“Access Allentown” provides discounts at community businesses

By Sarah Gilewicz

There’s a new, exciting reason to become a member of the Allentown Association. The “Access Allentown” membership card was unveiled in January and is a new benefit of membership in the Allentown Association. The card will provide members with discounts and offered specials at participating businesses. As of this writing of this article, the list of participating businesses with their offered discounts (some restrictions apply—see website for more details) is as follows:

- Avenue Art & Frame - 10% off custom framing
- Betty’s - Buy one dinner; get the second ½ off (up to $15)
- Buffalo Carpet Cleaning - 25% off services
- East End Salon - 10% off services
- Hamlin House - 10% off bill
- Just Vino - 15% off bill
- La Tee Da - 10% off bill
- Modern Nostalgia - Spend $150; get $25 off
- Mothers Restaurant - 20% off bill if seated before 6:30 or after 11 p.m.

This list will continue to expand and will be updated on allentown.org, so visit the Web site often to see where the card can be used. We encourage people to patronize these establishments, as their generous participation in this program has allowed us to offer this new benefit. If you are a current individual or business Association member, you should have received your new “Access Allentown” card in the mail. These cards will be good for the entire calendar year. If you’ve let your membership lapse or have never considered membership in the past, now’s the time to get involved and enjoy this new benefit of membership in the Allentown Association. Membership is not limited to residents of Allentown!

More details on the “Access Allentown” card are available on the website along with the membership form. If you are an Allentown business and you’d like to get involved in the “Access Allentown” card, please contact the Association at 881-1024.

Sarah Gilewicz is membership chairperson of the Allentown Association.

Annual dinner is April 13 at Hamlin House

Mark your calendars! The Annual Allentown Association dinner will be held this year on April 13 at the Hamlin House at 432 Franklin St. Dinner will be at 7 p.m., preceded by a cash bar at 6 p.m.

Similar to previous years, there will be a Chinese auction featuring dozens of items donated by local businesses; a silent auction featuring several special items; and a 50/50 raffle. The cost this year will be $20 per person. Closer to the date, watch for an email and mailing with more details! Chairperson for the event is Sarah Gilewicz. Leslie Doebler is co-chairperson.
The Board of Directors has approved a $67,750 budget for 2010 the Allentown Association, including additional funds for beautification and promotion. The budget, adopted Feb. 9, was presented by Treasurer Matthew Moscati after review by the Executive Committee.

The budget calls for $61,800 in revenues and a $5,950 surplus carried over from 2009. It provides $33,000 for administrative expenses, including rent, insurance, utilities and the salary and expenses of the Association’s executive director, its sole employee.

There is $7,000 for beautification, including maintenance and upkeep of public art such as the windmill in Elmwood Park, one of several projects by University at Buffalo architecture students. Also included are funds for sidewalk plantings and watering, and a landscape consultant for possible pocket parks. The budget provides $6,000 for promotion, including, signage, banners and advertising.

Major revenue sources are the Allen West Festival, with a net of $18,000 net anticipated; Secrets of Allentown tour of historic properties, with a net of $7,500 anticipated; hot dog stand, $500 net anticipated.

Curtis Haynes Jr. is new Ellicott District council member

Curtis Haynes Jr. is the new Ellicott District member of the Common Council. He will serve through December, succeeding Brian C. Davis, who resigned in November amidst controversy over use of campaign funds.

Council Member Haynes is an associate professor of economics at Buffalo State College where Matthew Ryan, Allentown Association president, was once his student.

“I expect to have a conversation; it should be positive. We [the Allentown Association] should be able to get our points across,” Matt Ryan said.

The Ellicott District includes all of Allentown except the small area on the north side of North St., which is in the Niagara District.

Council Member Haynes was appointed by the Council Jan. 14 in a 6-2 vote, over several other candidates. The position will be on the ballot in November for the final year of the term.
First Friday Gallery Tour wins $5,000 grant

By Barbara Hart

Allentown’s successful First Friday Gallery Tour was honored by the Arts Council of Buffalo and Erie County with a $5,000 grant which will assure its continuation through 2010.

Matthew Ryan, Allentown Association president, and gallery owners Barbara Hart of Studio Hart and Elisabeth Samuels of Indigo accepted the award Feb. 12.

The grant will be used for promotion and programming for the Greater Allentown Gallery Association’s gallery tour on the first Friday of each month. This award is part of the 2010 Erie County decentralization grant program, financed by the State Council on the Arts. It was the largest of about 20 grants to recipient organizations in Erie County.

