
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

June 2018

President's Message

So what are you doing on Tuesday evening?

Join your neighbors on **Tuesday, June 12**, at 7:30 P.M. at Calvary Church for the June meeting of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Each month this is where we make decisions about our neighborhood - decisions that in ways both small and large will affect you. And we always have a good time socializing and enjoying refreshments.

Everyone is welcome – second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M. in the Calvary Church social hall, corner of Beech and Allegheny (use the Beech Avenue entrance). The meeting is usually over by 9:00. It's also a great way for newer folks to meet your neighbors and get involved! We hope to see you on Tuesday evening!

As promised last month, we conclude our year-long “History of Allegheny West” by embarking on a very special kind of “tour.” As the Western Pennsylvania community with more annual neighborhood tours than any other, we certainly know a thing or two about this subject. But here's a tour that we would *not* want to offer, nor would we want to take this tour ourselves in real life.

We're going to stroll around the Allegheny West that never was. Remember George Bailey and the little town of Bedford Falls in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*? Now welcome to the community that would have been here if the Allegheny West Civic Council hadn't existed across the last 66 years. Like George Bailey, all of the good things that the AWCC achieved didn't happen, *and* all of the bad things that the AWCC prevented did happen.

Everything that you'll see on this tour is real – every single item is an actual proposal that we've successfully worked to change or fought to prevent.

There is no Allegheny West.

No improvement and marketing campaign created a distinct separate neighborhood, or that name. This section of the North Side is usually referred to as “Community College” or “the industrial park” or “the stadium parking.”

As planned from its inception, the Community College campus encompasses all of the land from Ridge to Western and from Allegheny to Brighton. All of the old buildings within that area were demolished and replaced with modern poured concrete academic structures and surface parking lots. The old mansions along Ridge Avenue that CCAC first occupied in the 1960s were also torn down to make way for new buildings and parking. As enrollment in the 21st century is significantly below the projections that built the campus, some of the larger buildings now house Allegheny County offices and programs.

(There are several notable “alternate” scenarios within the blocks south of Western Avenue – including three problem bars on the south side of Western, several rooming houses and retail businesses on Lincoln and Galveston, a CCAC daycare center in Holmes Hall, a radio station and tower at 709 Brighton, and a 110 unit 11 story high rise apartment tower on Brighton between Western and Lincoln. Or... that same site can be a Busy Beaver Lumber Yard!)

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The north side of Western Avenue still has a few of the old buildings remaining – a very large addiction treatment facility, a couple of bars, and some rooming houses that are just too profitable to replace. The rest has been leveled for parking lots.

Beech Avenue is largely the same – run-down apartment houses, a halfway house, and a few new larger buildings of public housing. At the corner of Beech and Allegheny, the old Calvary Church is a homeless shelter (the Tiffany windows brought a lot of money in a New York auction). At the other end of Beech, on Brighton Road there's a large box factory and warehouse on one corner, and the big U-Haul outdoor rental facility on the other.

North Avenue is mostly surface parking lots and modern one-story trucking warehouses. The corner of North and Galveston is the large prison release center, and another block north on Galveston is the chicken processing plant.

But the most significant change isn't a building or an asphalt parking lot. It isn't even all of those old buildings destroyed because there was no historic protection, or all of those nuisance activities because the zoning code never got revised. The really noticeable change is that none of the people who came to this community over the last half century ever even knew it existed. They went somewhere else.

As true in 2018 as it was in 1962: Allegheny West is the collective creation of hundreds of good people, who have formed a consensus about the kind of place that they want for their community, and then forced it into existence. That has always been hard work, and sacrifice, and sometimes the need to march into battle. This tiny neighborhood has gotten really good at all of those things.

- John DeSantis, AWCC President

Thanks to Babb Employees!

Once again, a group of Babb employees devoted their "Day of Caring" to Allegheny West, helping Diane Caruso, Cathy Serventi and Trish Burton at the Parklet at Brighton and Western, pulling (many!) weeds, mulching and transplanting perennials, planting all of those zinnias, begonias and sweet potato vines. Several also helped to weed and mulch tree wells in the 800 block of Western Avenue, in addition to picking up litter. Thanks, too, to Carole Malakoff and Eleanor Coleman for donating annuals and perennials to the Parklet.

We could not have accomplished what we did without you. THANK YOU!!!

In Remembrance

It is with profound sadness that the Mattress Factory museum announces the passing of founder and creative spirit, Barbara Luderowski (January 26, 1930 - May 30, 2018). To share your thoughts on Barbara's passing, the museum invites you to visit their website: <https://mattress.org>.

Wine Tour Clean Up Reminder

Tour-goers will be walking through our neighborhood the weekend of June 22nd - 23rd, traveling along Brighton Road, N. Lincoln, Galveston, North Avenue, Beech and Allegheny Avenues, as well as Rope Way.

PLEASE....begin now to pull weeds in front of your property and to fill a bag or two with trash, old leaves and other "street" debris along the tour route so that we can put our best face forward. Should you need trash bags or gloves, please contact Trish Burton, 412-523-9402, tdburton3@gmail.com.

Also, if you intend to plant flower boxes or urns in front of your property, please consider doing so before the tour so that our guests have a lovely walk between host houses. Thanks in advance for helping to beautify Allegheny West!

