

Nonetheless, she thinks, now she'll be coming in every time she gets a paycheck.

There's a woman dropping by to hang up a flyer for an upcoming concert: "Great to see your face," says Kristy. There's a man who collects bottles, who is dropping off a shipment of plastic bags and picking up a book they've been holding for him. It's expensive, even with his "Good Neighbor" discount, but he's been looking forward to it, and Kristy is glad to have the book in his hands. With warmer weather, he informs us, he won't need so many bags to line his shoes, so he'll be dropping off more in the weeks to come.

She doesn't like to sell all the books, Kristy admits; "I do have a condition, you know, about the books," somewhere between nostalgia and devotion. One in particular still haunts her, a 1930s H.G. Wells with a beautifully crafted cover, which she let go to a customer but clearly hasn't managed to forget. Luckily, books keep pouring in. And since it would be all too easy to let things build up and up and up to the ceiling, Kristy has cultivated a whole list of places she can "match up" with donations: schools, charities, libraries, even individuals get regular batches of books courtesy of Rust Belt.

How does she like Allentown? "I love it. I love it. I was worried about gentrification... but there are people in there who keep it real. Everybody is so individually *who they are*." They're the same people who drop things off: notes, books, art, presents. So many, in fact, that Kristy has put a note in the window telling them where they can leave things for her.

"There's us, and then there's La Tee Da," she says, referring to the restaurant with which Rust Belt shares a building. "There's a family kind of flow, a vibe, a sentiment... whatever you want to call it. I take it very seriously." That attitude is part of what has made Rust Belt an annual pilgrimage site for a high school teacher from Ellicottville, who buses her English class up to Allentown and turns them loose in the store. They're not neighbors, so Kristy gives them the "Yellow Bus Discount" instead.

As befits an independent bookstore, Rust Belt also has a performance space in the back room, featuring theatre, poetry, readings, puppet shows, pretty much anything an artist or writer can think to produce. "It's such an intimate space," Kristy explains, "there's no escaping the offering. I've had my hair blown back in there before."

It's good to have one's hair blown back now and again, but it's also pretty nice just to get lost in the stacks of poetry and philosophy and history and art and novels. There's the one you meant to read, the one you never heard of, the one by a local poet, the one you had when you were a kid and haven't seen since. And when you come to the checkout, Kristy will smile conspiratorially at you, and you'll know you made the right choice.



Hyatt's celebrates 50 years in Allentown

Hyatt's Graphic Supply Co. of 910 Main St., whose customers range from art hobbyists of all ages to major corporations, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Long associated with the Allentown arts scene, it is one of the oldest businesses in Allentown.

The 40 employees of the family-owned company provide design services to customers throughout the country and abroad. "All Things Creative" is its motto.

Charles W. Hyatt, who had moved to Buffalo from Whitehall, north of Albany, in 1941, began the business with a few large customers, completing his first business transactions at his dining-room table with his wife Helen. The business soon expanded into a store at 499 Franklin St. in Allentown in 1959. In 1961 he moved the expanding business to a larger location at 914 Main St., part of the present location, supplying commercial artists and designers and offering custom framing.

After suffering a large fire in 1965, Charles Hyatt rebuilt in the same Main St. location which now includes the firm's headquarters, warehouse and flagship store. With a passion for discovering new artists, Charles Hyatt began selling original artwork. A second storefront on Main St. was transformed into Gallery 912, site of art exhibitions and openings.

He also expanded into selling fine-arts supplies, and opened a second location at 8565 Main St. in Clarence, focusing on arts and crafts.

Charles Hyatt's sons entered the business: Peter in 1970 and Greg in 1975. They would play major roles,

including installation of the first main-frame computer, and after the family acquired the entire building in 1978, remodeling the premises from 4,500 square feet to its present 32,000 square feet. Greg opened the Rochester store and warehouse in 1984. Peter established a new division selling digital sign-making equipment and materials throughout the Northeast. Hyatt's became a major distributor for Gerber Scien-

Business News

tific Products. An engineering-supply division was formed to serve architects engineers and industrial accounts.

With 25 years of sign experience, Hyatt's now serves customers of all sizes around the globe, providing materials for major manufacturers of traffic and store signs.

Since 1998 Hyatt's has supplied Pantone products which are a major resource for color printing.

Hyatt's offers classes for teenagers and adults interested in creating works of art and a summer art camp at its Clarence location for youngsters aged 5 to 12. It provides awards to schools and colleges for art competitions, bargain-priced kits for students in art programs, and was a major donor for the construction of the new Burchfield-Penney Art Center.

