

**The Gazette**

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Editor: Fran Barbush  
 Letters, Submissions, Advertising and other notices:  
[Gazette@alleghenywest.org](mailto:Gazette@alleghenywest.org).

**AWCC February Agenda**

- AWCC General Membership Meeting  
 Calvary United Methodist Church  
 Tuesday, February 10 @ 7:30pm  
 Guest Speakers
- 7:30 - Sarah Quinn: City Historic Review Board  
 Erin Tobin: Allegheny Commons Initiative
  - 8:00 - Minutes: Review of Motions from last meeting
  - 8:05 - Treasurer's Report: Funding request for a 2 year financial review
  - 8:10 - Housing & Planning – February H & P meeting
    - a. Agent for 928-930 Western
    - b. Sale of vacant lot on Western
      - i. Retaining Real Estate Counsel for Vacant Lots & 928-930 Western
      - ii. Adjustment of terms of sales agreement from the last meeting
  - 8:30 – Friends: Grant for Tree Well
  - 8:35 – Green Space: Funding request for Hanging Baskets for Women
  - 8:40 – Bylaws: Timeline
  - 8:45 – Ways & Means: Wine Tour – Dates June 5 & 6  
 Planning meeting: Feb 19, Location: TBA
  - 8:50 – NSLC
    - a. Ohio Street Bridge Update
    - b. AGH Sign Update
    - c. Symphony in the West Commons
  - 9:00 – Pancake Supper/ Shrove Tuesday: 2/17
  - 9:05 – New Business
  - 9:05 – Q&A w/Committee Chairs

**Housing & Planning Committee Meeting**

- [housing-planning@alleghenywest.org](mailto:housing-planning@alleghenywest.org) check for meeting announcement time

**AWCC Executive Committee Meeting**

806 Western Avenue  
 Tuesday, February 24 @ 7:30pm

**Membership Committee Meeting**

942 West North Avenue  
 Saturday, February 28 @ 10:00am

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



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**ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE**

February 2015

**From AWCC President Cathy Serventi**

So I have this idea....actually I have a lot of them, all of which came from talking to other folks about ideas they are excited about for the neighborhood. Thanks to everyone who responded to my last President's message as well (although now I'm slightly intimidated that people are actually reading these.)

Here's a few things folks were interested in:

1. Parking (But I think I'm going to have to start with something easier, like world peace, but I promise we'll get back to that.)
2. Helping new folks feel welcome, and making it easy for them to get involved with the neighborhood.
3. Projects to make the neighborhood even more gorgeous, like spiffing up the alleys and helping everyone maintaining their tree wells.

As you can tell from the breadth of our membership meeting agendas, folks have already hard at work on some of these projects. Just one example, some of our neighbors on Tuesday will be presenting a proposal for hanging flower baskets on Western that they're hoping for neighborhood support for, so please come and express your opinion (in a friendly, good humored way, of course.)

Another idea we will be discussing, is an application for some funding to purchase mulch and potentially even flowers and fencing and having an "Allegheny West Tree Well Day" as one of monthly clean up events sponsored by the Friends of Allegheny. From my perspective there's an incredible wealth of gardening knowledge in our neighborhood that I'd like to take advantage of. I'd be more than happy to wheel a barrow full of mulch up the street for a neighbor, especially one who is new in town and hasn't had a chance to figure out where to even get mulch. And, of course there will be a potluck. As a bonus, I swear I will stop showing up to social events with paperwork for people to fill out after I file for the grant. Some of those same gardeners have suggested that the April clean up would be the ideal month, and we'll hear about the results of the grant application in late February so we'll have lots of time to plan a blow out of a clean up. By the way, these Buhl foundation funds are open to anyone on the Northside, so if you have another idea you think could benefit from \$1000 I'm happy to help you out with the application (but you have to take the petitions to the mixer.)

Hope to see everyone at the Membership meeting next Tuesday, with more ideas they'd like help making happen.

PS: Carol R. I have ordered the tiara, you have to come to the meeting now.

**Special Guests for the February Membership meeting**

One of the ideas that folks for making the AWCC Membership meeting more interesting is to have more outside speakers. Since your wish is my command (except for Parking, because I'm not actually a magic genie), we have two special guests on Tuesday.

Sarah Quinn, from the City of Pittsburgh's, Office of Historic Preservation will be visiting to answer all your questions about the Historic Review process. With the spring construction season fast approaching, here's your chance to get the inside scoop on everything

Erin Tobin from the Allegheny Commons Initiative will also be visiting. Great timing for us, so we can follow up on the discussion we started at the last meeting about the fate of the West Ohio Street Bridge.

If you have ideas for future speakers, please send them my way, at [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org) or (412) 418-2027.

### Spring is Renovation Time - Your LRC is Here to Help

Submitted by Carole Malakoff

Allegheny West homeowners and businesspeople: Are you contemplating exterior renovations to your property this Spring? If so, you may want to contact your Local Historic Review Committee. We are a group of residents and property owners convened by the City Historic Review Commission to review exterior renovation projects, to help property owners manage the building permit process, and to provide our recommendations to you, as the property owner, and the City Historic Review Commission.

Because Allegheny West is a City Historic District, all exterior work that is visible from a right-of-way, a street or alley, needs a Certificate of Appropriateness, and, depending on the type of project, possibly a building permit. Once you have a concept, idea, or plan, check the Allegheny West Historic Guidelines. These guidelines are posted on-line on the City HRC site. If your project fits the guidelines or is fairly simple and straightforward, such as painting, you may be able to get approval for a Certificate of Appropriateness "over the counter" at 200 Ross Street, Downtown. The person you will need to contact for this is Sarah Quinn, the City Historic Preservation Planner, 412-255-2243 or [sarah.quinn@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:sarah.quinn@pittsburghpa.gov).

