



# The Allentown Neighbor

September, October, November 2015

Volume 50, Number 4

Published quarterly by The Allentown Association Inc., 14 Allen St., Buffalo, New York 14202  
Phone: (716) 881-1024 • Email: allIntown@localnet.com • Website: www.allentown.org

## Board urges study of 2 a.m. bar closings

By JONATHAN WHITE

Allentown Association President

The Allentown Association thinks Erie County legislators should study changing the law to mandate a 2 a.m. closing time for taverns rather than the current 4 a.m.

The Association Board voted overwhelmingly to send a letter of support to Erie County Clerk Christopher Jacobs, who is asking

the legislature to thoughtfully examine such a change.

Two primary factors influenced the decision to support an examination of an earlier closing:

First, the No. 1 complaint from residents voiced to the Association is regarding the noise and property damage that occurs in the  
*Continued on Page 8*



## Fall Festival is Oct. 3, and it will be family-friendly

Of course there'll be a beer tent at the Allentown Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 3. But the event really will be a family affair with music, kids' activities, a bicycle excursion and local crafts for sale – not a mere Oktoberfest drinking blast.

The festival begins at 11 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m. – two hours earlier than the end of last year's inaugural event.

The bicycle ride, sponsored by GO-bike Buffalo, will open for check-in at 8:45 a.m. and take to the streets at 9:45 a.m., returning just before noon. The \$35 entree fee includes a free T-shirt and a \$7 voucher for food and drink at the festival and at some Allentown restaurants.

Two stages will be set up – one near Virginia Place and one between Main and North Pearl streets with low-amplified sound systems for mostly acoustic musicians. There will be 42 vendors, mostly selling crafts, but there won't be food trucks.

Kids' activities run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There'll be a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting and pumpkin



**Aerial Verde will perform exuberant acrobatic dancing.**

painting. Other attractions include acrobatic dancer Aerial Verde and famous puppeteer Michelle Costa.

Allen Street will be closed from Virginia Place to Main Street. Franklin Street will be closed at Allen, but to

accommodate businesses and residents on the two blocks north and south of Allen, drivers will be allowed to go both ways on those short portions of normally one-way Franklin.

There will be further details about the festival posted on the Association's website, [www.allentown.org](http://www.allentown.org), as the time draws near. Look under the "events" tab.

The festival is a fundraising event for the Allentown Association. Sponsors are: Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, The Public, Eric Mower+ Associates, First Niagara Bank, GO-bike Buffalo and the African-American Cultural Center through a grant from County Legislator Barbara Miller-Williams.

Last year's festival was a great success. It attracted thousands, including a couple of hundred children, and netted \$7,000 for the Association.

This year should be even better. Ads for it will appear in The Public, in Artvoice and on WBFO. Please show up for a good time, and bring children or grandchildren.

For updates, follow on Twitter @AllentownAssoc



and like the Association on Facebook.





Uniland plans a major residential development here.

## Association opposes demo of Nazareth pending approval of replacement

The Allentown Association is opposing Uniland Development's request to demolish the former Nazareth Nursing Home at 291 North St. before detailed plans are approved for what would replace it.

Uniland in the spring paid \$1 million for the two-story, 63,660-square-foot complex and nearly 3-acre lot.

In June it filed a preliminary site plan with the Buffalo Preservation Board showing six low-rise residential buildings with private patios and attached garages. Uniland provided no detailed drawings, however, saying the final design is on-going. It sought permission to demo the current buildings in the meantime.

"We have determined that it is not economically feasible to renovate the existing structures for re-use and bring them up to the current building code," said Michael Longo, Uniland architect and project manager. Uniland said it plans a "luxury residential community," but did not indicate whether it would be condos or apartments.

The Preservation Board on June 23 tabled Uniland's demolition request pending more details after members of the Association's Housing and Historic Preservation committee and some neighbors cautioned against precipitous action. A hearing was scheduled at the board's Sept. 3 meeting, but Uniland did not show.

Some Summer Street neighbors complained that the site plan showed development all the way to their backyard fences, eliminating green space and a big tree in which a falcon nests.

Association President Jonathan White sent the board a letter noting that "any such project is required to undergo a full environmental impact review in addition to full project review and approval of plans by the Preservation Board and other applicable City of Buffalo agencies before any demolition may begin."

He also expressed skepticism that the existing buildings could not be redeveloped, as Ellicott Development has done, turning the Rosa Coplon/Grace Manor nursing home into high-end apartments, classrooms and offices.

## Zipcar may woo CarShare orphans

If you were one of the 900 members of Buffalo CarShare, you may be getting an invitation to join Zipcar, the big national company that services the University at Buffalo.

CarShare, which had shared offices with the Allentown Association, ceased operations June 15 after its insurer dropped it and it could not find new coverage. New York State's no-fault law is to blame.

Zipcar paid \$20,000 for CarShare's membership list. CarShare's 19 vehicles were sold.