Two new restaurants, Merge and Steel Crazy Snack Shack, open

Merge, a new restaurant serving lunch and dinner and offering evening entertainment has opened at 439 Delaware Ave. Proprietors are Eliza and Sarah Schneider, daughters of Jake Schneider, architect at Schneider Design and owner of the Art Deco building. Merge is open Monday through Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight. Entertainment begins at 9 p.m. daily. Check mergebuffalo.com or call 381-85023.

Steel Crazy Snack Shack at 191 Allen St., at Elmwood, formerly Steel Crazy Café, is under new management. Chef-Manager Mark Bauer, 15 years in the restaurant business, is offering wraps, tacos, quesadillas, paella and BBQ dinners, soups and salad. Take-out, catering and eat-in is available. "Everything, including all sauces, are homemade," he says. Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 8 a.m. to 1.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Telephone, 885-0206.



Association hears energy consultants, presents beautification awards

Gregory Horn and Syd Cox explained how to make a home “more efficient and greener” in a presentation at the Allentown Association’s Spring dinner April 21 in the Hamlin House.

The two young people operate a year-old consulting business, EcoLogic Home, providing information on energy efficiency and an economical and environmentally friendly approach to home protection and improvements. Operating out of their home on Edison Place, they can be reached through their Web site, myecologicohome.com or telephoning 830-3459.

The Association presented six beautification awards to Allentown residents and institutions for

preservation and rehabilitation of properties. Recipients were: Wendy Jones and Ken Beaver for 19 and 23 Wadsworth St., Noel Sutton for 35 Wadsworth, the Karpeles Manuscript Museum for North Hall at 220 North St., Elizabeth Kolken for the Friends Meeting House at 173 Allen St., and Tony Piccione for Fat Bob’s Smokehouse, 41 Virginia Place. Elizabeth Licata, Beautification Committee chairperson, made the presentations.

About 90 people attended the dinner, chaired by Sarah Gilewicz. A sale of goods donated by members and Allentown businesses raised nearly \$800 for the Association’s operations. Matthew Ryan, Association president, welcomed guests. Robert Fink gave the benediction.

Theodore Roosevelt Site reopens, summer events planned

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site will reopen to the public June 20 after a 17-month, \$2.7 million renovation of the Wilcox Mansion and a new addition on the foundation of the long-demolished carriage house.

The new addition and museum store are open with free admission from May 31 to June 12 and from June 15 to 19 from noon to 5 p.m. for the Buffalo Society of Artists spring exhibition. For the Allentown Art Festival, June 13-14, the Carriage House, museum store, artists exhibition and a preview of the renovated mansion, admission will be open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with \$2 admission.

Guided tours of Allentown will begin at the site Mondays from June 29 to Aug. 31 from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$6; reservations not required. Other tours, with lunch at the museum, will be offered July 17 and Aug. 21, with reservations required. See Calendar, page 10.

The Allentown Neighbor

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An Allentown Almanac

The City Preservation Board has honored two Allentown rehabilitation projects and the owners responsible for them. The reconstruction of 591 Delaware Ave., by **Matthew and Christopher Moscatti** of TRM Architects and the rebuilding, with a new garage, at 32 St. John's Place by **Theodore and Sherrill Fremming** were cited by the Preservation Board May 8 at the first annual luncheon of Preservation Buffalo Niagara, recently formed by a merger of the Landmark Society of the Niagara Frontier and the Preservation Coalition of Erie County.

In honor of Earth Day, April 22, about 20 students from the **Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program**, 394 Franklin St. cleaned up trash and debris in Allentown. The students, accompanied by teachers **Catherine O'Brien** and **Elizabeth Affronte**, several countries including Burma, Bhutan, Burundi and Somalia.

Buffalo ReUse shop at 298 Northampton St. with recycled fixtures and equipment for home restoration projects has set new hours: Tuesdays through Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The **Allentown Association** has received a \$500 grant from the **Allentown Village Society**, sponsor of the Allentown Art Festival, and a \$300 grant from **Garden Walk Buffalo**. Both grants are for plantings to beautify Allentown.

Secrets of Allentown, the Allentown Association's annual tour of homes, will be Saturday Sept. 12. **Elizabeth Licata** and **LaVerne Peakes** are heading the team of volunteers.

Holly Holdaway, Robert Fink, Patrick Monfort Deborah Ellis and **Ginger Schroeder** have been named to the Nominating Committee to prepare by September a slate of officers for the Allentown Association.

Seven volunteers cleaned sidewalks and public spaces along Allen St. between Main St. and Delaware Ave. May 9. The sweep was organized by **Elizabeth Licata**, chairperson of the Allentown Association's Beautification Committee.

The Allentown Association has decided not to hold a community porch and garage sale this summer.

The Allentown Neighbor's spring issue, mislabeled Vol. 45, No. 2, should have been Vol. 44, No. 3.

