



ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

November 2011

“LOL:“No Laughing Matter

By Timothy Zinn, AWCC President

For the past several months in this column I have often written about Allegheny West’s many long and hard-fought battles to create, maintain, and preserve our neighborhood. I have recalled our dedicated and civic-minded neighbors who have donated countless hours over the years to meet with potential developers to guide appropriate development and to discourage and prevent inappropriate development, who have created both city-listed and National Register historic districts in order to preserve the neighborhood’s historic character, and, who, when necessary, have engaged in litigation to protect our neighborhood from outside destructive forces. After a relatively quiet few years, it appears that one of these trying times is again at our doorstep.

Enter the Light of Life (LOL), who, until recently, has been a relatively good neighbor, inconspicuously operating their women’s program and administrative offices on Western Avenue. However, a couple of weeks ago, an article appeared in the local media announcing their \$1.1 million bid for the old Ridge Avenue School Building located at 635 Ridge Avenue, which would serve as a “mega-campus” in which to combine all of their services, including the men’s shelter currently located on East North Avenue, in one location.

No one was more taken by surprise than me, as I had, for the past four months have been serving as Allegheny West’s representative in a series of community involvement meetings hosted by LOL. This community involvement process sprang from an initial meeting on St. Patrick’s Day in the Mayor’s Office. Allegheny West was asked to join the process in JUNE. Of the three meetings that were held between June and August, most of the time was spent discussing which neighborhoods and organizations should be included and which groups should be excluded, the possibility of reusing the Columbus Middle School (now in use by Propel), and reviewing architects’ renderings for a new building to be constructed on California Avenue across from the Post Office. A casual mention of the Ridge Avenue site as the “staff-preferred site” was met with a swift reply from me indicating that our neighborhood would never support that use there, as the area is zoned residential and AWCC’s master plan calls for the return of residential uses in that area. The discussion of the Ridge Avenue site ended, or at least so I thought, until we learned of the bid submission to the School Board.

In an attempt to avoid a lengthy battle, two AWCC board members met with LOL staff last week to request that LOL withdraw its bid on the school property. We further asked that LOL revisit its vision to create a mega-campus, as we believe the impacts to a single community would be overwhelming and would be detrimental to their client base, which extends well beyond the city. LOL’s executive director was unwilling to withdraw the organization’s bid, but indicated that they might consider reviewing their plan to concentrate services in a single location.

AWCC was not satisfied with this response and the Executive Committee unanimously approved a motion to retain top legal counsel to assist our efforts in preventing this development in our neighborhood. In the coming weeks, it may be necessary to enlist the help of our neighbors in this matter. The topic will be discussed at AWCC’s General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, November 8, beginning at 7:30 in the chapel of Calvary United Methodist Church.

I am always available and look forward to receiving your comments at tzinn106@msn.com.

AWCC

November/December Calendar

AWCC General Membership Meeting
Calvary United Methodist Church
(Beech Avenue Entrance)

Tuesday, November 8 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 13 @ 7:30 pm

**Combined Housing & Planning and
North Avenue Committees Meeting**
852 Beech Avenue

Tuesday, November 15 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 20 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
832 Western Avenue

Tuesday, November 29 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 27 @ 7:30 pm

NOVEMBER AWCC ELECTION

The election for the 2012 AWCC Officers will be conducted at the November Membership Meeting of the Civic Council (Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.). Those who are elected will serve from January through December 2012.

Below is the slate of proposed officers. Nominations may also be made from the floor. Nominees must be an AWCC member in good standing and must agree to serve if elected. Those wishing to vote at the November Meeting must have paid their membership dues by the October Membership Meeting.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | <i>Timothy Zinn</i> |
| Vice-President | <i>Martha Helmreich</i> |
| Treasurer | <i>Bob Griewahn</i> |
| Recording Secretary | <i>Cathy Serventi</i> |
| Membership | <i>Tom Barbush</i> |
| Ways & Means | <i>Carole Malakoff</i> |
| Housing & Planning | <i>John DeSantis</i> |
| Communications | <i>Gloria Rayman</i> |
| Property | <i>Doug Sprague</i> |
| Friends of AW | <i>Mary Callison</i> |
| Sgt at Arms | <i>Trish Burton</i> |

Christmas Tour Update

The planning is well underway for the 30th Annual Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour. This year the tour will take place on **Friday, Dec. 9, from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.** This is the largest fundraiser for the neighborhood in terms of net proceeds AND volunteer time.

This year the tour will include the following homes: **936 Beech Avenue**, the home of Kevin Luffy and Stacy Lane and baby Max; **937 Beech Avenue**, the home of the Mark, Kim, Shane and Riley Moore; **840 N. Lincoln**, the home of Deb Kelly and Doug Debelak; **845 N. Lincoln**, the home of Alex Watson; **843 N. Lincoln**, the home of Hal Dixler and Nick Dueringer; and **719 Brighton Road**, the home of John DeSantis. The train museum will be open for viewing at John's house. The Holiday Shoppe at Jones Hall will be open for post-tour shopping and refreshments. House tour tickets are \$25 per person; train museum tickets are \$10 per person.

