
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

March 2009

Message from the President

by John McDanel, AWCC President

"There is not a more delightful spot under heaven to spend any of the summer months than at this place. Here we have the town and country together. How pleasant it is in a summer evening to walk out upon these grounds, the smooth green surface of the earth, and the woodland shade softening the late fervid beams of the sun; how pleasant by a crystal fountain with the rivers and the plains beneath." – Hugh Henry Brackenridge describing the Point in 1786

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park in California may not open this year due to huge budget cuts in the state. But here at home with spring coming we can all look forward to using our parks again and some outdoor activities. Our neighborhood is only a short walk from the Point and we can easily take advantage of the only developed State Park in Allegheny County – Point State Park. Renovations on the park should continue this year with the completion of the woodlands and promenades. The fountain and Mon connection portions of renovation come later and could be completed in late 2010. The Mon connection will allow pedestrians, joggers and cyclists to connect seamlessly from the Point to the Eliza Furnace Trail and beyond.

The renovation addresses many deficiencies of the park including old water, sewer, and electrical systems that are overburdened during large events and by flooding. Lighting, benches, trash cans, and the fountain will be upgraded and the Point will be made ADA compliant. There will be water landings to enable water taxis to take visitors across to the North Shore or to Station Square.

By 1900, the scene that Hugh Henry Brackenridge described was gone and interrupted by a dramatic scene of industrialism. Vast buildings of the Pittsburgh Exposition and clusters of warehouses stretched to the Point. It would have had all kinds of vehicles moving about, horse drawn drays, equipages, or even locomotive-drawn trains. The suspension Point Bridge was torn down in 1927, but it existed for fifty years.

Today, Pittsburgh, like a small number of other forward-thinking cities, is actively returning the balance to urban living, with great green resources available to all its citizens. The change happening at Point State Park is an excellent example of the evolving nature of a city and its citizens. From a pristine unblemished frontier vista, to a strategic military outpost, a crucible of industry for our nation, a reclaimed plot of urban green, and now a thoroughly planned public environment for the benefit of all, our neighborhood has also evolved with the tides of change that have swept Point State Park.

The fortunes of Allegheny West are intimately related to the what is happening at the confluence of the Allegheny and the Mon. We should be proud that we are a part of such an area that provides us with a uniquely high quality of urban life. The many projects we and the city have underway will pay dividends for all who call Allegheny West home for generations to come.

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 @ 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 @ 7:30 PM

HOUSING & PLANNING MTG

844 BEECH AVE

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 @ 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 @ 7:30 PM

AWCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

858 BEECH AVE.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 @ 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 @ 7:30 PM

NORTH AVE SUB-COMMITTEE MTG

1009 GALVESTON AVE.

Tuesday, April 7 @ 7:30 pm

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

Steelers Amphitheater Presentation

The Steelers will present and discuss their plans for the North Shore amphitheater entertainment complex. The presentation will take place at Calvary Church at 7:30, Tuesday March 10th.

AWCC General Membership Meeting Agenda

March 10, 2009 7:30PM

- I. Steelers Amphitheater Presentation
- II. Reading of February Minutes
- III. Treasurer's Report
- IV. Committee Reports
 - 1. Ways and Means
 - 2. Housing & Planning
 - i. Western Ave
 - ii. North Ave Update
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business

Parking Area G Recertification Meeting

Emmanuel Church
Monday March 16th @ 7 pm

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& Scott LLC**
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Planning to Start for a Spring Fundraising Event

The Ways and Means Committee will meet on Thursday evening, March 19, 7:30pm, at the AWCC Office, 812 Western Avenue, to start planning for a Spring fundraising event. One of the options is to do another Queen Victoria's Birthday Celebration which would entail a garden presentation and teas in neighborhood homes. Other creative ideas and event options will be discussed also.

If you have been thinking about events that would help to raise funds for AWCC, please come to this meeting. The proceeds from our events will go toward various neighborhood development projects, memorial trees in The Commons, or the planting of new trees along our streets.

By Carol Malakoff, Ways and Means

Planning meeting for this year's neighborhood Block Parties and possible Spring and/or Fall Outings.

We're looking to start planning this year's neighborhood events. Come and join us to help make this all come together! Can you help purchase or pick up beverages, set up tables or plan the food choices? Also, in the past there were annual or semi-annual neighborhood outings and we're hoping to revisit this idea, as there are many new people living in the neighborhood and it would be a great opportunity to get to know one another a bit better. Some considerations would be the Shaw Festival in Canada and a neighborhood auction, just to name a few. If interested, come with your ideas and willingness to lend a hand, Friday, March 13th at 7pm to Deb Kelly and Doug Debelak's home at 840 N Lincoln Ave! If you're going to attend or you'd like to help out but are unable to attend the meeting, please call Deb at 724-316-7213 or email kellern2001@hotmail.com

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 info@alleghenywest.net and we will look in the membership file!

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



Northside Leadership Annual Awards Dinner

Mark your calendars for June 11 – it's the Northside Leadership Conference's 26th Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church on W North Avenue.

Each year, Northsiders gather with partners, funders and other community stakeholders to celebrate Northside neighborhoods. Each year we honor neighborhood volunteers, award scholarships to Northside kids and recognize an outstanding social service partner. It is the largest such gathering of neighborhood volunteers in the Pittsburgh region and it is now in its 26th year!

We will honor our Allegheny West Neighbor of the Year and would like to have at least one table (10 seats) filled with Allegheny West residents. Tickets are \$40.

If you are interested, there are advertising opportunities available in the program book and there are Scholarship Sponsorships available as well.

Along with acknowledging adult volunteers, the Northside Leadership Conference awards \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors for their volunteer work. If you know any high school seniors living on the North Side who would be eligible for a scholarship, please encourage them to apply. They don't have to attend a City of Pittsburgh school but they do have to live on the North Side. Applications can be found in the February issue of the Northside Chronicle.

If you would like more information or want to reserve your seat at the table, please contact Gloria Rayman at glowalks@comcast.net.

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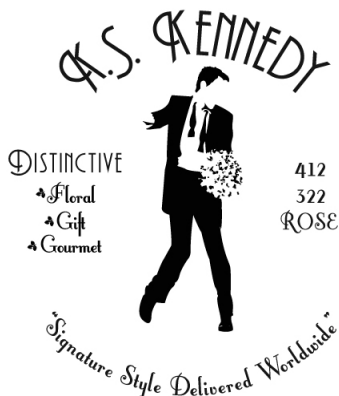
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THE GAZETTE

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COUNCIL
Editor: Gene Wilson

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