

ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

December 2008

Message from the President

By Gloria Rayman, AWCC President

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, "I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along." . . . You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

November 29...I finally finished the winterizing of my back yard / garden – I really stretched it this year. The final chore of the 2008 gardening season was dismantling my concrete fountain and flipping the basin over to prevent it from cracking during the winter. Of course I had nothing to do with the actual “flipping” of the basin. That’s left to the strong manly neighbor who doesn’t see me coming until it’s too late! (The “strong manly neighbor” varies from year to year – you’d think they would have learned by now to turn the other way and run when they see me coming in my work clothes!) Now on to those boxes and boxes of Christmas decorations...

As I was looking for a quote to start off my final “Message from the President” I tried to find something very positive, very happy. But in looking through the list of motivational quotes I’ve compiled over the past few years, I found the quote above from Eleanor Roosevelt that seemed to quite perfectly sum up my two years as President. The past two years have turned into one of the most valuable learning experiences in my adult life. As I dealt with the many issues – important to all of the parties involved – I had to keep reminding myself that this experience as President was preparing me for something much more important in my own personal life. I might not be able to see it now much less anticipate it but I know I will be able to successfully handle the situation when it does arise.

So thank you to everyone who has helped me to become a better person these past two years. Thank you to those who encouraged me and lent a helping hand when I needed it. Thank you to those who stepped up to take on a project or task when requested (to those who don’t know much about your neighbors, you simply can’t imagine the depth of talent, knowledge and experience these folks have; combined with a willingness to use their talents for the good of the neighborhood -we have a really extraordinary group of people!). Thank you to those who challenged me – who weren’t so very nice or very neighborly all of the time – you made me stronger and helped me sharpen my interpersonal skills.

But don’t think you’ve seen the last of me! I will see the Western Avenue streetscape project through to completion; I will continue to work on the North Avenue project; and I will be the Allegheny West representative on the Northside Leadership Conference board, serving as Treasurer of the Board; among other things. And for incoming President John McDanel, I will be his biggest cheerleader! Let’s all congratulate and thank John for stepping forward for his neighborhood.

DECEMBER / JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG

Calvary United Methodist Church
Tues, December 9 @ 7:30pm
Tues, January 13 @ 7:30pm

HOUSING & PLANNING MTG

844 Beech Ave
Tues, December 16 @ 7:30pm
Tues, January 20 @ 7:30pm

AWCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

858 Beech Ave.
Tues, December 30 @ 7:30pm
Tues, November 25 @ 7:30pm

NORTH AVE SUB-COMMITTEE MTG

1009 Galveston Ave.
Tues, January 6 @ 7:30pm

Allegheny West Civic Council
812 Western Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
(412) 323-8884

Allegheny West Civic Council 2009 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT:	John McDanel
VICE PRESIDENT:	John DeSantis
SECRETARY:	Mary Callison
TREASURER:	Robert Griewahn
COMMUNICATIONS:	Gene Wilson
MEMBERSHIP:	Debbie Kelly
WAYS AND MEANS:	Carol Malakoff
HOUSING & PLANNING:	Martha Helmreich
PROPERTY:	Tim Zinn
FRIENDS:	Mike Coleman
SGT AT ARMS:	Jessica Bergan
IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.:	Gloria Rayman

Western RENEWED! Update

Approximately every two weeks the Western RENEWED project teams meets to go over the details of construction and work through any potential problems or issues. The last meeting took place on Friday, November 14. I have edited the notes to include progress since this meeting occurred. (The next meeting takes place on Friday, December 5 – too late for inclusion in the December Gazette.) In attendance at this meeting was Armand Tedesco, owner of ASTCO Construction; Alex O'Neill, our construction manager from Wilbur Smith & Assocs. (he works for us, not ASTCO); Trisha Johnson from Pashek & Associates (our landscape architect); Mark Fatla & Maureen Piriano from the Northside Leadership Conference (our project managers) and Gloria Rayman, AWCC.

The first phase of the construction of the project is progressing quite well. The concrete curb and sidewalk base has been completed on the 900 block of Western and the wrap around block of Galveston. We are waiting for the concrete foundations for the light poles to be poured. The concrete can't be poured until ASTCO receives the bolts to hold the light poles in place. This is a supplier issue that has been addressed. We would like to get the foundations completed before the brick is put down. The brick will be placed in a herringbone pattern and the fewer openings to work around, the better! The plan was to have the brick in place by Thanksgiving. Unfortunately that didn't happen.