Zipcar, a division of Avis, is self-insured and is on a roll. A few weeks ago it bought Community Car, a pioneering car-share company in Madison, Wis. A few weeks earlier, it beat out Corner Car, a car sharer owned by Hertz, to take over in Hoboken, N.J., and beat out Hertz in Orlando, Fla. too.

This year it has expanded in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Toronto, Ottawa – and even opened in Turkey.



North Street's deteriorating sandstone curbs are being replaced with granite, except in the few spots where the old curbs remain in good condition. The street's unique 18-inch ribbon of brick between pavement and curb is being re-laid as well. Next the pavement will be resurfaced from Delaware Avenue to Symphony Circle, including the circle.



At left is Mayfair Lane's English hamlet-like pedestrian street, with No. 21 at the end. Above is No. 21's great hall, which has a medieval ambiance.

## Two amazing neighborhood residences are for sale

Two of Allentown's most astonishing homes are for sale or being sold.

One is the Castle House at 21 Mayfair Lane, listed at \$849,900.

The other is the Coatsworth Mansion at 49 Cottage St., listed at \$399,500, with a contingent buy offer pending.

Mayfair Lane, on North Street across from Irving Place, was designed in 1926 by architects E.B. Green & Son and Alan Hart Hopkins to create the charm of a small English hamlet in the middle of the city.

It has a landscaped terrace one story above grade level that serves as a pedestrian street. Beneath the terrace is a driveway that allows access to garages below each unit.

There are 10 townhouses on the east side and 10 on the west – and at the north end, overlooking the “hamlet,” a whimsical castle complete with tower and drawbridge. That's No. 21, which E.B. Green Jr. designed for his own house.

It has about 4,000 square feet of space, its most impressive interior feature being the great hall room with massive



The Coatsworth Mansion at 49 Cottage St. is huge.

fireplace, wood paneling and carved gothic ceiling braces, and walls of stone and stucco. Very much the feel of a medieval castle.

21 Mayfair is listed with Lauren Kostek of Gurney Becker & Bourne.

The Coatsworth was built in 1897 in Second Empire style. It has 20 rooms and 8,374 square feet of space. From its iconic fourth-floor tower, you can see Canada.

The current owner lives on the first and second floors and rents out two apartment units on the third.

The Coatsworths were one of Buffalo's most prominent early families, moving from Britain, to Canada, then to Buffalo in the early 1800s.

Thomas Coatsworth made his fortune after the Civil War running steam freighters on the Great Lakes. He established one of the city's first grain elevators.

The Neville coat of arms above the entry is noted to be the banner under which the Coatsworth family served in the War of the Roses.

Coatsworth Mansion wasn't on the market two weeks before Susan Lenahan of MJ Peterson found a buyer.



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# DIGGIN' ALLENTOWN

## Medina Sandstone revisited

By **MAX STEPHAN**

On every street in Allentown and most of historic Buffalo, there is a strong presence of the color red (or, more accurately, pale shades of maroon). Variations can be found in the building blocks of churches and mansions, original portions of sidewalks and curbstones, and the cobblestones once used prior to red brick roads. At the turn of the century, right here in Western New York, Medina Sandstone was King.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's, Medina Sandstone was the product of more than 50 quarries in Orleans County, just north of Buffalo. Though the high-quality Medina Sandstone was sold and shipped to other states as far west as Michigan, most of the stone did not have too far to travel. In Western New York, Medina Sandstone was used in a variety of ways, ranging from public use as sidewalks and curbstones on streets, to the masonry work of mansions on Millionaire's Row, to one-of-a-kind gothic churches like St. Louis Roman Catholic Church on Main Street.

But sadly, by the 1920's, Medina Sandstone lost its appeal; the use of concrete became prevalent, offering cheaper and swifter methods of construction.

Most of the Medina Sandstone sidewalks in Allentown and other parts of Buffalo have been replaced by concrete. Now, throughout Buffalo, there



**On College Street, a sidewalk of freshly reset Medina Sandstone enhances the adjacent front raised-garden — a very different look from concrete walk and grass lawn.**

is a growing interest in architectural preservation and restoration. A number of residents are taking steps to help bring their homes back to their original look, especially in Allentown.

Two homes on College Street are excellent examples. One couple decided to have their original Medina Sandstone sidewalk and patio reset. The root systems of trees often shift stone so dramatically that the sidewalk be-

comes a tripping hazard; such was the case. After each piece was removed, a new foundation was set, allowing the stones to be restored in their original pattern.

The sidewalk is now in perfect condition, and NOT concrete. Another couple on College Street opted to take an alternative method of restoration: They decided to have their concrete sidewalk removed and replaced with reclaimed Medina Sandstone. No tripping hazard, no crumbling concrete, just genuine historic restoration.

