

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## OLD ALLENTOWN RESIDENTS & FRIENDS

AUGUST 2015

### Old Allentown 38th Annual House Tour

Sunday, September 20, 2015  
12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.



Plan on spending a relaxing afternoon touring the Old Allentown Historical District. This year features the old, the new and the restored as well as beautiful outdoor venues. At the present time a total of seventeen homes and businesses are scheduled. Two trolleys will be available circulating throughout the District and Center City transporting guests to all of the venues.



Original woodwork, creative modernization and stunning restoration are the hallmarks of the tour. Four of the houses are under renovation and you will be able to see how these homes are being updated and personalized. Various gardens and a rooftop spa give a sophisticated perspective on private urban living.



Featured this year are a number of businesses neighboring The Old Allentown Historical District. The Strata, Renaissance Hotel, Liberty Bell Museum and Symphony Hall are all just a trolley stop away. The Americus Hotel and Elias Funeral Home (the former Trexler Estate) will also be available for those who want to experience the history of these landmarks. The renaissance of Allentown is an important factor in attracting new residents to all of our historic districts.



Challenges continue to grow each year with the negative perception of living in an urban neighborhood. Our organization believes our "architecturally significant" housing stock is worth saving as we continue to build a safe and thriving downtown community for all of our neighbors.

Tickets are \$15.00 the day of the tour and will be available at the OAPA Office, 147 North 10th Street starting at 11:30 am. **Pre-sale** tickets are twelve dollars, ten dollars for OAPA members. Information and tickets are available at [info@oldallentown.org](mailto:info@oldallentown.org). See you in September!

### Upside Allentown Residential and Commercial Façade Program

The Center City Initiative is now accepting applications for Façade Grants for the 2016 construction season. Grants are available for both residential and commercial properties. **The application deadline for the 2016 construction season is November 30, 2015 at 5:00pm.**

Façade restoration that has recently been completed at FY15 grant recipients in and near Old Allentown includes 115 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., 33 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St., and 343-345 N. 9<sup>th</sup> St. Work will soon commence on additional properties including the following properties: 822 W. Gordon St., 929 W. Turner St., 108 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., 922 W. Liberty St., and 435 Lumber St.

The Façade Program is aimed at improving the external appearance of properties in Center City, within the bounds of Tilghman St (N.), Union/MLK (S), Jordan Creek (E) and N. 12th St (W). Maximum grant amounts are \$10,000. However, not all applications are guaranteed to receive the maximum amount. Proposed façade grant proposals should preserve the original building design and be compatible with the architectural character of the surrounding neighborhood. Eligible improvements include removal of brickote, brick and stone masonry repair, exterior woodwork, doors and windows, painting, awnings, exterior lighting and repair to Mansard and peaked roofs. Façade grants do not include roof replacement, interior work, or landscaping.

Grants of up to \$10,000 (no cash match required) are available for income qualified homeowners whose total household income is at or less than 80% of the prevailing area median income. Also eligible are occupied residential buildings of no more than four units, whose owner is at or below the 80% of the area median income. If the applicant's total household income exceeds 80% of the area median income, the applicant is responsible for 50% of the project. A 50% match is also required if the property has five or more units.

Applications are available at and will be submitted to: CADCA, attn: Peter Lewnes. CADCA is located at 523 N. 7th St., Allentown, PA 18101. If approval is granted by the Committee and the work is approved by the City, the applicant will pay a \$300.00 processing fee, which is non-fundable.

**Façade improvements on buildings located in the Old Allentown Historic District are subject to design standards and review administered by the Historic and Architecture Review Board (HARB). In designated historic districts—like Old Allentown—a Certificate of Appropriateness from the city must be received before the commencement of any exterior work can take place.**

Improvements on properties not located within Old Allentown or Old Fairgrounds but located within an area determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places will conform to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, and reviewed by the Program Manager for compliance. Grant recipients may not have any outstanding municipal debt, including but not limited to city taxes, utilities, or other municipal liens.



## Fall Rose Planting - Old Allentown Cemetery



The Old Allentown Preservation Association continues its beautification program in the district. On Saturday, September 5th a rose garden will be planted along the fence on Turner Street between 9th & 10th streets. The City will be helping in the preparation of the garden. Mulching and planting of the rose bushes will be from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm and volunteers are needed. Bring shovels and rakes and join in the fun! Coffee & donuts will be provided for the volunteers.

Allentown Cemetery Park was created by William Allen as the graveyard for his little community in 1846 and contains the graves of many 19th century citizens. The first person recorded as being buried in the cemetery was Mary Huber in 1765. Under a large monument in the cemetery are Tilghman Good (1830-1887) and his wife Mary. A very popular local figure, Good was commander of the 47th Pennsylvania Volunteers for most of the Civil War and was elected mayor of Allentown for two terms. The older stones have epitaphs written in ornate German Gothic script. There are many graves here of Allentown men who fought in the American Revolution. A large plaque at the corner of 10th and Linden lists them as well as the veterans of the War of 1812. Among the most famous interred here is Peter Rhoads Sr., a local storekeeper and member of the Revolutionary-era Committee for Public Safety.