However, if you are planning a more significant project, such as replacement of windows or doors, installation of a fence, porch, or addition, you will need to have a hearing before the Historic Review Commission. In the second instance, please contact us, your local committee. We will review your plans, make recommendations, and help you get through the process. To be put on the LRC's agenda, contact Carole Malakoff, [carolemalakoff@hotmail.com](mailto:carolemalakoff@hotmail.com).

**Warning – Do not proceed with work without a building permit or a CofA!** Property owners who have done so in the past have been cited by Building Inspection. Time and money had to be expended to resolve the situations, and projects were delayed.

**If you have specific questions, be sure to attend February's AWCC meeting. Sarah Quinn, the City Historic Planner will be there to talk about the process, guidelines, and answer your specific questions.**

### Above & Beyond

If you'd like to recognize a neighbor who went above-and-beyond for you or the neighborhood this month please send a note to [abovebeyond@alleghenywest.org](mailto:abovebeyond@alleghenywest.org) or give Cathy at call at (412) 418-2027 and, space allowing, we'll recognize them in the Gazette.

**Trish and Carol S.** were spotted shoveling a neighbors sidewalk.

**Michael** must have done something really excellent in a former life, or last month, since his karma quotient was exceptional this month: he'd like to thank **Eleanor** for the gorgeous curtains and her sister **Marcella** for the help hanging them; he also appreciated the trip to Brenkle's **she** and **Deb** organized to fill the donated concrete planters. Finally, as an awesome preview of the AW Tree Well Day, he was extremely touched by all the neighborly assistance for his spontaneous mum planting project.

Finally **Carol R and John** very much appreciated the kindness of the ladies from Motive, the new salon on Galveston.



#### OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH HALL

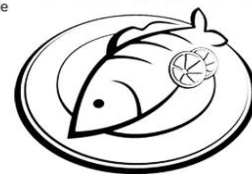
Suismon & Middle Streets, Northside  
(Corner across from  
Max's Allegheny Tavern)

**Fridays of Lent**  
February 20<sup>th</sup> thru March 27<sup>th</sup>  
(excluding Good Friday)

Dinner is Served 4 to 6:30 PM

**Menu:**  
Baked Cod, Fried Cod, Salmon or Crab Cakes;  
Macaroni & Cheese; Stewed tomatoes or Haluski.  
Veg of the day, coleslaw or pickled beets, roll, butter.  
Desert & Coffee or Tea included.

Cost: \$9.00 A-La-Cart items available too  
Take Out Orders: Call 412-321-2499



# LENT

### Believe it or not, It's Planning Time for Our Summer Fundraiser!

Submitted by Trish Burton

Winter is unfortunately still with us, but it's now time to start planning for the AWCC summer 2015 fundraiser, **A Tour and Tasting in the Homes and Gardens of Old Allegheny**, to take place this year on Friday evening, June 5 and Saturday evening, June 6, from 5pm to 9pm. **It's a house and garden tour. It's a wine tasting. It's an evening of entertainment.**

This year our tour will be highlighting France and featuring both red and white regional French wines, hors d'oeuvres paired to complement those wines, and cheese tastings and desserts at seven homes and gardens in our neighborhood. We have invited a wine specialist to educate guests, guides and homeowners about wine tasting.

We may still need a home for the tour, so if you would like to offer to open your home or garden for the tour, please contact us as soon as possible. We also will need many volunteers to:

Be tour guides

Help homeowners to serve, pour and clean up

Help run the tour that weekend (take tickets, direct visitors, etc.)

Be on our committee (and while we promise to limit the number of meetings, remember that we always "taste" wine at those meetings!)

**First meeting will be Feb. 19, 2015 at 7pm at Burton's, 926 Beech Avenue. Join us!**

If you can help with any of these, or if you can provide any stories about French influences in our neighborhood, please contact us at [tours@alleghenywest.org](mailto:tours@alleghenywest.org), or call either Trish Burton (412 523 9402) or Deb Kelly (724 316 7213)

Please help us to "get the word out" to friends and co-workers about our event. Tickets can soon be purchased on our website, [www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org) or by calling 1-888-71-TICKETS, M-F, 9am-9pm.

### MEMBERSHIP PLANS AND DATES

Submitted by Mary Callison

Activities for the month of February are:

Bowling every Wednesday night 7PM at the Elks on Cedar Ave. Everyone is welcome, the price is only \$2:50 per game and this includes ball and shoes. Don't worry about fitting in, very few are really good bowlers. An added bonus is you can go downstairs after we finish around 9:30 and listen to the Banjo Club.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> we will have a neighborhood Pancake Dinner at Calvary Methodist Church from 5 to 8 PM. This is a family event. Cost is \$5 for Adults and \$3 for Children over 5 years, no reservation needed.

February 20<sup>th</sup> will be the monthly Mixer. The gathering will be at the Modern Café beginning at 6PM.

On Saturday morning February 28<sup>th</sup> 10 AM, I would like to have a membership committee meeting at my house 942 W. North Ave. Items to discuss will be plans for the 3 summer Block Parties and any other ideas anyone may have for neighborhood events. Call or email me and let me know if you can come or would like a different time. If meetings do not work for you and you want to volunteer for any of these events call or email me. Phone 413-321-5951, [callismar@gmail.com](mailto:callismar@gmail.com).