To keep the project moving as we wait for the bolts for the light poles, ASTCO has started to dig on the south curb of the 800 block of Western. We have been very clear with ASTCO that what ever they dig up has to be filled and have at least the concrete poured for the foundation of the brick before they stop for the season. There should be no trenches or holes left open or mud pits remaining for the entire winter. We really don't know how far they will get on the south curb of the 800 block; all I can say is stay tuned!

If you are a Western Avenue property owner or resident and are not currently on the email list for updates, please send your contact information to glowalks@comcast.net. Or drop a note through the AWCC mail slot at 812 Western Avenue with your preferred postal mailing address.

Gloria Rayman



The Allegheny West Civic Council would like to extend sincere condolences to Beech Avenue neighbor Doug Lucas on the passing of his partner, Miles Bausch, on Monday, December 1.

Tree Care

The tree-lined streets of Allegheny West are known around the area for their serene beauty. However our trees are starting to show the signs of aging in an urban area. Several trees on Beech Avenue have fallen; at least one tree on N. Lincoln has been removed with more in trouble; Duquesne Light has hacked through the trees on Galveston Avenue to keep the limbs clear of the power lines; and trucks on W. North regularly break low hanging tree limbs on that street.

We have several certified "Tree Tenders" in the neighborhood to help care for new trees but we are in need of someone to coordinate a neighborhood "planting" plan and to be the liaison with the City and other local agencies in regards to this plan. If you are interested in finding out more details, please contact John McDanel at mcdanel@aol.com

The 2009 Allegheny West Calendars are Here!

Once again our beautiful neighborhood is featured in the all-new 2009 Allegheny West desk calendar. You can buy the calendars at our Hoi Polloi Restaurant on North Ave, at the General Store at 435 East Ohio St and at the Holiday Shoppe during the Christmas House Tour. You can also purchase your calendar on the Allegheny West website at www.alleghenywest.net. On the home page click on the Tour button and then click on the Christmas Tour logo; scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the buy tickets hot link. Click on calendar to buy.

We have been able to keep the calendar costs at \$10, and, as always, all profits will go to the Allegheny West Civic Council.

2009 Nominating Committee Election Results

In addition to electing officers at the November membership meeting, the Nominating Committee for 2009 was chosen. This committee will put together the slate of nominees for the 2010 officers.

Gloria Rayman, chair
John DeSantis
Bob Malakoff
Carole Robert
Brandon Williams
Debbie Kelly, Alternate
Timothy Zinn, Alternate

Christmas Tour 2008

Everything You Need To Know

This weekend, the days of our 27th Annual Victorian Christmas Tour, brings with it the opportunity for everyone connected with the Allegheny West neighborhood, residents, business people, friends, adults and children alike, to come out and volunteer and get into the "community" as well as the holiday spirit. Those AW neighbors who have served on the Christmas Planning Committee and those who have volunteered to open their homes to over 1500 people have been working behind the scenes for the last three months. Now we need your help to make our guests feel welcome and to insure that this is another successful year. In return for giving this community the benefit of a few hours of your time and expertise, you will enjoy the experience of seeing how outsiders perceive our community, initiate and renew friendships with neighbors, and celebrate at our volunteer party.

There are many tasks that you can choose from:

If you enjoy talking to people, leading groups around the neighborhood, and answering questions about the benefits of living here, be a tour guide: contact Doug Sprague, dougsprague63@yahoo.com, or 412-716-3105.

If you would rather be someplace warm, you can help serve hot apple cider and cookies at The Holiday Shop, contact Debbie Kelly, kellern2001@hotmail.com, or you can be a greeter at Calvary Church, contact Brandon Williams, brandonwilliams@hotmail.com, or 412-321-0515.

If you have a particular interest in railroad memorabilia, volunteer some time at The Toy Train exhibit, contact Chris Bladen, newenglishman@hotmail.com, or 412-323-0293.

Or, if you would rather help a homeowner on tour by giving them a break, decorating, or serving tea or brunch, contact Carole Malakoff, carolemalakoff@hotmail.com, or 412-321-3612.

