

THE CENTER CITY ADVOCATE



SEVENTH STREET
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
ALLENTOWN, PA

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Volunteers

For the past four years, Main Street Manager Peter Lewnes and the Seventh Street Development Committee (SSDC) have been working with local merchants and property owners to improve life in our community. Working one project at a time, 24 buildings on 7th Street have new facades, restoring them to their original beauty and winning us a state award for Best Physical Improvement in a Main Street Program. Over the past 2 years alone our greening projects have resulted in more than 2 dozen large, beautifully planted planters all along the street. The information kiosk outside Little Apple Market is now surrounded by a perennial garden and 36 vigorous sugar maple trees gave the street some gorgeous fall color this year. Driving or walking down 7th it is impossible to miss how the entire street is being transformed – the results speak for themselves.

While you can see these changes just by going down the street, what is less apparent is how the hard work of our many committed volunteers is contributing to this transformation. Every month SSDC volunteers give of their own valuable time to work on the projects and programs we are involved in. “Volunteers make the program’s success a reality,” says Main Street Manager Peter Lewnes. “Without the commitment of so many people from the community, 7th Street would not be able to accomplish what it does. The vision would still be in our imagination.”

2010 has been a very special year for volunteer activity on 7th Street. On Earth Day local residents were joined by volunteers from organizations as diverse as Muhlenberg College, Target, and the University of Scranton Alumni Association. With their help and the help of the Parks Department

over 120 people came to plant trees. Over the summer volunteers from the Baum School of Art worked with local children to decorate planters with beautiful original mosaic designs. Dozens of dedicated community residents and merchants worked tirelessly for months to put on our first annual Day of the Dead Fest. Local merchants and businesses became sponsors, giving the event financial support. On October 30 over 75 volunteers were manning tables, telling fortunes, selling food, and thrilling everyone with the courage to brave a really scary haunted house. Hundreds of people from all over the valley came to 7th Street that night to enjoy the fun. The great success of this event, our first major fundraiser on 7th Street, would not have been possible without the hard work of our volunteers.

In these hard times, most non-profit organizations are struggling to continue the good work they do. On 7th Street, volunteers have also made it possible for our dollars to go much further. “Volunteers are very important to all of our projects and events,” says Ernie Atiyeh, SSDC Chairman of the Board. “For example, we never would have been able to plant so many trees if we had to pay someone to do it.” Bricks and mortar may be essential to rebuilding a street, but it’s the people who revitalize a community. So hats off and thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers! See you again next year.

To see video of Earth Day and photos of Day of the Dead become our friend on Facebook at 7th Street Allentown.

If you are interested in volunteering on 7th Street, contact Kathleen Kapila at (610)433-5703 or kkapila@cach.org.

Faces on Seventh Street: Wen Da Lin & Xue Hua Yang

Following in the footsteps of generations of immigrants from all over the world, Wen Da Lin and his sister, Xue Hua Yang, came to America as children with their family to make a better life. Coming all the way from China to settle in Pennsylvania, they opened the first Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant in Allentown in 1995. As a young man, Wen worked hard in the family business; first as a delivery boy and later as a cook. In 2008 Wen and Xue moved Happy Garden to its current location at 7th and Liberty looking for a better location with more people. After working with the Main Street façade program, the transformation of their building was spectacular. Happy Garden is now one of the best looking places on the street and business is good.

Then early on the morning of November 1 a fire broke out on the second floor. Thanks to the quick response of the Allentown Fire Department the building was saved and no one was hurt. The restaurant did suffer some smoke and water damage, but re-opened less than three weeks later with a fresh coat of paint and the smiling owners back serving what Wen proudly calls the best Chinese food in town. Wen Da Lin and Xue Hua Yang are the kind of brave, hard-working people we are proud to call our neighbors. We wish them well and to all of you we say: EAT AT HAPPY GARDEN!.

