

## AWCC Calendar

**Tuesday, February 9 @ 7:30 p.m.**

AWCC General Membership Meeting ,@Calvary Church

**Tuesday, February 16 @7:30 p.m.**

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @Jim Wallace's House

**Tuesday, 2/23 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Executive Committee Meeting, @AWCC Office (806 Western)

**Bowling at the Allegheny Elks every Wednesday at 7:00!**

### DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

February 9, 2016 7:30 p.m.  
Calvary Church at 971 Beech Ave.

#### Agenda

- 7:30 Light of Light - Ridge Ave. Property Presentation
- 7:45 Northside Oldtimers Presentation
- 7:50 New neighbors
- 7:55 Minutes
- 8:00 Treasurer's Report
- 8:05 Housing and Planning Updates
  - Western Ave.
  - 911 Galveston
  - Council CDFG: Trash Can Update
  - One Northside Grant Update
- 8:15 AWDC Updates
  - 928 - 930 Western
  - Stables - Recommendations to the Zoning Board
- 8:30 NSLC: Stadium Authority Traffic Study
- 8:40 2016 Flower Baskets
- 8:45 Upcoming Membership Events
  - Mixers
  - Bowling
- 8:50 Communications: House History website project
- 8:55 Committee Q&A

Send a note to [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org) if you have additional agenda items to add.

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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

February 2016

### President's Message

Decisions, decisions... Please come to the membership meeting this month. There are several issues that the Civic Council needs to make a decision on, and the more input we have the more likely we are to make decisions that benefit the entire neighborhood. (Plus, honestly, we need a quorum to actually make a decision..and I begged the ZBA for an extension and we'll look kind of goofy if we still can't take a position.)

First up, the Stables building has been in front of the Historic Review Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustments this week. The Historic Review Commission has continued the decision to next month and asked the developer to address specific issues such as the proposed fourth story addition to the Stables, and design elements that more clearly differentiate the new addition from the historic building. AWCC has an option to make recommendations or raise concerns at next month's hearing. The developers also managed to snag a spot on an incredibly crowded ZBA hearing agenda. (Apparently the next unscheduled openings are in April/May...I'm choosing to take that as a sign that there are lots of potentially interesting projects happening in the City, although I realize there are other possible interpretations.) However, because the hearing was scheduled after the developer's presentation to the Membership, the ZBA agreed to give us 10 extra days to take a formal position and submit evidence. I want to make sure people are able to make an informed decision, so if there are specific pieces of information that people want to have in front of them at the meeting please send me a quick email at [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org). We will provide the most current plans available, although the density and height requests have not changed since the last presentation. (Please please help us get to quorum...my dignity thanks you.)

Light of Life will also be presenting a plan for a zoning variance. They are requesting to increase the height of the wall on the property on Ridge Avenue to better secure the property. They also have made some additional progress on a plan to overhaul how their services are distributed on the Northside. It's still in the early stages but we expect them to return in the next few months asking for additional community input.

Also, the Pittsburgh Oldtimers are also going to be on hand to make a presentation to the neighbors.

Finally, I'd like your opinion on how we should make use of the crime reports that the Zone 1 police department has started producing at the NSLC safety committee's request. I'm one of those people who avoids the evening news because I think it spends too much time reporting on "interesting" crimes and it ends up making me paranoid and depressed. (Facebook, mumble mumble...). On the other hand, I'm a lover of data for data's sake, and do think it's important that we have an accurate understanding of what's going on in our neighborhood. It's really hard to argue for more resources if the official reports don't show any issues in the neighborhood. I'm waffling between just posting the reports on the website and actually sending them to the email lists. I welcome your thoughts on this. Trade-off: there always seem to be trade-offs.

-Cathy

### Above and Beyond

This week I'd like to call out all the folks who have been working so hard to make the Stables project work. The developer, **Andrew**, and his team have been to well over a half dozen meetings, taking feedback from the neighborhood and incorporating it into the designs. That also means that various combinations of neighbors have been attending these meetings, pouring through plans and financials, asking important questions and making suggestions. **Michael** and **Tim** have also been working for literally years on the submissions for various historic designations. And **Jon** (the NSLC Conference) and **Christa** (our realtor) have been holding our hands the entire way. Maintaining and developing a historic property is amazingly complicated and much like the tour it would take an entire newsletter to list everyone (especially since I've only be heavily involved for 5 years and this project has a lonngggg history in the neighborhood.)

### One Clean Northside

Allegheny CleanWays, an organization that strives to engage and empower people to eliminate litter and illegal dumping in their communities, is working in the Northside! ACW is looking for volunteers to clean up illegal dumping (with the DumpBusters program), and is ready to partner with communities on existing and new litter cleanup efforts. ACW, along with the Pennsylvania Resources Council, also has recycling bins to distribute and is developing an anti-litter campaign. If you are interested in any of these programs, please email Samantha Weaver at [samantha.weaver@alleghenycleanways.org](mailto:samantha.weaver@alleghenycleanways.org).