Alleys, Axles and Ales

The next meeting of the Alleys, Axles, and Ales tour will be Monday, June 11, 2018 at 844 N. Lincoln Avenue at 7:00. If you would like to volunteer, you are able to sign up at <http://goo.gl/gVBCBg> or email Cecile Canales at ccanales2@comcast.net. Volunteers are needed to direct traffic, to help at the Cars 'n Coffee table, to deliver and pick up kegs and ice, to make chili and cornbread for the after party, to set up and clean up at the after party. Please speak with garage/car owner before signing up to volunteer at a garage/beer stop. The tour is scheduled to be held September 29, 2018 from 11:00 A.M.-5 :00 P.M.. Cars' coffee will be from 9:00A.M to 11:00A.M.

Alleys, Axles & Ales Meeting Agenda: June 11, 2018

1. Ticket Sales
2. Garages and Cars
3. Cars 'n Coffee
4. Breweries
5. Promotions and Advertising
6. Volunteers
7. After Party

A meeting of the Beer Selection Committee for the Alleys, Axles, and Ales tour will be held Monday, June 18, 2018 at 844 N. Lincoln Avenue at 7:00.

Alleys, Axles & Ales Beer Selection Committee Meeting Agenda: June 18, 2018

1. Garages and beer stops
2. Selection of beers and breweries
3. Program write-ups
4. Volunteers

Allegheny West Neighbors of the Year: Doris Short & Greg Coll

Allegheny West Civic Council proudly announces our 2018 Neighbors of the Year, Doris Short and Greg Coll.

Doris and Greg started volunteering for neighborhood events even before living in Allegheny West. In 2012 they met some future neighbors who invited them to one of the Allegheny West house tours. Before long, they were designing the tour booklets, serving as tour guides and roasting corn at the annual picnic!

After taking the Allegheny West Christmas House Tour the couple decided they wanted to live in the neighborhood. They say that they were very impressed with the homes on the tour as well as the historical knowledge of the homeowners and tour guide. They patiently waited for the right house to become available and, in 2015, moved into their home on W. North Ave. The first year after moving in, their home was on the Christmas Tour.

Doris teaches Graphic Design and Greg owns his own Creative Design business, Greg Coll Design. They are now the go-to team for most Allegheny West publications, including tour programs, tour guides, logos, posters and postcards. They also generously work to provide photography and solicit advertisers for the tour programs.

Greg and Doris are very interested in history in general and Pittsburgh history in particular. Doris' artwork, which pays tribute to Allegheny West Notable Women - Gertrude Stein, Mary Roberts Rinehart and Mary Cassatt, was accepted to the 2017 Three Rivers Arts Festival's Juried Visual Art Exhibition.

Greg created Christmas ornaments featuring significant historical Pittsburgh residents for their Christmas tree (a big hit with tour-goers!)

In fast order Doris and Greg have become an integral part of Allegheny West, donating their time, talent and generous spirit to positively impact the neighborhood. They will be honored at the Northside Leadership Council's annual dinner on June 14, at the Priory Grand Hall. For more information on how to obtain tickets to this event, visit the NSLC's website: <http://www.pittsburghnorthside.com/>.

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Fourth Annual Allegheny West Art Show

The 4th annual Allegheny West Art Show and Sale was a resounding success thanks to all the artists, neighbors and friends who attended. A whopping \$1,800+ was raised through generous donations and raffle ticket sales of donated artwork benefitting the Allegheny YMCA children's Summer Day Camp program. Over 200 folks packed the art-filled space of the former Hipwell Flashlight Factory, graciously hosted again this year by owners Elaine Stone and Mitchell Schwartz.

Music, magnanimously mastered by DJ Dan Adam, delightfully accented the Friday evening opening party. Generous funds provided by Joe and Linda Iannotta, Holly Van Dine, and the AWCC, along with delicious food donated by the Allegheny Sandwich Shop - as well as neighbors and friends - helped make it a true community event.

Much gratitude goes to F. L. Haus Co. for donating the printing of the posters designed by the talented duo, Greg Coll and Doris Short. Many thanks to all who gave their time and expertise including Sara Beck Sweeney, Holly Pultz, Chris Siewers, Jonathan Steinhauser, Nicki Perfetti, Ritsu Shimizu, Barb Magee, Doug Schreck, Glenn Olcerst, Eleanor Coleman, Hillary Moser, and Ann Gilligan.

Mark Your Calendars

Please save the date: JUNE 26th 5:00-8:00 P.M. (location TBD) for the first public information sharing session about the North Avenue, Pennsylvania Avenue and Allegheny Commons Pedestrian Bridge work. This meeting will be hosted by Norfolk Southern Railroad and the City of Pittsburgh. More details to come. Follow up at <https://www.pittsburghparks.org>. For the time being save the date and share with your neighbors!

AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, June 12 @ 7:30 P.M.

General Membership → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Tuesday, June 19 @ 7:30 P.M.

Housing & Planning Committee → Office: 806 Western

Friday, June 22 @ 5:00 P.M.

Allegheny West Wine and Garden Tour

Saturday, June 23 @ 12:00 P.M.

Allegheny West Wine and Garden Tour

Tuesday, May 22 @ 7:30 P.M.

Executive Committee → AWCC Office: 806 Western

Fourth-annual Allegheny West Art Show.



Remember: Street Sweeping

It's street sweeping season again. Remember to check signs and move your car. The street sweeper will come on **Monday, June 11 and Tuesday, June 12.**

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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