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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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January 2013

*Winter is coming.*

- George R.R. Martin

Well, I guess it's already here. It is 16 degrees outside as I write this, and 64 degrees in my house (like many Allegheny West residents, I trade degrees for dollars). I've shoveled the walk several times in the past week, and have the sore back to prove it. And, I'm eating the lucky leftover pork from New Year's Day dinner, and expect to continue to do so for the next week (Laura cooked a four pound roast for the two of us). Yes, January and winter are here, but there's nothing I can do about it except enjoy it until spring.

This is my first message since being elected president of the Allegheny West Civic Council, and the first thing I'd like to do is thank everyone for all their hard work during our Annual Victorian Christmas House Tour last month. I think we may have sold a record number of tickets for the two-day event. I'm sure we'll get the final numbers at the general meeting on January 8, but I can say with confidence that we raised more money on this tour than on any of the tours in the past five years. Your generous commitment of time and energy made that possible, and I thank you again.

Those hard-earned dollars will be put to good use, too. For those of you who haven't been to a general meeting lately (show of hands?) we have quite a few irons in the fire:

- The Stables building and the Value Added Foods building on W. North Avenue - We're trying to get both these properties developed in a manner that will enhance our residential neighborhood. These properties require stabilization, maintenance, design work, and the right development partners.
- Western Avenue improvement - We're on the last leg of this project, but getting some of the electrical lines moved is proving to be a real challenge. If you run into Gloria Rayman, please thank her for all her hard work moving this forward.
- McIntosh Row - We've sold two of these buildings, but have four more on the market. Meanwhile, management, maintenance, and repair costs continue.
- Parking - We've been working hard to reduce the impact of overflow parking from events at Heinz Field and Stage AE. That has required us to go to the Zoning Board of Adjustment lately to challenge lot owners seeking variances to increase parking in our neighborhood.
- Property Reassessments - Yes, like you, the Civic Council had its properties reassessed last year. Some of the proposed values are laughably high, especially on vacant lots, but we have to appeal them to keep our taxes reasonable.
- Nuisance properties - We have a few on Western Avenue, and we're working to have them sold or properly cared for.

And those are just some of the things we're doing. So, as you can see, the revenue from our house tours, while stretched thin, is put to very good use.

It's not all hard work around Allegheny West, though. Tim Zinn, our new Membership chair, is continuing our bowling tradition at the Elks Lodge on Cedar Avenue. If you haven't been bowling with your neighbors, please stop by and give it a try. None of us are very good, so there is no need for embarrassment over your athletic skills. I'm sure Tim will have lots of other news on Allegheny West events, including our mixers, block parties, and special events.

With that, I'm going to sign off on my first Gazette missive. I look forward to seeing you all soon, and wish you a very prosperous New Year.

*Bob Griewahn, Jr., President*

**AWCC**  
**January/February Calendar**

**AWCC General Membership Meeting**  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
(Beech Avenue Entrance)  
**Tuesday, January 8 @ 7:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, February 12 @ 7:30 pm**

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**Combined Housing & Planning and  
North Avenue Committees Meeting**  
857 Western Avenue  
**Tuesday, January 15 @ 7:30pm**  
**Tuesday, February 19 @ 7:30 pm**

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**AWCC Executive Committee Meeting**  
835 Western Avenue  
**Tuesday, January 29 @ 7:30 pm**  
**Tuesday, February 26 @ 7:30 pm**





Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—  
Allegheny

1230 Federal Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
412-237-1892

[allegheny@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:allegheny@carnegielibrary.org)

<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/allegheny/>

**Holiday Closing:**

The Library will be closed Monday, January 21 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**Email Newsletter:**

Would you like to receive our free, monthly CLP-Allegheny email newsletter?

Stop into CLP-Allegheny and let a staff member know that you'd like to join our monthly newsletter mailing list, or email:

[allegheny@carnegielibrary.org](mailto:allegheny@carnegielibrary.org) <<mailto:allegheny@carnegielibrary.org>>

with the subject **Newsletter Sign Up**.

You'll receive a monthly update on all the great events going on at CLP-Allegheny! (Unsubscribe anytime.)