EVCS hopes for a lease-purchase for School 36

Continued from Page 1

"If we were able to lease to own, that would be great," said Liz Evans. An assessment of the building's value is being done, and some state funds might be available, she added.

"A lease or purchase . . . is being considered. We need to get specifics from the city," John Sheffield said. Also, since the school remains in use through June, EVCS officials have not yet been able to spend significant time there doing repairs estimates or calculations about what sorts of furniture and supplies will be needed.

"If we could do it for 2010, OK," Liz Evans said. She and others reminded the audience that even if EVCS does purchase the school, the tight turnaround time—only a month or two—would make refurbishing the building a challenge.

Use of School 36 "is our preferred option. But we have other options," John Sheffield said. Because eve-

rything from toilets to drinking fountains is already sized to suit small children, it would be an easier transition than making it into a school for older students, he said.

Days Park residents said they "want the playground to be clean and secure" and expressed concerns about the parking lot and building security. The charter school representatives said these priorities would be respected.

One of the exciting things would be the full-sized gym," larger than the facility in the Elmwood Ave. building, John Sheffield said.

"What do you need us to do?" asked Days Park resident and Allentown Association board member Deborah Ellis. The school representatives recommended letters to public officials, urging them to move fast on the decommissioning and sale of the building.

— *Pete Carroll and Caitlin Crowell*



First Friday reborn at 13 galleries, repeats planned this summer

By *Ed Castine*

On Friday evening, May 1, First Friday was reborn in Allentown with a resounding buzz throughout the neighborhood. Galleries, restaurants, shops, and bars were brimming with patrons thanks to the concerted effort of several of Allentown's gallery owners to stay open into the evening on the first Friday.

The plan is to continue the monthly event and hopefully recruit more participants into the fray. First Friday is planned for June 1, July 6, Aug. 3 and Sept. 7, from approximately 5 p.m. (6 p.m. for some galleries) to 9 p.m.

The nucleus of the effort is a small group of gallery owners, including Dan and Barbara Hart of Studio Hart, Elisabeth Samuels of Indigo Art, and Dale Schwalenberg of Buffalo Big Print. They have worked together to attract people and share the crowd in their block on Allen. They started getting together to discuss the idea of broadening the collaboration this spring and found that the neighbors were ready to get on board.

The first of the First Fridays events spanned 13 venues from Main St. to Wadsworth and it appeared that the "whole was greater than the sum of its parts" due to the collaboration between the business owners. The whole neighborhood benefited.

Initial First Friday founding members are

Artspace Buffalo Gallery, 1219 Main St.; Art Dialogue Gallery, 1 Linwood Ave.; Buffalo Big Print, 78 Allen St.; B West Studio, 148 Elmwood Ave.; College Street Gallery Co-op, 244 Allen St.; Gateway Gallery, 141 Elmwood Ave.; Hero Design Studio + Boutique, 93 Allen St.; Indigo Art, 74 Allen St.; Jung Center Gallery/Bookstore, 408 Franklin St.; Kepa 3 Gallery, 31 Barker St.; Space@224, 224 Allen St.; Studio Hart, 65 Allen St., Sugar City, 19 Wadsworth St.

The Allentown Association helped produce a postcard sized map of the businesses in Allentown to help visitors to the neighborhood locate the participating venues. The initial run identified the founding participants as well as the surrounding bars. The goal is to promote the event and encourage more businesses to take part with their own creative ways. Several restaurants have expressed a willingness to offer discounts when customers bring in a copy of the postcard.

Additional promotion is being planned for First Friday. Organizers would love to see other retailers such as the antique shops get excited about the foot traffic. Anyone with some artistic talent could rent an empty storefronts to take part and help mold this monthly event into what it could become for Allentown and Buffalo.

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

El Museo faces funding struggles; Folkloric Dance returning

El Museo, the exhibition gallery of Hispanic and Latin American arts at 91 Allen St., has faced a severe funding crunch with a loss of its \$65,000 state grant and a delay in Erie County funding.

Release of county grants for it and many cultural organizations has been held up by the county administration, said Craig Centrie, a founder and director of El Museo. It is the only not-for-profit gallery on Allen St., he noted.

El Museo plans an exhibition of sculpture by Valoria Cray June 5 to July 18, with a reception opening day from 7 to 9 p.m.

Also scheduled is a reading by Betty Jean Grant on June 12 at 8 p.m. Funding permitting, El Museo is open Thursday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

And there's more good news: Folkloric Productions Dance Co. is coming back to Allen St., to share space with El Museo and mount some joint productions, said Cathy Skora, its director. It was known as the Allen Street Dance Studio at 85 Allen St. before it moved to the New Phoenix Theater on Johnson Park in 2005.

"We're coming back to Allen St.," effective in September, she said.



