
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

May 2013

*Let all thy joys be as the month of May,
And all thy days be as a marriage day.*

~Francis Quarles

May is here, at last. The flowers are blushing, and so are the brides. Last week, my small lawn at 835 Western was covered with pretty yellow flowers, but they turned into little balls of fluffy white and blew away in the spring breezes. I miss them terribly. Perhaps my neighbors have found them? Well, they may keep them, I guess. They are my gift to the neighborhood, and there is no need to thank me. My reward will be all those little yellow flowers that will spring up next year.

Besides flowers and brides, what else does May bring us? Elections, of course. Yes, the primary election will be held on Tuesday, May 21. Let us never forget that:

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.

~George Jean Nathan

I serve as a judge of elections, and over the years I've compiled some resources for voters. Here are the most helpful.

- **PA Department of State website**
www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us/Pages/VoterRegistrationStatus.aspx

Want to verify that you are registered to vote? This is the place. You'll need to enter your name, county and date of birth. The site will tell you if your registration is still valid. It will also remind you of your party affiliation, if any, and your polling location.

- **Smartvoter.org website**
smartvoter.org/pa/al

This site is run by the League of Women Voters. No matter which side of the women's suffrage debate you're on, I think we can all agree that the League does a great job of educating voters. Enter your address on the right side of the web page, and you'll be taken to an election preview that shows all the races and candidates that will appear on your primary ballot. Don't be surprised by the extensive list of judicial candidates.

- **Allegheny County Elections Division website**
www.county.allegheny.pa.us/elect/index.aspx

Here you'll find basic information about the upcoming election, along with the Elections Division phone number, which is invaluable: **(412) 350-4500**.

I'm often asked about the **Voter ID law**. Here's what you need to know for this primary. The Voter ID law has been suspended temporarily by order of the Commonwealth Court. So, it will not apply to this primary, and the old rules on identification will still be in effect. If you are a regular voter, and have not moved since the last election, you do *not* have to furnish photo identification this time. Note that you may be asked for it, but you can simply refuse the request. This may seem silly, but the Commonwealth is requesting that all poll workers ask for the identification even though it's not required. If you refuse the request, please do so in a pleasant manner. The poll workers do not make the rules, but have to deal with some irate voters. If you have any problems, call that phone number that I listed in the last paragraph.

AWCC May / June Calendar

AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church
(Beech Avenue Entrance)

Tuesday, May 14 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 11 @ 7:30pm

Combined Housing & Planning and North Avenue Committees Meeting

857 Western Avenue

Tuesday, May 21 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 18 @ 7:30pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

812 Western Avenue

Tuesday, May 28 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, June 25 @ 7:30pm

President's Letter, continued from Page 1

IMPORTANT: if you recently moved into Allegheny West, and you are voting for the first time at your new polling place, you may be required to show some identification to prove that you now live here. There are two things to note about this. First, this has nothing to do with the Voter ID law. The rule about showing identification at a new polling place has been in effect since 2004. Second, your identification does not have to be one of the photo IDs listed in the Voter ID law. You can simply show a utility bill or bank statement with your name and address, for instance, that proves that you now live in the district. If you have any questions about any of this, call the Allegheny County Elections Division at (412) 350-4500.

Here's another tip for folks who've just moved. If you didn't notify the county of your move, your new polling place may not have you on the voting rolls. You may show up at the polls and be unable to vote there. I urge you to call Allegheny County at the phone number I gave above to verify your polling place. The general rule is that, until they make the switch, you can vote at your old polling place one last time. If you insist on voting at your new polling place, but you're not on the voter rolls there, you'll have to vote using a paper provisional ballot, which is cumbersome (and may not be counted for months if the election is not close enough for the provisional ballots to make a difference). Again, new residents should call the Elections Division number before the primary to get this all sorted out.

Good luck at the polls, citizens.

Bob Griewahn, Jr.
AWCC President

***Allegheny City:
A History of Pittsburgh's North Side***

Join neighbor Dan Rooney and local historian Carol Peterson for a reading and discussion of their new book, *Allegheny City: A History of Pittsburgh's North Side*. Wednesday, May 29 from 6:00pm – 7:00pm at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Allegheny on Federal Street.

Space is limited and reservations are required. Call 412-237-1890 to reserve your space. No Steeler's memorabilia signatures or photography allowed.