Some federally funded projects have taken place as well. On Delaware Avenue, the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site pushed several projects to improve and expand the site. One step was removing the concrete sidewalk on the eastern side of Delaware Avenue and replacing it with Medina Sandstone. The project's purpose was to bring all components of the site back to its original look when Roosevelt was sworn into presidency right here in Buffalo over a century ago.

Allentown has a history unlike any other part of Buffalo. It is through careful and cautious steps of restoration — some major, and others minor — that we are capable of holding on to what makes our neighborhood one-of-a-kind, just like each and every piece of Medina Sandstone.

*Max Stephan is chair of the Association's Beautification Committee and owner of Allentown Landscape LLC.*

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## Neighborhood on upswing with apartment renovations

Several major renovation projects are under way in Allentown, mostly spurred by developers seeking opportunities to serve the growing workforce of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

- Buffalo Real Estate Ventures, owned by Canadians Donald Cameron and Paul Smith have acquired 14, 18 and 20 St. Louis Place, three adjoining buildings, and are renovating them.

No. 18 has been completely remodeled. No. 14 is in the process of being converted to loft units. No. 20 will soon be upgraded to match the rest. Altogether there are 30 apartments, all lofts or singles.

Going in are new kitchens with solid stone counters, dual flush toilets and fireplaces.

The developers have removed drop ceilings, converted old wood beams into built-in desks, sanded down old doors to preserve them, exposed and sealed brick walls, insulated walls, replaced the windows, and added washers and dryers to each apartment.

- Linwood-Allentown Renovation LLC, owned by Aaron Siegel and Brett Fitzpatrick, is nearly finished with extensive renovations of apartments in the Red Jacket Building at Main and Allen streets and the Buckingham at Mariner and Allen.

Every housing unit in those buildings is for low-income tenants. The investment in improvements works out to about \$50,000 per unit, Siegel told *The Buffalo News*.

The Red Jacket is where the Allentown Association had its offices at 14 Allen until the ceiling collapsed July 12.

At the Buckingham, building inspectors stopped the painting of exterior brick. Unpainted brick cannot be painted without consent of the Buffalo Preservation Board.

- Don Gilbert will have completed his \$1 million transformation of 481 Franklin St. into apartments by the time you read this.



**Three adjoining buildings at 14, 18 and 20 St. Louis Place off of Virginia Street are being heavily renovated by Canadian developers.**

Built as the headquarters of Local 210 of the Laborers Union and more recently home to a jewelry manufacturer, it is being converted into 12 luxury apartments – seven one-bedroom units and five studios, three of which are handicapped-accessible. Each has a washer and dryer, high-end kitchen appliances, air conditioning, basement storage units and parking.

- Peter Rouff, who owns 888 Main St., home to Coco Bar & Bistro, is renovating the building's second-floor apartments. He's turning six shabby units into four classy ones averaging over 900 square feet of space each.

- Noel Sutton, who already has renovated several Allentown properties, has acquired 242-244 Allen at the corner of College Street. Restaurant storefronts are on the ground level and apartments on the second.

He is planning to renovate the apartments, repair the façade of the building, and add a roof deck for residents. In future, he may build a rooftop apartment in the western rear corner that won't be visible from the street.

## Association's annual membership meeting is Oct. 13

The annual membership meeting of the Allentown Association will be held at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 13 in the Karpeles Manuscript Museum at Allen and Elmwood.

On the agenda, as always, is the annual election of the board of directors, as well as reports to the membership from officers and committee chairs.

Directors are elected for two-year terms and can serve no more than three terms in succession, although often some resign before their terms are up or decline to stand for re-election. As of the deadline for this issue of *The Allentown Neighbor*, it was uncertain how many new board members might be nominated.

Any member who wishes to be considered should immediately email the Nominating Committee at [allntown@localnet.com](mailto:allntown@localnet.com) and ask to be interviewed.

Before the end of September, members will receive a postcard reminding them of the annual meeting and notifying them of who the nominees are.

The meeting is an opportunity for members to ask questions about Association activities and offer suggestions on how to improve service to the neighborhood, or suggest new initiatives. It's also a chance for residents to meet people from other areas of Allentown beyond those they know from their own street or block.



## Calendar of Autumn Events

**Allendale Theater**, 203 Allen St. **Theatre of Youth** presents "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" for ages 7 and up, Oct. 9-25; "A Little House Christmas" for ages 5 and up, Dec. 4 to 20. For information and tickets, call 884-4400, see [www.theatreofyouth.org](http://www.theatreofyouth.org).

**Allentown Association**. Annual meeting, Oct. 13, 7 p.m., Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum, 220 North St. at Elmwood Ave.; Board of Directors meeting, Nov. 10, location to be determined. For information call 881-1024 or see [www.allentown.org](http://www.allentown.org).

**Art Dialogue Gallery**, 5 Linwood Ave., Tuesday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Louis Vastola, industrial drawings and paintings, through Nov. 13. Len Kagelmacher, photographs, Nov. 20 to Dec. 30. For information call 885-2251 or see [artdialoguegallery.com](http://artdialoguegallery.com).