The upkeep of this integral part of Allentown's history is important to remember and appreciate the past.



### Old Allentown Preservation Association Membership Application - 2015

By showing your support of Old Allentown and renewing or signing up for a membership you are ensuring that we maintain the strength that has carried us for nearly 40 years. You will also receive announcements about events and news in our district and have the opportunity to join our committees and make a difference in our neighborhood.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Membership .....	\$25.00
Family Membership .....	\$40.00
Senior or Student Membership .....	\$15.00
Business Membership .....	\$80.00

Mail form and check to: OAPA, 147 North 10th Street, Allentown, PA 18102

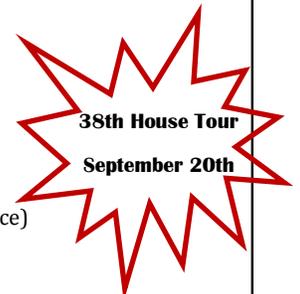
Please take a few moments to answer the following questions:

Are you interested in volunteering? \_\_\_\_\_

(We will get back to you with information regarding your particular area of interest for volunteering - Thank you in advance)

Are you interested in joining a committee? \_\_\_\_\_

(We will email you information about our current committees)



*The official registration and financial information of the Old Allentown Preservation Association may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

Please **DO NOT place your TV or computer at the curb.**

They are no longer collected with your trash.

**FREE Electronic Recycling for Allentown Residents**

1401 Oxford Drive (at the city's yard waste site)

**Regular Hours:**

- April through November
- On the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month
- 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Dates and times are subject to change.

**Accepted items:** computers, keyboards, laptops monitors, electronics, printers, scanners and televisions\*

\*one projection TV or two regular TVs per vehicle per day.



610-437-8729 ∞ www.allentownrecycles.org

Por favor **No coloque su televisor O computadora en la acera.**

Estos artículos ya no se recogen con la basura.

**Reciclaje de Electrónicos para los Residentes de Allentown Gratis**  
1401 Oxford Drive (centro de desperdicios de jardín)

**Horario Regular:**

- Abril a Noviembre
- El primer y tercer Sábado de cada mes
- 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Las fechas y horarios están sujetos a cambios.

**Artículos aceptados:** computadoras, teclados, monitores, electrónicos, impresoras, escáneres y televisores\*

\*una televisión de proyección o dos televisores regulares por vehículo por día.



610-437-8729 ∞ www.allentownrecycles.org



**YARD WASTE RECYCLING**

**CURBSIDE:** Yard waste is collected once a week on your recycling night. For 2015 it will begin Sunday, April 5 and end the week of Thanksgiving (Sunday, November 22-Friday, November 27).

**GRASS, YARD WASTE, BRANCHES, TRIMMINGS, ETC.** Place in a can separate from your trash. Yellow stickers are available at the Bureau of Recycling and Solid Waste to identify your yard waste can.

\* Please **DO NOT USE** paper lawn bags anymore. Use containers with yard waste stickers as pictured below for grass and other yard waste.

**FALL LEAVES** Place in containers for regular collection through the week of Thanksgiving. Please check the City's website www.allentownpa.gov for the fall leaf collection program information or call the Streets Department at 610-437-7638.

**CHRISTMAS TREES** and other yard waste are collected the second and fourth full weeks in January on your recycling night. Remove plastic bags, stands and all decorations.

**ORGANIC ITEMS ONLY!**  
PUTTING THE WRONG THINGS IN YOUR YARD WASTE CAN CAUSES PROBLEMS.

Trash and other debris that is improperly mixed in with your yard waste has a negative impact on processing and the mulch we produce for Allentown residents and our parks. Items such as plastic bags, lumber, bottles, cans, litter and other trash causes contamination in the mulch. Plastic flower pots may be recycled in the green recycling bin. Contamination can damage yard waste processing equipment and increase the cost of recycling.

**Organic Items ONLY!**

**YES** Branches, Leaves, Grass and Other Plant Material

**NO** ...other Items!

No flower pots of any kind

No plastic Bags

No construction material

No cardboard

**NO litter, trash or any other debris in the yard waste cans!**

**Dog Waste Stations**

Do not put trash in the containers.

Do not take the bags out and throw them on the ground.

Clean up after your pet.

**Estaciones residuos de perro**

No dejas basura en el zafacón. No saque las bolsas y tirarlos en el suelo.



