

**AWCC November Agenda**

AWCC General Membership Meeting  
Calvary United Methodist Church

971 Beech Avenue  
Tuesday, December 8 @ 7:30pm

- Visitors
- New Neighbors
- Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Food truck legislation
- House Tour Update
- House and Planning Updates
  - 911 Galveston
  - One way street signs on N. Lincoln
  - Traffic throughout on W. North
- AWDC Updates
  - 928 – 930 Western
  - Stables
- NSLC
  - Allegheny Center Design Update
  - Science Center Expansion
  - Temporary River Zoning District
- Upcoming Membership Events
  - Membership Drive
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update
- Property: 806 Repairs
- Friends
  - Graffiti clean-up
- Grant Updates:
  - Council CDFG: Trash Can Update
  - Buhl One Northside Community Update
- Committee Q&A

**Neighborhood Clean Up**

No cleanup

If you would like to add an agenda item email  
[president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org)

**The Gazette**

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Editor: Fran Barbush

Letters, Submissions, Advertising and other notices:  
[Gazette@alleghenywest.org](mailto:Gazette@alleghenywest.org).

**IF ANYONE'S GOING TO LOSE SLEEP, IT'LL BE US.**



Our 24-hour service means that you can rest assured. Because whenever you need help with your furnace, air conditioner or heat pump, we'll get it to you. **Whatever it takes.**

**Call Bryant to the rescue**

**Eugene Beck Company**  
Heating • Air Conditioning  
24 Hour Emergency Service

INSTALLATION, CLEANING, REPAIRS & TUNE-UPS

**DON SCHNARRENBERGER**  
OWNER  
321-3355 • 931-0949

924 WESTERN AVE.  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

**LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, LLC**  
Attorneys-At-Law

835 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233


**Email: [Coordinator@lg-law.com](mailto:Coordinator@lg-law.com)**

**Phone: 412-321-9300**

**Estate Planning**  
**Real Estate \* Taxes**  
**General Business \* Collections**

**Notary Service by Appointment**  
**Free Initial Consultation**

**A.S. KENNEDY**



**DISTINCTIVE**

- Floral
- Gift
- Gourmet

412  
322  
ROSE

*Signature Style Delivered Worldwide*

**ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE**

December 2015

**President's Message by Cathy Serventi**

So we have a decision to make. If everyone could put down the House Tour decorations for a minute, Councilwoman's Harris has asked for the Civic Council to weigh in on the new proposed food truck legislation. You can read the proposed legislation here that loosens restrictions on food trucks: <https://goo.gl/cfW1dc>. It's a hard question and there are legitimate concerns on both sides that need to be considered before the neighborhood takes a position. The Board has been checking in with residents and business owners on Western (the trucks will still only be allowed on non-residential streets), to understand their concerns, but for the Civic Council to take a formal position we need to have a vote. I would encourage everyone who feels strongly either way to please come to the membership meeting on Tuesday to contribute to the discussion. We'll do our best to keep the conversation focused so folks can go back to their house tour projects in a reasonable amount of time. If you're interested in the subject and want to read up on the subject here are some resources on the topic:

- **FOOD ON WHEELS: Mobile Vending Goes Mainstream:** <http://goo.gl/qykjHy>
- **ON THE GO: INSIGHTS INTO FOOD TRUCK REGULATION:** <http://goo.gl/F54kFX>
- and if you really want to go all out here's a dissertation about food trucks in North Carolina: An Empirical Study of the Emergence and Policy Implications of the Food Truck Industry in the Research Triangle Region: <https://goo.gl/UJgKlw>

Speaking of interesting studies, a bunch of folks in the neighborhood ended up at a conference about Historic Preservation in Pittsburgh put together by the City. I'm super glad I decided to burn some vacation days to attend, since my commitment to Historic Preservation was why I wanted to live in Allegheny West in the first place. As much as I'm a cheerleader for the Historic Review Commission and the preservation guidelines, even I was surprised how clear the positive economic impacts for things like property values and even employment that the rules have helped. The Historic Review commission has posted the study they commission for Pittsburgh and posted it on their website: [http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/Pittsburgh\\_HP\\_Economic\\_Study.pdf](http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/Pittsburgh_HP_Economic_Study.pdf).

I also have been to Completed Streets meetings, a Zoning Board workshop, and a talk by Mayor Fetterman from Braddock about urban renewal. Let that be a warning to anyone who ends up next to me at the cheese table during the House Tour Volunteer party. I've been in historic preservation and urban planning nerd heaven lately.

On behalf of the Tour Committee I want to thank the incredible amount of people who have dedicated literally hundreds of hours to make this tour a success! We've all been overwhelmed by how willing folks have been to step up. I can't wait for the tour! (and the volunteer party.....)

**The 2016 AWCC Executive Committee**

As proposed by the nominating committee (elected November 2014 immediately following the Board election)

President - Cathy Serventi  
Vice President - Timothy Zinn  
Secretary - Dan Adam  
Treasurer - Bob Griewahn  
Ways & Means - Carrie Doyle

Membership - Scott Mosser  
Housing & Planning - Gloria Rayman  
Communications - Sarah Beck Sweeney  
Property - Ann Gilligan  
Sgt at Arms - John DeSantis  
Friend of Allegheny West / Public Space - Michael Shealey

**2016 AWCC Nominating Committee**

Tim Zinn – Chair  
Eleanor Coleman  
Cathy Serventi  
Gloria Rayman  
Elaine Stone

Alternates: John DeSantis, Scott Mossier

## The 2015 Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour

### WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!!

The 2015 tour will be on Friday, December 11, 5-8pm, and Saturday, December 12, 10am-8pm. Tour tickets are now \$35 and Train museum tickets are now \$15.

