

## THE VERY BUSY MONTH OF MAY

**Timothy Zinn, President**

As you might be able to tell by the size of this month's Gazette, things are jumping in Allegheny West. Although the summer months are naturally busier for some of the council's committees, all of our committees are working overtime and the need for volunteers is great. If you have been thinking about joining the Allegheny West Civic Council (AWCC) or are a member and have been thinking about volunteering, now is the perfect time to do so as we could definitely benefit from your time and talents. Annual dues are only \$3.00. Many of the committees' activities and events are detailed in the articles contained in this version of the *Gazette* and other articles will follow in the coming months. In this column, I will highlight some of the committees and their upcoming activities.

The Membership Committee continues to host a monthly neighborhood mixer at one of our Western Avenue eateries. This month on Friday, May 11, the mixer will be held at Giorgio's beginning at 6:00 PM. The committee will also begin preparations for the Memorial Day Block Party, which will be held on May 28. There is also interest in starting a summer Bocce league on Western Avenue. Volunteers for these and other Membership Committee events should contact Tom Barbush, committee chair.

The Ways and Means Committee is busy planning for the Summer Wine Tasting Tour featuring seven neighborhood homes and gardens. The tour will be Friday, June 15, and Saturday, June 16, from 5:00 to 9:00 PM both nights. To volunteer for this event, contact Carole Malakoff, committee chair.

The Housing and Planning Committee is working hard to wrap up the Western Avenue streetscape improvement project, and is also working to implement the North Avenue master plan for the conversion of several vacant buildings into a residential loft district. At its monthly meetings, the committee continues to meet with individuals interested in starting new businesses or developing some of our vacant properties. To join this committee or to learn more about its activities, contact John DeSantis, committee chair.

The Friends of Allegheny West Committee 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. In addition, the committee organizes a monthly neighborhood clean-up during warmer months. The next clean-up is scheduled for May 21. Volunteers will meet at the AWCC office at 9:00 AM. To volunteer to work in the gardens or on any of the committee's activities, contact Mary Callison, committee chair.

## AWCC March/April Calendar

### **AWCC General Membership Meeting**

Calvary United Methodist Church  
(Beech Avenue Entrance)

**Tuesday, May 8 @ 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, June 12 @ 7:30 pm**

### **Combined Housing & Planning and North Avenue Committees Meeting**

857 Western Avenue

**Tuesday, May 15 @ 7:30pm**

**Tuesday, June 19 @ 7:30 pm**

### **AWCC Executive Committee Meeting**

812 Western Avenue

**Tuesday, May 29 @ 7:30 pm**

**Tuesday, June 26 @ 7:30 pm**

## 2012 Hearts in the Park Walk

It's time to register for the 2012 HEARTS IN THE PARK WALK!

The walk is May 12th in Allegheny Commons Park. Registration starts at 8:00 am and the event's kick-off at 9:00 am. This year's walk will also feature the Prescription for a Healthy Heart Expo, where participants have the opportunity to learn about a heart-healthy lifestyle.

It's easy to sign up online at  
[www.McGinnisCVI.org](http://www.McGinnisCVI.org)

This is a great, family friendly event that directly supports the important work of the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute's Center for Research and Innovation at Allegheny General Hospital.



including Duquesne Light, Rock Electric, Allegheny West Civic Council and the Northside Leadership Conference, has been meeting every couple of weeks to keep the momentum going. And we do have momentum and we are showing you with this update! Here is where we stand at the moment:

- Two properties, 911 and 852, HAVE HAD WIRES COME DOWN!!!
- **15 properties have already had new service locations roughed-in**, meaning that the work in and on the building has been completed by Rock Electric.
- Of the 15 properties, **6 were just approved by BBI to have services relocated, meaning MORE WIRES COMING DOWN SOON!**
- **The next step for the 9 remaining roughed-in properties** include the City's Electrical Inspector approving Rock's finished rough-in work, and then Duquesne Light will send a crew to switch the electrical feed from the old front location to the new alley location.
  - *For your peace of mind, we are preemptively planning to minimize the amount of interruption to your service while the switch is being made so we can assure a smooth transition of service.* These relocations are being scheduled over the next few weeks. As the service is switched, the wires on Western **WILL CONTINUE TO COME DOWN!** Not all at once mind you, but as each property is newly connected to the alley service.
- **16 properties need Right of Way (ROW) easements** to permit wires to cross their property to reach another. Staff of the Northside Leadership Conference, Jon and/or Marcus, will be in touch soon if an easement is needed from you.
- **Zero properties have had to pay for relocation work.** When we began this project, the goal was to manage the funds carefully and use any savings to defray the costs for any properties that faced relocation issues. That wasn't guaranteed at the outset, but we continue to make good on that goal.