Representatives from the offices of State Rep. Sam Hoyt and State Sen. Antoine Thompson congratulated the award recipients, and the group was treated to a performance by musician K.G. Price as well as an informal reception at the Western New York Book Arts Center.

The successful grant application was prepared by the Allentown Association in co-operative venture with the Greater Allentown Gallery Association.

The First Fridays Gallery Tour will continue on March 5, April 2, and May 7. About 20 art galleries and businesses keep their doors open for extended hours on the first Friday of each month, from 5 to 9 p.m. Check the Allentown website for specific details regarding participating galleries, and events for each date. Information is also available on Facebook (search Greater Allentown First Fridays Gallery Tour).

The Allentown Association First Fridays Holiday Celebration on Dec. 4 was particularly memorable. Participants joined a boisterous Santa for free rides on a horse-drawn carriage which ferried up and down Allen St. throughout the evening’s festivities. The Allentown Association provided wreaths for street lamps and erected a public tree in the lot adjacent to Quaker Bonnet. A tree lighting ceremony kicked off the Holiday First Fridays event, with extended opening hours by galleries, and many retail businesses.

All the fun was captured by Channel 4, which aired interviews with Matt Ryan, Barbara Hart, and most important of all, enthusiastic onlookers. We couldn’t have paid for better advertising for Allentown’s holiday season.

Heartfelt thanks to those businesses which contributed to the success of this evening: East End Studio, Fiddleheads Restaurant, Cafe 59, Nest Interiors, Studio Hart, House of Randolph, Gallagher’s, Indigo Gallery, Allen Street Connection, Les Jardins, Harold’s Curiosity Shop, Buffalo Big Print, Allentown Dress Shop, Towne Restaurant, Allen Street Hardware Café, La Tee Da Café, Deborah Hill Interiors, Sample, College Street Gallery, Hero Art & Design.

Barbara Hart, owner of Hart Studio, is a member of the Allentown Association Board of Directors.
A comprehensive approach sought for community improvements

By Matthew Ryan

In any heavily trafficked urban neighborhood, wear and tear over time eventually needs to be met by improvement measures. Crumbling curbs need to be re-cut, streets need repaving, sidewalks should be repaired, lamp posts replaced and so on. In a historic preservation district, these procedures must be calculated. It is not simply a task of taking any design lamp post and affixing it where an old one gave way. Public works must match the new with the existing to keep visual continuity and protect the character of the neighborhood.

For several years the Allentown Association has directed its improvement efforts in a way that could be considered “segmentation.” These efforts have been focused in order to bring certain parts of the Allentown spine, along Allen and Wadsworth Sts. from Main St. to Symphony Circle, up to the benchmark. This method began when the board, powered by the initiative of residents, focused efforts on Wadsworth improvements. It was apparent there was a groundswell to improve that block. The efforts are also finding success along the stretch between the west end of Allen St. and Symphony Circle.

On the back of that success, residents at the east end of Allen have asked for focus on the stretch from Franklin St. to Main St. A few motivated board members took up leadership on the task and have outlined ambitious plans.

Currently the Allentown Association has a number of improvement initiatives in development, with others awaiting funding.

The Faces of Allentown project is one that the board is particularly excited about. Board member Adam Sokol along with intern helpers, enlarged and manipulated the photos taking strips from a number of the faces to design unique profiles. In essence Faces of Allentown demonstrates the diversity and vibrant character of our community. [See rendering on opposite page.]

The Association has allocated funds to partially fund the project. We are optimistic the rest of the money will come through grants and requests to public officials. At this time requests have been submitted to the Council Member Curtis Haynes Jr. of the Ellicott District and to Assembly Member Sam Hoyt.

As these successes show, the board is discussing a strategic policy of “whole action.” When necessary, segmentation is appropriate to identify and effectively remedy specific areas of increased need. However, once we see the spine in better balance the policy should be shifted so that improvements happen in concert along the entire strip. Continuity throughout our Allentown Preservation District should be paramount. Curbs, lamp posts, sidewalks and street should be consistent.

After all, the spine of Allentown is only three-quarters of a mile long.

The Allentown Association is a member driven organization that strives to take measures for the betterment of Allentown. If you are interested in getting involved in this or other initiatives, please contact Matthew Ryan at: matthew.yan@allentown.org

Matthew Ryan is Allentown Association president.
Time to sign up for Allen West Festival

The call is out for artists and craftspeople wishing to exhibit and volunteers and sponsors willing to help out in the 11th annual Allen West Festival to be held June 12 and 13 in conjunction with the 53rd annual Allentown Art Festival.