We still need volunteers!

Swag Assembly: On December 3 we will be making fresh pine swags (about 120 of them), attaching bows and hanging them. We need some volunteers to make the swags, and others to hang them.

Neighborhood Cleanup: Because of the Dec. 8 Thursday night Steelers game, we will need to do our neighborhood cleanup on Friday morning, Dec. 9. Since the Steelers are playing the Browns, we are anticipating a larger-than-normal mess to clean up in the neighborhood. We will meet at the AWCC office (812 Western Avenue) at 9 a.m. to start our cleanup. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Misc. Volunteer Positions: We also need volunteers to be tour guides; to help out at the Holiday Shoppe at Jones Hall handing out hot cider and gingerbread cookies; to help out at the houses on tour by ushering guests from one area of the house to the next; and to help at the volunteer party. If you can lend a hand for any of these tasks, or if you know of any vocal or brass groups that would like to add to the atmosphere of the tour by caroling, **please contact Gloria Rayman at glowalks@comcast.net.**

Neighborhood On-Street Parking Changes

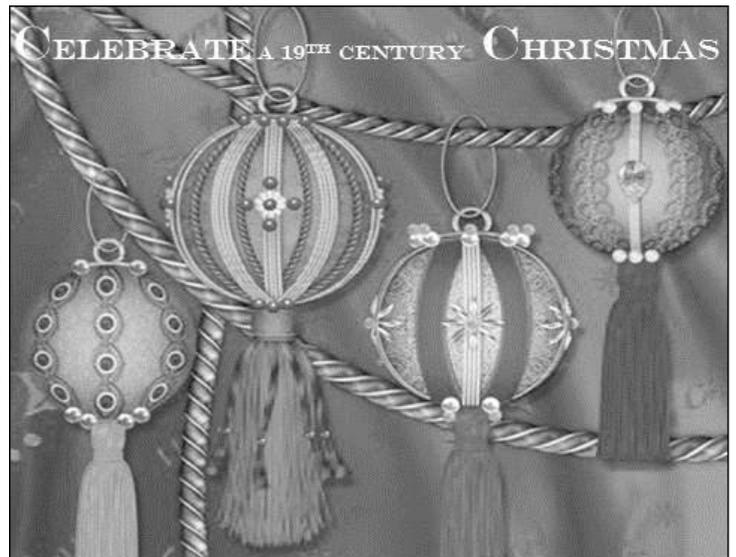
We will be asking our neighbors on Beech Avenue (both blocks), the 800 block of N. Lincoln, and Galveston between Buttercup Way and Downton Way to please park elsewhere in the neighborhood on Friday evening and all day Saturday. We will put notices on windshields with the locations of off-street parking for neighbors. We appreciate your cooperation with this request.

Ad Space Available in Christmas Tour Program Book

Each year at our Victorian Christmas Tour, we have close to 1,500 guests visit our neighborhood. Each tour-goer receives a program booklet describing our community and the homes on tour. To help cover the costs associated with printing the booklet, we are selling ad space to local and regional businesses. Our ad rates are:

Full page/back cover: \$500
Half-page ad: \$250
Quarter-page ad: \$125

Please contact Carole Malakoff at carolemalakoff@hotmail.com or 412-321-3612 if you are interested in advertising in this year's tour book.



IN THE HISTORIC HOMES OF OLD ALLEGHENY

THE 30TH ANNUAL OLD ALLEGHENY VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR

Friday, December 9 5:00 PM ~ 8:00 PM

Saturday, December 10 10:00 AM ~ 8:00 PM

Celebrate a Victorian Christmas in the historic homes of Allegheny West with a guided walking tour. Start with brunch and make it an extra special holiday memory. And be sure to visit the private toy train museum after your tour!

Groups are limited to 25 people and leave Calvary United Methodist Church every 12 minutes.

Tickets are \$25 per person and are available online at www.alleghenywest.org.



**Chamber Concert in Allegheny West
Saturday, November 26**

The *Renaissance City Winds* return to Holmes Hall (719 Brighton Road) in Allegheny West on the Saturday, November 26 at 8 p.m. The concert, which is themed "Latin American Fiesta," will feature works by Villa-Lobos, Medaglia, and Radames and will conclude with the World Premiere of a new work by composer Efrain Amaya. The colorful melodies and urgent rhythms give this music a flavor all its own!

About Renaissance City Winds

One of Pennsylvania's foremost chamber music ensembles, the group is affiliated with Carlow University and has performed and recorded internationally. Their popular Pittsburgh concerts are usually presented in Carnegie Music Hall or the Kresge Theater at Carlow. But, for nearly a decade, they have returned every year or two for a very special single performance in the Ballroom at Holmes Hall, the home of John DeSantis.

