
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

February 2020

President's Message

*Sign, sign, everywhere a sign
Blockin' out the scenery, breakin' my mind
Do this, don't do that, can't you read the sign?*

If you talk to someone who lived in Allegheny West forty years ago, you're likely to hear that the neighborhood we have today is much like what was hoped for in 1980. A few years earlier Allegheny West Civic Council established a committee, Friends of Allegheny West, for the stated purpose of "developing and furthering human services and physical resources of the community with the goal of combatting community deterioration and revitalizing the area".

What signs did the neighborhood see at the time that gave such hope? And what signs can we point to today to give us confidence that we're being the best possible stewards of our neighborhood?

I'd like to offer three signs for your consideration.

First is the Allegheny City Stables Lofts project at 836 W North Avenue. AWCC worked for years to preserve and then to influence the development of the former municipal building. In the next few months we'll have upwards of 50 new neighbors living in a building that was designed with input from Allegheny West Civic Council as well as the Local Historic Review Committee.

Second, as I've mentioned in this column before, the number of neighbors attending General Membership meetings (2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30P.M., Emmanuel Episcopal Church) is awesome. Allegheny West Civic Council decides when and how to take a stand on an issue, when to spend money, who will be the officers, and how the council operates only through voting at General Membership meetings. The way to have a voice is to be a member, attend meetings and vote.

Third, on a cold and rainy January evening a couple weeks ago, over 40 neighbors put on their coats, grabbed a beverage, and attended an AWCC Mixer at Giorgio's Pizza. The food was great, the beverages were shared and the noise level was quite high. It was a wonderful gathering of neighbors, a warm and happy winter evening in Allegheny West. (Thanks to Tim Zinn, Membership Committee Chair for planning this Mixer and those to come!)

In 1980, John Canning, then Chairman of the Friends of Allegheny West Committee, wrote, "I am convinced that the three greatest assets of Allegheny West are: the sense of community of the residents, the integrity of the AWCC and the historical significance of our neighborhood".

Forty years later John's assessment still rings true. We might not always share the same vision for the future of Allegheny West, but by participating and working with our neighbors we can continue to read the signs and move in the right direction.

— Ann Gilligan, AWCC President

Friends of Allegheny West Committee

Our neighborhood parklet continues to grow and improve with the help of a few neighbors and Babbs insurance company's annual volunteer day. We will soon begin our monthly clean-ups along Western Ave, as well as weeding and working in the parklet this spring. Please watch for notices in our e-newsletter for our first clean-up. Clean-ups always take place on Saturday mornings at 9:00 A.M., and fresh donuts are supplied!

Last year we added a brick walkway to the parklet with donated bricks from neighbors. This year, we plan on placing a beautiful metal sign in the garden, with another sign being placed at the corner of Allegheny and Western. We have a sign committee that has been working on the design of these signs. The signs will read "Allegheny West National Historic District." We love our neighborhood and we need and appreciate your help in continuing to beautify our exceptional and unique community.

- Diane Caruso

PHLF Walking Tours of Museum Lab/MCAS Building

PHLF, in cooperation with the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh and MACS, will be offering 3 special guided tours (March 14, April 4, April 25; 3:00pm to 4:30 p.m.) of the MuseumLab Building to people who are especially interested in hearing how the former Allegheny Regional Library has been transformed. To make a reservation, please visit <https://phlf.org/event/museumlab-transformation-free-guided-walking-tours/>.

AWCC Membership Meeting Agenda

Tuesday February 11, 7:30 P.M.

Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave.

7:30 - Guests

- Officer Burford, Pittsburgh Police
- Molly Onufer, Mayor's Office
- Councilman Wilson's Office
- Representative Wheatley's Office
- Erin Tobin, Pgh. Parks Conservancy

7:50 - January Meeting Minutes Approval

8:00 - Committee Reports

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

8:40 - Treasurer's Report

8:45 - Old Business

- Tree tenders

8:50 - New Business

9:00 - Meeting conclusion

Civic Leadership Academy

Applications are now open for the Spring 2020 Civic Leadership Academy!

CLA encourages more informed, effective and inspired community and civic leadership by giving adult City residents an opportunity to learn about their local government.

CLA is a free, 11-week course on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, running March 25, 2020 - June 10, 2020 (No class on April 8 in observance of Passover). Applications are due Sunday, March 1st at midnight.

Learn more: pittsburghpa.gov/oca/cla

Apply: applycla.pittsburghpa.gov.

Questions? Call the office of Community Affairs (412-255-4773) or e-mail Leah leah.friedman@pittsburghpa.gov.