Vendors can apply through April 10. An application form can be downloaded from the Association’s Web site, www.allentown.org, or telephone (716) 881-1024.

Gretchan Grobe, chairperson for seven festivals, is chairing Allen West again this year. The event is the Allentown Association’s biggest revenue source, raising funds for the protection, promotion and improvement of this historic community.

Volunteers are needed and it’s lot of fun,” she said. “We need people to set up, clean up and help man the booths the days of the event.”

“There are several levels of sponsorship for Allen West. If you are interested in being a sponsor or know of anyone who would like to be a sponsor, please contact me or Andrew Eisenhardt, Association executive director, at the Allentown Association,” Gretchan Grobe said.

Allen West was begun in 1999 by the Allentown Association, with the cooperation of the Allentown Village Society, sponsor of the Art Festival, to keep the area of Allen St. west of Elmwood Ave. safe during the festival and to eliminate disorderliness with unregulated vendors.

This rendering shows how window space in a vacant storefront could be put to use to implement the Faces of Allentown project of board member Adam Sokol. See article on opposite page.
Violence touches Allentown community

Two persons were killed in violent incidents in Allentown in January and February. In a third case of violence, a woman suffered a serious eye injury.

Rick Costner Jr., 18, a sous chef, at Merge restaurant, 439 Delaware Ave., was fatally shot in the restaurant on Jan. 18. His father, Rick Costner Sr., restaurant manager, was injured. A dishwasher at the restaurant was charged in both shootings.

Merge, which opened in early 2009 and quickly attracted a loyal clientele, reopened the day after the funeral of its young employee. The Allentown community extends its condolences and best wishes to the restaurant staff.

On Feb. 1, Eric Ocasio III, 27, was killed by police surrounding a house at 57 Trinity Place after a police officer was injured by shotgun blast during a confrontation. Several nearby streets were blocked off and some nearby homes were evacuated during the four-hour confrontation.

Early New Year’s Day, Lindsay C. Harmon, 29, suffered a serious eye injury in a stabbing, as she left Roxy’s, a lesbian bar at 884 Main St. A City of Tonawanda woman has been charged with assault and a bias-motivated crime.

Grants are available to hide gas meters

If you have an ugly gas meter in front of your home or property in Allentown or any other historic preservation district in Buffalo, grants are available to pay for concealing or camouflaging the gas meter.

With spring on its way, it’s time to take steps to remedy the eyesore of an intrusive gas meter.

The grants are being awarded by the Allentown Association with funding from National Fuel. The Association manages the fund and reviews applications for grants, not only for Allentown but for any historic preservation district in Buffalo.

If a gas meter has been installed on your property between the façade and the curb, you may apply for a maximum grant of $200 for a single-family house or $400 for a residential building 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 maximum of $500.

Property owners may use plants or other materials to mitigate the intrusiveness of the gas meters as long as the technical guidelines, available on the Allentown Association website www.allentown.org, are followed. The guidelines were set by National Fuel to ensure access to the meters. Application forms may be downloaded from the website or obtained by contacting the Association at 14 Allen St., Buffalo 14202, telephone (716) 881-1024.

Caitlin Crowell, new gas-meter chairperson for the Association, and Andrew Eisenhardt, Association executive director, can answer your questions.
An Allentown Almanac

Nearly 40 people attended another successful business mixer Jan. 25 in the East End Salon, sponsored by the Allentown Association’s Business Relations Committee. Representatives of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus attended and held a fruitful exchange of ideas with Allentown business people, Ed Castine, committee chairman, reports.

A tea attended by 45 people at the Quaker Bonnet Eatery Jan. 30 celebrated the launch of the book “Nine Cats, Nine Lives,” by the late Elizabeth Deichman who wrote about the cats who came to her North Pearl St. home. A check for $1,000 was presented to the City of Buffalo Animal Shelter by Veronica Hogle, who co-authored the book and arranged the tea. Sales of the book have so far generated about $6,500 for animal shelters.

Caitlin Crowell is new chairperson of the Allentown Association’s Nominating Committee.

The commemorative plaque presented by the Allentown Association to the Adult Education Center (School 46) has been installed on the right side of the school’s main entrance. The plaque cites the designation of the school and Elmwood Park as a local landmark.

