
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

April 2018

President's Message

So what are you doing on Tuesday evening? Join your neighbors on Tuesday, April 10 at 7:30 at Calvary Church for the April meeting of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Each month, this is where we make decisions about our neighborhood—decisions that in ways both small and large will affect you. And we always have a good time socializing and enjoying refreshments. Everyone is welcome—second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., in the Calvary Church social hall, corner of Beech and Allegheny (use the Beech Avenue entrance). The meeting is usually over by 9.

It's also a great way for newer folks to meet your neighbors and get involved! We hope to see you on Tuesday evening!

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Over the past year, here in the AW Gazette we've been recounting the story of Allegheny West as we've marked the birth of the Allegheny West Civic Council 55 years ago, in May 1962.

Across that year, I've had many neighbors share their own memories of those same events—some stretching back into the 1960s and 70s. I've also had even more folks who are recent additions to our community express their surprise that there is SO much that has gone before them. And a great part of that surprise is their discovery that there have been so many challenges to overcome, so many adversaries to resist, so much Herculean work to accomplish, and so many other directions that one poor decision could have sent us in.

The truth is that for more than half a century we have dedicated a large part of our efforts to convincing the outside world that they would love being a part of Allegheny West. That “aggressive marketing to attract newcomers” was on the very first meeting agenda 55 years ago. And in 2018, at every month's meeting, we discuss whichever AW Tour is next on the calendar. Of course these tours are the economic generators that fund the Civic Council's many activities and projects. But they always have been—and remain—our best and boldest way of telling the world, “Hey , look at us!”

Those efforts to project the image of Allegheny West as the region's ideal neighborhood have succeeded in attracting almost every person who is here today. And of course, like all good marketing, our message has emphasized all of the many positive aspects of life here. Any of our drawbacks and annoyances—and our struggles to deal with them—we prefer to keep to ourselves. “Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain!”

So it should be no surprise that many of our most recent folks had no idea that Allegheny West's story is very similar to Jimmy Stewart's Bedford Falls in *It's a Wonderful Life*. If you remove the Civic Council's 55 years of intense activity on so many fronts—making good things happen, blocking bad things from happening—there is a decidedly darker community where we now sit. And not one of us would be here, because the delightful neighborhood that has attracted all of us would never have existed.

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To make this a bit more real, next month we'll take a stroll through this "other" version of our neighborhood. Like George Bailey in the movie, if the AWCC hadn't existed none of its positive actions or achievements would exist either. And all of those negative things that it prevented from happening across 55 years would be here instead. This alternate Allegheny West is the place that could have been ... and it's not a place that you're gonna like!

- John DeSantis, AWCC President

Support Allegheny Commons

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has submitted another grant request to the *VERY COMPETITIVE* Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) state grant program requesting additional funding for the fountain, the North Avenue Promenade (repaving the pathways and lights) and stormwater management.

Last year, over 1,100 people submitted comments in support of our request for Allegheny Commons and we are back again looking for the same support! The public comment period is open until Sunday, April 8th. We are asking folks to sign on in support of our grant request. Please visit <https://www.pittsburghparks.org/action-alert> to sign on. It only takes a minute.

Neighborhood Clean-ups and Planting Begin

Our first clean-up will be on Sat, April 28, 2018. Meet at 9:00 A.M. at the AWCC office at 806 Western Avenue to get coffee and supplies. Or, just attack an area that you think needs work (and most of our alleys definitely fit in this category!) Hope to see many of you there!

Babb, Inc. has again generously offered their time and energy to helping plant and mulch the AW parklet on May 23, 2018. We hope to be able to plant and mulch some of the tree wells along Western Avenue as well, so if you can volunteer some of your time that day, we'd welcome your help. Please contact Trish Burton or Diane Caruso (see above for info).

Help Our Parklet

DIVIDE AND DONATE: Our parklet at Brighton and Western is in need of more hostas (in particular, variegated varieties), in addition to some other perennials, so if you have any in your garden that need to be divided, we'll take them off your hands! Our crew can help you to dig them up and transport to the parklet if needed.

