
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

February 2017

President's Message

So what are you doing on Tuesday evening?

VALENTINES DAY!

What could be more romantic than...

We'll all be enjoying a special treat – sweet and delicious – for all of those who brave the weather (and the wrath of significant others?) to join us on Tuesday February 14, at 7:30 P.M. at Calvary Church. Use the Beech Avenue entrance.

Bring your sweetheart, come as a single, or in a group.

No reservations, no premium pricing, and no check to pay.

We hope that you'll join your neighbors for a SWEET meeting!

As we celebrate the Civic Council's 55th Anniversary this year in May, we're looking back at how this neighborhood now called "Allegheny West" came to be – not in the 1860's and 70's, but in the 1960's and 70's and right up to today.

In February of 1962, the people who lived and worked in our community would have proudly called themselves "Northsiders." To their east was the West Park, the downtown of the former Allegheny City called The Diamond, and beyond that Cedar Avenue marking the entrance to Deutschtown. To their west across Allegheny Avenue was Manchester, and beyond that the communities of Chateau and Woods Run. Everything else around us was "The North Side."

Many of these people had been born here. But many more had arrived as part of the influx of workers that had begun during the Great Depression, accelerated during World War II, and exploded in the housing shortages of the 1940's and 50's. It was that rapid population growth that had converted block after block of grand old residences – both rowhouses and mansions – into apartment buildings and rooming houses. The dense population made for lively streets, bustling parks, and thriving business districts.

But change was in the air.

In smoke-filled meeting rooms downtown, plans were being made to "fix" the North Side. Old buildings, narrow streets, and average people didn't look enough like the bright airy suburban utopia that had now enthralled America. Pittsburgh was pioneering a new concept for cities: Urban Renewal. The idea was introduced to the world in the late 1940's as Gateway Center and Point Park bulldozed their way into existence.

By 1958, the North Side, Hill District, and East Liberty were on the drawing boards. For the land north of the Allegheny River, a superhighway would slice east to west – utilizing the former Allegheny Commons park as an already-owned right of way for most of the journey. The highway and its ramps would obliterate the 80 acres of park - plus Deutschtown, Chateau, Woods Run, and much of Manchester. The downtown of old Allegheny City would be leveled – more than 300 large buildings – to construct an enclosed shopping mall, office and apartment towers, and brand new townhouse communities.

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The neighborhood to the west of the old park would become a highway interchange, supporting a college campus and an industrial park.

The demolitions had already begun here in earnest.

The 900 block of North Lincoln solved a nascent prostitution problem by taking down most of the buildings on the block. The first big warehouse distribution structure sprouted at the corner of Lincoln and Galveston – awaiting its promised highway connections. The 800 block of Brighton Road was cleared by the Italian Sons & Daughters of America to construct a National Headquarters with good sightlines to the interstate. Allegheny County created a “take zone” to acquire and level all of Ridge Avenue’s Millionaires Row in favor of a soon-to-be-built college.

And so it was that in the early months of 1962, the people of yet-to-be-named “Allegheny West” began to discuss a novel idea.

Perhaps it was time to control their own destiny.

—John DeSantis, AWCC President

Allegheny West Wine & Garden Tour, 2017

Happy New Year! The holidays are barely behind us and the New Year is in full swing which means it’s time to start thinking about planning the 2017 Allegheny West Wine & Garden tour! I’m counting on prior volunteers and interested newbies to contribute ideas and time to help make the 2017 event bigger and better than ever.

Please attend a Wine Tour “Kick-off” meeting **Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 P.M.** at the AWCC office (806 Western Ave.). I’d like to get your input from prior tours and fresh ideas for the 2017 event. One of our first tasks is to confirm the event date. This meeting will initiate the formation of a 2017 Wine and Garden committee.

Please e-mail me at carolgomrick@gmail.com if you are interested in attending on February 16, so I have your email if something changes, or if you can’t attend and would still like to contribute.

I look forward to getting started and working with you!

Carol Gomrick / AWCC - Ways and Means

GTECH Accepting Applications for Community Projects

The second round of GTECH’s [Resilience Generation](#) (ReGen) resources are currently open for projects that improve community health. **Applications are due on March 3.**

Community awards will range from \$5k – \$30k of direct and indirect resources. Direct support may include stipends, mobile technology, mini grants, hardscape and software materials, and educational opportunities. Indirect support will include matched staff time, data collection and analysis, design support, education and training, inclusive and facilitated community planning, and project implementation.

Visit <https://gtechstrategies.org/projects/regen/> for more information.

Neighborhood Social Events: Mixer and Bowling

Come out to the newly remodeled Giorgio's on Friday, February 17 at 6:30 P.M. to mix and mingle with your neighbors. Bring your own bottle!

Also, bowling at the Elks is in full swing! Please come down to Allegheny Elks Lodge #339 on Cedar Avenue for a casual night of bowling starting at 7:30P.M. Don't forget that downstairs will be the Banjo "practice" session will be playing until 10P.M. See you there!

Attention Allegheny West Business Owners

The Allegheny West Gazette would like to bring back the Local Business Spotlight, a feature to tell stories of our local businesses. If you'd like to be included, please let us know. Whether you've been operating in the neighborhood for years, or are just getting off the ground, we want to hear your story. Send information about your business, its mission, how long you've been in Allegheny West, why you chose the neighborhood, and any important events or future plans you'd like your neighbors to know about. When space allows, one business per month can be featured in the Gazette. It's a great way for the neighbors to connect to and support local businesses, and it's publicity for you. E-mail information to Karen at gazette@alleghenywest.org. Can't wait to hear from you!

AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, February 14 @ 7:30 p.m.

General Membership → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Friday, February 17 @ 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Mixer → Giorgio's (BYOB)

Tuesday, February 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee → Office: 806 Western

Tuesday, February 28, @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee → AWCC Office: 806 Western

BOWLING EVERY WEDNESDAY AT ELKS LODGE!



The Allegheny West Gazette

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.

Editor: Karen Haller Beer

A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council

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DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

Tuesday, February 14 @ 7:30 P.M.

Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave

- **Visitors:**
 - Councilwoman Harris' office
 - Mayor Peduto's office
 - Pittsburgh Police Zone 1
- **Presentations:**
 - AW bike lanes and pedestrian crossings (Pittsburgh Department of City Planning)
 - New app: Burgh's Eye View (Pittsburgh Department of Innovation and Performance)
- New neighbors & guests
- Reading of last month's minutes
- **Treasurer's report**
 - Finance Committee volunteers sought
- **Committee Reports**
- **Membership:**
 - Bowling at Elks
 - Mixer at newly-remodeled Giorgio's (BYOB)
 - AWCC 55th Anniversary Celebration (May)

Ways & Means

- Wine Tour meeting, February 16
- Update on Five-Year Calvary Plan
- Dates for 2017 events

Friends of Allegheny West – Green Space Property

Housing & Planning

- Trucks through the neighborhood
- Stadium events parking and traffic issues
- blocks bounded by Western, Allegheny, Ridge, Bridge - MCC
- Western Avenue revitalization
- Light of Life Ridge Avenue project
- Film guidelines
- Historic district enforcement issues - old cases
- **Northside Leadership Conference**
- **Other business (Old & New)**
- **Adjournment**



DISTINCTIVE

- ♣ Floral
- ♣ Gift
- ♣ Gourmet

412
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ROSE

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