

AWCC Springs Forward - In to Action

Timothy Zinn, AWCC President

During these not-so-cold winter months, AWCC's officers, committee chairs, and committee members have been preparing for the months ahead. This month, I will highlight what we predict will be our major events and goals for the year, knowing that the unexpected may always occur and change these plans. This article will also serve to reacquaint neighbors with the standing committees of AWCC or to serve as an introduction to new residents. Remember, AWCC dues are just \$3.00 per year and committees are open to all members.

Communications, Gloria Rayman, Chair. The Communications Committee is responsible for the monthly publication of the *Allegheny West Gazette* and other forms of communication for the organization. The committee is comprised of several members that serve as the distribution network for newsletters and event fliers.

Friends of Allegheny West, Mary Callison, Chair. The Friends of Allegheny West Committee plants and maintains the garden at the corner of Western Avenue and Brighton Road and the triangular garden at the corner of Brighton Road and W. North. Avenue, schedules and coordinates neighborhood cleanups, and coordinates the Allegheny West Memorial Tree program in West Park. The first neighborhood cleanup will be March 17, if weather permits, and Earth Day activities will be held on April 22. With spring around the corner, much work will be needed in our garden plots.

Housing and Planning, John DeSantis, Chair. The H&P Committee reviews all development and construction proposals in the neighborhoods, meets with prospective business owners, initiates planning studies, and reviews all projects that could affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. The committee will continue working on its two big projects, the Western Avenue Streetscape project and implementing the North Avenue Master Plan. The Western Avenue project should draw to a close later this summer with the removal of the electrical lines on the north curb, finally ridding the street of this unsightly clutter. The North Avenue project, in short, encourages the conversion of the street's several vacant former warehouse and factory buildings into loft apartments or condos and adds a streetscape improvement component. The existing buildings and vacant lots could add as many as 400 new housing units to our neighborhood! This project is actually well underway with the conversion of the five buildings formerly comprising the Hipwell Manufacturing complex into residential uses by a private developer. AWCC, or its affiliate AWDC, owns two large buildings in this area, one of which is the old Allegheny City Department of Public Works Stables. We are actively seeking qualified developers to develop or partner in the development of this building. The H&P Committee's additional goals for the year include efforts to minimize impacts resulting from North Shore event parking, addressing the condition of the street lamps on Beech and N. Lincoln avenues, and a gateway enhancement project for the Western / Allegheny

AWCC March/April Calendar

AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church
(Beech Avenue Entrance)

Tuesday, March 13 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 10 @ 7:30 pm

Combined Housing & Planning and North Avenue Committees Meeting

857 Western Avenue

Thursday, March 15 @ 7:30pm NOTE CHANGE

Thursday, April 12 @ 7:30 pm NOTE CHANGE

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

812 Western Avenue

Tuesday, March 27 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, April 24 @ 7:30 pm

mixers; and our annual block parties including Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Additional activities are sure to be added to our social calendar throughout the year.

Property, Doug Sprague, Chair. This committee is responsible for overseeing the operation of all Council-owned properties. One of the exciting tasks of the committee this year will be coordinating the appeal of our new property assessments.

Ways and Means, Carole Malakoff, Chair. The Ways and Means Committee is responsible for all fundraising activities of the Council. In addition to the annual Christmas House Tour, the committee will be organizing additional fundraising events throughout the year. As of the writing of this article, the committee's initial planning meeting has not yet occurred but it will have occurred when the *Gazette* is distributed. We look forward to hearing the committee's ideas for this year's big events.

As our goals are ambitious, there is always a need for additional volunteers. We encourage and welcome new committee members and the ideas they bring with them. Please thoughtfully

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Allegheny West neighborhood.
I am always available and look forward to receiving your comments, at
tzinn106@msn.com



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh— Allegheny

1230 Federal Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-237-1892

allegheny@carnegielibrary.org
<http://www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/allegheny/>

The Allegheny branch of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh on Federal Street has a wide variety of programs every month for kids ages 1 to 100!

TEEN TIME TUESDAYS, 3:30PM

March 13: Wii Love to Game Day
March 20: Tagxedo Self Portrait Studio
March 27: Wii Love to Game Day

ADULT

Beginning Email - Tuesday, March 13 / 5:00 PM
Learn to create and use a Yahoo email account. We Cover: email safety, email etiquette and the sign up process for a Yahoo email account. FREE. Registration is required.

Friends of CLP Allegheny—Monthly Meeting
Saturday, March 17 / 9:00 AM

All members are welcome. Not a member? Join the Friends of CLP Allegheny, meet others from the neighborhood and help shape your local library. It is easy to join! Just ask for an application.

Skills for Success: The Fontana Series - Career Building Workshops - Friday, March 23 / 10:00 AM

Broken into two parts, the first two hours will include resumes, cover letters, networking and interviewing. The second part will be a two hour “career lab” that will accommodate walk-ins and provide more one-on-one feedback. FREE. Registration is required.

Gadget Lab - Saturday, March 24 / 11:00 AM
Do you have a new eReader or MP3 player? Did you know that the library offers dozens of downloadable e-books and audio books that work with most eReaders and MP3 Players? Bring your gadget to our gadget lab and

Terrific Tales for Toddlers

Thursdays, March 1—29 / 10:30 AM

Join us for stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Children 18 months-3 years with an adult

Homework Club - Mondays / 4:30 PM

Please join us in the library for weekly FREE homework help/tutoring. Adult tutors will be available to help your child complete their homework. Grade K-6.

The Crafty Scientist: Make Your Own Super Ball!

