

The Passing of an Allegheny West Pioneer

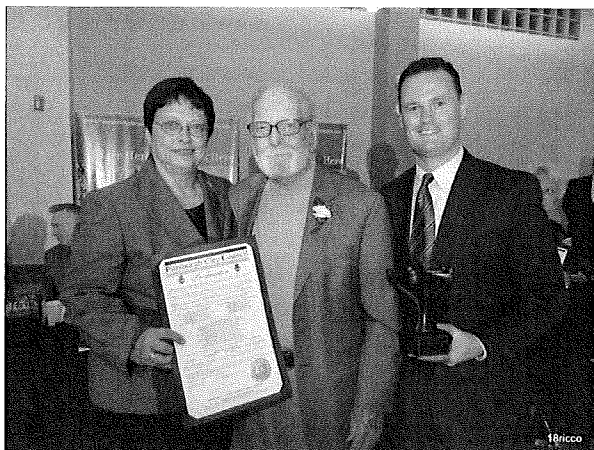


Alex Watson, long time N. Lincoln neighbor and founding member of the Allegheny West Civic Council passed away Thursday, March 28 in New Orleans at the age of 91. Alex and his partner Merle Dickinson bought their N. Lincoln house in 1960 at a time when houses throughout the North Side were being razed for

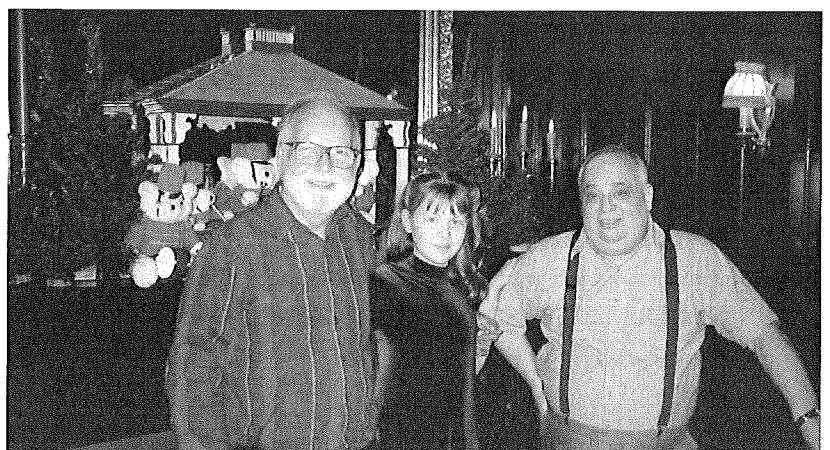
highways and parking lots! He was a true visionary.

Diana Nelson Jones, Post-Gazette columnist and Mexican War Streets resident wrote a great obituary that appeared in the Saturday, April 6 issue

of the PG. At press time for this newsletter I did not have permission from the PG to reproduce the article. You can find the article online at: www.post-gazette.com - click on the obituaries tab; the article is a news obituary and can be found on the left side of the page.



Alex receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award from the NSLC, June 2012.



A Christmas Tour tradition: Alex, a young Allison Fatla, and Amelio Ceci, 1999.

AWCC April / May Calendar

AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church
(Beach Avenue Entrance)

Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, May 14 @ 7:30pm

Combined Housing & Planning and North Avenue Committees Meeting

857 Western Avenue

Monday, April 15 @ 7:30pm Note Change

Tuesday, May 21 @ 7:30pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

812 Western Avenue

Tuesday, April 30 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, May 28 @ 7:30pm

Remembrances of Alex Watson

Last June the Allegheny West Civic Council celebrated Alex with fellow North Side community leaders/activists. The following tribute was published in the 2012 North Side Leadership Conference Annual Dinner program.

Alex Watson, a 54-year resident in Allegheny West, epitomizes the most positive aspects of a good neighbor and a community preservationist. Coming to the North Side from the northernmost sections of Allegheny County, Alex and Merle Dickinson, had an eye to the beauties of the historic home they purchased on Lincoln Avenue in 1960. Both found ways to preserve the lovely features of their new home while retaining some of its apartment units, which enabled them to slowly undertake the process of restoration.

