

ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

January 2009

Message from the President

By John McDanel, AWCC President

Allegheny West continues to produce an incredible number of volunteers from a relatively small base of residents. I would like to thank everyone who participated to make the Christmas Tour an enormous success. 1,537 tickets were sold, including dinner and tea tickets. A remarkable 78% of tickets were sold online through the new automated website create by Cathy Serventi and Gene Wilson, making it a great success. Thank you to Carole Malakoff all of her work on the Christmas Tour and a job well done.

I served brunch and tea at the home of Ingrid Berglund and had a chance to talk with some of the folks on the tour. Out of 21 people at the brunch, 2 had been on the Queen Victoria tour in May and at least 5 had taken the Christmas tour before. It is good to see we still attract a large percentage of first time tour goers to tea and brunch. Everyone had a wonderful time.

Many residents have expressed concern about the health of the trees in the neighborhood. We need more residents of Allegheny West to get involved in the Tree Tender course. Last year Tree Vitalize trained 250 volunteers through the Tree Tender course, and planted 800 trees in collaboration with sixteen neighborhood and community based organizations. Tree Vitalize communities receive trees delivered to the planting location, along with mulch, soil and tree stakes and assistance with planning and implementing the planting day. We need a minimum of one trained Tree Tender for every 10 trees we would receive. I took the program in September. The next program is February 10th, 17th and 24th at Allegheny Center Alliance Church on the North Side. You can sign up online at www.pittsburghforest.org/TreeTenderCourse. According to the Wharton School of Business, planting a tree within 50 feet of a house increases property value by 9%. Shaded business districts do 11% more business than those without trees. Consider getting involved or planting a tree.

Gloria Rayman will take over the North Ave subcommittee. Recently, Jerry Morosco produced several schematic plans for new development of the Stables building. In the near future, we will also have schemes for development of the vacant lot adjacent to the building. The Stables is badly in need of repair and we hope to find funding for stabilization. Jon Huck of the NSLC continues to work towards this goal. The Stables is an example of the Romanesque style of architecture and important for its association with the former City of Allegheny. It appears to be the only remaining property of Allegheny's Public Works Department, and one of very few remaining municipal buildings of Allegheny City.

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.



JANUARY / FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG

Calvary United Methodist Church
Tuesday, January 13 @ 7:30pm
Tuesday, February 10 @ 7:30pm

HOUSING & PLANNING MTG

844 Beech Ave
Tuesday, January 20 @ 7:30pm
Tuesday, February 17 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

858 Beech Ave.
Tuesday, January 27 @ 7:30
Tuesday, February 24 @ 7:30

NORTH AVE SUB-COMMITTEE MTG

1009 Galveston Ave.
Tuesday, February 3 @ 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

The Western Avenue Fire Relief Fund

Northside Leadership Conference has been asked to establish a Fire Relief Fund for the residents and businesses who suffered in the New Year's Eve fire on Western Avenue.

At least 2 businesses (Kerry Kennedy Floral and The Modern Café) are totally destroyed, one (Styles By Thomas & Thomas) is significantly damaged. Two residents are displaced and have lost their belongings. Not the best way to start the New Year.

Northsiders and others have been calling to offer their help to these Northside neighbors, and so NSLC has established the **Western Avenue Fire Relief Fund** at Fifth Third Bank on East Ohio St, Northside. Contributions can be made to the fund and mailed to:

Northside Leadership Conference

4 Allegheny Center, Suite 601

Pittsburgh PA 15212.

If donors have a preference, they may specify the particular business or individual they wish to help in the Notes line on the check.

NSLC is offering relocation assistance to find temporary locations for the businesses displaced by the fire and technical assistance from NSLC's Business Development Director under the Mainstreets Pittsburgh program.

Finally, NSLC's loan fund subsidiary, the Northside Community Development Fund, has offered to meet with affected businesses to extend financing assistance where possible. We want to get these entrepreneurs back on their feet as soon as possible.

Finally, thoughts and prayers for those affected are always of inestimable value. Please remember these Northside neighbors in the manner of your choosing.

Please forward this information to anyone who might be interested and if anyone has any questions, they are welcome to call me at 412-330-2553.

Mark T Fatla

Northside Leadership Conference



Western RENEWED! Update

The most recent construction meeting for Western Avenue was held on December 19, 2008. In attendance at this meeting was Armand, owner of ASTCO Construction; Tom, our on-site construction manager from Wilbur Smith & Assocs.; Damon, Tom's boss and the person through which all of the paperwork flows (they both work for us, not ASTCO) Mark & Maureen from the Northside Leadership Conference (our project managers) and myself.

We are basically at the end of the construction season.

We were able to move forward on the south curb of the 800 block of Western Avenue up to the laundromat. All of the curbs have been poured and the majority of the cement base for the sidewalk has been poured as well. Those areas that haven't been poured are filled and in good shape for the winter.

There are a few areas where work will continue as the weather allows (temperature is not a factor). The south corners of the intersection at Galveston should be open for pedestrian traffic soon. ASTCO couldn't pour the concrete in these two corners because they needed to place the junction boxes that are located under the sidewalk at each of these corners. (As I understand it, the junction boxes contain all of the underground mechanicals for the traffic lights and the streetlights for that intersection.) The junction boxes finally arrived and will be installed by mid-January. After the junction boxes are in place the sidewalks will be "cold patched" until the permanent concrete can be poured. The sidewalk in front of State Farm office has not been poured either because the property owner is planning to have new steps put in and the concrete sidewalk base will not be poured until the new concrete steps are in place (this won't happen until the temperature warms up.)