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., Board of Directors meets June 16, July 14m Aug. 11, 7 p.m. 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. Annual members' exhibition, modern art, through June 5. "Brothers," works by Kevin and Thomas Kegler and Mark Zahm, June 12 to July 12. Lecture and demonstration on Flemish painting techniques by Susan Budlash, June 20, 11 a.m., reservations necessary. Works by Canisius College faculty members, July 17 to Aug. 21. Niagara Frontier Water Color Society exhibition, Aug. 28 to Oct. 2. For information call 885-2251.

Betty's restaurant, 370 Virginia St. at Cottage St., Buffalo Society of Artists juried exhibition, through July 12.

Buffalo Big Print Gallery, 78 Allen St., Watercolors by Patrick Willett, through June 15.; works by Buffalo photographers, June 21 to July 28.; photography by David Moog, Aug. 1 to 29.

Buffalo Infringement Festival, July 23 to Aug. 2 at various locations., mainly in Allentown. See www.infringebuffaloi.org.

College St. block party, seventh annual block party, College St. between Maryland and Allen, July 26, noon to 7 p.m.

College Street Gallery, 244 Allen St., Wednesday to Friday, 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday 2 to 8 p.m., Sunday by appointment. Painting, sculpture and mixed media by 20 artists in coop, receptions first Friday, 8 to 10 p.m. For information call 882-9727.

El Museo, 91 Allen St. See page 9. 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 March 14, April 11, May 9, beginning at St. Paul's at 10 a.m., transportation not provided.

Garden Walk, July 25 and 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Streets of Allentown and the West Side.; locator maps and rest rooms at senior center at Summer St. and Richmond Ave..

Homeownership Center of Buffalo, 560 Delaware Ave., suite 101. Free orientation for prospective home buyers, June 8, 16, 29, July 7, 15, 27, Aug. 3, 12, 25, 6 to 7 p.m. Home-buyer education classes (fees charged), June 6, July 11, Aug. 8, 9 a.m. to 4 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. Fibers by Nancy Belfer, through June 7, "Summer in the City," in various media by 20 artists, June 12 through Aug. 1. For information call 984-9572.

Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 220 North St. Tuesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Milestones in Medicine" with exhibits of Clara Barton and the development of the American Red Cross, Francis Crick's DNA research, Alexander Flem-ing's development of penicillin and Alert Schweitzer and the treatment of leprosy, through August. For information call 886-3656.

Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, classical series: Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony with the Philharmonic Chorus, June 13, 8 p.m. and June 14, 2:30 p.m., Pops series: The Music of Queen with Freddie Mercury, June 6, 8 p.m. For tickets and information, call 885-5000.

Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Hotel Lenox, 140 North St. Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5; Saturday, by appointment. "Abstract Alternatives," works of Stephen Antonakos, Warren Isensee, Gary Lang, Melissa Meyer, Katherine Sehr. through June 12. Group exhibition in varied media, June 17 to July 31. For information call 882-5777.

Quaker Bonnet Eatery, 175 Allen St., paintings by Kathy Schifano, June; mixed media by Edollia, August.

Rust Belt Books, 202 Allen St. Comedy Improv, June 6, evening. For information call 885-9535.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (Wilcox Mansion), 641 Delaware Ave. Reopens for hourly tours, June 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; noon to 5 p.m., weekends. New carriage house with Buffalo Society of Artists spring exhibition and museum store open through June 19 with free admission. Preview of renovated museum, June 13, 14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission \$2.. Guided tours of Allentown Mondays from June 28 to Aug. 31, 10 a.m. to noon, \$6. Tour of Main and North Pearl St. with lunch, July 17, 10 a.m. \$30, reservations required. For information call 884-0095.



Buffalo CarShare ready with 4 cars

Buffalo CarShare was prepared to begin operations with four new Toyotas available to members of the not-for-profit cooperative based at 14 Allen St. by May 31. A grand opening will be held in late June and hopes to add four more sedans and a truck later, Creighton Randall, interim executive director said.

Two of the new cars are based on the Medical Campus, one at the Theater District Station, and one at Women's and Children's Hospital. The vehicles have been purchased with a \$149,000 grant from the State Energy Research and Development Agency which will also subsidize the first year of operation.

We expect to get four more cars and we hope to get a truck later," Creighton Randall said.

The cooperative has signed up about 30 "pioneer members" before its "soft opening" in late May, and held a successful fund-raiser at Campieri's restaurant. Introductory membership costs \$5 a month and \$8 an hour for car use, plus 20 cents per mile. Frequent membership is \$20 a month and \$5 per hour plus 20 cents per mile.

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.
14 Allen Street
Buffalo, New York 14202
Visit on the web: www.allentown.org

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