And last, but not least, if you enjoy the cold December air, Carl Canales needs your help to set out and light luminaria. Contact him at ccanales2@comcast.net, or 412-322-3104.

Children and teens are invited to come out and participate in these volunteer activities.

Decorate

Coldwell Banker Real Estate will again sponsor our Door Decorating Contest. Plan to have your decorations hung by tour time, 5pm on Friday, the 12th. Judging will take place during the tour. Be creative! The 3 winners will receive gift certificates to area businesses. Winners will be announced at the Volunteer Party Saturday night.

Clean-up

Please fill at least 1 trash bag with litter and leaves from our streets and curbs. Let our guests know that Allegheny West is the cleanest neighborhood in the City. The City Street Sweeper will come through on Thursday, Dec. 11. Please move your cars so it can pick up debris.

Street Closings, Advance Notice

As always, we will be closing some of our neighborhood streets to traffic and parking. This enables our groups of visitors to walk freely in the streets and insures safety of pedestrians. Both blocks of Beech Avenue, the 800 block of No. Lincoln Avenue, Rope Way from Beech to No. Lincoln, and Galveston from Dounton Way to Buttercup Way will be closed. Also, the parking lane on the 800 block of Galveston and the corner of Galveston and Maolis Way will be closed. Street closing times are between 4:30pm and 11pm on Friday and between 9:30am and 11pm on Saturday. Please make arrangements to park elsewhere during those times. Off street parking is available at The Babb Co. lot, corner No. Lincoln and Maolis Way, and The CCAC parking lot on the north side of Ridge Ave. across from the Ft. Duquesne Bridge off-ramp.

Volunteer Party

Come help celebrate another successful year on Saturday evening, Dec.13, from 9pm to 1:30am at the home of Hal Dixler and Nick Duerlinger, 849 North Lincoln Ave.

Our tour has been so successful over the years because of the effort and spirit that you have put forth. Let's do it again this year!



AWCC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AGENDA

December 9, 2008 7:30pm

- I. Reading of November minutes
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Committee Reports
 - A. Ways & Means
 - B. Housing & Planning
 - i. Western Avenue Update
 - ii. North Avenue Update
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business

AWCC Membership

To become an AWCC member, send your Name, Address, Phone Number and email address to:

Allegheny West Civic Council - Membership Chair

812 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

2009 Annual Dues are \$3 and Lifetime Dues are \$45. Checks should be made payable to AWCC.

Pay for your membership online with your credit card! Go to www.alleghenywest.net - right now it is set up in the Christmas Tour ticket section so click on the Tours button and then the Christmas Tour logo. Scroll to the bottom for the "purchase" link.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please send an email to info@alleghenywest.net and we will look in the membership file!

Your paid membership enables you to vote at monthly membership meetings.

Tri-Hill Valley Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver meals to their neighbors. Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver nutritious meals to their homebound neighbors who are unable to provide for themselves. Our consumers may be elderly, injured, or unable to prepare their own meals. Meals on Wheels kitchens rely heavily on volunteers, and would not be able to operate without them. Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday mornings to deliver meals to consumers in their area. This not only gives our consumers access to nutritious meals, but also provides them with daily human interaction that we all take for granted. Sometimes our MoW volunteers are the only visitors these folks have on a day-to-day basis, and therefore the volunteers provide an important safety check as well.

Tri-Hill Valley Meals on Wheels is one of 73 kitchens affiliated with Lutheran Service Society. This kitchen serves: Troy Hill, Spring Garden, Spring Hill, Pressly Hi-Rise, St. Michael Village, Manchester, Central North Side, East Street area, West Park Court, Allegheny Center, and the lower end of Charles Street. If you live in these areas and would like to help nourish your neighbors, please call Leslie Montgomery at 412-366-9490 or lmontgomery@lsswpa.org.

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The U.S. Census Bureau is Hiring!

Recruiting in the Pittsburgh office has just started for office and field staff for the 2010 U.S. Census. To find out more visit www.census.gov/rophi/wwwemploy.html.

To be scheduled for a basic skills test call 1-866-861-2010.

THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council

Letters, Submissions, Advertising, For Sale and other notices:

GAZETTE@ALLEGHENYWEST.NET or call 412-323-8884. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Ad rates: \$10 - 1/8 page, \$20 - 1/4 page, \$40 - 1/2 page