Business Spotlight:

Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant

501 N. 7th Street, (610) 432-9330

If there is one thing most Americans can agree on, it's that we love our Chinese food!

At Happy Garden, on 7th and Liberty, you will find classic Chinese cuisine at its best. From egg rolls to fried rice to moo shu pork or General Tso's chicken, all of our favorites are here. On the lunch special, for example, one can choose from over 30 items also found on the regular menu for less than \$5.00. The food is freshly prepared, the portions generous, and the prices terrific. And if you're not in the mood for Chinese, they have some of the best fried chicken on the block!



Happy Garden Coupon – Good For Take-Out Only

Happy Garden

Purchase of \$40 or more
Get General Tso's Chick-
en Or Sweet & Sour
Chicken

Happy Garden

Purchase of \$20 or more
Get Pork Fried Rice Or
Crab Meat Wrap

Happy Garden

Purchase of \$30 or more
Get Large Pork Fried
Rice or 2 lt. soda

Happy Garden

Purchase of \$15
Get 2 cans of soda or 2
Egg Rolls

Caras en la Calle 7: Wen Da Lin y Yang Xue Hua

Siguiendo los pasos de las generaciones de inmigrantes de todas partes del mundo, Wen Da Lin y su hermana, Xue Hua Yang, llegaron a Estados Unidos niños con su familia para obtener una vida mejor. Llegando desde China hasta establecerse en Pensilvania, abrieron el primer restaurante chino Happy Garden en Allentown en 1995. Cuando esa joven, Wen trabajó duro en el negocio familiar, primero como repartidor de comida a domicilio y más tarde como cocinero. En el 2008 Wen y Xue trasladaron el restaurante Happy Garden a su ubicación actual en las calles 7 y Liberty en busca de un lugar mejor con más gente. Después de trabajar con el programa de Fachada de Main Street, la transformación de su edificio fue espectacular. El edificio del Happy Garden se convirtió en uno de los edificios más atractivos del lugar en la calle y el negocio sigue prosperando. El esfuerzo étnico arduo de esta pareja y la determinación los ha lleva-

do por momentos difíciles como recientemente en la madrugada del 1 de noviembre se produjo un incendio en el segundo piso. Gracias a la rápida respuesta del Departamento de Bomberos de Allentown el edificio se salvó, y nadie resultó herido. El restaurante había sufrido algunos daños por humo y agua, y temporalmente cerraron sus puertas para abrirlas con más entusiasmo en menos de tres semanas después con una capa fresca de pintura; sirviendo, lo que el propietario Wen llama con orgullo la mejor comida china en la ciudad. Wen Da Lin y Xue Hua Yang son la clase de gente valiente y trabajadora de los cuales estamos orgullosos de llamar a nuestros vecinos. Les deseamos lo mejor y para todos ustedes les decimos: A COMER EN EL HAPPY GARDEN! (610-432-9330)



Enfoque Comercial: Happy Garden Chinese Restaurant 501 N. 7th Street, (610) 432-9330

Si hay una cosa que la mayoría de los estadounidenses pueden estar de acuerdo, es que nos encanta nuestra comida china! En Happy Garden, en la calle 7 y Liberty, se encuentra la mejor cocina china clásica. Desde egg rolls hasta arroz frito con carne de cerdo mu shu o pollo General Tso, toda nuestra comida china favorita esta aquí. En el almuerzo especial, por ejemplo, se puede elegir entre más de 30 elementos que se encuentran también en el menú regular por menos de \$5.00 dólares. La comida se prepara fresca, las porciones generosas y los precios excelentes. Y si usted no está de humor para comida china, tienen los mejores pollos frito en el bloque!

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the following Sponsors, whose generosity made the 2010 Day of the Dead Fest on 7th Street possible:

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Nelson Diaz
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Randy Fink
IGA – Little Apple Market
Rebecca Torres
Torres Enterprises, Inc.
Quillian Tattoo



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ALLENTOWN, PA
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
SEVENTH STREET

