

# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

September 2011

## Turning the Corner on Western Ave.

By *Tim Zinn, AWCC President*

After much anticipation and a series of unfortunate delays, BRiX, a wood-fired wine bar, has finally opened at the corner of Western and Galveston avenues. BRiX features an extensive selection of wines and a growing menu, offering a "simple rustic cuisine from a wood-fired oven featuring the best of seasonal-local produce." Although not in full swing, the restaurant is open daily at 5:00 to 11:00 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday, and until midnight on Friday and Saturday. Visit their website or follow them on Facebook and/or Twitter for updates, expanded hours, and menu additions. Also, be sure to mark your calendars now for the monthly Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer, which will be held at BRiX on Friday, September 16 beginning at 6:00 p.m. The faces behind BRiX are Chet Garland and Paul Tebbets of Toast! Kitchen and Wine Bar in Shadyside, who are joined by managing partner and wine director Michael McCoy. We are excited to welcome you to Allegheny West, and wish you much success.

BRiX is just the latest addition to a growing number of fine eateries on Western Avenue, which are transforming the street into true destination spot in the Pittsburgh area. From Greek to Thai, Italian to American cuisines, you can find them on Western Avenue. The offerings include: the Allegheny Sandwich Shoppe, Nicky's Thai Kitchen, the Modern Café/The Little Deli, BRiX, Giorgio's Place, Carmi, Peppi's, and Lindo's. Many of our restaurant owners have also improved the look of their establishments including the Modern Café/The Little Deli, Peppi's (with its newly restored façade and glowing neon sign), and Lindo's, which has undergone perhaps the most-significant transformation with its completely renovated façade including a new storefront, masonry restoration, a new signboard, and a bracketed cornice.

Interest and investment in Western Avenue has significantly increased since the Allegheny West Civic Council spearheaded the long-awaited public space improvement project that provided new infrastructure for the street. Such improvements include new concrete curbs and brick sidewalks, period street lighting, new street trees, and the removal of overhead power lines and poles. Although the power lines and poles still remain, we have been assured that they will be removed once the engineering is complete and has been approved by all of the proper authorities. This project would not have been a reality if it were not for AW resident and former AWC President, Gloria Rayman, who has served as its project coordinator—on a strictly volunteer basis—since its inception. Much of Western Avenue's success can be attributed to her tireless efforts to see the project through to completion. As a resident of Western Avenue, I am most grateful.

Western Avenue's transformation and success is also attributable to the continued investment and commitment of its home owners and business owners, who have also made significant contributions to the overall character of the street. With every restored house and every new business, Western Avenue has definitely turned a corner and is coming into its own as a great place to live, to work, and to be entertained.

*I continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve this neighborhood. I am always available and look forward to receiving your comments at [tzinn106@msn.com](mailto:tzinn106@msn.com).*

## AWCC September/October Calendar

### AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church  
(Beech Avenue Entrance)

Tuesday, September 13 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 11 @ 7:30 pm

### Combined Housing & Planning and North Avenue Committees Meeting

852 Beech Avenue

Tuesday, September 20 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 18 @ 7:30 pm

### AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

832 Western Avenue

Tuesday, September 27 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 25 @ 7:30 pm

## Allegheny West Civic Council 2011 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT	<i>Timothy Zinn</i>
VICE PRESIDENT	<i>Bob Griewahn</i>
TREASURER	<i>John Burton</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY	<i>Carole Malakoff</i>
MEMBERSHIP	<i>Tom Barbush</i>
SGT. AT ARMS	<i>John DeSantis</i>
WAYS AND MEANS	<i>Gloria Rayman</i>
FRIENDS OF A-WEST	<i>Mary Callison</i>
HOUSING AND PLANNING	<i>Jim Wallace</i>
COMMUNICATIONS	<i>Valerie Nagel</i>
PROPERTY	<i>open</i>

## Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

Friday, Sept. 16, 2011 • 6 p.m.

BRiX • 905 Western Ave.  
[www.brix-pittsburgh.com](http://www.brix-pittsburgh.com)

**BRiX**  
wood-fired wine bar

## It's Christmas Tour Time!!

The planning has started for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual *Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour*. This year the tour will take place on:

**Friday, December 9 from 5 p.m.–8 p.m.**

**Saturday, December 10 from 10a.m.–8 p.m.**

This is the largest fundraiser for the neighborhood in terms of net proceeds AND volunteer time. Here's a short list of activities for which we will need volunteers:

### Post card mailing

We send out over 10,000 post cards and each one of these gets a label! We will be putting on labels on Sunday evening, October 9 – location TBD. If you are interested in joining us, watch for an upcoming email with details.

### Making swags and hanging them

We make approximately 120 of the swags and attach red bows. One group makes the swags, another group hangs them - it's always a lot of fun and we can always use more help. This will place on Saturday, December 3.

### Other 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; to help with publicity; to help at the volunteer party; and to greet guests at Calvary Church and make sure they get on the correct tour!

If you can lend a hand for any of these tasks, please contact Gloria Rayman at [glowalks@comcast.net](mailto:glowalks@comcast.net).