**Ticket Sales** Continue to encourage friends, relatives and coworkers to attend the tour. To purchase tickets or for more details, check our website, [www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org).

**Training for Tour Guides and Train Guides** All guides are asked to make every effort to attend a training session—there are 4 new houses on the tour this year!

Tour guides – Wed, 12/9/15 at 6pm at Calvary UMC (Beech entrance) – 1 hr.

OR Thur, 12/10/15 at 6pm at Calvary UMC

Train guides – Wed, 12/9/15 at 7:30pm at Holmes Hall, 719 Brighton Rd. – 1 ½ hrs.

**Greens “bunching” and Street Decorating** We will be decorating the streets on Saturday, December 5, starting at 9am. Volunteers will be bunching greens to create the lamppost swags in the Serventi/Wilson garage on Downton Way. This is a fun way to get in the holiday spirit—and we can finish quickly with 20 volunteers.

**Clean-up** Also on Saturday, December 5, join your neighbors and pick up litter and leaves around the neighborhood (and in front of your house!) If each of us fills just one bag, our streets will be clean!

**Cookies for Party** Please contact Trish Burton if you can bake two dozen cookies for the volunteer party.

**More Ways to Help!** There are many opportunities to volunteer. During the tour, be a greeter at Calvary, a tour guide, a house sitter for a homeowner on tour, a conductor at the train museum, or be ready to help tour houses with salting and shoveling should we get snow that weekend. Or, help with the volunteer party or set up the luminaria. If each of us helps in just one way, then our neighbors don't have to do all the work to make this, our biggest fundraiser (that pays for all of our fun events, as well as preservation activities), successful. AND, you get to attend the party!

**Volunteer Party** All volunteers are invited to our Holiday Party. This year, Carol Gomrick and Brett Kempf at 940 W. North Ave. will host on Saturday, December 12, beginning at 9pm. This will be a “seventh” house for volunteers to get to see, and it's a gem! To help with party, please contact Carrie Doyle at 412-337-6020.

### A Wonderful Place to Call Home

When Tom and I moved to Allegheny West in 1976 we were unfamiliar with the community that existed beyond our doorsteps. Manchester and the Mexican War streets were getting the historic attention in Pittsburgh. We felt we were lucky to find this little known gem of a neighborhood which needed some TLC. Our interest began by meeting Gary Otto who was already here working on his home.

But, we were still surprised to learn of the active community when Larry Ehrlich knocked on our door looking for volunteers for the neighborhood Springfest. At the time the most urgent challenge was to keep the community standing since so many entities felt that their important “cause” justified demolition of buildings. This ultimately led to our successful city, state, and national historic district designation. The prevailing sentiment being that without the buildings there would be no neighborhood.

There have been many challenges, and varied strong opinions which were not always unanimous, but through years of voluntary efforts the neighborhood has grown stronger. Thank you to all the helpers who work to make Allegheny West a wonderful place to call home. Tom and I still think it is the best place to spend Christmas. A line from a song I learned in college is something I reflect on when times are troubled – “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

Wishing you all peace now and in the new year.

## STREET CLOSINGS

Thank you for your cooperation. The streets are only closed for 1 ¼ days, and allow tour visitors to safely move through the neighborhood.

Residents of the 800 and 900 blocks of Beech Avenue; the 800 block of North Lincoln; and Galveston from Buttercup Way to Downton Way, and from Maolis Way to North Lincoln.

The above streets will be closed to traffic and parking on Friday, December 11th, from 4pm until 11pm, and on Saturday, December 12th, from 9:00am until 11:00 pm for the 2015 Christmas Tour. This is done to protect the safety of all of us. Pedestrians will be walking on the streets during these times.

If you park on these streets, please find an off-street spot for parking during the tour. The following lots will be available:

- **The Babb Lot on the corner of N. Lincoln and Galveston – enter from Chapel Way (MUST exit by midnight, Saturday, December 12th)**
- **The CCAC Lot on Ridge Ave. across from the Ft. Duquesne Bridge ramp**
- **The Smart Solutions lot on the 800 block of West North**

## STREET CLEANING

The City street sweeper will come through again this week, weather permitting (date TBA). You can help by moving your car from the street or sweeping the leaves to the middle to be picked up....or sweep and bag leaves in case the sweeper doesn't come!

*Thank you for helping to make our neighborhood look its best.*

### Neighborhood Clean-Up Winter Break

There will be no regularly scheduled last-Saturday-of-the-month neighborhood cleanups from December through March 2016. Cleanups will start again with the warmer weather in April.

Help is needed in cleaning up the neighborhood for the Victorian House Tour on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th. If you can get out to pick up street litter as close to the time of the tours as possible, including early Saturday morning, that would be very beneficial to the neighborhood as well as our guests.