John Cromwell, a former Allentown Association president, saved some historic cobblestone when he spotted a crew removing the stones from a walkway to Elmwood Park from Edward St. in December. The worked was stopped, but more needs to be done; the stones need to be reset, he reports.

Don’t miss the showing of works by celebrated Buffalo photographer Milton Rogovin, titled “A Yemeni Community,” at El Museo, 91 Allen St., April 23 to June 11.

Congratulations to Sarah Gilewicz, Allentown Association membership chairperson, for spearheading the “Access Allentown” discount program which should benefit individual members, participating business members, and the Association at large which stands to broaden its membership.

The College Street Gallery held its first Kids Show Jan. 30 with works of about 20 young artists displayed.
**Lofts open at 430 Virginia, Ambassador to be renovated**

Tenants have started moving into the Allentown Lofts after the completion of the $2.8-million conversion of the National Casket Co. building, 430 Virginia St. at Park St., into 10 rental units.

The conversion of the four-story brick structure, built in 1924, by the Kissling Interests took three years. Most of the apartments range in size from 1,600 to 2,500 square feet and rent for $1,750 to $2,500 a month, with one smaller unit. About half the units had been rented by the beginning of February.

The building will have a 1,500-square-feet rooftop garden. Apartments feature hardwood floors, open floor plans, audio-video intercoms, custom kitchens, in-unit furnace, water heater, washer, and dryer, thick insulation, custom blinds, central air conditioning, and generous storage. Several apartments have stunning views of the downtown Buffalo skyline.

New windows conform to requirements set by the city Preservation Board. One unit retains the exterior garage door, preserving the façade on Park St., although the door no longer opens and inside is living space.

Kissling Interests has also acquired the Ambassador apartments at 175 North St. and plans to renovate the entire building beginning next summer, with tenants offered the option at staying or being assisted in relocating, said Mark LaCasse, Kissling executive vice president. The eight-story Ambassador, built in the early 1900s, has 119 units. The project will also include the adjacent structure at 173 North St. with 14 units.

**New business opens on Elmwood**

Sugar Scrub Natural Nail Bar and Salon has opened at 168 Elmwood Ave., operated by Kenchata Carter. It is open daily except Sundays and Mondays. Telephone 390-7462.

**Kleinhans Community Assn. elects new officers**

By Hollly Holdaway

Over the last several months, the Kleinhans Community Association has filled a slate of new board members, all serving on a volunteer basis for the good of the neighborhood.

The newly elected officers are: Co-presidents, John Allen and Carlos Benitez; vice president, James Bragg; secretary, Cyndy Allen; treasurer, Ted Andrews.

In addition, block leaders have been nominated and committees are being formed to help reinvigorate the group with actions specifically tailored to improve the quality, safety, and aesthetics of one of Allentown’s fine neighborhoods.

If you’d like to volunteer on a committee, help with individual events, or you simply want to read about what’s happening in the Kleinhans neighborhood, please visit www.kleinhansca.org for more information.
Trees available for spring planting

By Daniel Culross

Do you have an open spot in front of your home or business that needs a street tree? Do you have a spot along the sidewalk or front yard that’s in need of some shade or a flowering specimen tree? Did you know that street trees add value to your property, provide cooling shade on the hottest days of the summer, and help filter out pollutants? The City of Buffalo, in conjunction with Re-Tree WNY, will be offering free street trees to residents and property owners for planting in the right-of-way in front of their property. The trees come bare-rooted, meaning they’re light, easy to pick up and plant, yet are already 6 to 10 feet tall. The deadline for ordering trees is fast approaching. Have your request in to the Allentown Association by Friday, March 6 for the May planting.

Important spring 2010 Re-Tree WNY dates:
— March 6. Deadline for placing tree orders through block clubs and community groups.
— March 25-28. ReTreeWNY at Plantasia in Hamburg. If anyone is interested in sitting at the booth for a few hours please let me know.
— April 17. Annual recognition party, additional information will be forthcoming.
— April 24, 2010 – South Park Avenue Planting. ReTreeWNY will be planting about 400 trees as part of a Streetscape project. Bare root planting technique training session will precede this planting project.
— April 29, 2010 – Trees delivered, unloaded, sorted and counted at 1120 Seneca St. If you come to help unload, you may pick up your trees.
— April 30, 2010 – Tree distribution, 1120 Seneca St.
— May 1-2, 2010 – Planting days.

