

Message from the President:

The Merry Merry Month of May

By Timothy G. Zinn, AWCC President

May, with its warmer temperatures, brings many welcome changes in the neighborhood after a long winter and wet spring. Beech and North Lincoln avenues are once again shaded with their tree canopies, window boxes, urns, and container pots are reappearing, and promising new foliage on Western Avenue's new street trees is an encouraging sign that they made it through the winter. Our interactions and activities adjust too, as stoop sitting and impromptu porch parties abound, and allow us to socialize with neighbors more easily and more frequently. As usual though, the Allegheny West Civic Council continues to offer a variety of activities for the enjoyment of its members and the neighborhood as a whole. Just a few of the upcoming activities, many of which are detailed in this edition of the *Gazette*, include the May neighborhood mixer, which will be held on Friday, May 13 at 6 p.m. at the Modern Café. May 15 is the Pittsburgh Marathon—this year's route brings it back onto Western Avenue. All neighbors are encouraged to bring a chair over to Western Avenue and show thousands of runners just how dynamic "Pittsburgh's smallest neighborhood" really is. Finally, the end of the month brings one of Allegheny West's long-standing traditions—the annual Memorial Day block party. Details and the exact location of the event will follow.

The warmer weather also brings construction and home fix-up projects. Please remember that most of the neighborhood is within a city-designated historic district and proper approvals must be obtained prior to initiating any exterior work. All exterior work visible from any public right-of-way, including alleyways, must be approved by the Historic Review Commission (HRC) and receive a Certificate of Appropriateness prior to obtaining a Building Permit. Allegheny West has a Local Review Committee (LRC), which is sanctioned by the HRC and will guide property and business owners through the application process and, if necessary, an HRC hearing. If you are planning any exterior work this year, please contact the LRC chair, Carole Malakoff, so that you can be added to the LRC's agenda. The LRC meets the first Monday of each month if there are projects to be reviewed.

Finally, May is National Preservation Month, as designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In recognition of this event, each year AWCC presents a historic preservation award to one property or business owner who has completed a construction project in the neighborhood that exemplifies good historic preservation practices. This year's recipients are Dean and Irene Zotis, owners of the Modern Café, which suffered a devastating fire on January 1, 2009. In addition to restoring the exterior appearance of the building, Dean and Irene have transformed their business into a true neighborhood gathering spot—a real asset to Allegheny West and the entire North Side. The Zotis' will be presented a plaque at the next AWCC General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, at 7:30 PM. Congratulations to Dean and Irene!!!

Again, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve this neighborhood. I am always available and look forward to receiving your comments at tzinn106@msn.com.

Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

Friday, May 13, 6:00 PM
at the
MODERN CAFÉ
862 Western Ave.

Beer of the Month:
White Lightening (North Versailles) Full Pint

5:00-7:00 Happy Hour Special: 1/2 off all Munchies,
\$1.00 Off All Imported Beers

MAY / JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Calvary United Methodist Church

Tuesday, May 10 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 14 @ 7:30pm

HOUSING & PLANNING/NORTH AVE. COMMITTEE MTG

Tuesday, May 17 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 21 @ 7:30pm

AWCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

944 Western Ave.

Tuesday, May 31 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 28 @ 7:30pm

AWCC MEMBERSHIP MTG. AGENDA

1. Reading of April 2011 Minutes
2. Presentation: Allegheny West Historic Preservation Award—
Modern Café—Dean and Iris Zotis, owners
3. Reports of Officers
 - a. Treasurer's Report
4. Reports of the Standing Committees
 - a. Housing & Planning/North Avenue Committees
 - i. Development proposals
 - a. BRIx Restaurant
 - b. Stables Building
 - c. Western Ave. proposal
 - ii. North Ave. Sub-committee
 - a. Just Ducky Tours: rental contract
 - b. Value Added Foods Building
 - c. YPA Top 10 Best Preservation Opportunities—
Stables Building
 - iii. Western Ave. Project: update
 - a. Project update
 - b. NSLC Business District Funds
 - iv. Allegheny Avenue Properties (1003, 1005, 1007)
 - v. Condition of parcels surrounding Heinz Field/SR65
 - b. Membership
 - i. A-West Mixer 5/13 6 p.m. Modern Café
 - ii. Memorial Day Picnic/Block Party
 - iii. Saturday Tennis Club/Clinic
 - c. Property: Realtor report
 - d. Ways & Means: Wine Tour & More report
 - e. Friends of Allegheny West: neighborhood cleanup
 - f. Communications
5. Unfinished Business
 - a. W. Ohio St. & Ridge Ave. bridges—*update*
 - b. Heinz Field additional seating—*update*
 - c. Stage AE sound study
 - d. NSLC NID Steering Committee
5. New Business
6. Announcements
 - a. NSLC annual dinner (Thursday, June 9, 2011)
 - b. Citywide public safety training & resource fair (May 21)
 - c. Hearts in the Park Walk! (Sat., May 14)
 - d. Urban Hike tour of the North Side (mid-May)

Allegheny West May Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, May 21: 9 a.m.

Please meet at the AWCC office (812 Western Ave.) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 21 for our May cleanup. We'll provide the bags and gloves, please bring your rakes, brooms and clippers.

Calvary Church Rummage Sale: Sat., May 14, 8 a.m.—3 p.m.

It is not too late to contribute items to the Calvary Church Rummage Sale. Bring them to the Beech Avenue basement door any afternoon May 9—13 between 1 and 4 p.m. There will be coffee and breakfast items available on the day of the sale. The Mexican War Streets is also having a Yard and Arts Sale the same day if you care to hit them both. Call Mary Callison at 412-321-59521 for more info.

Memorial Trees

It has been a custom to plant trees in the park to memorialize our deceased neighbors. Six trees have been ordered for fall planting and they will be planted on our side of the park. The six persons we will be remembering are: *Amelio Ceci, David Augustine, Miles Bausch, Betty Andrews, Loretta Gerlach and Mike Colelman.* It is not too late to contribute money to this project to honor these neighbors. Please contact Mary Callison at 412-321-59521 if you are interested in making a donation.

Meet the AWCC Housing & Planning Committee
by Tim Zinn

According to AWCC's Bylaws, "The Housing and Planning Committee shall be responsible for the physical planning and housing conditions in Allegheny West. It should be as representative as possible of residential, business, and instructional sectors of the neighborhood." The H&P Committee reviews all development and construction proposals in the neighborhoods, meets with prospective business owners, initiates planning studies, and reviews all projects that could affect the quality of life in our neighborhood.

The chair of the H&P Committee is Jim Wallace, a resident of Beech Avenue. Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., usually at the home of the chairperson, unless a larger venue is required (as was the case last month). The meetings are open to all AWCC members in good standing.

Each month, I will continue to highlight one of our committees. As you become familiar with the duties and functions of the various committees, I encourage you to join one that interests you or would benefit from your time and talents.

Bowling Anyone?

We are organizing a Saturday morning tennis club for AWCC members beginning in June. We will offer a tennis Clinic by a CitiParks instructor, followed by spirited doubles competition on our neighborhood tennis courts. Enrollment is open to all AWCC members. Contact Tom Barbush today at 412-321-2161 for further details or to sign up.

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THE GAZETTE

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