DIVIDE AND TRANSPLANT : The "triangle garden" at Brighton and North is donating some of the tall grasses to our parklet. However, we need a few strong backs to accomplish this. It should only take about 30 minutes, and we can meet you whenever it's convenient for you, so please contact either Trish Burton (text/call 412-523-9402; tdburton3@gmail.com) or Diane Caruso (text/call 724-799-3952; djc010961@gmail.com) if you can help.

2018 Wine Tour and Tasting : *A Toast to the Central Coast*

The 2018 Tour and Tasting planning is well underway. I'm thrilled to share that we have all of the homes for this tour and it's a wonderful collection:

Annette Trunzo - 800 Beech

The Zoufaliks - 852 Beech

The Malakoffs - 913 Brighton

Cathy Serventi and Gene Wilson - 851 Beech

Doug Debelak and Deb Kelly - 840 N. Lincoln

Emmanuel Episcopal Church - Corner of W. North and Allegheny Ave

Thank you all for opening your homes and gardens!

The theme this year is *Ground to Glass from the Central Coast*. I'm excited to share with you that several Central Coast wineries (Paso Robles) are contributing to this event for the walking tour. In addition to the wineries, the food pairings are being primarily selected from a cookbook of a premier Paso catering company, Cahoots Catering. Cahoots is donating cookbooks and product for raffle to the event.

New this year is a Showcase event at Holmes Hall, featuring Eberle wines. Gary Eberle grew up in Coraopolis and attended Penn State. He fell in love with Paso and the Central Coast. His interest in chemistry led him to applying that knowledge to winemaking. Among so many accolades, Gary is considered the "Pioneer of Central Coast wines". At the Showcase event, guests will enjoy four wines selected by Gary and expertly paired by Bob Marivelli. The Showcase event will be exclusively Eberle wines, with a sommelier and food pairings in the ballroom and gardens of Holmes Hall.

Eberle, along with other Central Coast wineries, have been incredibly excited to be a part of the event. Tobin James and Still Waters are signed up to be a part of the event. We are still working on other wineries to join.

With all of the excitement about the participation from the Central Coast, we still need of help locally. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the pairings (food for the tour), help the homeowners, and volunteer to support set up and tear down for the after party. John and Trish Burton have graciously volunteered their home to celebrate after the event. There are other areas you can help, just let me know what you'd like to do!

Here are the details:

Walking Tour (\$75)

June 22 - 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

June 23 - 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. / 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Showcase Event at Holmes Hall (\$150)

June 23 - 7:00 to 9:30 P.M.

Please contact Doug Sprague if you'd like to lead a tour: doug.osrg@gmail.com

Contact me if you have interest in volunteering in any other way. carolgomrick@gmail.com.

I'm really excited about the tour this year. Please consider getting involved and being a part of the event!

Fourth Annual Allegheny West Art Show

The 4th Annual Allegheny West Art Show is back! Showcasing work by artists living and/or working across the Northside, and their fellow artists. The opening will be Friday night, May 11th, starting at 6:30. Enjoy food and beverage courtesy of AWCC while browsing a great and diverse collection of art on display, at HIP's wonderful space! (HIP at the Flashlight Factory, 831 West North Avenue) The show continues on Saturday, May 12th from noon to 5:00 P.M.

Allegheny West Mixer

The Allegheny West Mixer is back for April. We'll be getting together on Friday, April 20 at Giorgio's Place. We'll see you there at 6:30 P.M.

AWCC Calendar

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

General Membership → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Tuesday, April 17 @ 7:30 P.M.

Housing & Planning Committee → Office: 806 Western

Friday, April 20 @ 6:30 P.M.

Allegheny West Mixer at Giorgio's Place on Western

Tuesday, April 24 @ 7:30 P.M.

Executive Committee → AWCC Office: 806 Western

AW Bowling every Wednesday at the Elks Lodge @ 7:30 P.M.