**Electronics Recycling**

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015 is the next Old Allentown recycling event. A truck will be available at the corner of 10th & Turner from 10:00 am until noon.**

**No oversized TV's will be accepted.**

**Old Allentown residents only.**



**Mayor's Walk**

The mayors walk will be Thursday September 24th at 6pm. This is the opportunity for residents of the district to meet the mayor, ask questions and accompany him throughout the district. If you have any particular questions or concerns please forward to info@oldallentown.org and they will be put on the agenda.

Gather at 6:00 pm at the OAPA Office, 147 N. 10th Street.

## Allentown Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB)

### What Is the Historical Architectural Review Board?

The Historical Architectural Review Board (HARB) is a public body created by the Historic District Ordinance, its members are volunteers appointed by City Council. The Board reviews proposed new construction, demolitions, and exterior alterations to structures within the historic districts, and makes recommendations to City Council based on the Allentown HARB's [Guidelines for Historic Districts](#). If the proposed work is acceptable, City Council issues a Certificate of Appropriateness, required before work begins.

### Who Sits On HARB?

The HARB is composed of seven members and four alternate members. The following professionals must be on the HARB: one registered architect, one licensed real estate broker, one City of Allentown building inspector and one contractor. All of these professional positions also have an alternate member. The remaining three members are citizens with an interest in historic preservation who live or own property in one of the historic districts.

### When Is HARB Review Necessary?

Any exterior changes visible from a public street or alley in the historic districts must be reviewed. Some examples below:

**Change in Design** - adding a third floor dormer, enclosing a porch, replacing the existing door, etc.

**Change in Material** - installing vinyl or aluminum siding, replacing wooden railings with wrought iron, replacing wood windows with vinyl, etc.

**Change in Texture** - for example: replacing scalloped shingles with square shingles, replacing decorative porch columns with straight porch columns, etc.

**Change in Arrangement** - for example: blocking up a window, adding a new door opening, etc.

**Major changes** such as demolition, removal of porches, construction of additions, or other fundamental alterations all require review. **The installation of satellite dishes requires review!**

It should be noted that the Board never requires an owner to initiate work. An owner may choose to leave a property "as is" unless another City agency mandates improvements for public health and safety.

### What Is The Procedure For Applying to HARB?

When considering making exterior changes, contact the [HARB Secretary](#), 4th Floor, City Hall, (610-437-7613) between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., M-F.

Property owners can find authentic period replacement items at very reasonable prices at the [Allentown Preservation League Salvage Warehouse](#), located at 1518 Walnut Street. For information, call 610-437-1989.

## Business of the month - Furniture and Beyond

801 West Chew Street

This eclectic business on the corner of 8th and Chew Streets not only carries new and used furniture but items "Beyond". Some of the interesting items that have been sold are antiques settees, vintage writing desks, pot bellied stoves, pictures, tools, collectibles and household items. Owners Levi and Zeanab Warmkessel and their six children ranging in age from 3-18 years of age all pitch in to make this family friendly shop run smoothly.



Currently for sale is an unusual, pre-digital truckers scale from Savitski Brothers Coal Co. located in Atlas, PA. The scale still works perfectly and will weigh an item up to 30,000 lbs. The original wooden stand with columnar legs is attached. The scale would make a great entryway piece and is for sale for the very reasonable price of \$250.00.



Levi started learning about furniture and antiques in 1994 at Allentown Furniture which was located in this building. After eleven years he went out on his own and founded Furniture and Beyond in Catasauqua. Just over two years ago he returned to the same Chew Street location and opened his second store. This now serves as the main store.

With over 20 years of experience Levi and his staff offer many services. They are movers (up to a 100 mile radius), furniture assemblers and will give free estimates on furniture, antiques and appliances. Complete house clean outs may also be scheduled.

The inventory is constantly changing. Frequent stops at Furniture and Beyond will result in some great finds!

**Phone:** 610.841.1455

**Hours:** Monday - Saturday 10:00–6:00pm, Sunday - Appt. only



## Old Allentown Preservation Association Board

**Chris Brown, President**   **Gerry Pegues, Vice President**  
**Edward Morrison & Alex Rolon, Treasurer**  
**Angie Johnson, Secretary**

### Directors

**Shane Fillman**   **Wendie Lazansky**   **Tricia Morska**   **Steven Ramos**

To suggest an article or idea for the next newsletter email: [info@oldallentown.org](mailto:info@oldallentown.org) - TITLE: NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

Printed Courtesy of the City of Allentown on recycled paper



## 2015 House Tour Patron Opportunity

By becoming a patron you help support the ongoing efforts of beautification and restoration in the neighborhood.

### PATRON LEVELS

Sycamore - \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Elm - \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Oak - \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_



Check or a money order may be mailed to the OAPA Office

## ADOPT A ROSE BUSH



The West End and Union Cemetery rose garden on Chew Street is flourishing! Help is needed with the upkeep. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to adopt one or more rosebushes.

Call Wendie at 610.217.4930 to volunteer.