way to get power from the alley to each of the structures. But we have made great headway working with Duquesne Light's engineers and Rock Electric;

- **Courtyard Properties will require running a distribution line** into the courtyard and running feeders to each of the buildings. We have preliminary alternative design solutions, but we are awaiting estimates for the work. If YOU own one of these properties, we will be in touch to explain the DRAFT plan and to work with you on any adjustments.
- **McIntosh Row Block is still in design** with several options under consideration. We will be talking to affected property owners as we get a better sense of what we can do and what we cannot. Duquesne Light is being very helpful in solving this problem.

We are poised to complete the project in 2012 and look forward to the future pleasant aesthetic of Western Avenue.

## NEIGHBORHOOD TREES

In March, Allegheny West applied to Tree Vitalize for trees to be planted in our neighborhood. As Tree Vitalize evaluates our application and decides which neighborhood best meets the project goals and criteria, there is one more thing we need to do. We need to register at least 2 additional community members for one of the upcoming Tree Tender courses to meet the application requirements.

The program requires 1 tree tender for every 10 trees planted. Tree Tender courses are offered through Tree Pittsburgh on June 16, July 28 and September 15. You can visit <http://treepittsburgh.org/become-tree-tender> to register. If you can take this course please call me and let me know you will be taking the 1 day course; Mary Callison, 412-321-5951.

Because the decision about tree awards will be announced by early September 2012, we need to get at

process to accomplish their success. All of these projects enhance the quality of life as well as create economic development in our neighborhood. They maintain the historic ambience of the streetface and, at the same time, bring tens of thousands of dollars of economic investment to our neighborhood.

To celebrate Preservation Month, the awards will be presented at the Membership Meeting of The Allegheny West Civic Council on Tuesday evening, May 8 at 7:30pm at Calvary Methodist Church, corner Beech and Allegheny Avenues.

**The 2012 award recipients are:**



**Peppi's**

925-927 Western Avenue, owner, Jeff Trebac

This was a two-phase project which included replacing the rusting lintels above the front windows; repairing the parapets above the second floor windows; installing white glazed brick to match the original while retaining the stepped parapet and black linear design element; a new neon sign and 2 new awnings; and painting the window trim.



**Lindo's Restaurant**

947 Western Avenue, owners Rubina & Mohammed Waheed

The project started as the simple painting of the façade and resulted in the installation of new soffit and fascia with brackets to match the original; the removal of wood paneling from the exterior of the first floor level; the redesign of signage; a new entrance door and transom and storefront window; and, the removal of tile from under the first floor window and the installation of a sandstone panel in its place.



**842 Beech Avenue**

Owners, Betsy and Brian O'Neill

The homeowners added a Victorian side porch. First, they researched the original appearance of their home and found photographs of the old porch which date back to 1934. They then designed a porch using these photos

## North Side Street

By: George T. Fleming

There are many streets on the North Side, or in former Allegheny City, from whose names there can be evolved much interesting local history.

Some of this is biographical, relating to pioneers in the community and their business activities in the growing community of Pittsburgh. Of these pioneers Gen. William Robinson, the Rev. Joseph Stockton and Col. William Anderson and his son, Colonel James Anderson, have been recently noted.

There are other names, most familiar ones too, that are rich in historic interest. Ohio, Allegheny and Sandusky are of this class whose consideration involves a wide range, not only in history, but a delving into ethnological and philological subjects.

