

# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

February 2010

## Message from the President

David Byrne, cofounder of the musical group Talking Heads, wrote a new book in which he chronicles his observations and insights as he travels through the world's major cities on his bicycle. Pittsburgh is discussed along with other cities in the chapter "American Cities" in the section "The Return of Pittsburgh." He discusses several parts of the city and the Northside specifically:

Various disastrous urban renewal schemes of the 1960s and '70s have yet to be undone. A freeway cuts the North Side in two, insulating the stadiums and all their attendant businesses from the local neighborhoods. John Chernoff: "There are grassroots efforts being made to work on such matters as the North Side neighborhoods around the stadium. The renovated houses we saw on the North Side, around central North Side and the Mexican War streets, are worth a lot of money now."

On a more recent visit I ride around through the hills that are everywhere here except by the waterfront and that make cycling a challenge. I can see changes since my last visit just four years earlier. It seems that Pittsburgh is more than just standing – the cultural district downtown is jumping on the weekend, the little neighborhoods are thriving with their corner bars and grocery stores, the strip district still has its booming markets and, I am told, folks are moving back into the city. This latter change is essential to turning a town around, as it will provide the tax base, and the humanity, that will enable this kick start that the Heinzes and others have initiated to keep things running on their own steam.

The rest of Byrne's book, *Bicycle Diaries*, has chapters dedicated to Berlin, Istanbul, Buenos Aires, Manila, Sydney, London, San Francisco and New York. The book discusses fashion, architecture, globalization, musicians and artists. His choice to ride a bike was made out of convenience rather than political motivation as well as the sense of liberation and connection riding provides. The short Epilogue, "The Future of Getting Around" discusses the potential decline of the automobile as a means of transport, urban planning, other forms of transportation, and initiatives in New York City and Paris.

John McDanel  
AWCC President

## February and March 2010 Calendar of Events

AWCC General Membership Meeting  
Calvary United Methodist Church  
Tuesday, March 9 @ 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, February 9 @ 7:30 pm

### February Agenda

- i. Reading of January 2010 Minutes
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Committee Reports
- iv. Ways and Means
- v. Housing & Planning
- vi. Old Business
- vii. New Business

### AWCC Committee Meetings

Housing & Planning Meeting  
844 Beech Ave.  
Tuesday, February 16 @ 7:30 pm  
Tuesday, March 16 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting  
858 Beech Ave.  
Tuesday, February 23 @ 7:30 pm

North Avenue Sub-Committee Meeting  
Hoi Polloi  
Tuesday, March 2 @ 7:30 pm

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



### THE GAZETTE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEGHENY WEST CIVIC  
COUNCIL

EDITOR: GENE WILSON

### Submissions, Advertising, For Sale and other notices:

gazette@alleghenywest.net or call 412.310.3728.

Ad rates: \$10 – 1/8 page, \$20 – 1/4 page, \$40 – 1/2 page

## Planning Renovations? Your LRC is Here to Help

Homeowners and businesspeople, are you contemplating exterior renovations to your property this spring? If so, you may want to contact your Local Historic Review Committee (LHRC). We are a group of residents and property owners convened by the City Historic Review Commission to review exterior renovation projects and to help property owners manage the building permit process.

Because Allegheny West is a Historic District, all exterior work needs a Certificate of Appropriateness as well as a Building Permit. Once you have a plan, check the Allegheny West Historic Guidelines. If your project fits the guidelines or is fairly simple and straightforward, such as painting, you may be able to get approval for a certificate of appropriateness and building permit "over the counter" at 200 Ross Street Downtown. The contact for this is Katie Molnar,

the

City Historic Preservation Planner, 412-255-2243

(Katherine.Molnar@city.pittsburgh.pa.us). If you are planning a bigger project, such as replacement of windows or doors with new materials, installation of a fence, or an addition, you will need to have a hearing before the Historic Review Commission. If so, please contact us, your local committee. We will review your plans, make recommendations, and help you get through the process.

**Warning –** Do not proceed with work without a building permit!

Property owners who have done so in the past have been cited

by Building Inspection. Time and money had to be expended to resolve the situations, and projects were delayed. Your LHRC meets once a month to review projects. To get on the agenda, call Carole Malakoff at (412) 321-3612 or e-mail CaroleMalakoff@hotmail.com.

## 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

### FOR SALE - 810 WESTERN AVENUE

Be a part of the revitalization of Western Ave. This modern Live/Work space on historic McIntosh Row provides an upstairs 2 bedroom apartment and 1st floor retail/office space.  
\$149,900

**HOLLY SISK**

Realtor  
Historical Home Specialist  
412-377-0015



## 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.

**Eugene Beck Company**  
Heating and Air Conditioning  
924 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

412-321-3356 • 412-931-0949  
24 Hour Emergency Service  
412-635-8424



## EUGENE BECK CO., INC.

Heating, Air Conditioning, Roofing, Duct Cleaning  
924 Western Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233  
Phone (412) 321-3356 or 931-0949  
24 Hour Emergency Service: 635-8424

**K.S. KENNEDY**

DISTINCTIVE

♦ Floral  
♦ Gift  
♦ Gourmet



412  
322  
ROSE

"Signature Style Delivered Worldwide"

Kerry S. Kennedy

[www.kskennedy.bravehost.com](http://www.kskennedy.bravehost.com)

848 Western Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15233