

ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

July 2009

Message from the President

John McDanel

I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer so far. It was fun to have another July 4th block party picnic – the food was amazing. Thank you to all of our volunteers to make it successful. One of the most exciting summers in Allegheny West continues to unfold – just to watch the progress on Western Avenue – it is an amazing improvement. Special thanks to Gloria for her continuing involvement as the Western Avenue project moves along. What a difference it makes!

My window boxes have received many compliments, but I can't take the credit. I'm lucky this year to have had help with planting my window boxes and the garden. If I attempt to do the window boxes it looks as if a butcher came through, so I'm glad when I don't have to get involved – as was the case this year. Plenty of old house type projects and to do items have come up – repair of ceilings, frozen pipe repair, painting and masonry work to keep things busy. These kinds of things must be familiar for everyone.

I hope everyone has a pleasant summer.

Western Avenue Update

As you can see, we are coming closer and closer to the end of the sidewalk reconstruction on Western Avenue. Please note that I didn't say the end of the project – we still have plenty of work to do – moving the electric service, planting the trees and miscellaneous other items.

We are finished with all of the excavation and hopefully by the time you read this 98% of the sidewalks should be poured. Many of you have noticed that the brickwork slowed down a bit over the last month or so. This was planned...although not part of our original plan. The change was made because of PennDOT's complete resurfacing of Western Avenue - which was not a part of our plan. While PennDot was working we needed to take all of our heavy equipment off the street and we were not going to go back onto Western with it until the topcoat had a few days to set. This is when the push on the bricks was going to take place. But a giant sinkhole in the street changed even those plans! PennDot allowed PWSA to come in and fix the sinkhole before finishing the street (it took a couple of days to get it right). With the "extra" time, we decided to push forward with the remainder of the work that required the heavy equipment so that it would not have to return after the resurfacing. We accomplished this goal. Why was this so important? Because if our contractor had damaged the street surface in any way while working on our project, we would have had to pay to have it repaired and this expense wasn't in the budget. Hopefully by the time you read this, the resurfacing will be complete. And the brickwork will pick up again. (continued on page 2)

July/August 2009 Calendar of Events

AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church

Tuesday, July 14 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 11 @ 7:30 pm

Agenda:

- i. Reading of June 2009 Minutes
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Committee Reports
- iv. Ways and Means
- v. Housing & Planning
- vi. Old Business
- vii. New Business

Committee Meetings

Housing & Planning Meeting

844 Beech Ave

Tuesday, July 21 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 18 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

858 Beech Ave.

Tuesday, July 28 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, August 25 @ 7:30 pm

North Avenue Sub-Committee Meeting

1009 Galveston Ave.

Tuesday, August 4 @ 7:30 pm



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

Western Avenue Update (continued from page 1)

Did you notice the new lights that were installed - I hope they exceeded your expectations. Don't they look great?! The south side of the street has all of the streetlights installed while the north side of the street has the lower lampposts in place. The difference looking down the street from either end of Western (the Allegheny or Brighton intersection) is really astounding. We can't install the tall pendant lights on the north side of the street until after the utility lines are moved. The light posts on the south side of the street should be illuminated in the next two weeks.

The parking meters will be installed shortly after PennDOT has finished paving - it doesn't take the City long to come in and line the street. So enjoy the free parking on Western while it lasts!

We are working on the electric service move for the few properties that are still serviced from Western Avenue. We realized that we do indeed need an actual electrical engineer to run this part of the project and we do have the money in the budget to accommodate this person. This part of the project is a tedious and slow process as each property is unique - but we are making progress.

Back to the new streetlights, we temporarily removed the bottom banner arm from the "gas light" lampposts. We did this so no one vandalizes the posts. While I couldn't come close to jumping up and grabbing the bottom banner arm (I'm barely 5'4" in my bare feet) anyone with just a little more height can jump up and swing from it. There's no need to tempt someone!

The bottom banner arms will go back in when we install the banners. We haven't decided on a design for the banners yet so now is your chance to make a suggestion. We will definitely be using the Allegheny West logo but is there something else you would like to see? Please send me your suggestions. My idea is to have banners that say "Allegheny West Historic District" with the logo; but because we have so many poles, my idea was to have some banners with the famous residents of Allegheny West like author Mary Roberts Rinehardt; Gertrude Stein; maybe some of the famous industrialists who built their mansions here; maybe even Art Rooney...I haven't really thought this one the whole way through!

And we are on the list for hanging baskets from the Western PA Conservancy for next summer thanks to Beech Avenue neighbor Holly Pultz. She took the initiative and put the request in early! This is great because the Conservancy plants, hangs and waters the baskets.

And please don't forget to patronize the businesses on the street. They have been very patient during this long construction phase and we should be supportive of the services they offer!

Yours in progress,

Gloria Rayman
Western RENEWED! Project Chair
Glutton for Punishment

This is Renovation Time - Your LRC is Here to Help

Allegheny West homeowners and businesspeople, are you contemplating exterior renovations to your property this season? If so, you may want to contact your Local Historic Review Committee. 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 City Historic District, all exterior work needs a Certificate of Appropriateness as well as a Building Permit. Once you have a concept, idea, or 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 person you will need to contact for this is Katie Molnar, the City Historic Preservation Planner, 412-255-2243 or Katherine.Molnar@city.pittsburgh.pa.us. However, if you are planning a more significant 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. In the second instance, 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 Local Historic Review Committee 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.

Allegheny West T-shirts Coming Soon!

Allegheny West t-shirts will be available for pick up at the Labor Day picnic on September 7.

Preordered shirts will be \$15, and on the day of the picnic they will be \$20.

You can purchase the shirts and see the finished design on-line starting July 30 at www.alleghenywest.info or talk to Cathy Serventi at darthduckie@gmail.com or (412) 586-5213 about getting an order form.



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AWCC Membership

To become an AWCC member, send your Name, Address, Phone Number and email address to:

Allegheny West Civic Council - Membership
Chair

812 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

2009 Annual Dues are \$3 and Lifetime Dues are \$45. Checks should be made payable to AWCC.

Pay for your membership online with your credit card! Go to www.alleghenywest.net/shop – and pick “memberships” from the menu on the left.

If you are unsure of your membership status, please send an email to membership@alleghenywest.net and we will look in the membership file!

Your paid membership enables you to vote at monthly membership meetings.



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