
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

December 2019

President's Message

Happy Holidays!

Here we are in December and the Allegheny West Victorian Christmas House Tour is upon us. With all the planning, the houses on this year's tour, the volunteers ready to go, and the promise of a beautiful winter weekend, the tour should be a huge success.

The Christmas Tour is our largest fundraising effort of the year and we are so grateful to the many volunteers who give their time and effort (and houses!) to make the tour successful. This is the 38th year that Allegheny West has held the Victorian Christmas House Tour – most of us living here don't remember a time when there wasn't a tour. It's a tradition of the holiday season that goes well beyond the borders of our neighborhood. Every year we receive messages from people attending the tour telling us that it is a tradition for their family and friends, and marks the start of the holidays for them. I hope everyone has a chance to take in the beauty of the lights, the decorations, the music and the joy that will fill our neighborhood on December 13th and 14th.



New board members were elected at the November General Membership meeting and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing board members – Ashley Webb, Greg Coll and Annette Trunzo. They all worked many hours on behalf of AWCC and that effort is much appreciated. I'd also like to acknowledge incoming board members John DeSantis, Tim Zinn and Robin Zoufalik – rest up, we have a lot of work ahead of us!



Finally, I'd like to provide an end of year update on the Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID) project. There are four property "groups" that need to have electrical work completed so that the remaining electrical poles on Western Avenue can be removed and the planned street lighting can be completed (which was the main original goal of WANID). Those groups are:

- 806-814 Western (east end of McIntosh Row)
- 816-820 Western (west end of McIntosh Row)
- 832-840 Western ("Courtyard properties")
- Brighton/Western Parking lot

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The electrical work includes trenching electrical lines to some of these properties and that requires obtaining easements from property owners. Currently easement packages have been delivered to the properties in the 1st group, east end of McIntosh Row. The Project Manager, Northside Leadership Conference, is working through some remaining concerns with these property owners and once they are addressed and the easements signed, we'll move on to the second group.

AWCC is working closely with Northside Leadership Conference as well as the City of Pittsburgh and the URA to move the project forward to completion. Many neighbors have expressed frustration at the length of time the project has taken to date and the seeming slow pace of progress. I share that frustration and commit to making this project a priority for the AWCC Board again next year. If you have any questions or concerns about WANID, please don't hesitate to contact me at president@alleghenywest.org

— Ann Gilligan, AWCC President

AWCC Membership Meeting Agenda
Tuesday December 10th 7:30 PM
Calvary United Methodist Church 971 Beech Ave.

7:30 - Guests

- Officer Burford, Pittsburgh Police
- Molly Onufer, Mayor's Office
- Councilwoman Harris' Office
- Senator Wheatley's Office
- Erin Tobin, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

7:50 - November Meeting Minutes Approval

7:55 - Treasurer's report

8:00 - Abbreviated Committee Reports

- Ways and Means
- Housing and Planning
- Friends Committee
- Membership
- By-Laws

8:45 - New Business

9:00 - Adjournment



Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour

The 2019 Tour is quickly approaching! The tour dates are Friday December 13th and Saturday December 14th.

New This Year: Carriage Rides

This year we will be offering horse-drawn carriage rides for an additional fee during the Saturday afternoon tours (weather permitting).

Tour Guide Walk Through - Tuesday 12/10 and Wednesday 12/11 6:00 P.M.

Meet at Calvary Church - Only necessary to attend one night

Train Museum Guides - Wednesday 12/11 7:30 P.M.

Holmes Hall - 719 Brighton Rd | 90 Min

December 13th and 14th | The Tour!

Beech Avenue will be closed to traffic during the tour. Parking will be open to Allegheny West residents in the lower Babb parking lot starting on Friday the 13th at 4:00 P.M. and continuing through the tour on Saturday. Please keep our tour guests safe and utilize this lot. For residents who park on N. Lincoln, please consider parking in the Babb lot as well to clear the street during the tour.

Volunteer After Party will be held at the Burton's starting at 8:15 pm on Saturday | 926 Beech Ave

Please be aware of the following:

- Check the Post Gazette on Sunday...Tom Cihil and John Engle's house will be featured for the tour!
- Send the link to the website to friends and family about the tour www.alleghenywest.org
- If you have time to tidy up around your sidewalks for the safety of the guests, please do so.

Thank you to everyone who is participating!

AWCC Calendar: December 2019

Tuesday, December 10 @ 7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting @ Calvary UMC

Friday, December 13 @ 4:00 p.m.

AWCC Annual Christmas House Tour

Saturday, December 14 @ 10:00 a.m.

AWCC Annual Christmas House Tour

Tuesday, December 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @ AWCC Office (806 Western)



The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Karen Haller Beer

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Letters, submissions, advertising and other notices by the first of the month to: gazette@alleghenywest.org. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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