Much of this latter has long ago been printed and it is voluminous and of wide range. The Magazine of Western History some 25 years ago published exhaustive treatises on these names, and chief of the contributors was Russell Errett, in his life time prominent in politics in Pennsylvania and in journalism, for many years connected with the Pittsburgh Gazette as proprietor and editor.

There are street names that are palpably family names, that suggest pioneers and every pioneer about Pittsburgh was identified with the growth of the city and made more or less history. Darragh, Lacock and Irwin are family names that have been applied to North Side streets for many years, suggesting Cornelius Darragh, an early legislator from Allegheny County; Gen. Abner Lacock, member of Congress, and Col. John Irwin, revolutionary soldier and pioneer manufacturer in Pittsburgh.

### *Famous Early Factory*

At the mere mention of a factory to be located at Western and Irwin Avenues or in that vicinity many persons would now stand aghast, protesting that the locality was a fine residence section and should be immune from smoke and noise.

Contra, this brings to mind the fact that this very locality was the site of a noted factory that was engaged in the manufacture of a necessity that helped much to make Pittsburgh, and that was rope; not only a commodity but a necessity, when the rivers were the main and most common highways of commerce and the cheapest.

It will rather puzzle the younger element of the community to locate the rope factory at Water Lane and the West Commons. Old-timers will have no difficulty in recalling the site, knowing that Water Lane is now Western

Irwin, applied to the street, we have a sample of just and fitting commemoration, that has been permitted to stand, none the less fitting that Stockton, Lacock, Robinson, Anderson and some others that will be mentioned.

The Irwins were pioneer rope-makers, and this industry antedates many others for which Pittsburgh subsequently became famous. One instance, for illustration, glass making – first carried on by Gen. James O'hara and Maj. Isaac Craig at their factory on the south side of the Monongahela River opposite the Point, on the present site of the old power house of the Pittsburgh Railways Company. The year of this venture was 1797.

### *First Rope Walk*

Three years before, Col. John Irwin and his wife erected the first rope walk west of the Allegheny Mountains, at Smithfield and Water Streets, on the site of the Monongahela House.

Col. Irwin had been seriously wounded in the battle of Paloi, Pa. during the Revolution, and suffering much from his wounds, was at the time incapacitated and finally was rendered incapable of attending to his business. Mrs. Irwin, a woman of rare business qualifications, and of indomitable courage and perseverance, took charge of the business in this contingency. Associated with her son, then a mere lad, she carried on the business successfully for many years.

Upon the death of Colonel Irwin, May 5, 1808, Mrs. Irwin gave her son an interest in the firm and continued in the business under the name and style of Mary and John Irwin. Col. Irwin was aged 50 years and a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

In 1795 the rope-walk was removed to the square bounded by Liberty, Third and Fourth Street and Redoubt alley. These streets are now termed avenues and the most of the square is occupied by the buildings and tracks of the Wabash-Pittsburgh Terminal Railway.

The Irwins continued the manufacture of rope on this square until 1812, 27 years in all.

Then the second war with Great Britain came, commonly called the War of 1812. Pittsburgh became a busy place – fitting out the small Western and Northern armies of the United States and the fleets on the Great Lakes.

The rope industry as conducted by the Irwins, mother and son, had so prospered that a new location became necessary by 1812. This was secured on the bank of the Allegheny River, between Marbury Street and the Point. At Duquesne Way and Barbeau street we would say now Third and Duquesne way is another way to state it



Increasing demands for the excellent quality of rope turned out by the Irwins induced the son to look around for a site on which the industry could be carried on much more extensively.

Mrs. Irwin was now aging. Her health had become impaired and she considered it an act of wisdom to retire from business. Therefore she disposed of her interest to her son, who in accordance with the plans he had matured, removed the works to the site on the west side of the West Common on the edge of Alleghenytown, a mere hamlet in those years.

It was in 1813 that John Irwin, the younger, erected in Allegheny one of the most extensive rope works in the West. By metes and bounds it is described as "on the 10 acre outlot known and designated as No. 276 in the Reserve Tract opposite Pittsburgh and bounded by the West Common, Water Lane, and Outlots Nos. 275, 29 and 30." William Dilworth, Sr. was the contractor who erected the buildings, the same Dilworth who built the first court house on Grant Street, burned May 7, 1882.