Memorial Day Block Party

On Monday, May 27, the Allegheny West Civic Council will sponsor our annual Memorial Day Block Party. This year's event will be held in the 800 Block of Beech Avenue from 4:00 to 8:00 PM. The Council will provide the main entrees, drinks (sodas, water, beer, and wine), and paper products. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share with your neighbors, and don't forget your lawn chairs. ***The event is open to the entire neighborhood.***

To volunteer to help with the event or for additional information, please contact Timothy Zinn, Membership Chair, at 412-260-7389 or tzinn106@msn.com

Neighborhood Trees

In the fall of 2012 Tree Vitalize and our volunteers planted over 20 trees in our neighborhood. In the request for a tree the property owner agreed to weed and mulch the planting bed and to water the tree. I am trying to arrange mulch and if that materializes I will set a date for everyone to come out and spread the mulch. On checking the trees after the winter there are several dead and some partially dead. I have contacted Tree Vitalize and the City Forestry Department to find out how we replace the dead trees. If you have questions, call me. Mary Callison 412-321-5951.

Northside Bike/Ped

The Northside Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee is a sub-committee of the Northside Leadership Conference. We are a group of concerned residents and business owners who advocate for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on the Northside of Pittsburgh. We also encourage and promote activities for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as advocate for improved safety and access.

Join us! The Bike/Ped committee meets monthly at different Northside locations. Email Jerry Green, committee chair @jerrold.green@verizon.net or Emily Honhart, facilitator, at Emily@pittsburghnorthside.com to be added to our email list!

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

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

Thanks to a very hard working committee and a group of very cooperative homeowners, the plans for this year's Wine Tour are coming together very quickly. We are looking forward to another enjoyable and successful event. Guests will visit 7 homes and gardens in our neighborhood, taste a different wine in each, and try a delicious hors d'oeuvres prepared by some of our noted neighborhood chefs.

Our chefs, Linda Iannotta, Mary Callison, Nonie Knaus, and Matthew Mille, will be busy making crab tartlets, barbecue chicken tidbits, and guacamole shrimp for our guests.

Wines for the evening will come from below The Equator: Chile, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa.

Homeowners have been busy planning, planting, and pruning. They would appreciate your help greeting guests, pouring wine, or serving food. We need volunteers to help them!

We also need tour guides to lead our guests around the neighborhood. If you are an experienced tour guide, and we certainly have lots of them, please help us out. The groups are small and the pace is leisurely. It is a fun tour to do. Plus, you get to taste the wines.

To volunteer, contact Carole Malakoff, carolemalakoff@hotmail.com.

You can also help by picking up litter around our streets and alleys the weekend before the tour, June 1 and 2.

If you know someone who has been waiting to order tickets, let them know that tickets are selling out quickly this year. They can be purchased on-line at www.alleghenywest.org.

Look for a story in the Post Gazette on Saturday, May 25 about Annette Trunzo's unique home at 800 Beech Avenue.

The next meeting of the Tour Committee will be on Thursday evening, May 16, at 7:30pm, at 913 Brighton Rd. We will be discussing the details that make for a successful event and tasting and selecting wines for the tour. Everyone is encouraged to attend.



Summer Bocce Returns

Last year we decided to make use of the wonderful bocce court at the corner of Rope Way and Western Avenue. Throughout last summer, neighbors gathered one evening a week for several spirited games of bocce until darkness forced us to retreat homeward. At summer's end, we knew this event was a keeper! On Wednesday, May 15, we will resume our weekly games. Plan to arrive around 6:30 or whenever you can get there. You need not be a pro – many of us had never played before last year.

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA
May 14, 2013

- I. Reading of April 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
 - 1. Summer Bocce
 - 2. Memorial Day Picnic
 - C. Property
 - 1. Realtor Report
 - 2. Property Assessments
 - D. Ways & Means – Wine Tasting
 - E. Friends of Allegheny West
- IV. Northside Leadership Conference Report
- V. Unfinished Business
- VI. New Business
- VII. Announcements

Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

Friday, May 17, 6:00 PM

Benjamin's

900 Western Avenue

Join your neighbors and enjoy gourmet burgers, sides,
and favorite drinks.

The Gazette

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

Letters, Submissions, Advertising and other notices:
Gazette@allghenywest.org.
Submission does not guarantee publication

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TO LOSE SLEEP,
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