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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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March 2019

## President's Message

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Results of an informal survey conducted over the past week show that by a margin of 3:1 local residents believe spring will arrive at some point in 2019. Let's hope it's soon and sustained, springtime in Allegheny West is so beautiful we quickly forget these cold, snowy days.

Last month's hot topics were railroads and parks and they will continue to be high priority topics in our membership meetings. There was some recent news regarding the proposed double-stacked trains running through the Northside when the City of Pittsburgh officially joined us in the fight. The City's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure filed legal paperwork to participate in the state Public Utility Commission's review of Norfolk Southern's plans. The challenge from the city will likely delay Norfolk Southern's planned bridge work, slated to start later this year. This is certainly good news but does not put the issue to bed. We need to remain vigilant and continue to let our elected officials know our concerns. I've heard from a few neighbors who have contacted their state and local legislators – that's awesome and hopefully inspiration to the rest of us!

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Listening Tour made a stop at the AWCC Membership Meeting in February. They shared a lot of information about the process the Conservancy will follow to allocate funds to improve city parks. As part of the process they requested residents complete a survey to weigh in on what we love about our parks. If you haven't yet taken the survey you can find it on their website (<https://www.pittsburghparks.org/>). Specifically related to our park, the Park Conservancy folks agreed to join us at another membership meeting to talk about plans for Allegheny Commons and feedback from Allegheny West. Details will be communicated when the schedule is confirmed. (One sign of the Conservancy's commitment to Allegheny Commons Park – this year's Spring Hat Luncheon will be held there this May 4<sup>th</sup>.)

I mentioned previously in this column that one of the priorities of the Housing and Planning Committee, under the direction of Chairman Ashley Webb, is a renewed focus on neighborhood rejuvenation. In 2015-2016 AWCC received a grant and engaged a landscape architecture firm to conduct a study, based on input from neighbors, on areas of improvement that should be addressed in Allegheny West. There were a lot of meetings and discussions at the time and ultimately the Civic Council membership decided to focus on four areas of improvement: **street trees and sidewalks, lighting, traffic calming on W North Avenue and Brighton Road, and the Mary Cassatt Garden** (the garden area in the on-ramp to the Fort Duquesne Bridge). We have a lot of work to do on this initiative, and the first step is getting everyone who wants to participate engaged. Neighborhood Rejuvenation will be on the March 12<sup>th</sup> AWCC Membership meeting agenda and more information will be available over the next few weeks. If you're ready to sign up now to help, contact me at [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org) and/or Ashley at [housing-planning@alleghenywest.org](mailto:housing-planning@alleghenywest.org).

Enjoy these waning days of winter and I look forward to seeing everyone emerge from hibernation!

-Ann Gilligan, AWCC President

## 2019 Tour and Tasting

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The 2019 Tour and Tasting will be held on Friday June 21st and Saturday June 22nd. The Committee is excited to share that we have several houses, but we still need a few more. If you are interested in putting your home and garden on tour, please contact Carol Gomrick - [carolgomrick@gmail.com](mailto:carolgomrick@gmail.com).

The theme of the tour will be a vastly different from previous tours. To highlight the incredible restaurant scene in Pittsburgh, the committee is reaching out to local restaurants to provide the food "tastings" and appropriate wine pairings. Guests will not only have the opportunity to try a variety of wines, but also learn more about what is making Pittsburgh such a foodie destination! Your house could be the backdrop to this fabulous experience!

Starting in April, the committee will be asking for help to promote the tour through social media and will share available volunteer opportunities. Please continue to check the Gazette and weekly email blast for updates and information. Looking forward to another successful event!

- Annette Trunzo, Ways and Means Chair

## Housing Opportunity Fund Survey

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The URA is working on the Housing Opportunity Fund 2019 allocation plan and would like your input. Residents are asked to complete a survey regarding the 2019 Annual Allocation Plan. They are especially interested in reaching people directly affected by affordable housing issues. The Housing Opportunity Fund is a locally-funded source dedicated to creating and preserving affordable housing in Pittsburgh. Although our timeline for 2018 funds began late in the year, our Advisory Board is required to put together the allocation plan for 2019 earlier this year based on their legislation. The survey is online, at: <http://bit.ly/HOF19PGH> [Note: Please visit [www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org) for the link.]

## Graffiti Busters!

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Graffiti Busters is funded and run by the City of Pittsburgh. If graffiti is reported, Graffiti Busters will remove it from commercial and residential properties at no cost to the property owner. They can be reached at 412-665-3609 (Mark Brentley).

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## Sponsor a Western Avenue Flower Basket!



We're delighted to announce that Western Avenue in Allegheny West will once again be beautified by hanging flower baskets provided by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC).

The WPC will provide the baskets, flowers, installation, watering and maintenance, "take down" and storage of the baskets. We had 41 baskets sponsored in 2018, but with 32 double poles, there is plenty of room for others to help in this worthy endeavor! We want to ensure that all who would like to participate be given the chance to do so. Please respond by March 31<sup>st</sup> to be included for 2019.

In 2019, WPC is providing a discounted rate of \$355/basket—including the sign!—for the initial year, which includes purchase of the basket, as well as plants, hanging, maintenance, take-down and storage. Sponsors will be subsequently reassessed at a \$275/basket rate thereafter for plants, hanging and take-down, maintenance and storage.

Please complete the form below, or go to the AWCC website ([www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org) and click on the "About" tab) to sponsor a basket or to make a donation.

Contact Trish Burton (412-523-9402 or [tdburton3@gmail.com](mailto:tdburton3@gmail.com)) to discuss.

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**Sponsor Name (as it should appear on sign)** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Baskets** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return with check payable to "AWCC" – 806 Western Ave, Pgh, PA 15233**

## In Memoriam

With sorrow and regret, we report the passing of Nancyjane Vaughn, friend of the neighborhood and mother of longtime neighbor Nonie Knauss. If you wish to show support to Nonie and her family, kindly consider a donation to the Tov Church, 1597 Washington Pike, Suite A38 #129, Bridgeville, PA, 15017.

## Mix @ 6: Neighborhood Mixer

Start St. Patrick's Day weekend with your friends and neighbors as the AW Mixer returns to Peppi's! Don your favorite St. Paddy's apparel while you enjoy a BYOB happy hour along with a famous sub or salad. Advance thanks to host Jeff Trebec and the staff at Peppi's!

**Draft Agenda: AWCC General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, March 12 @ 7:30 P.M.**

**7:30-8:00:** Guests  
**8:00:** Reading & approval of February Membership Meeting Minutes  
**8:05:** Treasurer's Report  
**8:20:** Committee Reports (Housing & Planning, Ways & Means, Friends of AW, Membership, Property, Communications)  
**9:15:** New business  
**9:30:** Adjournment

## AWCC Calendar: March 2019

**Tuesday, March 12 @ 7:30 p.m.**

General Membership Meeting @ Calvary Church

**Friday, March 15 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Neighborhood Mixer @ Peppi's

**Tuesday, March 19 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @ AWCC Office (806 Western)

**Tuesday, March 26 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Executive Committee Meeting, @AWCC Office (806 Western)

**Bowling on Wednesdays at the Elks Lodge, 7:30 p.m.**



### 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](mailto:gazette@alleghenywest.org). Submission does not guarantee publication.

**A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council**

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