**Artists Group Gallery**, 1 Linwood Ave. Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adele Becker, retrospective, through Oct. 2. Annual regional artists' exhibition, juried by Rachel Adams, Oct. 9 through Nov. 13. Annual Artful Gifts, Nov. 20 to Dec. 30. For information call, 885-2251 or see [wnyag.com](http://wnyag.com).

**Betty's restaurant**, 370 Virginia St. at College St. "Chicken Little," drawings by Matt Duquette, through Sept. 20.

**Buffalo Big Print gallery**, 78 Allen St. Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information call 884-1777.

**Casa de Arte**, 141 Elmwood Ave., Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday 6 to 9 p.m. and by appointment. Paintings and fused-glass works by Geraldine Liquidano, through Sept. 20. Photography and film by Bill Jungels, opening reception Sept. 26, 6 to 10 p.m., through Oct. 25. Dia de los Muertos, works by Mara Odette, opening reception Oct. 31, 6 to 10 p.m., through Nov. 2. For information call 227-0170, or see [casadeartegallery.com](http://casadeartegallery.com).

**EI Museo**, 91 Allen St., Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Day of the Dead exhibit, Oct. 2, opening reception 6 to 9 p.m., through Nov. 2. Works by William West, Nov. 6 to Nov. 27. For information, call 464-4692.

**First Friday Gallery Tours**, Allentown galleries will have extended evening hours, some with new exhibits and receptions, Oct. 2, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4. See [www.firstfridaysallentown.org](http://www.firstfridaysallentown.org).

**Glow and Prism Galleries**, 224 Allen St., Tuesday to Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Constructivists, work by Douglas Bauer, through Sept. 27. "Driven by Imagination," paintings by Jim Estep, through Sept. 30. For information call 983-2112.

**Indigo gallery**, 74 Allen St., Tuesday to Friday, noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. For information, call 984-9572.

**Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum**, 220 North St., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Robert Fulton and the U.S. Navy, through December. For information call 885-4139.

**Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** classical concerts, "Lang Lang Returns!," Glinka, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.; "Northern Lights @ Kleinhans," Sebastian Fagerlund, Grieg, Sibelius, Oct. 3, 8 p.m., Oct. 4, 2:30 p.m.; "Beethoven's Eroica," John Adams, Beethoven, Oct. 24, 8 p.m. Oct. 25, 2:30 p.m.; "Ukulele Wizard," Roussel, Byron Yasui, Ibert, Gottschalk, Nov. 7, 8 p.m., Nov. 8, 2:30 p.m.; "Elgar's Enigma," Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m., Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Philharmonic Pops concerts, "Music of the Mad Men Era." Sept. 26, 8 p.m.

"Jason Alexander," Oct. 17, 8 p.m.; "A Psycho Halloween," Oct. 31, 8 p.m. "Sounds of Simon & Garfunkel," Nov. 13, 10:30 a.m., Nov. 14, 8 p.m. Special Philharmonic concerts, "Faithfully," Sept. 18, 8 p.m., "The Best of Broadway," Sept. 20, 7 p.m. For tickets call 885-5000 or see [www.bpo.org](http://www.bpo.org). **Buffalo Chamber Music Society** concerts, Carpe Diem Oct. 13, 8 p.m.; Montrose Trio, Nov. 17, 8 p.m.; Christopher O'Riley and Matt Haimovitz, Dec. 1, 3 p.m., and Dec. 3, 8 p.m. For tickets call 462-4939 or see [www.bflochambermusic.org](http://www.bflochambermusic.org).

**Manuel Barreto Gallery**, 430 Delaware Ave., Tuesday, Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For information call 867-8937.

**Nina Freudenheim Gallery**, Hotel Lenox, 140 North St. Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays by appointment. For information call 882-5777.

**Pausa Art House**, 19 Wadsworth St. Art, music, entertainment café, Thursday Friday, Saturday, from 6 p.m. to midnight. Pianothon, Sept. 10; 8/12 Path Band, Oct. 31; Buffalo Jazz Octet with Joe Ford, Nov. 12. Call 697-9069. See [Pausaarthouse.com](http://Pausaarthouse.com).

**Studio Hart**, 65 Allen St. Tuesday through Saturday, 11 to 3. "Unclad: Male Figurative Work," exhibit of works by 14 artists, through Sept. 26. Talk by Gerald Mead, curator of the exhibit, Sept. 26, 2 p.m. New work by Joseph Ragoccia, Oct. 2 to 31. "Toy Store" group exhibit of art about toys, Nov. 6 through Dec. 24. For information call 536-8337.

**TGW@497 Gallery**, 497 Franklin St., Wednesday to Friday, noon to 5 p.m., Saturday, noon to 3 p.m. For information call 949-6604.

**Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (Wilcox Mansion)**, 641 Delaware Ave. Hours, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. TRivia Nite, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., call for information; Teddy Bear story hour, for ages 3 to 8 accompanied by an adult, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, 2 p.m., call for information. Speakers' series, Sept. 22, Oct. 27, Nov. 24, 6 p.m., call for information. Anniversary and Award Dinner, Sept. 30, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., Buffalo-Niagara Convention Center, reservations necessary. For information, call 884-0095 or see [www.trsite.org](http://www.trsite.org).

**Walking Tours**, Allentown East, Sept. 14, 10 a.m., meets at Theodore Roosevelt Site, 641 Delaware Ave. Allentown's Delaware Ave., Sept. 26, 10 a.m., meets at TR Site. Kleinhans Music Hall Inside & Out, Sept. 26, 10 a.m. Allentown and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sept. 28, 10 a.m., meets at First Presbyterian Church, Symphony Circle. Allentown Literary Ghost Walk, Oct. 3, 4 p.m., meets at TR Site; Sat. Oct. 10, 6 p.m., meets at Karpeles Museum, 453 Porter Ave.; Oct. 17, 6 p.m. meets at Karpeles Museum, 453 Porter Ave.; Oct. 30, 5 p.m. meets at TR Site. The tours are a co-operative venture of the Allentown Association, the TR Site and Explore Buffalo. Literary Ghost Walk tickets are \$20; \$15 for TR Site and Allentown Association members and Explore Buffalo season pass holders. All other tours are \$15, \$5 for students, free for TR Site members and Explore Buffalo season pass holders. For further information call 884-0095 or see [www.trsite.org](http://www.trsite.org).

*The Calendar of Events is compiled by Pete Carroll. Email submissions to him at [pcbonjoura@gmail.com](mailto:pcbonjoura@gmail.com).*



## Set Halloween mood with fun and scary Literary Ghost Walks

Do you dare spend an October evening at twilight walking through a neighborhood whose streets were once the scene of a bloody War of 1812 battlefield filled with dead bodies scalped and tomahawked?

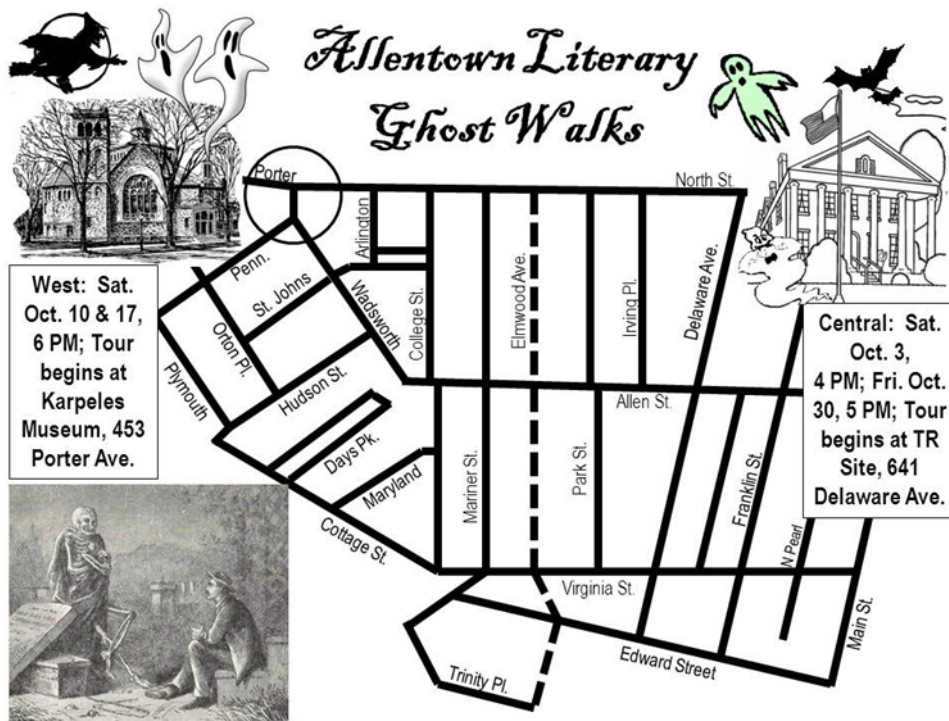
Or pass under the shadows cast by dark brick Victorian mansions ornamented with grotesque gargoyles, soaring chimneys, and witch's hat turrets?

Or tread upon the vestiges of abandoned graveyards and a tombstone maker?

With all of this found within Allentown, it's no wonder the historic district has inspired legends of ghosts and ghouls through the years, captured by its resident literary artists.

Join a two-hour tour to experience the shudder of an authentic Victorian ghost story as you hear tales that inspired writers such as Mark Twain, Anna Katharine Green and Harry Castlemon, against the backdrop of authentic Victorian homes with a reputation for being haunted.

There are two different walking routes: Allentown Central, which



includes North Street, Irving Place, Park Street, and Virginia Street; and Allentown West, which includes Symphony Circle, College Street, Cottage Street, and Day's Park.