Alex and Merle were among the founders of the Allegheny West Civic Council that emerged in the mid 1960s, when the impact of the growth of the Community College, the great demolition of many homes in the area, and the construction of highway systems threatened the very fabric of what was to be "Allegheny West." At that time, Alex, with an education in landscape design, was the manager of the Sears Roebuck garden department, the largest such operation on the North Side. It was no surprise to many of his neighbors when Alex's magnificent courtyard garden was featured in the *Pittsburgh Magazine* as one of the city's best urban gardens.

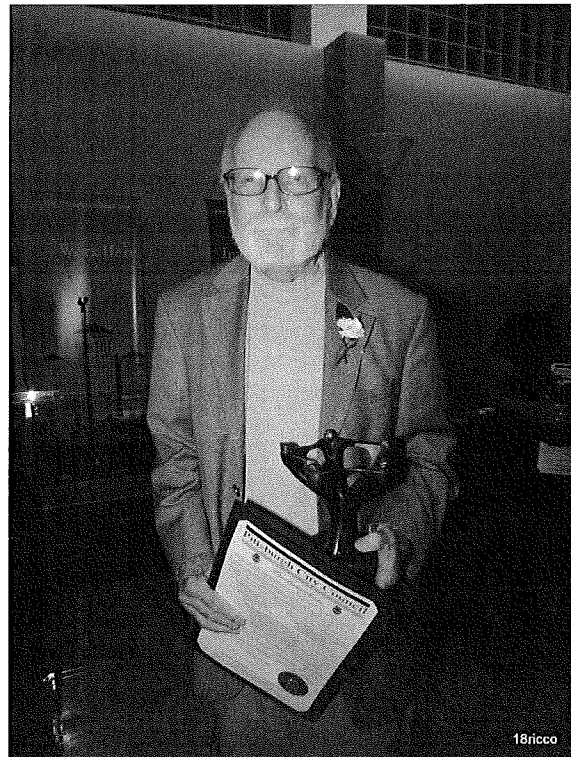
Throughout the history of the Allegheny West Civic Council, Alex took on a leadership role in many of the organization's programs and projects. Among those were:

- The organization of the community's Springfest events in the 1970s. In opening his home to many visitors on Springfest tours, Alex's home was featured in a *Pittsburgh Press Roto Magazine* feature.
- The preparation for a HUD application whereby AWCC was able to procure and restore a row of badly deteriorated homes on Western Avenue, now known as McIntosh Row. Alex played not only an instrumental role in the application for funding, but he

oversaw the work on the project, and for several years, managed these properties for AWCC.

- The beautification of the vacant corner at Western Avenue and Brighton Road. Alex designed and supervised the transformation of a horrible visual entrance to the Allegheny West neighborhood into stunning garden plot.
- The essence of neighborliness has been provided for over two decades as folks who take the annual Allegheny West Victorian Christmas Tour have been welcomed with warmth and music (with Alex at the piano) into the beautifully decorated Watson home.

Alex has opened his home for community meetings, house tours, garden tours, educational tours, and always for his neighbors and friends for many social events. Alex is the epitome of what it means to be a good neighbor to all.