Neighborhood Tree Project

Plans are underway for planting trees in our neighborhood this Fall. We will be working with Tree Vitalize and the City Forester Lisa Ceoffe on this project. In 2016, a Neighborhood Rejuvenation Plan was developed by Pashek Associates in response to issues voiced by the neighborhood. One concern voiced was the condition of our trees. I am using the section on trees in this report as a guide for this project.

Neighbors have volunteered to help contact property owners to explain the plan and ask them to fill out the application for a tree in front of their property. If you would like to help with this part of the project or later in the Fall with the planting, contact me at 412-32-5951 or email callismar@gmail.com. The deadline for submitting a request for the 2020 Fall Planting is March 13th at 4:00 P.M.

It's not too late to sign up for the Tree Tender Training on February 22nd, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Contact Joe@treepittsburgh.org or call 412-781-8733x204. You need to pre register for the class. Call me if you have difficulty registering.

-Mary Callison

Allegheny West Summer Fundraising Tours 2020

Happy New Year Allegheny West! I hope you all enjoyed a blessed holiday season. I'm back from an amazing trip in Africa. Safari in Tanzania and wine tasting in the Stellenbosch region, Capetown South Africa. Speaking of wine ... We have the dates for two wine events this year. I'm very excited about how these events are coming together. Tickets already available for sale on AWCC website for both events!

Tour & Tasting in Old Allegheny: Friday June 19th and Saturday June 20th (We've already sold 4 tickets!)

- The tour will seek food and wine sponsorship from various eateries.
- If you are interested in having your home on tour, please confirm with me.
- Future communications will go out about various volunteer opportunities to help pull this together.

Pour & Plates – A Wine Showcase Event: Saturday September 12th

Deb Mortillaro of Dreadnought Wines will host an intimate evening in the beautiful gardens of Holmes Hall discussing personally selected wines she's pairing for each of the five courses. All in Good Taste Productions, the premier caterer in Pittsburgh, is currently working on a menu to bring guests classic dishes from the great wine regions of the world. No doubt this will be a spectacular culinary and wine experience. This event sold out in 2018 and I'm thrilled to offer this unique experience again.

Your feedback is needed! Tuesday, February 18th 7:00 P.M. | AWCC Office – Western Ave

Please come to this meeting to discuss the tours of 2019(Wine and Christmas). I'm seeking your feedback on what went well, what needs to improve, and creative ideas to enhance the upcoming 2020 tours. If you are new to the neighborhood, please come and learn about the tours and meet your new neighbors. All are welcome.

These tours are only successful because so many contribute. Thank you for your help in 2019 and I'm looking forward to a successful 2020. CHEERS!

- Carol Gomrick, Tour Chair carolgomrick@gmail.com

Amendment to By-Laws

Change Article VII Section 6, adding the text in bold, to:

6. Standing committee Chairman shall select from between two and ten members for their committees within 45 days following their election. No member of Council may chair more than one standing committee at a time. No officer may chair any standing committee **except for the Corresponding Secretary who is ex-officio chair of the Communications Committee. All standing committees except for the Executive Committee are open to everyone to participate in discussion and all Civic Council members in good standing present are eligible to vote on any motion from the committee.**

This amendment was presented in writing at the January 2020 membership meeting and will be published in the *Allegheny West Gazette* and voted on at the February meeting. If approved by two thirds of the members present will take effect immediately.

Corresponding Secretary is still an officer of the Council and is directed to be chair of the Communications Committee. Historically, all committees except for the Executive Committee have been open to everyone.

- AWCC Bylaws Committee

AWCC Calendar: February 2020

Tuesday, February 11 @ 7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting @ Calvary UMC

Tuesday, February 18 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @
Go Realty Office (848 W. North Ave.)

Tuesday, February 25 @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, @ AWCC Office
(806 Western)

Find out about more events in Allegheny West and all around the Northside on the Allegheny West Website: www.alleghenywest.org, and click on "View Full Calendar."

From the Membership Committee:

Bowling has begun. It takes place at the **Elks Lodge on Wednesdays at 7:00**. It's a bargain at \$2.50/game, and that includes bowling ball and shoes. Food and beverages are of course available, also at prices not seen at many establishments! Hope to see you this winter on Wednesdays at the Elks Lodge, 400 Cedar Avenue.

Also, we had our first **Allegheny West Mixer of 2020 on January 24**, and it was a success. Keep an eye out for news about upcoming mixers on the Allegheny West Facebook page!



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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