The cost of each tour is \$20 (\$15 for members of the Allentown Association or Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site and

for Explore Buffalo pass holders.) Tours will be held whether skies are clear or raining:

Allentown Central, Sat., Oct. 3, 4 p.m., and Oct. 30, 5 p.m.; begins at TR Inaugural Site, 641 Delaware Ave.

Allentown West, Sat., Oct. 10, 6 p.m., and Oct. 17, 6 p.m.; begins at Karpeles Museum, 453 Porter Ave.

### The Allentown Association: *Serving Buffalo's Great Historic Neighborhood for 50 years*

Incorporated in 1963 as a 501(c)3 charitable not-for profit community organization. Our Mission Statement:

*The only purpose of The Allentown Association 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.*

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## The Allentown Neighbor

The newsletter is published quarterly; mailed to members and others, and distributed for free at retail venues in Allentown.

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## New national historic district slated west of Allentown

There's a new national historic district being formed adjacent to and west of Allentown.

It's the Fargo Estate Historic District, being sponsored by Kleinhans Music Hall Management Inc.

"On the occasion of Kleinhans' 75th anniversary, it's the perfect opportunity to recognize the neighborhood's significance, and to enhance its beauty and preservation through the availability of historic tax credits for property owners," said Christopher N. Brown, the Kleinhans corporation chairman.

(The music hall itself is in Allentown, which is both a local and national historic district.)

Nearly 150 years ago, one of the nation's wealthiest men, William G. Fargo, built an imposing urban estate on 2½ blocks bounded by Jersey and Pennsylvania streets, and Plymouth and Fargo avenues.

Other large houses soon arose in the vicinity but these were joined by middle class dwellings and even worker's cottages. After Fargo's death in 1881, his heirs began to sell portions of the estate, and the area soon became filled with impressive large single and two-family homes.

Today, the neighborhood is a district of approximately 300 fine homes, joined by a few small storefronts and apartment buildings, all built before 1930.

Funding for the effort was provided by the Preservation League of New York State, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, Councilmember David Rivera of the Niagara District, and The Baird Foundation. Principal authors of the nomination are Dr. Frank Kowsky, author and retired



distinguished Buffalo State College professor, and Martin Wachadlo, architectural historian.

Since the district is national only, its structures will not have the protection provided by the Buffalo Preservation Board. But it does offer property owners historic district tax credits for work that conforms to historic district standards.

## Western end of Allen Street is a trouble spot

*Continued from Page One*

late hours between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. as patrons leave the bars.

Second, Buffalo Police Department representatives have informed the Association's Crime and Safety Awareness Committee that Allen Street – particularly the westernmost block of Allen near Day's Park – is the most problematic area in the city with more late-night issues and more incidents of crime and 911 calls than any other part of Buffalo.

Recent reports in The Buffalo News and other publications have repeatedly noted the "frat house like atmosphere" of Allen Street that has re-

placed the Chippewa Strip as a place to come late at night and drink to excess.

While the Association is not convinced that an earlier closing is the solution, it supports serious investigation of any change that will make a meaningful difference.

Further, the Association notes that all counties adjacent or close to Erie County – including Niagara, Genesee, Wyoming, Chautauqua and Monroe county with the City of Rochester – all have a countywide 2 a.m. closing time. And those counties all support a significant number of taverns, so it is proven that an earlier closing does not

have a killing economic disincentive as some opponents have argued.

The Association calls on the legislature to take a serious look not only an earlier closing time, but also at other alternatives that could reduce the serious detrimental effects that tavern patrons have on the residential districts of Allentown.

The Association's position is that a sincere and thorough examination of options will result in positive outcome for all parties that allows tavern operators to thrive while respecting the rights of residents to a peaceful and non-destructive neighborhood.





## *Neighborhood news notes . . .*

### **Allen Street project is still coming**

It'll probably be November before the city finalizes revised plans for reconstructing Allen Street and calls another public meeting to review them.

The city engineer on the project, Michael Finn, is on parental leave after his wife delivered their first child.

Allen will be re-imagined, with an improved pedestrian environment, attractive sidewalk infrastructure, better lighting, and a new street surface.

There's about \$4.5 million in hand for it, and Fillmore District Councilmember David A. Fronczyk asked Mayor Brown to allocate \$1 million more in the next capital budget.

If all goes well, work will begin early next year.

### **Re-Tree planting scheduled Nov. 7**

Trees will be planted in Allentown on Saturday, Nov. 7, and volunteers are needed to do it.

Re-Tree WNY, a program of the Buffalo Green Fund, will supply the trees as it has every year since its formation after the 2006 October Surprise snow storm that destroyed so many thousands of trees. So far, more than 27,000 trees, including over 150 in Allentown, have been planted.

If you can help, bring a shovel, work gloves and any neighbors you can enlist to Wadsworth Street near First Presbyterian Church at 9 a.m. on planting day.