### Calling All Cooks

Allegheny West is starting to gather recipes to compile a neighborhood cookbook to use for a fundraiser. Do you love to cook and have favorite recipes you know people would enjoy trying? Are there delicious and cherished family recipes you would be willing to share? Please send your recipes to Debra Kelly via email to: [kellern2001@hotmail.com](mailto:kellern2001@hotmail.com). Please double check for typos and ingredients and include your name and if you are submitting a family recipe please include the name and relationship of the person whose recipe you are including.

### Port Authority Public Comment Period

Port Authority of Allegheny County is considering eliminating its multi-zone system and switching to a single-zone, \$2.50 flat fare, pay-on-enter system that would give riders a financial incentive to use their ConnectCard and make getting from A to B a better overall experience and value. Unlike every other fare proposal Port Authority has implemented in the last 35 years, this proposal would lower the average cost for many riders in Allegheny County. Public hearings will be held:

#### Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Omni William Penn Hotel, William Penn Ballroom  
530 William Penn Place, Downtown  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

#### Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Alumni Hall, Connolly Ballroom  
4227 Fifth Avenue, Oakland  
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Those wishing to register to speak at one or both hearings are encouraged to preregister by calling 412-566-5187 or 412-231-7007 for TTY weekdays from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Oral testimony will be limited to three minutes per speaker. Port Authority will provide a sign language interpreter.

**Allegheny West Gazette Editor:** Karen Haller Beer

Please submit all entries by the first of each month to [gazette@alleghenywest.org](mailto:gazette@alleghenywest.org). Thank you!

### The House History Project

There are many reasons why people come to love old houses. These include the decorative features and layouts unavailable in the modern age, the solidity with which they are built, and the grand room sizes. One of the most interesting advantages of an older home is that it has a history. The world was different when it was built, and has changed dramatically over the years as the house has aged. Many families and people have lived in the house, and their stories are part of the fabric of American history. To live in an old house is to be a part of a much larger and longer story. What we today call Allegheny West is blessed by having a great many grand, unique and interesting houses. As a neighborhood, it has had a leading role in the history of both Pittsburgh and the country. As people move here, or come to walk our streets and see the architecture, they are curious about the people and the stories which animate the history of these houses.

Many of us have had house histories done by Carole Peterson. With Carole's gracious permission, Allegheny West has undertaken to collect copies of those histories and publish them to our website. This will help tell the story of our neighborhood. We are hoping to build out a really robust house histories and Before & After section of the Allegheny West website as materials arrive. We're also exploring the possibility of putting together a walking tour that could include an interactive, mobile device-driven component, allowing visitors (and residents!) to dig deeper into the homes around them and their long, glamorous pasts and the hard work that went into - and goes into - keeping them beautiful.

To do this **we need your cooperation**. If you have a house history, please share it with us and allow us to add it to the neighborhood website. We are also looking for old photos of the neighborhood, and before and after pictures of the houses, to help flesh out the story. If you have those, please send them along as well! Digital or scanned copies can be emailed to Cathy Serventi ([darthduckie@gmail.com](mailto:darthduckie@gmail.com)), or to Nick Smerker ([emailnick@gmail.com](mailto:emailnick@gmail.com)). Hard copies can be dropped off at the Allegheny West office (806 Western Ave.). You can drop them through the office door, addressed to the House History Project. Please make sure they're in a protective envelope. After you drop them off, please email [webmaster@alleghenywest.org](mailto:webmaster@alleghenywest.org) so we know that there's a history for us to pick up. Also, please provide a phone number for us to call to make arrangements to return the materials to you. By dropping off items for scanning, you're giving us permission to post the photos or histories on the website. You can also drop materials off during the AWCC Membership meetings. Please don't leave house histories at Calvary during other times. If you have other questions you can call 412-323-8884.

Thank you,  
Jim Wallace and Nick Smerker

### Mardi Gras on the Northside

It's time for **Northside Mardi Gras**! More than two dozen Northside businesses are celebrating this weekend with live music, food and drink specials, and more! Try everything from Dixieland to rock & roll, from gumbo to po'boys, from classic cocktails to regional beers. You can find the full schedule of events at [www.pittsburghnorthside.com](http://www.pittsburghnorthside.com). Just click the Mardi Gras logo to find your favorite music, food and drink!

We'll finish with a great **Fat Tuesday Party at the Allegheny Elks Lodge #339 on Tuesday Feb 9, 7-11PM**. Dixie Doc and the Dixieland All Stars will be playing, Jack "Johnny Angel" Hunt will be singing with the band, and we'll crown our 2016 Mardi Gras King, WQED's Rick Sebak! The Elks will be cooking New Orleans style and the bar will have specials. \$15 at the door. Get there early because we sold out last year!

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