John Irwin, Jr. carried on the business on the above-mentioned site until January 1, 1835 or for 22 years, when he took his son Henry into partnership under the style of John Irwin & Son. Needing more room, they leased the adjoining outlot, No. 275, from Harmar Denny for a long term of years, and extended the rope walk to within 100 feet of Allegheny avenue, crossing Grant avenue, not then laid out and now called Galveston avenue. In 1847 the Irwins

**Thursday, June 7, 2012**

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Allegheny West Neighbor of the Year:**

**Bob Griewahn**

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

**Alex Watson**

The Allegheny West Civic Council reserves at least one table every year for this event. If you would like to take part in this celebration call Kelly at the NSLC office at 412-330-2562 or email [Kelly@pittsburghnorthside.com](mailto:Kelly@pittsburghnorthside.com) and make sure to tell her you want to sit at the Allegheny West table.

**Tickets are \$40**

*The Awards Dinner takes place at:*  
Northside Institutional Church of God –  
CNBE Center  
302 West North Avenue  
(The former Greek church!)

### **HAWORTH INC. RECOGNIZES BURKE & MICHAEL, INC WITH 2012 BEST IN CLASS DISTINCTION**

Haworth Inc. leadership announced today that Burke & Michael, Inc has been designated as a 2012 Best In Class dealership. The Best In Class distinction is awarded to dealerships based on exceptional performance in market development, sales, customer satisfaction, operational excellence and enterprise development.

"Only through outstanding dealerships like Burke & Michael, Inc is Haworth able to provide the exceptional service experience our customers deserve," said Franco Bianchi, president and CEO of Haworth.

Less than 25 North American dealerships have earned the 2012 Best In Class distinction. Haworth Inc.'s dealer network currently includes nearly 250 partners in North America and more than 600 worldwide.

"The Best In Class distinction is a wonderful recognition of our team and the hard work they perform everyday to ensure we satisfy our customers and achieve organizational excellence," said Mary Frances Hogan, principal of Burke & Michael, Inc.

***The Library is CLOSED May 28<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day***

May 2012: CLP Allegheny Children's Programs

**Family Storytime**

**Mondays / 3:30 PM**

Join us for stories, songs, rhymes and a craft. Recommended for children 18 months and up with an adult. *No Storytime on May 28.*

**Terrific Tales for Toddlers**

**Thursdays / 10:30 AM**

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

**School-Age Fun: After School Recess**

**Thursdays / 3:30 PM**

Drop in for something new each week—crafts, games and more! Recommended for children grades 2-5.

**Homework Club**

**Mondays, May 7 and May 14 / 4:30 pm**

Please join us in the Library for FREE homework help/tutoring. Adult tutors will be available to help your child complete their homework. May 14 will be our last Homework Club until next school year! Recommended for children grades K-6.

**Family Craft: Bookmark Monsters**

**Saturday, May 26 / 1 pm**

Drop in for this quick craft anytime between 1:00-2:00 pm. This project is fun for the family, but children under 6 will need a grown-up's help.

May 2012: CLP Allegheny Teen Programs

**Teen Time Tuesdays**

**Tuesdays / 3:30 pm**

Whether we're battling on the Wii, creating something new or making a snack, there will be plenty to keep us busy! Recommended for grades 5-12. *No Teen Time on May 1.*

**YouTube Showcase**

**Saturday, May 19 / 3 pm**

Share your favorite YouTube clips with your friends. We'll vote and award prizes for the best video in each category. Recommended for grades 5-12.

**Bling it!**

**Monday, May 21**

Bring in a pair of sunglasses, add some bling, and make 'em sparkle! Recommended for grades 5-12.

**Edible Book-Cakes**

**Saturday, May 26 / 3 pm**

certified and has taught classes at the YMCA. A yoga mat and comfortable clothing is required. *Call the Library for the exact schedule and to register.*

**Wise Walk**

**Thursdays / 10 am**

Wise Walk is a weekly walking program geared towards adults 50+ (but all are welcome to participate).

