
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

April 2009

The Allegheny City Stables

By *Tim Zinn and John McDanel*

The former Allegheny City Stables building is located at 836 W North Ave. Allegheny West Development Corporation purchased the building with project management assistance from Jon Huck and Nancy Noszka of the Northside Leadership Conference. The Northside Community Development Fund financed the purchase. AWDC and the NSLC seek to stabilize the Stables building and ultimately redeveloped the building as residential housing. In October of 2008, Jadell Minefield was hired to clean out the building and remove tires, trash and an abandoned trailer from the property. Gerald Lee Morosco Architects was hired to produce an existing conditions analysis and stabilization plan with drawings, as well as a use analysis including parking requirements.

The historic significance of the Stables building makes its preservation important. A review of public records confirms that the Allegheny City Stables was constructed in 1895. The building was designed by Robert Swan and constructed by Samuel Hastings. As depicted on an 1890 plat map, the site was previously occupied by Kramer & Redman, a woodworking manufacturer specializing in fine cabinet work, doors and wainscoting.

The building is an excellent example of the Romanesque style of architecture adapted to utilitarian use. The building's arcaded south (façade), east (side), and north (rear) elevations all incorporate the use of round and segmental arched openings, radiating brick voussoirs, and projecting brick and stone belt courses. The building also retains its integrity of location and setting as it is situated prominently in the midst of an intact late nineteenth to early twentieth century industrial corridor along North Avenue. As such, the building continues to convey the feeling and association of a late nineteenth century Romanesque influenced stables/public works building.

The building is significant for its association with the former City of Allegheny, having served as a public works/stables building. Allegheny City enjoyed a widespread reputation for its excellent public works and its low public indebtedness. It appears to be the only surviving edifice of Allegheny's Public Works Department and one of a very small number of remaining municipal buildings attributed to Allegheny City. The Allegheny City Stables/Public Works Building is also significant for its association with the City of Pittsburgh Division of Highways and Sewers and for its association with the City of Pittsburgh, Bureau of Horses. The building serves as possibly the last remaining tangible reminder of Allegheny City Public Works and the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Horses during the pre-automobile era, when true horse power provided the bulk of hauling and towing needs. The building continued to serve the City of Pittsburgh well into the mid-twentieth century, witnessing the transformation of horse-drawn to motor-driven equipment. As noted in a period publication, all of the city-owned stables were open to the public at all times, and "[s]table men, watchmen, and others connected with the horse department [were] required to be polite and accommodating to all visitors at all times." (Pittsburgh Bureau of Horses 1928).

Watch this building in the coming months as this historic resource is stabilized and preserved for future generations, and, through some adaptive reuse, is returned to a viable neighborhood asset.

April/May 2009 Calendar of Events

AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church
Tuesday, April 14 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday, May 12 @ 7:30 pm

Agenda:

- i. Reading of March 2009 Minutes
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Committee Reports
- iv. Ways and Means
- v. Housing & Planning
- vi. Old Business
- vii. New Business
 - a. Northeast Commons Designs
Alida Baker, Project Director,
Allegheny Commons Initiative

Committee Meetings

Housing & Planning Meeting
844 Beech Ave
Tuesday, April 21 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday, May 19 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
858 Beech Ave.
Tuesday, April 28 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday, May 26 @ 7:30 pm

North Avenue Sub-Committee Meeting
1009 Galveston Ave.
Tuesday, May 5 @ 7:30 pm



Allegheny West Civic Council
812 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
(412) 323-8884

PERMIT PARKING ZONE RENEWAL

Every three or four years the Pittsburgh Permit Parking Authority reviews the status of its Permit Parking Zones. This year is our turn. You will be getting a survey in the mail asking your opinion in regards to the operation in our neighborhood. Please be SURE to fill it out and return it, especially if you are relatively satisfied with the "G" zone operation.

If our neighborhood indicates it is dissatisfied, the "G" zone will be eliminated!. By the way, it has been suggested that, because of the numerous Steeler night games, the hours of operation of the "G" zone be increased to 10PM. This WILL NOT EFFECT US on evenings when there are no stadium events, but will lead to better enforcement during the evenings when there is an event. We will be discussing this at our Civic Council meeting on Tuesday, April 14th.

LeClaire Griewahn
& Scott LLC
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412-321-9300

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Calling all Tree Tenders

Saturday April 25th. Volunteers will gather to mulch and stake trees in the Commons. Allegheny West has contributed towards three of the trees to be planted on this day, as well as two others to be planted in the fall.

Northside Community Wide Public Safety Meeting

WHEN: THURSDAY APRIL 16, 2009

WHERE: NEW HAZLETT THEATRE, 6 ALLEGHENY SQUARE

TIME: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Who Should Attend: All Residents, Community Leaders and Business Owners.

The Northside Public Safety Council felt it was imperative to begin a dialogue with our elected officials that represent our communities within the City, County, State and Federal legislatures.

Major agenda topic: Gun Control

There will be a Q & A period where the audience will be able to ask questions of our guest speakers that include: State Representative Jake Wheatley, County Councilwoman Amanda Green, City Councilwoman Darlene Harris, Chief Nathan Harper, Chief Michael Huss, Commander Cheryl Doubt, Representative from Congressman Mike Doyle's office, Representative from Senator Jim Ferlo's office. Voice and Support the need for Safety within our neighborhoods. There is strength in numbers. So please plan to attend and tell your friends and neighbors.

