

Allentown Tenant Association

The Allentown tenant association has been created to tackle the city's current renting issues. The association aims to educate residents of the city on their rights as a tenant and to assist with tenant-landlord disputes. ATA also is going to be educating renters of current slumlords in the city. We are currently working with city agencies to improve rental conditions throughout the city.

Recent Happenings

Allentown City Council Meeting –January 6th 2016

At the Allentown City Council meeting on January 6th our President: Julian Kern spoke about Project Lifesaver of the Lehigh Valley. Project Lifesaver is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the first pioneer to apply tracking technology for the search and rescue of individuals with cognitive disorders. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, and other related cognitive conditions. Julian Kern asked the city to explore funding for tracking devices provided by project lifesaver due to the recent tragedy over the New Year's weekend. Our Vice-President: Kenneth Heffentrager spoke about LCA failing to notify renters that their water will be shutoff due to the landlord failing to pay the bill which is required by state law. He also spoke about slumlord Joe Clark and an old article in the morning call in 1997 which referred to a property Joe Clark owned. In the article the city said the upkeep of this particular property was hope he changed his ways however that is not the case. Some other residents also spoke up about slumlord Joe Clark which we thank for speaking up.

Prolifick Radio

We have returned to Prolifick Radio! In 2013 & 2014 we had a bi-weekly radio show on Prolifick Radio. We discussed renter rights, slumlords, blight, and community related topics. We now again will have a bi-weekly radio show on Prolifick Radio. More information about our shows can be read further in the newsletter.

Highlights & News

LCA Shutoff Notice

Has the LCA shutoff your water with no warning because your landlord failed to pay the bill, well file a complaint with the W&S Compliance board, why cause LCA is not following the law... Utility Services Tenant Rights Act:

There is a Pennsylvania law which protects tenants whose landlords fail to pay their bills. If landlord doesn't pay gas, electric or water bills the tenant should not be required to pay the back bill to keep services on. The utility must notify the tenant-occupants before any shut-off and allow them to pay bill for last 30 days only and deduct the payments from rent as it becomes due.

Blight Update

Well this is a very positive spin on blight in Allentown. Last month the Allentown Tenant Association talked with Dave Paulus, the head of Building Standards. This is a scheduled monthly meeting that is part of a new cooperation between the City of Allentown and the ATA. More than a dozen properties were discussed, some are in a grey area, meaning possibly being in transition. The following are confirmed paths each is taking, both 812 Green & 724 N. Penn St, have been inspected and are once again able to be rented, 619 W. Cedar St, has been once again placed on the blighted list and the process for the city to take this property is about to start. Now this process may quickly be terminated, why, well two weeks ago we learned that Allentown Metro Holdings has recently purchased the single family dwelling and says work will start soon. Penrose Properties has been informed of their unsecured property at 323 N. 9th St, we have checked on the property and that has been compiled with. Finally the following properties were sold in 2015 by the Redevelopment Authority of Allentown, all undergoing or soon to be rehabilitated.

131 N. 8th St
343 N. 8th St
323 N. 9th St
323 N. 9th St
327 N. 9th St
340 N. 9th St
390 Pratt St
392 Pratt St

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting
Monday, January 11th 7:00 PM
at Allentown City Hall

Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 12th 12:15 PM
at Allentown City Hall

Lehigh County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 13th 7:30 PM
at 17 S. 7th St.

Allentown City Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 20th 7:00 PM
at Allentown City Hall

ATA on Prolifick Radio
Thursday, January 21th 5:00 PM
listen live at:
<http://www.prolifick.com/>

Lehigh County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 27th 7:30 PM
at 17 S. 7th St.

Allentown Housing Authority
Thursday, January 28th 9:00 AM
at 1339 W. Allen St.

Note: City Council meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in council chambers at city hall located at: 435 W. Hamilton St. Come out and speak on issues or concerns you may have.



<https://www.facebook.com/AllentownTenantAs>

Allentown Tenant Association on Prolifick Radio

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The radio shows will start at 5:00 PM. You can listen live at: <http://www.prolifick.com/> we will educate renters on their rights, discuss community related topics, and answer questions. If you have a question you would like answered on the show please post your question to our Facebook page or tweet us on twitter using the hashtag #ataprolifickradio

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AllentownTenant>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AllentownTenantAssociation/>

Upcoming Shows on Prolifick Radio:

January 21st 2016 at 5:00 PM

February 4th at 5:00 PM

February 18th at 5:00 PM

March 3rd at 5:00 PM

March 17th at 5:00 PM

March 31st at 5:00 PM

April 14th at 5:00 PM

April 28th at 5:00 PM

For more information visit: <http://allentowntenantassociation.org/8-main-content/72-allentown-tenant-association-on-prolifick-radio>



Illegal Dumping Campaign

We are currently trying to address the illegal dumping issue in the city. We are actively reporting illegal dumping sites to the city and pushing the city to install roving cameras to catch the perpetrators who are illegally dumping throughout the city. Illegal dumping presents an eyesore & negatively affects community pride. It can create a fire hazard and attracts pests. It contributes to pollution. Encourages further dumping, littering, and illegal activity. It cost the city and the community money to clean up the dump sites. We are asking for your help to combat this problem.

Below are ways you can help.

If you see illegal dumping in progress call 911!

You can report illegal dumping to Allentown recycling at: 610-437-8729. You can also call us at: 484-202-0742 or Email us: admin@allentowntenantassociation.org

If you have any pictures, video, or a description on who is dumping in a particular area of the city please contact us or authorities.



REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING

IF YOU SEE IT, REPORT IT

Our 2016 Message:

Well now that 2015 is done, we at the Allentown Tenant Association can honestly say that serious progress was achieved on several issues while a few other issues have still not been addressed to our or your satisfaction.

First the issue of slumlords, this still is not been dealt with in any reasonable way. The City of Allentown's, Landlord Hall of Shame, is like a running joke. We have repeatedly spoken out on how an effective tool is not being utilized the way it was originally laid out. The city's list, which has four landlords on it. The four own a combined one property. Yeah, meaning none own rentals in Allentown, the one property is the home of one.

Another issue is the lack of Code Enforcement officers, with over 27,000 rental units there simply is not enough manpower to effectively cover the city. These guys are doing an outstanding job, especially since budget cuts over the years has gutted the Rental Rehabilitation program.

Now onto the progress made, in which, for all the negative we expose, has been very positive. Years of speaking out on the inactivity of the Redevelopment Authority and the Blighted Property Review Board, we are more than pleased with how each has progressed forward in dealing with blighted properties. We made a list of the 10 worst properties and a list of 5 waiting off stage. The Redevelopment Authority is currently going thru the process of taking 13 of the 15 with owners of the other two, rehabbing those currently.

Second, the co-operation with several city departments has been outstanding as compared to previous years. We now have monthly meetings with the head of Building Standards, open dialogue with Sweep, Code Enforcement and the Solicitors Office. Issues brought to the city by the Allentown Tenant Association are dealt with in a timely manner. Yes there has been great progress but much more needs to be accomplished and will in 2016.

In 2016, the ATA will be looking into pushing a few programs thru City Council in hopes that at the very least serious discussion will take place to see if these programs are a good fit for Allentown. Two programs we are going to be lobbying for is the Better Landlord Program, to deal with making bad landlords good and good ones even better. The second will be Painted Panels for Blighted Properties, this is a program that helps secure and better the appearance of vacant properties. Both programs have been successful in different cities across America. So why not here is what we ask.

So we look forward to 2016 being even a better year for the housing stock. The issues being addressed can only improve property values, perception to visitors and the quality of life for all the residents of the City of Allentown. The Allentown Tenant Association is committed in doing just that making a great city even better for tenants, for landlords, and for homeowners. Issues that we will continue to improve will be...

- Landlord-Tenant issues
- Education of renter rights
- Slumlords
- Rental conditions
- Blight
- Absentee property owners
- Negligent financial institutions
- Illegal Dumping

We encourage all residents to help take an active role in the betterment of our city. So please join us and help us achieve that goal.

Happy New Year from the Allentown Tenant Association

Julian Kern, President

Ken Heffentrager, Vice-President

Project Lifesaver of the Lehigh Valley & Autism:

Project Lifesaver is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the first pioneer to apply tracking technology for the search and rescue of individuals with cognitive disorders. The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, and other related cognitive conditions.

<https://www.facebook.com/projectlifesaverlv/>

From Marta Lieberman: I am Chairman of the Lehigh Valley Project Lifesaver, I can be contacted at martha.lieberman@rcn.com or 610-966-8511. The tragedy that just occurred has raised the question of, (What can I do to prevent this), please contact me and I can tell you. We are new in the area not many people know about us. Project Lifesaver and that little boy will remain in the minds of many, but might soon be forgotten, please do not forget and help me with Project Lifesaver by talking about to everyone you meet. Projectlifesaver.org will tell you everything you need on the International program, and I can tell you about the local. I can't ask enough to please help me promote this program and possibly help to sponsor a child.

Please sign the following petition as this could very well prevent another tragic accident...

<https://www.change.org/p/our-community-jayliels-law-tracking-devices-for-kids-with-autism>

&

<https://www.change.org/p/pat-toomey-robert-casey-alert-for-individuals-with-special-needs-who-go-missing>

Allentown Autism Support - <https://www.facebook.com/allentownautismsupport/>

ATA on Social Media:

www.allentowntenantassociation.org – Association Website

www.facebook.com/AllentownTenantAssociation - Association Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/allentownswEEP/ - Allentown SWEEP Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/housingAllentownID - Housing in Allentown, Issues & Discussions
Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/ATCID/ - Allentown Issues & Discussions Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/allentownblight/ - Allentown – Fight the Blight Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/10thwardnorth - 10th Ward North Facebook Page

www.facebook.com/groups/ASDID/ - ASD Issues & Discussions Facebook Group

www.facebook.com/allentownbrickbybrick - Allentown Brick by Brick Facebook Page

www.twitter.com/AllentownTenant - Association Twitter

www.youtube.com/user/allentowntenants - Association YouTube Channel

www.allentowntenantassociation.tumblr.com/ - Association Tumblr

www.facebook.com/allentownautismsupport - Allentown Autism Support

Contact Us:

Call Us: 484-202-0742

Email Us: admin@allentowntenantassociation.org

Mail us: Attn. Julian Kern 252 E. Walnut St. Apt. 2RR Allentown, PA

You can also contact us via Facebook on our Facebook Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/AllentownTenantAssociation/>



Allentown Tenant Association

Do you know your renter rights?

Do you have a dispute with your landlord?

Are you living in unsafe conditions?

Contact us today!

Phone: 484-202-0742

Fax: 484-229-0498

Email: admin@allentowntenantassociation.org

www.allentowntenantassociation.org

www.facebook.com/AllentownTenantAssociation