Alleys, Axles & Ales

This year's Alleys, Axles & Ales tour will be held on **September 29th**. Cecile Canales will chair this tour and Tom Barbush will co-chair. If you are interested in having your garage on tour or would like to volunteer, please email Cecile at ccanales13@icloud.com. An initial meeting is scheduled for May.

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.



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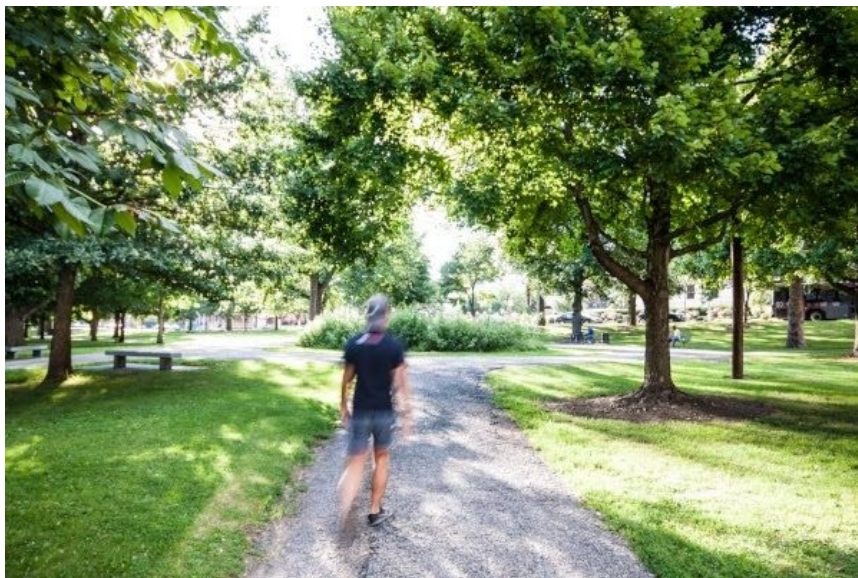
YOU'RE INVITED

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Allegheny Commons Historic Northeast Fountain

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny Commons Initiative, and North Side Leadership Conference invite you to attend the groundbreaking for the rebuilding of the historic Northeast Fountain.

Thursday, April 19th 10 - 11AM

Event will take place at the corner of Cedar Avenue and East North Avenue in Allegheny Commons Park



DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

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

Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave

- Visitors: Councilwoman Harris' office
Mayor Peduto's office
Pittsburgh Police Zone 1
Representative Wheatley's Office
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy - Allegheny Commons
- New neighbors & guests
- Reading of last month's minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Committee Reports

Membership:

-Volunteers for the Memorial Day Picnic

Ways & Means:

- 2018 Wine & Garden Tour (June 22 and 23; Signature Event 6/23)
- 2018 Alleys, Axles & Ales tour (September 29)

Friends of Allegheny West: April clean-up, flower basket Property

Housing & Planning:

Updates:

- Parking and traffic issues, Galveston
- North Avenue lighting
- Western Avenue revitalization/electric relocations
- Western Avenue project proposals
- Light of Life Ridge Avenue project
- Allegheny Commons proposed implementation plan
- Expansion of Historic District (LRC report)
- Historic District enforcement issues – old cases
- ZBA Appeal, new City zoning: Medical Marijuana Dispensary
- Air BnB issues/impacts on AW
- Comprehensive guidelines for new construction on vacant sites
- Railroad bridge replacements, double-stack train impacts
- Allegheny Center Master Plan
- North Shore impacts
- Nominating committee - 2018 Neighbor of the Year
- Northside Leadership Conference
- Other business (Old & New)
 - \$500 for 4 2018 AW Preservation Awards
 - \$250 Donation to YMCA Reds, Whites & Brews
- Adjournment

A.S. KENNEDY

DISTINCTIVE

- Floral
- Gift
- Gourmet

412 322 ROSE

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