## A Wine Tasting

The Friends of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Allegheny are pleased to invite you to a unique after-hours celebration *in the library!* A Wine Tasting! **Friday, September 30, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at the library at 1230 Federal Street. Chaired by your neighbors on Galveston, Carlton Stout (also the Head Librarian at this branch), and Gloria Rayman, this tour is sure to please even the most discerning palate!

Enjoy five premium wines selected by Barsotti Wines, paired with Linda Iannotta's gourmet hors d'oeuvres. There will also be a raffle for several baskets filled with great prizes. Admission is \$50 per person and the net proceeds from this event stay right here on the North Side at our library. If you are interested in drinking with Gloria and Carlton in the library (for a good cause, of course) please contact Gloria at [glowalks@comcast.net](mailto:glowalks@comcast.net) for tickets.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.alleghenywest.org).



## **Allegheny West Bowling Resumes in September** *by Timothy Zinn*

Bowling is resuming this month for Allegheny West neighbors on **Wednesday evenings at the Elks Lodge**, 400 Cedar Avenue. This is not a league, so there is no commitment to be there every week. We do, however, need a weekly minimum turnout of about 10 people. The bowling alleys are located on the second floor of the lodge. Bowling begins around **6:00 p.m.** and we typically bowl three games. The price is \$2.50 per game and includes shoe rental—what a deal!

Come to bowl or just socialize in the second floor lounge and cheer on your neighbors. Bowling is followed by the weekly performance of the Pittsburgh Banjo Club—every Wednesday, always open to the public, and never a cover charge.

## **Meet the Housing Committee** *by Timothy Zinn*

As we continue to highlight one of the AWCC's standing committees each month to encourage greater participation in the organization, this month we feature the Property Committee. According to AWCC's Bylaws, "The Property Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the operation of all Council-owned properties. All property managers, volunteer or paid, shall report on a timely basis to this committee. The Treasurer and the Chairman of the Housing and Planning Committee shall be ex-officio members of this committee. No member of the Property Committee may have any financial interest in any property owned or managed by the Council. The Chairman of the Property Committee will NOT be authorized to disburse funds from any Council account."

For the past several months, we have had no chairperson of the Property Committee. Although some of the duties have been shared among the members of the Executive Committee, the bulk of the responsibilities have been fulfilled by Mary Callison, the current chair of the Friends of Allegheny West Committee, which was highlighted last month. I truly appreciate Mary's efforts to fulfill these duties and her commitment to the council. With the Nominating Committee meeting next month to begin preparing a slate of officers for 2012, we hope to have this position filled in the new year.

Each month since May, I have highlighted one of the five standing council committees hoping that as you become familiar with the duties and functions of the committees, you would contact our committee chairs and join the one that interests you or would benefit from your time and talents. I hope this has encouraged some of you to take a greater interest in the Civic Council and to become more involved in the neighborhood. To complete our review of the council's structure, next month I will highlight the officers of the council and the duties of each.

## **A-WEST NEIGHBORHOOD MONTHLY CLEAN UP**

This month's monthly neighborhood cleanup is **Saturday, September 17 at 9 a.m.** Come to the Council office at 812 Western Ave. to check in, pick up trash bags, and have a cup of coffee.



### **A LOOK BACK IN TIME....**

Pictured above is Woodlawn, the home of George Logan, which stood at the southwest corner of Allegheny and N. Lincoln Avenues (present location of Wendy's).

## **CORRECTION FROM THE AUGUST GAZETTE:**

To report a street light problem either within the neighborhood or anywhere within West Park, please contact **Allegheny City Electric at 412-255-5483** or the **Mayor's Hotline 311**.

## **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

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](http://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.**

If you are unsure of your membership status, please send an email to [info@alleghenywest.org](mailto:info@alleghenywest.org) and we will look in the membership file!

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

# AWCC MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

September 13, 7:30 p.m.

1. GUESTS—Carnegie Library voter initiative campaign
2. READING OF August 2011 MINUTES
3. REPORTS OF OFFICERS  
Treasurer's Report
4. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
  - Housing & Planning/North Avenue Committees
  - North Avenue Sub Committee
    - Value Added Foods Building—UPDATE
    - A&P Lot Proposals (Corner W. North Avenue/Brighton Road)
  - Western Avenue Project
    - Project Update
    - Neighborhood Gateway/Portal Signage
  - West Ohio Street and Ridge Avenue Bridges
- Membership
  - AW September Mixer—BRIX, Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM
  - AW Bowling at Elks Lodge
- Property
  - Realtor report
- Ways & Means
  - Christmas House Tour--UPDATE
- Friends of Allegheny West
  - City-Wide Cleanup, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Communications

  5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
    1. North Side Leadership Conference Report
    2. NSLC NID Steering Committee
    3. Light of Life expansion/relocation
    4. North Shore billboards
    5. North Shore impacts
  6. NEW BUSINESS
  7. ANNOUNCEMENTS



## CHEAP STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE

- Location:** Western Avenue  
**Sizes:** Range from 5x5s - 5x9s  
**Prices:** Range from \$35 to \$60 per month  
**Terms:** available for month-to-month leases or sign a one-year lease and get **2 months free!**  
**Contact:** 724-699-4707

*These units are secure and have 24/7 access.*

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## THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council  
 Editor: *Valerie Nagel*

Letters, Submissions, Advertising, and other notices: [GAZETTE@ALLEGHENYWEST.NET](mailto: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