Participants will receive a pedometer and a t-shirt.

Sponsored by Allegheny County Library Association, AARP and Highmark PALS. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Nintendo Wii**

**Thursdays / 12 - 2 pm**

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

**Beginning Email**

**Tuesday, May 8 / 9 am**

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. *Registration is required.*

**Councilman Lavelle's Mobile Office**

**Monday, May 14 / 5:30 - 7 pm**

Do you have questions, concerns, comments or words of wisdom? Or are you just interested to meet your representative to City Council? Join us!

**Friends of CLP Allegheny: Monthly Meeting**

**Saturday, May 19 / 9 am**

All members welcome. Not a member? Join the Friends of CLP Allegheny, meet others from the neighborhood and help shape your local library. It's easy to join! See a staff member for information.

June 2012: CLP Allegheny Adult Programs

**Conversation Salon**

**Friday, June 1 / 10 am**

Have an opinion? Then join us for a monthly, moderated, discussion of a variety of topics. Held at West Park Court, corner of Brighton Road and North

**McIntosh Row – Properties FOR SALE**

**\$149,900**

**806 Western Avenue and 812 Western Avenue**

Each of these mixed-use properties has commercial/retail on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and a two bedroom apartment above

**\$169,900**

**814 Western Avenue**

Triplex with three 1 bedroom apartments



***A Tour and Tasting in the Homes and Gardens  
of Old Allegheny***  
***Friday, June 15 and 16 5pm-9pm***

This event is the summer fundraiser for our neighborhood organization, The Allegheny West Civic Council. Proceeds will benefit the entire neighborhood by beautifying our streets and parks, developing distressed properties, and improving the quality of life here. Everyone who lives or works in Allegheny West will benefit.

Everyone is encouraged to donate a small amount of time to help. Whatever your expertise, we need your help. We need housesitters to help homeowners who are on tour. We need tour guides to walk guests through our streets. We need hosts to greet guests at the beginning of the tour. We need volunteers to clean-up our streets the week before the tour. Clean-up will be on Saturday, June 9 starting at 9am. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Carole Malakoff, 412-321-3612 or [carolemalakoff@hotmail.com](mailto:carolemalakoff@hotmail.com).

Now for some tour details. Guests will start at historic Holmes Hall, 719 Brighton Road, and will then circulate around the neighborhood to six other homes and gardens. These stops are: 842 No. Lincoln, 844 No. Lincoln, 913 Brighton Road, 913 Beech, 948 Beech, and 944 Western. At each stop, guests will taste a different kind of wine and hors d'oeuvres to accompany it.

Guests who have attended in the past have commented on how much they have enjoyed this tour. Please help to get the word out to friends, relatives, or co-workers. Invite them to attend. It's always more fun with a crowd! Tickets

**Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer**

May 11, 2012 -- 6pm

**Join us at Giorgio's Place**



908  
Western

**BYOB and enjoy your favorite Italian dishes!**

**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](http://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. READING OF APRIL 2012 MINUTES

## III. REPORTS OF OFFICERS

### A. Treasurer's Report

## IV. 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. West Ohio St & Ridge Ave Bridges
5. North Shore Event Parking
6. Beech & N Lincoln Street Light Maintenance
7. Grievance Sub-Committee
8. Consultant on Zoning Enforcement Issues

### B. Membership

1. AW Neighborhood Mixer – Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 6pm at Giorgio's
2. Memorial Day Block Party, 5/28
3. Summer Bocce

### C. Property

1. Realtor report
2. Property Assessments

### D. Ways & Means

1. Summer Wine Tour – June 15 & 16

### E. Friends of Allegheny West

1. Neighborhood clean-ups 5/21 & 6/9
2. Report on Memorial tree dedication

### F. Communications

## V. NORTHSIDE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REPORT

### A. NSLC Annual Awards Dinner 6/7

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Garbage Truck on Beech Ave

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS



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### LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, LLC

Attorneys-At-Law

835 Western Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Email: [Coordinator@lg-law.com](mailto:Coordinator@lg-law.com)

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## THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council

Editor: Gloria Rayman