A Tour and Tasting in the Homes and Gardens of Old Allegheny

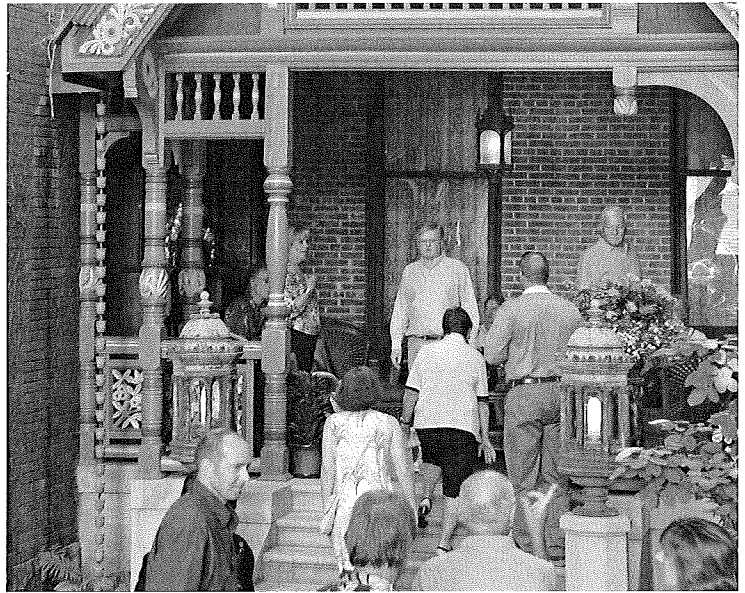
Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8,
5-9pm both evenings

Planning has started for our summer fundraising event, *A Tour and Tasting in the Homes and Gardens of Old Allegheny*.

It's a home and garden tour. It's a wine tasting. It's an entire evening of great food and entertainment. Guests will visit 7 different neighborhood homes and gardens. They will taste a different wine and d'oeuvres in each.

Tickets, \$60 each, are now on sale on our website, www.alleghenywest.org. Tickets are limited, so get the word out to friends, relatives, and co-workers to purchase them now. Get a group of friends together and enjoy a summer evening together.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, April 18, 7:30pm, at 913 Brighton Rd. Everyone is encouraged to participate!



- We need your help! We need two more homeowners to volunteer to open their homes or gardens for the tour. Homeowners who participated last year had a great time meeting and greeting our visitors. They agreed that this was a fun experience.
- We need expertise in selecting the wines to be served.
- We need some neighborhood cooks and bakers to volunteer to make an d'oeuvres to serve at one stop on the tour. Don't worry. You will get help from our food expert, Linda Iannotta.
- We need new and creative ideas for publicity for the event.

So..... come to the meeting and let us know how you can contribute. If you cannot attend but would like to participate, contact Carole Malakoff, carolemalakoff@hotmail.com or 412-321-3612.

Great Neighborhoods Need Great Schools!

Northside Candidates Forum
for
Pittsburgh School Board, District 9

Thursday, April 25, 2013, 7 – 9 PM
Riverview United Presbyterian Church
3505 Perrysville Avenue

Meet the District 9 candidates for School Board
Dr. Lorraine Burton Eberhardt • Carolyn Klug • David Schuilenburg

Hosted by the North Side Leadership Conference Education Committee •
Funded by A+ Schools (Pittsburgh Community Alliance for Public Education)

Street Cleaning Begins!

It's finally April and that means the City of Pittsburgh is starting up the street sweeping program.

Please remember to move your vehicles so that we can keep our neighborhood clean and beautiful!

Signs can be found throughout the neighborhood – **our streets are cleaned the second Monday & Tuesday of each month.** The City does ticket cars that are not moved for street cleaning.

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA
APRIL 9, 2013

- I. Reading of March 2013 Minutes
- II. Reports of Officers
 - A. Treasurer's Report
- III. Report of Standing Committees
 - A. Housing & Planning / North Ave. Committees
 - 1. North Avenue Projects
 - 2. Light of Life Relocation / Expansion
 - B. Membership
 - C. Property
 - 1. Realtor Report
 - 2. Property Assessments
 - D. Ways & Means – Wine Tasting
 - E. Friends of Allegheny West – Clean up
 - F. Nominating – Neighbor of the Year
- IV. Northside Leadership Conference Report
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Announcements

Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

Friday, April 12, 6:00 PM

GIORGIO'S PLACE

908 Western Avenue

BYOB and enjoy your favorite Italian dishes!

Neighborhood Clean Up

Saturday, April 20

Starting at 9am

Come to the AWCC office at 812 Western Avenue for coffee, donuts and clean up supplies. All are welcome!

The Gazette – the monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Editor: Gloria Rayman

Letters, Submissions, Advertising and other notices:

Gazette@alleghenywest.org.

Submission does not guarantee publication

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Attorneys-At-Law

835 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

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