

The Gallatin Gazette is a publication of the Gallatin Avenue Concerned Citizens Association (GACCA) and the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Uniontown.

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# The Gallatin Gazette

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## Welcome to Our First Issue!

Welcome to *The Gallatin Gazette*! This is the first issue of *The Gallatin Gazette*, a fun and informative look at the Gallatin Avenue neighborhood of Uniontown. We hope you enjoy it and in the process learn more about the neighborhood we call home!

*The Gallatin Gazette* is a publication of the Gallatin Avenue Concerned Citizens Association (GACCA), a group of community-minded volunteers working on a variety of neighborhood initiatives to improve the Gallatin Avenue neighborhood. More specifically, we consider the neighborhood to be from the railroad tracks on the western and southern sides, to Bailey Avenue on the eastern side, to the City limits near Askren on the northern side.



elm street  
COMMUNITY

Over the years, GACCA has been able to work closely with the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Uniontown. One result of this cooperation has been applying for and receiving state designation of the Gallatin Avenue neighborhood as an Elm Street Community. The Elm Street Program stipulates that if a comprehensive approach is taken implementing five points, you can revitalize your community:

### 1. Clean Safe & Green:

Areas of focus include:

clean-ups, community gardens, health initiatives, working with police, block watches, etc.

2. **Neighbors & Economy:** Areas of focus include the development of new for-sale housing as well as working to improve the economy of the neighborhood.

## Cars, Crafts & Kids: Sat., Sept 13, 2008

GACCA is inviting you to **Cars, Crafts & Kids** on Sat., Sept. 13, 2008 from 11 AM - 5 PM. The event will feature activities for the whole family.

**Cars:** Registration from 10 AM to Noon with plaque trophies being presented to at 4 PM. Car entrance fee is \$5 with T-shirts going to the first 50 car owners.

**Crafts:** A variety of crafters and artisans will be on hand to sell their wares. Vendor

spaces are available at the low price of \$10.

**Kids:** Games will be available thanks to Margaret Smalley and the ABC School House.

**Free health screenings, bingo, music and food will also be available.**

Volunteers are needed! Call us at (724) 438-4287 to learn more about **"Cars, Crafts & Kids!"**



Our thanks to everyone who participated in the Clean-Up!

## GACCA Sponsored Clean-Up!

The Gallatin Avenue neighborhood did a lot of spring cleaning on Sat., May 24th. At the GACCA sponsored event, residents were given an opportunity to discard items that they are unable to through the typical trash collection. These items (old furniture, mattresses, appliances, etc.) typically end up on back porches and in back yards. Residents

were also encouraged to clean-up the balance of their property as well as their block. The clean-up resulted in 4 - 30 yard dumpsters being filled! If this was equated to garbage bags, it would equal 695 full 30-gallon bags!

Approximately 15 volunteers were in attendance to help residents unload their vehicles. In addition,

a couple of the volunteers drove around with pick-up trucks hauling refuse for people who were otherwise unable to get to the dumpsters.

We greatly appreciate the City of Uniontown, which provided the dumpsters. Also special thanks to Mayor Ed Fike who's workers delivered and picked-up dumpsters.

## First Issue *(cont. from page 1)*

**3 Design:** Includes changes to improve the overall appearance of the neighborhood. Plans call for improved signage, landscaping, sidewalks, and lighting. Plans also call for the Sheepskin Hiking & Biking Trail to go through the neighborhood as it eventually connects Dunbar and Pt. Marion.

**4. Image & Identity:** Includes promotional activities like this newsletter, and community events such as the spring car show and the festival that will be held this September *(See Bottom of Page 1)*.

**5. Sustainable Organization:** Areas of

focus include responsibility for the organization, member recruitment and retention, working with other community organizations and government entities, etc.

