
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

July 2010

Congratulations to Alex Watson and Mike Coleman!

Two of our neighbors in Allegheny West were given awards at this year's Northside Leadership Conference Scholarship and Awards Dinner this past month. Alex Watson was given the yearly neighbor award and Mike Coleman was given a lifetime achievement award.

Alex Watson, a 50-year resident in Allegheny West, epitomizes the most positive aspects of a good neighbor and a community preservationist. Coming to the North Side from the northernmost sections of Allegheny County, Alex and Merle Dickinson, had an eye to the beauties of the historic home they purchased on Lincoln Avenue in 1960. Both found ways to preserve the lovely features of their new home while retaining some of its apartment units, which enabled them to slowly undertake the process of restoration.

Alex and Merle were among the founders of the Allegheny West Civic Council that emerged in the mid 1960s, when the impact of the growth of the Community College, the great demolition of many homes in the area, and the construction of highway systems threatened the very fabric of what was to be "Allegheny West." At that time, Alex, with an education in landscape design, was the manager of the Sears Roebuck garden department, the largest such operation on the North Side. It was no surprise to many of his neighbors when Alex's magnificent courtyard garden was featured in the Pittsburgh Magazine as one of the city's best urban gardens.

Alex has opened his home for community meetings, house tours, garden tours, educational tours, and always for his neighbors and friends for many social events. Alex is the epitome of what it means to be a good neighbor to all. Throughout the history of the Allegheny West Civic Council, Alex took on a leadership role in many of the organization's programs and projects.

(Continued on Page 3)

July/August 2010 Calendar of AWCC Meetings

AWCC General Membership Meeting
Calvary United Methodist Church
Tuesday, July 13 @ 7:30 pm

Agenda

- i. Reading of June 2010 Minutes
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Committee Reports
- iv. Ways and Means
- v. Housing & Planning
 - a. Consideration of the request for approval letter from Personalized IT Solutions, LLC
- vi. Old Business
- vii. New Business
 - a. Western Avenue - New Projects

AWCC Committee Meetings

Housing & Planning Meeting
852 Beech Ave.
Tuesday, July 20 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
858 Beech Ave.
Tuesday, July 27 @ 7:30 pm

North Avenue Sub-Committee Meeting
Hoi Polloi
Tuesday, August 3 @ 7:30 pm



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

Community Garden Opportunity From the Northside Leadership Conference

There is interest in establishing a Northside Community Garden Committee. The thinking is that volunteers working on community gardens on Northside could share info, band together for fundraisers or grant proposals and raise awareness of community gardens.

The concept would be similar to our NSLC Bike-Ped Committee, which brings together volunteers on trails and other bike and hike issues. Individually, no neighborhood group could pull together Northside bike routes, but working collectively, and with modest support from NSLC staff and approval of the NSLC Board, the committee did just that.

So the question is, "are there any volunteers tending community gardens who would like to get together and explore this?" The group would be open to tenders of flower gardens as well as community vegetable gardens. (Let me know when you add cow pastures and this farmboy will join you!)

Stephanie Miller of the NSLC staff to be the initial point person on this. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie at 412-330-2554. If she receives enough contacts, an initial meeting will be set up.

Mark Fatla
Executive Director NSLC

News from The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Allegheny

Beat the heat and spend some time this month at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Allegheny. We offer a variety of materials and learning opportunities, including, best sellers, DVDs, and programs geared toward every member of the family.

On Saturday, July 24th at 3:00 PM, CLP – Allegheny and the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild will present a lecture on Pittsburgh's Jazz History. The program will feature an overview of Pittsburgh's rich jazz history including behind the scenes insights, along with biographies and music samples from our area's jazz greats. The event will be held at the library, 1230 Federal Street. Please register by calling 412.237.1890 or online at www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/allegheny/

Don't forget, its Summer Reading time at your library. Once registered, simply log what you have read and you will be eligible for an assortment of prizes and incentives. All ages are welcome!