Saturday, March 31 / 1:00 PM

Kick off Spring Break with this awesome activity. Roll up your sleeves and get a little messy! We’re making homemade super balls! Grade 1-5.

ALL

Spring Book Sale

Friday & Saturday, March 30th & 31st / 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Donations of gently used books will be accepted until Thursday, March 29. All proceeds benefit Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Allegheny.

Stretch and Relaxation - Tuesdays / 6:00 PM

This weekly program focuses on breath control and proper stretching. It incorporates both yoga and aerobic exercise techniques. A yoga mat and comfortable clothing is required. Registration is required.

Nintendo Wii - Thursdays / 10:00 AM

Try your hand at the library’s video games. For beginners and gamers!

Library Walking Group - Tuesdays / 10:00 AM

Join your friends and neighbors for this weekly 30 minute walk. Weather permitting. The walk begins and ends at the steps of the library.

Want More Trees?

On Monday, March 5th Lisa Ceoffe, City of Pittsburgh Forester walked around our neighborhood to assess our trees. There are new requirements for planting trees: size of tree well, condition of curb, width of sidewalk, overhead trees and other conditions. If you think your property would qualify for a tree planting on your sidewalk contact me for an application form. Application for trees thru the Tree Vitalize program must be submitted before March 23, 2012. The plantings will take place in the fall of 2012. Mary Callison, 412-321-5951 or callismar@comcast.net.

Calvary Church Flea Market and Rummage Sale

Mark your calendar for April 27 and 28 for the annual sale. If

the Allegheny West Civic Council received a \$2,000 anonymous donation to benefit OUR end of the Commons – the west Commons. Thank you, Anonymous Donor!

The Allegheny West Civic Council decided that this would be a great opportunity to turn a generous gift into an even greater gift. So, if you make a contribution to AWCC's Commons fund, AWCC will make a matching contribution on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to a total contribution of \$2,000 by AWCC. Note that the AWCC matching grant is limited to new donations, and is capped at a total of \$2,000.

We'd like to see that original \$2,000 gift turn into a \$6,000 (or larger) fund to benefit the west Commons. Please consider making your **tax-deductible** donation to the AWCC for this very deserving project.

We'll be including a pledge form in an upcoming issue of the Allegheny West Gazette for your use. If you just can't wait to make a donation, though, feel free to send it to our treasurer, Bob Griewahn Jr., at 835 Western. Be sure to indicate on your check that the donation is for the AWCC Commons fund. Also, let us know if you'd be willing to have your name listed, along with the other donors, in upcoming issues of the Gazette. Of course, if you wish to remain anonymous, your privacy will be respected.

Remember, charity begins at home, and Allegheny West is home. Let's all make the west Commons a better place for the whole neighborhood.

Western Avenue Update

We're getting very close to taking down the first group of electric wires on Western Avenue! Our electrician has been hard at work making the necessary changes and upgrades; getting inspections from the City electrical inspector; and working with Duquense Light to make sure everything meets their requirements. Five properties should be receiving their final inspections over the next two weeks after which the wires on Western Avenue will be removed.

On a non-project related Western Avenue topic, we are still fighting with the City to get our original bulb fixtures re-installed on the tall pendant lamps. DPW is willing to return the fixtures to us to store, but not (yet) willing to reinstall them. This is completely unacceptable and we continue to aggressively pursue the reinstallation of our light fixtures!

Please mark your calendar for the afternoon of April 22nd to gather in the Park to remember the neighbors in whose memory we planted the trees.

Keeping our neighborhood garden looking good has always been a challenge. By chance talking with Bill Pricener, the Executive Director of our local Y, we may be able to receive summer help for the gardens. This would allow the young people in the summer programs the opportunity to learn about volunteering and giving back. We will be meeting in March to plan how this will work.

Last but not least, and with us always, LITTER. In March we will start the planned monthly Saturday morning cleanups. The cleanups will be the third Saturday of each month, the first date being March 17. We will not meet if it is snowing or pouring rain. AWCC will also participate in the City Wide REDD Up in the spring.

Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

March 16, 2012 -- 6pm

Join us at Peppi's Sandwich Shop



927

Western
Avenue

BYOB and enjoy your favorite sandwich

AWCC Membership

Join Today!

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

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.org, click on the "Tours" button (it is set up to take payments for our Christmas tour) and then click on the Christmas Tour logo. Scroll to the bottom for the "purchase" link.

II. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. Treasurer's Report

III. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Housing & Planning/N Avenue Committees

1. North Avenue Project/ Stables Building/ VAF Building
2. Western Avenue Project
3. Light of Life Relocation/Expansion
4. Equitable Gas work in neighborhood
5. West Ohio St & Ridge Ave Bridges
6. Humane Society, New Signage
7. New H&P Committee Initiatives
 - a. North Shore Event Parking
 - b. Beech & N Lincoln Street Light Maintenance
 - c. Grievance sub-committee

B. Membership

1. Report on 2/16 Committee Meeting
2. AW & Friends Bowling Night – every Wednesday, 6-8pm, Elks Lodge
3. AW Neighborhood Mixer – 3/16

C. Property

1. Realtor report
2. Property Assessments

D. Ways & Means

1. Report on 3/8 Committee Meeting

E. Friends of Allegheny West

1. Purchase of string trimmer for lots/alleyways/AWCC property
2. Neighborhood clean-ups, Earth Day
3. Memorial trees and dedication service

F. Communications

IV. NORTHSIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. West Park Benefactor Challenge Grant

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS



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LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, LLC

Attorneys-At-Law
835 Western Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Email: Coordinator@lg-law.com
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THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council
Editor: *Gloria Rayman*