
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

January 2017

President's Message

So what are you doing on Tuesday night?

There's a meeting on the Second Tuesday of each month—7:30 P.M.—in the social hall of Calvary Church, corner of Allegheny and Beech Avenues. Your neighbors show up, and they decide the fate of your community. Really.

If there's something that you like about Allegheny West, or that attracted you to be here in the first place, chances are highly likely that these people and their predecessors have literally called it into being. Really.

And if there's something that you hate here, or that drives you right up the wall, chances are highly likely that these people and their predecessors have been working their butts off to do something about it. Really.

None of these folks is collecting a paycheck for any of this. Many of them put in dozens of hours a week—week after week, and year after year. Lots of them have been doing this for ten, twenty, thirty, forty years. Really. For more than half a century, your Allegheny West neighbors have been gathering to assure that our community is a place that we are all glad to call home—whether for ourselves, our family, or our business.

The community in which you reside or work wasn't always a place that you—or those around you—would have chosen. Many hundreds of hard-working individuals across all these years have carefully crafted this neighborhood—very frequently against astonishing odds and obstacles. The results of their hard work have brought you here.

The people of Allegheny West first met to create a community organization on May 24, 1962. As the Allegheny West Civic Council celebrates its 55th birthday this year, my monthly messages in The Gazette will provide an overview of what we've done across all that time. As nearly all of us are more recent arrivals, it's a good time to assure that we all have a clear understanding of just how much we've accomplished. It also helps—when we're struggling with an insurmountable task, contemplating a new initiative, or dreading an unavoidable conflict—to collectively recall that this is the process that has produced Allegheny West . . . determination and hard work.

Quite simply, this neighborhood wouldn't exist without the struggles that the Allegheny West Civic Council and its members have overcome since 1962. It actually wouldn't physically even be here. All of this land would be an industrial park, a highway interchange, and a college campus. Right where you live or work today. Really.

Over the coming months here in The Gazette, you'll be learning about all of that. I hope that it helps you to appreciate your neighborhood—and your neighbors, past and present—in a new way. And I hope even more that it inspires you to join us in continuing to protect and grow this remarkable legacy. You will be part of an astonishing and proud story, made possible by extraordinary women and men across 55 years. And there's still lots more work to do. I hope that you will consider actively joining us and participating in this effort. A good place to begin is at the Calvary Church on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M. Hope to see you there!

—John DeSantis, AWCC President

Little Neighbor, Big Accomplishment!



Congratulations to neighbor and ballerina Margot Teh, who performed in the Pittsburgh Ballet Theater's performance of *The Nutcracker* this past December. Margot has been dancing with the PBT since she was four years old. After many rehearsals, Margot performed as both a toy soldier and a bumblebee in 13 performances. Great job, Margot!

Allegheny West Featured in Popular Book

The Places to See Before You Die the popular travel guide by Patricia Shultz has featured Allegheny West. Grab a copy (link available on our website: www.alleghenywest.org) and turn to page 229 to read about your own neighborhood. Then enjoy discovering all of the other interesting options across the US and Canada!

House History & AWCC 50th Project Update

The Neighborhood History section of alleghenywest.org has been online for just the last few months and has already garnered a fair bit of traffic. With more expected to come from visitors who learned about the resource during the Christmas Tours, it would be great to keep things growing.

To that end, if you have a researched house history from Carol Peterson and haven't yet dropped it off at the AWCC office (806 Western Ave), please do so soon! We've heard from a few folks who have these documents and have been meaning to drop them off...for several months running...so it would be great to have them for scanning by Pitt.

In addition, the AWCC 50 Year Timeline project is still moving forward. Doris and Greg have been mining the council office for useful materials and editing has begun on video interviews recorded in the last few months. We'd still love having more voices in the mix, though so if you'd like to participate in an interview, please let us know.

If you have any questions about this or want to get involved just email webmaster@alleghenywest.org or call (814) 777-0097.

Note Change in Winter Office Hours: AWCC office hours are Mon. & Fri., 12:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. and Tue 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. There will be no Thursday office hours for the upcoming months. Changes to office hours are posted to the calendar available on the website: www.alleghenywest.org.

Jazz at City Books

Join City Books on **Saturday, January 14, 7:00-8:30 P.M.** for the **Kyle Simpson Jazz Collective**. Kyle Simpson, composer, trumpet player, and bandleader, is a graduate from Lawrence Conservatory of Music in Appleton, WI and The University of Montana in Missoula, MT. A former Northside resident, Simpson currently lives outside of Pittsburgh, PA where he is an Assistant Professor teaching instrumental music at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, PA. He is also presently in the DMA program in composition at West Virginia University. Simpson has written many works for large jazz groups, chamber jazz groups, solo trumpet, synthesized electronic music, Orchestra, and Wind Ensemble. His compositions have been featured at the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival in Missoula, where he also performed with Lew Soloff and Paquito D'Rivera. Simpson's music has been described as, "lively with rhythmic vitality" and also, "lyrical with a brooding elegance."

Hear Kyle on trumpet, along with Paul Thompson on bass and Alex Ayers on keyboard. Kyle calls these guys his "dream team," so you can be sure it is going to be a terrific night of jazz music. Contact Arlan at City Books with any questions at [\(412\) 321-7323](tel:4123217323) / 908 Galveston Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233.

Neighborhood Social Events: Mixer and Bowling

Come out to City Books next Friday, January 13 at 6:30 P.M. to mix and mingle with your neighbors. Arlan is opening up the store to the neighborhood and will provide light snacks. BYOB. If you haven't had a chance to stop by the bookstore yet, please mark your calendars for this Friday and support another great local business!

Also, bowling at the Elks is back on the calendar! Starting January 18th, please come down to Allegheny Elks Lodge #339 on Cedar Avenue for a casual night of bowling starting at 7:30P.M. Don't forget that downstairs will be the Banjo "practice" session will be playing until 10P.M. See you there!

Food Alert: Brunch Challenge

Ten chefs making twenty different appetizers for 200 people to sample while they listen to Irish music, Swiss yodelers and watch Irish dancers . . . all for just \$25! All proceeds support the Northside Community Food Pantry. Event will be held on Saturday, January 21 at 11AM. at the New Hazlett Theater. For tickets, e-mail jay.poliziani@ncmin.org.

The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Karen Haller Beer

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Letters, submissions, advertising and other notices by the first of the month to: gazette@alleghenywest.org. Submission does not guarantee publication.

A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council

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AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, January 10 @ 7:30 p.m.

General Membership → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Friday, January 13 @ 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Mixer → City Books: 908 Galveston

Tuesday, January 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee → Office: 806 Western

Wednesday, January 18, @ 7:30 p.m.

Bowling → Elks Lodge 400 Cedar Avenue

Tuesday, January 31, @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee → AWCC Office: 806 Western

DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 10 @ 7:30 P.M.

Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave

- **Visitors:**

- Councilwoman Harris' office
- Mayor Peduto's office
- Pittsburgh Police Zone 1
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

- **Presentation:** Northside Trail Project

- New neighbors & guests
- Reading of last month's minutes

- **Treasurer's report**

- Finance Committee volunteers sought

- **Committee Reports**

- **Membership:**

- January events

- **Ways & Means**

- Christmas Tour Final
- Update on Five-Year Calvary Plan
- Dates for 2017 events

- **Friends of Allegheny West – Green Space Property**

- **Housing & Planning**

- Trucks through the neighborhood
- Stadium events parking and traffic issues
- Western Avenue revitalization
- Light of Life Ridge Avenue project
- Film Guidelines

- **Northside Leadership Conference**

- **Other business**



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