It might be hot outside, but its always cool to be at the library!

AWCC Membership Meeting Tuesday July 13, 2010 7:30PM

The Allegheny West Civic Council general membership meeting takes place every month on the second tuesday of the month at 7:30PM at Calvary Church on the corner of Beech and Allegheny Avenues. It is open to everyone but only members with currently paid dues (or lifetime members) can vote. If you have an interest in what goes on in the neighborhood and would like to contribute, please attend. Go in the left Beech Avenue door, take a left once you get inside and walk all the way to the back, we meet in the conference room behind the smaller chapel.

(Continued from the front page)

When **Michael Coleman**, a.k.a. "North Side Mike" and his wife Eleanor moved into their home on North Lincoln Avenue in 1980 they became avid home restorers as well as active members of the Allegheny West Community Council. Once elected to an office in the AWCC Mike has stayed on the Executive Committee of the Council in many different capacities, including several terms as president. From September to June of every year all Tuesday evenings in the month have been blocked into Mike's calendar for Allegheny West meetings.

Along with his role in the Allegheny West community Mike has been an active leader in the Allegheny City Society, where he annually presents that organization's Bill Rimmel Award to the Society's honoree.

Mike has been an active director of the North Side Leadership Conference both as a representative from Allegheny West, the Allegheny City Society, and, at present, as a member at large. In these capacities, Mike was greatly involved in the creation of the North Side Development Fund and in its growth and operation for over a decade.

Added to these involvements, Mike continues to toil in the beautiful garden he and Eleanor have cultivated through the years and is always happy to allow hundreds of Allegheny West garden tour guests to visit. And it's not a successful Christmas Tour for Mike unless he can lead a minimum of three tours (each approximately two and a half hours in length) over two days. No one has been able to beat his record of three tours on one day and he continues to lobby for the fourth tour of the day to shatter his own record!

And in his "spare" time, Mike writes many articles in the North Side Chronicle as "North Side Mike."

Truly that penname says it all, and is ample reason for the Conference to present Mike with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The AWCC congratulates both Alex and Mike for their awards and thanks them for their years of work for the neighborhood.

GARDEN THEATER BLOCK

Developer presentations

Monday July 19, 2010

6:00 PM

Childrens Museum

**5 DIFFERENT DEVELOPERS.
5 DIFFERENT STRATEGIES.**

Hear their ideas!

Ask your questions!

Give us your reactions and
suggestions!

Be part of this important moment in
Northside's growth,
and spread the word!

You will hear brief presentations from the developers who responded to the community's request for proposals. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions and to offer your impressions and reactions.

This process of development still has many steps and much work ahead, but July 19 will provide insight into the ideas and the potential partners to make this long-awaited change a reality. Please plan to attend and spread the word to your members, friends and neighbors.

AWCC Membership

Membership is open to all residents of Allegheny West

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.

**LECLAIRE GRIEWAHN
& SCOTT LLC**

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

**835 WESTERN AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15233**

Email: Coordinator@lg-law.com

Phone: 412-321-9300

Estate Planning

Real Estate * Taxes

General Business * Collections

Notary Service by Appointment

Free Initial Consultation

New AWCC Website

In addition to being the editor of the Gazette, I'm also the webmaster of the council's website and as such, have recently changed the website from being static hard-coded pages to being run with WordPress. For the non-technical, what this means is that we will be able to put much more content on the web and change it much faster. Right now it has mostly the same content that it used to have but I'll be adding to it over the next few months and would always like input about what the community wants from a website. Some things that I'll be adding are: A news blog, a calendar of upcoming events, a photo gallery, information about the historical review process, back copies of the gazette and a ways to sign up for mailing lists. Email me with any suggestions at webmaster@alleghenywest.org

www.alleghenywest.org

**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

bryant
Heating & Cooling Systems
Since 1902

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

848 Western Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15233

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