**Family Study Buddies: Homework Club:**

Monday, January 14 / 4:30-5:30 pm

Join us in the Library for FREE homework help. Adult tutors will be available to help your child complete their homework. Homework Club will continue in February on Monday evenings. *Recommended for children grade K-6.*

**Teens (for students in grades 6-12):**

**The Labs @ CLP Allegheny**

January Free for All!

Mondays, January 7 & 14 / 4-7 pm

You decide what you want to work on! Mentors will be available to set up equipment and assist with your project.

**Take pART Series**

Monday, January 28 / 4-7 pm

See your neighborhood through new eyes with Polaroid film. Presented by Hear Me. Sponsored by The Sprout Fund

**Volunteer Time: Teen Advisory Board**

Wednesdays, January 9-30 / 5-6 pm

Join our Teen Advisory Board (TAB), meet other teens and contribute! Teens will fill out a volunteer application, and then will be welcome to drop in for TAB meetings. Questions? Contact the Library and ask for Mr. Yates.

**Adults:**

**Conversation Salon**

Tuesday, January 8 / 10 am

Have an opinion? Then join us for a monthly, moderated, discussion of a variety of topics. Held at West Park Court, corner of Brighton Road and North Avenue.

**Computer Basics & Email**

Tuesday, January 15 / 10-11:30 am

*Registration is required*

This class teaches all the basics for new computer users. We'll cover: hardware vs. software, PC anatomy, keyboarding and building your mouse skills. Attendees will also learn how to create and use a Yahoo email account.

**Nintendo Wii**

Thursdays / noon-2 pm

Try your hand at the library's video games. For beginners and gamers!

**Learn More about the Allegheny Commons  
at the January Membership Meeting**

Allegheny Commons, Pittsburgh's oldest park, is a beautiful asset not only to our neighborhood but the entire North Side.

As Pittsburgh's oldest park, Allegheny Commons dates to 1867 when it was designed to provide "breathing places" for the citizens of what was then the sooty city of Allegheny. The creation of the park reflected the 19<sup>th</sup> century movement to beautify American cities and improve urban living conditions. Today, the park's 80 acres provide many recreational and cultural amenities including over 1,000 trees of 100 different species.

The Master Plan for Allegheny Commons aims to protect the historic integrity of this important open space, while recognizing and protecting the evolution over time of its design and uses. The park restoration committee is led by the Allegheny Commons Initiative (ACI) Steering Committee, a project of the North Side Leadership Conference. It is comprised of representatives from surrounding neighborhoods and institutions.

At the January 8 membership meeting Alida Baker, Project Director of the ACI, will report on several projects including the potential nomination of the park to the National Register of Historic Places; the QR codes tree project; Friends of Allegheny Commons membership campaign; the upcoming Annual Meeting; and the status of the bridges in the park. Come and find out how you can help with this important project.

## 2012 Christmas Tour Wrap-up

It was a success! Thanks to your hard work!

1686 people attended the regular, brunch, and dinner tours  
467 people visited the Toy Train Museum  
100 train videos were sold

In lieu of holding a wrap-up meeting, we are requesting that everyone, committee members, volunteers, and all others who participated, send your comments, suggestions, and recommendations for next year to [carolemalakoff@hotmail.com](mailto:carolemalakoff@hotmail.com).

Also, please include your suggestion for a donation to Calvary Church. In the past, AWCC has made a donation of \$2,000 from our net proceeds. At the December meeting, there was some discussion to increase this amount.

*--Carole Malakoff*

## Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

January 11, 6 PM

MODERN CAFÉ ♦ 862 Western Avenue

Happy Hour 5-7 PM with \$1.00 off all taps.

Beer of the Month: Southern Tier Old Man Winter

## Bowling is Off and Rolling!

This past Wednesday kicked off bowling for Allegheny West neighbors and friends at the Allegheny BPOE Lodge (Elks Lodge). Thirteen people enjoyed an evening of bowling, cocktails, music, interacting with new neighbors, and, of course, **bowling!** The event is held every Wednesday, and is open to all Allegheny West neighbors and their friends. With six lanes, there's room for plenty more!