Work will also continue on the drainage inlets and the crossings at the intersection of Galveston and Western. The roadway will be torn up temporarily to allow ASTCO to put in new drainage pipes and conduit so that everything connects and flows properly. The City inspector has been very pleased with the work that has taken place thus far.

The long-missing bolts that hold the base of the new light posts have finally arrived! ASTCO can install the bases and pour the concrete in colder temperatures so that will take place on the south curb over the next month. This means fewer open spaces in the sidewalk, which means fewer orange cones or barrels sitting in these open spaces. (continued next page)

Unfortunately there was a delay in the manufacturing and delivery of the bricks so we won't be able to start laying the bricks until the temperature warms up (hopefully March). If the bricks were to be put down now, the adhesive that is used to keep the bricks from moving and popping up wouldn't work properly and we would just have to do it all over again. Our budget doesn't allow for that!

As we slow down on the actual construction of the project, Maureen and I will be working to get the assessment invoices prepared and working with individual property owners for the relocation of the utility lines.

In regards to the assessments, we are double-checking the linear footage for each property on the street to ensure that everyone's assessment is correct. I want to be very clear that contrary to what a few individuals might be saying, **AWCC is NOT looking to take any property or close any businesses!** Our goal is to provide options that work for each individual property owner in regards to paying the assessment. Property owners will receive their assessments in the mail in the first quarter of 2009.

We will also be working on the issues associated with the relocation of the utility lines for the few remaining property owners who receive service in the front of their buildings. Once again, each property is unique and will have a unique resolution.

We continue to move onward and upward!

Yours in progress,
Gloria Rayman



Door Decorating Contest Winners

On Saturday, December 13, judges from Coldwell Banker Real Estate selected our 3 Door Decorating Contest winners.

First place:

930 Beech Ave, Tonya and Harvey Young.

Runners-up:

844 No. Lincoln Ave, Carl and Cecile Canales
934 Beech Ave, KK and Carrie Teh.

Congratulations to all.

Christmas Tour Wrap-up

As many of you have already heard, we exceeded our expectations, at least mine, in the number of guests that visited Allegheny West for our 27th Annual Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas Tour. Total ticket sales were 1537, which includes regular tickets, dinner, tea, and brunch sales. We came very close to being "sold out". A main factor for the increase in ticket sales is that guests could select their preferred tour time and purchase tickets on-line. Seventy-eight per cent of the tickets were bought on-line this year.

There were also 530 Toy Train Museum tickets sold, up 75 per cent from last year's total. This can be attributed to the great article in the Post Gazette 2 weeks before the tour.

Although it seems as though the tour is far behind us, I would like to again thank all those volunteers who donated their time, effort, and expertise to make this another successful year. We've come a long way in 27 years.

Carole Malakoff

Memorial Trees

The Allegheny West Civic Council has a lovely tradition of planting trees in the Commons as a memorial for our long-time neighbors who have passed away. Upon consulting several neighborhood historians, we have put together a list of neighbors for whom trees still need to be planted. In the next year AWCC would like to plant trees in memory of Elizabeth Andrews (Western Avenue), Miles Bausch (Beech Avenue), Emilio Cece (N. Lincoln Avenue), Loretta Gerlach (Beech Avenue) and Mary Shiloh (Galveston Avenue).

With the Allegheny Commons Initiative now in full swing and actively restoring the park, we can no longer send a few people to a local nursery to pick out trees and oversee the planting in the southwest corner of the Commons (the grove across from the tennis courts). We need to follow the guidelines they have put in place including the maintenance of the trees. The cost to buy, plant and water a tree (three years worth of watering) in the Commons is \$1000 per tree.

If you would like to contribute to this memorial fund, please send your check to: AWCC Tree Memorial, 812 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 – checks should be made payable to "AWCC".

Gloria Rayman

AWCC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AGENDA

January 13, 2008 7:30pm

- I. Reading of December Minutes
- II. Treasurer's Report
- III. Committee Reports
 1. Ways and Means
 2. Housing & Planning
 1. Western Avenue Update
 2. North Ave 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/shop – and pick “memberships” from the menu on the left.

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.

**IF ANYONE'S GOING
TO LOSE SLEEP,
IT'LL BE US.**



Our 24-hour service means that you can rest assured. Because whenever you need help with your furnace, air conditioner or heat pump, we'll get it to you.

Whatever it takes.



Eugene Beck Company

Heating and Air Conditioning

924 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

412-321-3356 · 412-931-0949

24 Hour Emergency Service
412-635-8424

EUGENE BECK CO., INC.

Heating, Air Conditioning, Roofing, Duct Cleaning

924 Western Avenue

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233

Phone (412) 321-3356 or 931-0949

24 Hour Emergency Service: 635-8424

K.S. KENNEDY



DISTINCTIVE

- ▲ Floral
- ▲ Gift
- ▲ Gourmet

Espresso &
Cappuccino Bar

Signature Style Delivered Worldwide™
412-322-ROSE

Kerry S. Kennedy

www.kskennedy.bravehost.com

860 Western Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15233

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/wwwemply.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

Editor: Gene Wilson

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