About Holmes Hall Concerts

The concept for these unique Holmes Hall concerts is to perform intimate music in a truly intimate setting. Past Holmes Hall concerts have ranged from Harps to Harpsichords to a very rare Glass Armonium—ethereal music on an instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin. Of course, this music would be enjoyable in a concert hall with thousands in the audience. But in an opulent ballroom with fewer than a hundred guests, the experience is simply magical! And, as a special treat, following each Holmes Hall Concert, guests enjoy a casual reception where they can meet the artists.

Purchasing Event Tickets

Tickets are available online at www.rcwinds.org, by phone at 412-681-7111, or at the door. For more information, email: rcw@carlow.edu.

Regular admission is **\$20**
Seniors are **\$15**
Students are **\$10**

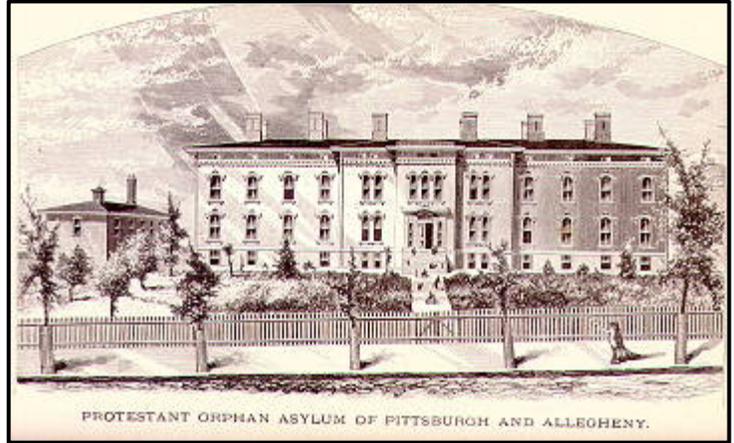
Because seating is limited, advance ticket purchase is encouraged.

**Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer
Friday • November 11, 2011 • 6 p.m.**



905 Western Ave.

www.brix-pittsburgh.com



PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM OF PITTSBURGH AND ALLEGHENY.

A LOOK BACK IN TIME....

Circa 1866 to 1909 sketch of the Protestant Orphan Asylum of Pittsburgh and Allegheny that occupied a large lot in the 900 block of Ridge Avenue, bound by Ridge, Galveston, and N. Lincoln Avenues (present location of Graybar).

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| <p>IRELAND'S SHAKESPEARE A Street Reading of an Award-winning Play by MICHAEL MCGOVERN</p> <p><i>A Comedy of Errors, Jolly & Fancy</i> NOVEMBER 6 & 7, 2011 1:30 Sun. - 7:30 Mon. \$5. Seniors/students free www.showclix.com</p> | <p>HANDEL'S MESSIAH SING-ALONG CONCERT</p> <p>DECEMBER 18 SUNDAY 4PM</p> <p>JOIN US & SING YOUR FAVORITE CHORUSES!</p> <p>Admission: \$10. seniors/students: \$5. Scores available \$10. Tix at door www.showclix.com</p> |
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AWCC Membership

Join Today!

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

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.org, click on the "Tours" button (it is set up to take payments for our Christmas tour) and then click on the Christmas Tour logo. Scroll to the bottom for the "purchase" link.

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

AWCC MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

November 8, 7:30 p.m.

1. GUESTS—Pittsburgh Parking Authority
2. READING OF OCTOBER 2011 MINUTES
3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS
Treasurer's Report
4. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
 - A. Housing & Planning/North Avenue Committees
North Avenue Sub Committee
 - Value Added Foods Building—UPDATE
 - Stables Building
 Western Avenue Project
 - Project Update
 - Neighborhood Gateway/Portal Signage
 West Ohio Street and Ridge Avenue Bridges
Allegheny Commons Pedestrian Bridge
Light of Life Relocation & Expansion
 - B. Membership
 - AW November Mixer—BRiX, Friday, Nov. 8, 6:00 p.m.
 - C. Property
 - Realtor report
 - D. Ways & Means
 - Christmas House Tour--UPDATE
 - E. Friends of Allegheny West
 - Memorial Tree Planting Program- UPDATE
 - F. Communications
 - G. Nominating Committee
 - Election of 2012 AWCC officers
5. NORTHSIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
7. NEW BUSINESS
8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Goodbyes are not forever.
Goodbyes are not the end.
They simply mean we'll miss you
Until we meet again.**



—Unknown

**Words can't express our gratitude for
37 years on Beech Avenue.
We will carry each person and memory
with us always.**

See you at:

**3624 Fleming Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212**

Love Always, Linda and Larry Ehrlich



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LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, LLC

Attorneys-At-Law

835 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Email: Coordinator@lg-law.com

Phone: 412-321-9300

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THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council

Editor: *Valerie Boccardi*

Letters, Submissions, Advertising, 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