To request a tree planting, to volunteer to help plant trees or for more information, please contact Elizabeth Licata, elicata@buffalospree.com or Daniel Culross, dculross@wdae.com.

Why isn’t your garden on the Garden Walk?

By Elizabeth Licata

In 2001, Allentown finally got added to the territory of Garden Walk Buffalo. Garden Walk has long been a perfect opportunity for suburbanites and others not familiar with our wonderful neighborhood and the benefits of city living to appreciate the architecture and other charms of Allentown. It also gets your neighbors gardening and is a great beautification tool.

But now there are other good reasons to sign up for Garden Walk. It took a while, but Garden Walk is now nationally recognized as the largest free garden tour in the United States. The event has received a lot of national press, including quotes like this from Martha Stewart Living: “Most people wouldn't think of Buffalo as an epicenter of American horticulture, but it looks like gardening may be their official pas-
time," and this from Fine Gardening: “It was not until I experienced the extraordinary Garden Walk held in Buffalo, New York, that I realized that some people live in neighborhoods in which everyone gardens.”

All this attention has led the Buffalo Convention and Visitors Board to designate 5 weeks of the summer 2010 (June 26-July 31) as a National Garden Festival in Buffalo. There will be visiting horticultural celebrities, concerts, lectures, special exhibitions, and, of course, all of the suburban and neighborhood garden tours that normally happen at this time. The climax of the festival will be Garden Walk Buffalo 2010.

So if you’ve never thought about getting on Garden Walk before, this is the year. Sign up at gardenwalkbuffalo.com. The deadline is April 15.
Calendar of Events

**Allendale Theater**, 203 Allen St. Theater of Youth 2009-2010 begins Oct. 9. “Amelia Earhart”, commemorating National Women’s History Month, for ages 8 and up, opening March 26 at 7 p.m., continues Saturday and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 11. “Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type,” based on the book by Doreen Cronin, for ages 4 and up, opening May 14 at 7 p.m., continues Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. through June 6. For information and tickets, call 884-4400.

**Allentown Association**, 14 Allen St., Annual membership dinner, April 13, 7 p.m., preceded by cash bar at 6 p.m. Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St. Board of Directors meets March 9, May 11, 7 p.m., 14 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. 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, to Dec. 30. Western New York Artists Group members’ exhibition, juried by Ted Pietrzak, traditional works, through March 12; modern works, March 19 to April 16. Joan Fitzgerald, 40-year retrospective, April 23 to May 28. For information call 885-2251.


**College Street Gallery**, 244 Allen St., Wednesday to Friday, 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday 2 to 8 p.m. Photography and paintings by 20 artists in co-op. "Buffalo Abstraction," new works By Matthew John Pasquarella, May 7 to June 2, opening reception, May 7, 7 to 10 p.m. For information call 856-2839.

**El Museo**, 91 Allen St. Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m., and by appointment. “Blackbirds Speaking,” works by Andrw Ortiz, March 5 to April 9. “A Yemeni Community,” photographs of the 1970s by Milton Rogovin, funded by the New York Council on the Humanities, April 23 to June 11. 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 13, April 10, May 8, beginning at St. Paul’s at 10 a.m., transportation not provided.

**Gallery tour**, About 18 Allentown galleries will have extended evening hours, some with new exhibits and receptions, March 5, April 2, May 7.

**Homeownership Center of Buffalo**, 560 Delaware Ave., suite 101. Free orientation for prospective home buyers, March 10 and 23, April 6 and 21, May 5 and 25. 5:30 to 6:30 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. “Presidents Work,” mixed media exhibit by current and former Buffalo Society for Artists presidents, through March 6. “Juncture,” recent works by Catherine Parker and Monica Angle, March 5 to April 3. “Stratus,” works by Dennis and Tara Nahabetian, April 9 to May 2. For information call 984-9572.

**Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum**, 220 North St. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Centenary of the Boy Scouts, through April. For information call 886-3656.