In order to help the neighborhood implement these points, the Uniontown Redevelopment Authority applied for and received Elm Street funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development. To date, money has been used to acquire and demolish dilapidated structures in the Gallatin Avenue neighborhood as well as to bring on a full-time Elm Street Manager, Jeffrey McLaughlin.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the above outlined committees or just want to learn more about GACCA, please contact Mr. McLaughlin at:

Redevelopment Authority of the City of Uniontown  
65 W. Main St.  
Uniontown, PA 15401  
[gallatinelmst@dp.net](mailto:gallatinelmst@dp.net)  
(724)438-4287



## Repurposing: The Story of the Gallatin Ave. School

By: Sarah Jones

As we are at work renewing, redeveloping, and reclaiming our homes, streets and neighborhood, I thought I would dive into some Gallatin neighborhood history as a way to celebrate what was, hope for what will be, and to energize us for the fight we are in to bridge the gap.

When my husband Chris and I came to Uniontown on a house hunting trip, we were driving down Gallatin Avenue from Main Street. Stopping at Lenox we couldn't help but notice the commanding building on our left. The

schoolhouses in the area. There was one room for each grade, first through eighth. Thomas H. Jones was the principal, Andrew P. Cooper the architect, and DM Fair and Son the contractor. The students arrived for their first day of school in the new building on the day after Christmas recess.



By 1927, the school needed an addition to serve 520 students. Harry Altman was the architect who designed the addition and Alva W. Walters was the contractor who took the building from eight classrooms to fourteen rooms over three floors.

Gallatin School saw one more remodeling in 1974 to bring it up to code before it was retired in 1985. The enrollment was 411 students in K, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. There were 15 teachers. Uniontown Schools finished consolidating the six small elementary schools into two schools.

In 1997, Gallatin School L.P purchased the school. No longer housing school children, the grand old building was to be serve and house the homeless of Uniontown. Under the oversight of the City Mission, Gallatin School was renovated to conform not only to the needs of the residents who call the 30 units home, but also to the standards necessary to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building was cleaned and re-pointed. The windows, floors, woodwork, and doors were restored. The second floor lounge retains an original blackboard. The rotunda remains and the iron railings remain intact. In December 1998, the Gallatin School Living Center was dedicated. It continues to provide transitional housing, skills training, and support to men, women, and families in need.

Isn't it appropriate, then, that this was the first look at our neighborhood history? A building glorious in its day created to showcase beauty and be a safe place for children to grow and learn. A building neglected, unappreciated, abused. . . then. . . reclaimed, restored and renewed to great purpose. Isn't that what we are working for? This neighborhood will never be what it was, not after years of neglect and abuse, but perhaps the glory of its past will shine through as we work to reclaim, restore and renew it to great purpose.

Sources: Uniontown Library P.A Room, Herald Standard, Another Look by Walter "Buzzy" Storey.

## Community Calendar

### GACCA Membership Meetings:

— American Legion, 114 N. Gallatin Ave., 7 PM:

- Wed., Aug. 20th
- Wed., Sept. 17th

Please help us revitalize the N. Gallatin neighborhood!

**Cars, Crafts, & Kids** — Sat., Sept. 13, 2008, 11 AM—5 PM. Fun for the whole family! For more information call (724) 438-4287.

# Gallatin Avenue Concerned Citizens Association

Despite the threat of thunderstorms and even predictions of *hail*, the 1st Gallatin Ave. Car Show was a great success! The GACCA sponsored event held on May 19th featured approximately 50 cars including Pontiac GTOs, Chevrolet Camaros, a Studebaker Avanti and a '59 Buick. Music was provided by "Arnie Amber and His Dusty Platters" and delicious food was available from the American Legion and great desserts from Sand Hill Berry Farm. Our thanks to all of the businesses that donated door prizes and for committee members Judy Vrabel, Jim Beck and Janet Bill whose hard work resulted in a great show and a great time!



Some of the 50 cars at the Gallatin Avenue Spring Car Show.



Join Us for Our  
Next Car Show at *Cars, Crafts & Kids!*

*(See the Bottom of Page 1 for more details)*

**GACCA**

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