Allentown's Re-Tree leader, Daniel Culross can be reached at 888-0733 or at [djculross@excite.com](mailto:djculross@excite.com) if you have questions.

### **Association grows on social media**

The Allentown Association's Facebook page now has 5,300 people "liking" it. And Henry Raess, chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, says the Association now has 3,100 followers on Twitter, up from 1,800 a year ago.

### **Tenants expand at First Presbyterian**

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church has worshipped in their magnificent E.B. Green designed chapel and sanctuary since 1889. In addition, the church buildings have long served as an anchor for the community that both extends the mission of the church and provides revenue to ensure the stability of the historic campus.

For the past year, Houghton College, a Christian liberal arts college, has operated a satellite campus in the Parish House that offers an associate degree program. Many of the approximately 35 students beginning classes this month are members of the refugee community located on Buffalo's West Side.

Two other tenants recently expanded their presence. Village Church, a faith community that utilized the chapel for Sunday worship now occupies the entire third floor and



**Sept. 4's First Friday Gallery Walk featured the brass-heavy 12/8 Path Band and the inexpressibly theatrical Kyla Kegler troupe of costumed big-heads. Allen Street crowds were enthralled. You can always find out what's up for each month's Gallery Walk by going to: [www.firstfridaysallentown.com](http://www.firstfridaysallentown.com) or by liking "Greater Allentown First Fridays Gallery Tour" on Facebook.**

has completed renovations to support Sunday worship, bible studies and office space. Explore Buffalo has grown as a result of its success and expanded from a small single office to a larger second floor space of the Parish House.

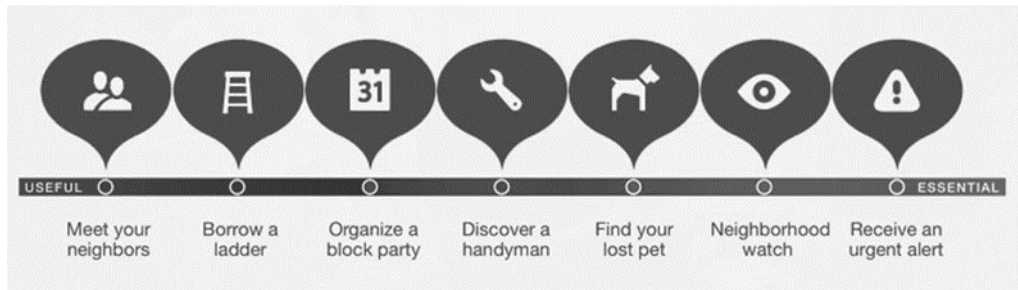
Two additional businesses round out the current tenant roster: *Room for Dessert*, a bakery operated by Donna Majewski, has leased a portion the church's commercial kitchen since 2005, and *Native Offerings*, a co-op farm operating under the Community Supported Agriculture model, uses the church courtyard as a distribution point for its popular crop share program.

First Church works with West Side Ministries to manage the tenant leases and to find additional tenants that will not only provide revenue to sustain the church buildings but businesses that also sustain the community.

Allentown residents who wish to tour the church should call 884-7250, ext. 11.

### **View National Trust sessions on PC**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, which held its annual conference here in 2011, is holding it this year Nov. 3-6 in Washington, D.C. – and you can stream or download some of the key sessions for free on your computer. To register, go to: [www.pastforwardconference.org](http://www.pastforwardconference.org) and click on the "Virtual Attendee" tab.



## Reminder: Give Nextdoor.com a try

You really need to sign onto Nextdoor.com to keep abreast about the concerns of your neighbors.

We've written before about this nationwide social network for neighborhoods, but only about 100 Allentowners have signed up so far out of 2,000 households.

It's free and easy to do. Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com), enter your email address, street address and zip code, and click "Get Started." You will automatically be signed onto the Allentown site.

If you had been on this summer, you'd have seen:

- Several posts from the Buffalo Police Department, on unlicensed door-to-door sales people, on a woman wanted in a stabbing, on a handyman scammer, on rewards for information on illegal guns, a missing person, and traffic alerts.
- Posts from neighbors reporting car pops, apartments for rent, lost and found cats and yard sales.
- A spirited discussion about bicyclists not obeying traffic rules.
- Nearly 40 messages about thefts of flower baskets.
- Over 60 messages about the methadone clinic at Hispanics United on Virginia Street, most complaining about drug dealers hanging around to undermine addicts' efforts to go clean. One post revealed something that the news media never reported: That on July 2, two men were found dead on the streets of overdoses, one at the corner of Maryland and West with a syringe still in his arm, and one on the sidewalk on Virginia near Tupper.

Only Allentown residents can be on the Allentown site. If you want, you can post profile information about yourself and an optional picture. Information shared is pass-

word protected and cannot be accessed by Google or other search engines.

Nextdoor says it will never require members to pay to use it, and will not sell users' private information to other companies.