**Kleinhans Music Hall**, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, classical series: Rachmaninoff and Ravel, March 6, 8 p.m., March 7, 2:30 p.m. Schubert; “Great” Symphony, March 27, 8 p.m., March 28, 2:30 p.m. Bohemian Rhapsody, Mozart, Suk, Dvorak, April 9, 8 p.m., April 10, 2:30 p.m. Drums on the Niagara, Gershwin, world premiere of Eric Ewazen’s Percussion Concerto, Revuelta, April 17, 8 p.m., April 18, 2:30 p.m. Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 2, May 1, 8 p.m., May 2, 2:30 p.m. Brahms Requiem, with Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, May 15, 8 p.m, May 16, 2:30 p.m. Pops series: Brava Broadway, 3 Broadway Divas, Marc h 20, 8 p.m. Marvin Hamlisch’s “Star Search,” April 24, 8 p.m. Simply Sinatra with Steve Lippia, May 8, 8 p.m., “Music Man” in Concert, with Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, May 29, 8 p.m. Buffalo Sings series, Passport to Europe, with Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, April 25, 2:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call 885-5000. Buffalo Chamber Music Society concerts, Osiris Trio, March 9, 8 p.m. Takacs Quartet, April 20, 8 p.m. Musicians from Marlboro, May 11, 8 p.m. For information and tickets, call 462-4939, www.bflichambermusic.org.

**Nina Freudenheim Gallery**, Hotel Lenox, 140 North St. Photography by William Dubois, March 13 to April 21. Tuesday through Friday, 10 to 5; Saturday, by appointment. For information call 882-5777.

**Quaker Bonnet Eatery**, 175 Allen St., Paintings by Jonathan Stafford, March; Sharon Fundalinks, April; William Hutchinson, May.

**Rust Belt Books**, 202 Allen St. Book store, poetry by Tom McPeek, March 7, 4 p.m. UP Poetics presents “Porne”ticas,” March 19, 7 p.m. Annual back- room book, $5 a bag, April 1. “Private Wars,” play by James McLure, April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, at 7 p.m. May, art work by Maura Tomm. American Repertory Theater, March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, at 7 p.m. For information call 850-0095.

**Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (Wilcox Mansion)**, 641 Delaware Ave. 2. Monday –Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, noon to 5. Guided tours every house on the half hour with last tourat 3:30 p.m. New exhibit, “From Protecting National Interests to Preserving National History: The Story of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site,” open through June. Mother-Daughter Tea, May 1 and 2, 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. seatings, reservations needed. For information call 884-0095.
**Preservation News**

In preservation news, Friends of the Night People has been referred to Housing Court by city building inspectors for construction of a concrete parking area at 394 Hudson St. without Preservation Board approval.

The Preservation Board has set a second public hearing for March 4 on demolition of a house at the rear of 32 Park St. and erection of a gate and fence. There was insufficient notification for a hearing held in January.

The board also has authorized demolition of a structure at the southwest corner of Main and North Sts., built for a convenience store but never occupied. The site is to be planted with additional landscaping.

The board is expected to hear on March 4 the case of 66 Elmwood Ave. where a new front porch and glass block windows were installed without board authorization.

The owner of a commercial building at 506 Delaware Ave., once the Chilion Farrar mansion, has been given by Housing Court until the end of March to repair damaged bricks.

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**Allentown featured on War of 1812 bicentennial map**

By Christopher Brown

Allentown will be featured in a new, full-color War of 1812 Bicentennial map created by the Niagara 1812 Legacy Council. The Ontario Ministry of Tourism has funded the first printing of 50,000 copies of the map, designed to promote tourism of Niagara Frontier historic sites on both sides of the border from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.

Two sites in Allentown are included on the map: Guide Board Rd. now North Street, with a marker at Linwood Ave., which connected Main St. to Niagara St. and the Black Rock Ferry; and First Presbyterian Church on Symphony Circle. The church, Buffalo’s oldest, was founded in 1812. Its original records were saved by a member who stuffed them in a pillowcase as he fled Buffalo while it was being burned by the British in December 1813.

Also on the map is the Job Hoisington historic marker at 453 Porter Ave., just outside Allentown, in front of Karpeles Porter Hall Museum. Hoisington was a Buffalo militiaman who single-handedly held back the British and their Indian allies as they made their way east on Guide Board Road. Hoisington lost his life where the marker is located, but bought his fellow militiamen enough time to escape with their lives.

An online version of the map can be found at www.discover1812.com. Christopher Brown, former Allentown Association president, is currently coordinating resources from Erie County for participation in the bicentennial War of 1812 commemoration events and will ensure that Allentown is well represented. If you are interested in keeping abreast of upcoming developments, please join a special email list-serve that has been set up at www.groups.yahoo.com/group/ErieCountyNY1812/ or call Chris Brown at 884-1914.
Artvoice Mardi Gras Parade on Allen St. Feb. 16 raised funds for Hospice Buffalo. Photos by Michael Mulley