Sponsored by: The Northside Public Safety Council

Allegheny West Celebrates Queen Victoria's Birthday and the 125th Anniversary of Klee Row

This year the Ways and Means Committee is again planning A Birthday Celebration for Queen Victoria on Saturday, May 16. In addition we will be commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Klee Row. This event will include a garden presentation entitled, Metal for Your Petals, Enhancing Your Garden Design with Ironwork, English High Tea as The Queen herself would have enjoyed, and a tour of the five homes of Klee Row.

This row of homes along the southern side of Beech, from 927 to 935, was built by Joseph Klee in 1884. He was a German immigrant who became a successful businessman in The City of Allegheny. The Joseph Klee and Sons Company was a shoe and boot factory on Federal Street. Joseph and his wife Rosa lived at 927 Beech. His daughter Tillie and her family lived next door at 929. The Klee family was one of the many German-Jewish families who lived in Allegheny in the late 19th Century. They were founders of Rodef Shalom Congregation and The Concordia Club.

Look for the "clover" motif on the decorated dormers along all of these homes. It is not a shamrock, but a Klee---the German word for clover.

Tickets for the event are \$40 and may be ordered online at alleghenywest.info.

Thank you to those neighborhood volunteers who removed greens from our lampposts on Beech and No. Lincoln Avenues. We managed to get them down before Easter this year.

Many of you have been thrilled to see a snowy owl on Calvary's roof on March 31st. Our visitor stayed for about 9 hours and presumably is now on the way back to its home at the arctic circle. If you would like to see photos of the bird you can visit matrixtwophotography.com on the birds page. - Chris Siewers

AWCC CLEAN UP

Our spring cleanup for Allegheny West will be held on Saturday, April 25th starting at 9:00AM. Rain (or even snow) will not stop us from removing the tons (OK, I'm over-estimating) of trash that has accumulated over the winter. We will meet on the porch of the Parador Inn where Ed Menzor has graciously offered to provide coffee and donuts for the volunteers. Please drop us an email at eleanor.coleman@verizon.net to let us get an estimate of how many people will attend (Please use Subject=AWCC Clean Up).

Allegheny West Membership Committee and Planned Upcoming Neighborhood Social Events

The Membership Committee met in March to begin planning for neighborhood social events for 2009. Members thus far include Eleanor Coleman, Cecile Canales, Carole Robert, Gloria Rayman, Nonie Knaus, Mary Callison and Debra Kelly. Our goal is to share good times with our neighbors and for new neighbors to see what makes Allegheny West a truly special place to live! Each month we'll try to provide a reminder in the Gazette of any upcoming events and give further information as details about events develop.

Thursday, April 23rd – Neighborhood Meet and Greet - 5:30pm until ? 900 Café on Western Avenue. Allegheny West residents are welcome to attend our first neighborhood outing for the year, at the 900 Café. Complimentary h'orderves, thanks to Drew at the Café! Cash bar. If you're not already a member, this is also a great opportunity to join Allegheny West or pay your annual dues. Yearly membership is \$3 per resident. Lifetime membership is \$45 per resident. Please either email Debra Kelly at kellern2001@hotmail.com or phone at 724-316-7213 if you are planning on attending so we can have a rough idea of the amount of h'orderves we'll need. Hope to see you there!

Saturday, June 27th - Pirates Game – Fireworks Night – Pirates vs Kansas City. 7:05 pm. We've reserved a block of 37 fieldbox seats that have a good view of both the game and the fireworks at a discounted price of \$20 per person. Tickets are on a first come basis. Last day to purchase tickets is Friday, May 22nd. Contact Debra Kelly, as per above, ASAP if you're interested as the tickets will probably go quickly!

Watch For Tentative Future Events-

August - La Casa Narcisi Winery in Gibsonia – date yet be determined. Picnic and wine tasting.

Early October – Overnight trip to the Shaw Festival at Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario, Canada.

The Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon returns - May 3, 2009

After a 5 year break, the Pittsburgh Marathon is back with new sponsors, a new start and finish line and a new race distance (1/2 marathon) added to the marathon and marathon relay distances.

As technical director of the Pittsburgh Marathon, I am recruiting community organizations to support the marathon as water station personnel. Each location has a water captain (leader) that will be in charge of the water station on race morning. I will meet with the water captains several weeks prior to the marathon and instruct them on their duties and the duties of the entire group.

Each water station requires approximately 20-25 volunteers and each volunteer will receive a marathon volunteer t-shirt.

I am looking for volunteers to work the location at the 6.1 and 7.1 mile marks. 6.1 mile mark is at the corner of 16th st bridge and Chestnut and Carpenter. The 7.1 mile mark is at St Peters Church. Volunteers are needed at these location from 6:45- 10:15am.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the water station duties, the race course, or other volunteer opportunities.

Gary Brown
Technical Director
PO BOX 102
N.Versailles PA 15137
412-680-9847
Fax 412-823-8280

Western Avenue Fire Relief Fund

The Western Avenue Relief Fund is closing on April 17th, this is your last chance to help out your Allegheny West neighbors who's homes and/or businesses where destroyed by the New Years Eve fire.

Your tax deductible contribution can be made to:

Western Avenue Fire Relief Fund
c/o Northside Leadership Conference
4 Allegheny Center, Suite 601
Pittsburgh PA 15212.

If donors have a preference, they may specify the particular business or individual they wish to help in the Notes line on the check.

Your kindness towards your neighbors is deeply appreciated.

Please call 412.330.2559 with any questions.



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THE GAZETTE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEGHENY WEST CIVIC
COUNCIL

Editor: Gene Wilson

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