In keeping with last year's popular theme nights, several ideas have been suggested for this year, including Flintstone's bowling, 80's night, and pajama party. We are also taking suggestions for a team name that includes "Allegheny West" in the title. This team name and graphic logo will appear on tee shirts that will be printed for this year's participants.

Bowling costs just \$2.50 per game and includes shoe rental. The lodge has a few dozen bowling balls from which to choose or you may bring your own. Also be sure to see our favorite bar tender, Norm Taylor, for a drink in the bowling alley lounge.

For more information, email me at [tzinn106@msn.com](mailto:tzinn106@msn.com)

*--Timothy Zinn*

## A Note from Galveston Avenue Neighbor Dennis Bergevin

Thank you Allegheny West! Your kindness came at me faster than the truck that hit me. My heart is so touched by the warm get-well notes you all sent that my recovery has been hastened. I have enjoyed living here for the past 25 years and I still believe I found a small corner of heaven. Thank you all once again -- there truly is no place like home.

## 2013 Executive Committee of the Allegheny West Civic Council

President - Bob Greiwahn  
Vice President - Martha Helmreich  
Secretary - Michael Shealey  
Treasurer - Cathy Serventi  
Housing & Planning - John DeSantis  
Property - Mary Callison  
Ways & Means - Carole Malakoff  
Membership - Timothy Zinn  
Communications - Gloria Rayman  
Friends of Agh. West - Howard Brokenbek  
Sgt. At Arms - Trish Burton

## 2013 Nominating Committee

Timoty Zinn - Chair  
John DeSantis  
Cathy Serventi  
Gloria Rayman  
Fran Barbush  
Holly Sisk, Alternate  
John Burton, Alternate

## AWCC Membership Join Today!

To become an AWCC member, send your Name, Address, Phone Number and email address to:

Allegheny West Civic Council - Membership Chair  
812 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Annual Dues are \$3 and Lifetime Dues are \$45. Checks should be made payable to AWCC.

**Pay for your membership online with your credit card! Go to [www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org), click on the "Tours" button (it is set up to take payments for our Christmas tour) and then click on the Christmas Tour logo. Scroll to the bottom for the "purchase" link.**

Your paid membership enables you to vote at monthly membership meetings.

AWCC General Membership Meeting Agenda  
January 8, 2013

- I. READING OF DECEMBER 2012 MINUTES
- II. GUEST PRESENTATION: Alida Baker, Allegheny Commons Initiative
- III. REPORTS OF OFFICERS
  - A. Treasurer's Report
- IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
  - A. Housing & Planning Committee
    1. North Avenue Project
      - a. Stables Building
      - b. Value Added Foods Building
      - c. Galveston Lots
    2. Western Avenue Project
      - a. Electrical Moves
      - b. Gateway Project
    3. Light of Life Relocation/Expansion
    4. North Shore Event Parking
    5. Consultant on Zoning Enforcement
    6. Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearings
  - B. Membership
    1. AW Neighborhood Mixer -1/11
    2. Bowling Resumes at the Elks
  - C. Property
    1. Realtor report
  - D. Ways & Means
    1. Christmas House Tour Wrap Up
  - E. Friends of Allegheny West
  - F. Communications
- V. NORTH SIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - A. Problem Properties
  - B. Councilman Burgess legislation seeking limits to historic preservation and nomination of properties to City Historic District/Landmark status
- VII. NEW BUSINESS

JANUARY TRASH RECYLCING: January 7 and January 22

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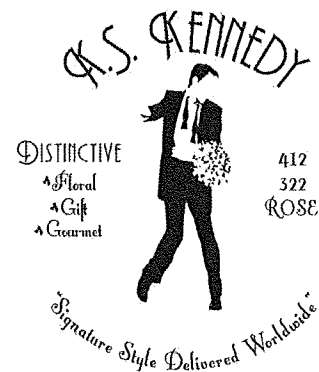
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**THE GAZETTE**

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council

Editor: *Gloria Rayman*

Letters, Submissions, Advertising, and other notices: [GAZETTE@ALLEGHENYWEST.NET](mailto:GAZETTE@ALLEGHENYWEST.NET)  
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