Once on the Allentown site, residents can click on a tab to see message queues from eight adjoining or nearby neighborhoods if they wish, including Elmwood Village, West Village, Linwood and Lower West Side. After all, a lost dog might stray outside the neighborhood, and burglars in one neighborhood might easily strike the next night in another.

Users can also create message platforms restricted to smaller groups, perhaps for a block club or for only the tenants of one large apartment building.

Nationally, Nextdoor is in 53,000 neighborhoods. Each day, 5 million messages are exchanged on the network, including more than 1 million in which users recommend services to one another.

Besides its Web link, Nextdoor offers free apps for Android and Apple smart phones and tablets.

### Always report crime incidents

Many victims don't report minor crimes, making it hard for police to identify crime patterns. So don't be reluctant to call 911. Report non-emergencies such as blocked driveways to 853-2222. Contact Community Police Officers assigned to Allentown for nuisance situations at 851-5002. Email the chair of the Association's Crime and Safety Committee at [beafleuve@verizon.net](mailto:beafleuve@verizon.net).



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## La Tee Da will be missed

Restaurants come and go. But Allentowners really felt a blow when La Tee Da Cafe, 206 Allen St., ceased operations on Aug. 29.

It was founded in 2005 by Mary L. Tomaselli, a beloved Allen Street fixture who had run a dry cleaners on the street before opening the restaurant.



Mary

When she died in 2011 at age 59, her family continued to run the restaurant. They added a big back patio tent to expand capacity in good weather. They re-designed the intimate interior space. And they bought the adjoining storefront intending to expand into it and displacing Rust Belt Books.

Granddaughter Lindsay Quick described the closure as “a family decision” and told The Buffalo News there may be a new project in the works, but declined to get more specific.

“We’ve been doing it for a long time,” she said. “Basically, we’re ready to do something else.”

A Facebook message written by Quick’s sister and fellow La Tee Da employee Emily Nugent said:

“We thank you for your love and support. I love you all, this is a positive change for our family and we are excited to embark on new adventures! Be on the lookout for what we do next!”

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## New businesses include bakery, custom furnishings showroom

By PETE CARROLL

A new bakery has opened on Allen Street, and a sales-room for custom-designed furniture and lighting is in business nearby on Elmwood Avenue.

**Sweet Temptations du Jour** at 220 Allen St. is offering a variety of desserts as well as bread.

Barbara and Michael Keating opened the bakery in May, and moved into the apartment upstairs. They had operated their business in Williamsville for 10 years, offering wares at the farmers’ market there and other locations. They have already made friends and earned customers in Allentown.

Sweet Temptations offers cookies, pies (priced from \$15 to \$25), many types of cakes (\$15 and up), sweet waffles, candies and brownies, as well as home-style bread.

“They’re prepared in fresh baked, small batches,” says Barbara Keating, who does most of the baking. You can order by phone. Orders can be picked up or delivered.

Specialties include Polish cheesecake and Croatian apple strudel, which “I learned how to make from my grandmother, mother and aunt,” she said.

The bakery is open Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from noon to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Orders may be placed by calling 536-0567 or emailing mixmaster@sweettemptationsbuffalo.com. Visit [www.sweettemptationsbuffalo.com](http://www.sweettemptationsbuffalo.com).

**Wrafterbuilt and Emerson James** has opened at 119 Elmwood Ave. It’s two businesses co-operating and sharing the same premises. Jacqueline Wrafter creates custom-designed furniture, much of it using reclaimed wood. Andrew James designs and handcrafts lighting fixtures. Both have been in business for two years, filling orders before they opened a formal sales and showroom.

The store is open Wednesday from 4 to 8 p.m., Thursday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from noon to 6 p.m., Sunday from noon to 4 p.m., and by appointment.

Contact Wrafterbuilt at 604-2032, website [wrafterbuilt.com](http://wrafterbuilt.com). Andrew Emerson’s phone is 946-5580 and on the web at [emersonjamesinc.com](http://emersonjamesinc.com).



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- ☐ Benefactor \$1000
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- ☐ Contributing \$ 250
- ☐ Sustaining \$ 100
- ☐ Business \$ 50
- ☐ Family \$ 40
- ☐ Individual \$ 35
- ☐ Student/Senior \$ 20

**Optional activities/committees you'd like to help with:**

- ☐ Beautification
- ☐ Housing/Historic Preservation
- ☐ Business development
- ☐ Crime prevention
- ☐ Allen West Festival (adjacent to Allentown Art Festival)
- ☐ Special fundraising events
- ☐ First Fridays events
- ☐ Nomination to the board of directors

*All contributions are tax-deductible. Please make a check payable to: The Allentown Association, Inc.  
Mail to: Allentown Association, 14 Allen Street, Buffalo, NY 14202.*

Please feel free to enclose a note with any ideas you have for improving the neighborhood, or suggestions for strategies you think the Association should be pursuing or additional activities you think it should engage in.