
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

May 2018

President's Message

So what are you doing on Tuesday evening? Join your neighbors on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 P.M. at Calvary Church for the May meeting of the Allegheny West Civic Council - and a very special presentation ...

How 'bout a trip back in time?

As we near the end of our year-long 55th Anniversary celebration of the Civic Council's founding in May 1962, we are pleased to offer the first-ever public viewing of a genuine community time capsule.

Allegheny West Springfest, 1979 is a twenty-minute video that was produced 39 years ago, during our neighborhood's original House Tour/Street Festival/Music Extravaganza - one of the city's biggest annual community events at that time.

It stars dozens of our former neighbors (and some current ones who haven't aged a bit!) as they were transforming AW in the 70s, and includes a grand tour of the neighborhood as it looked "before" the last four decades of restoration. There's also plenty of great live music, colorful commentary from the locals, and even Mayor Caliguiri almost sailing away in a hot air balloon!

Current AW folks will enjoy this blast from the past, and of course we're inviting former neighbors to join us for a stroll down Memory Lane. So spread the word and don't miss it! The video screening will begin promptly at 8:15 P.M., with free movie snacks of course.

The regular May meeting of the Allegheny West Civic Council will begin at 7:30 P.M. that evening, will recess for the Springfest '79 video at 8:15, and will then continue afterward. Everyone is welcome – second Tuesday of each month, 7:30PM, in the Calvary Church social hall, at the corner of Beech and Allegheny (use the Beech Avenue entrance). 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 we complete our 55th Anniversary year, there's no better way to understand the enormity of what has been accomplished in our community than to imagine it **without** the Allegheny West Civic Council. In the spirit of George Bailey and his angel Clarence, let's get ready to take a brief tour of the neighborhood that **would** have been if the AWCC hadn't been around to fight the good fight.

Everything that you'll see on this "alternative AW tour" is real - actual plans and proposals from the past that the AWCC countered and therefore never happened, as well as the removal of the many AWCC initiatives and projects that have transformed our community across all those years.

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To set the scene:

- In the absence of the AWCC's political advocacy, our land use down-zoning of the 1980s and our historic district protections of the 1990s (both really big and really controversial) never happened... so pretty much any noxious uses are fine, and buildings can deteriorate and be demolished as desired. Likewise, there was no organized effort to press for enhanced police protection and public safety initiatives, for maintenance of the Allegheny Commons park, or to band with nearby neighborhoods for school reform, protection from North Shore impacts, or even removal of a porn theater on North Avenue.
- There were no multi-million dollar renovations to whole rows of crumbling, vacant, or burned-out buildings on Western, Lincoln, North, Galveston, and Allegheny. There was no one to entice and encourage positive work by developers - or to discourage and fight negative projects - on every street and dozens of surrounding sites in every direction. And there was nobody to buy up and close bad businesses, problem bars, or a convenience store known as "The Stop & Die". Nobody funded millions of dollars in public-space improvements for new historic sidewalks and street lighting on Beech, Lincoln, Galveston, and Western.
- Perhaps most importantly, there was no Civic Council to serve as a nurturing social network - creating vitality, welcoming fun, supporting and fighting for the needs of those who were already here, while ceaselessly marketing to attract newcomers and then make real the promise of a great place to live and work. And of course, there weren't 45 years of tours and special events to show the outside world what they were missing - and why they wanted to be part of this remarkable neighborhood. So all of those people across all of those years never came... not to take a tour, not to move in and become our neighbors.

Next month we'll conclude with a stroll through this alternative Allegheny West - the one that would have been if not for one small band of determined neighbors.

- John DeSantis, AWCC President

2018 Allegheny West Preservation Awards

The Allegheny West Local Review Committee, along with the Allegheny West Civic Council, announces the 10th Annual Allegheny West Historic Preservation Awards. These awards are presented to property owners in Allegheny West who have completed exterior projects over the past year, retaining or restoring appropriate elements of historic character, and adhering to our neighborhood guidelines. The success of these projects was attained by doing research, creating well thought-out plans, following neighborhood guidelines, and working with the neighborhood LRC and the City HRC to seek advice on the application process and guidelines. The 2018 award recipients are:

831 Western Ave., Susan and Frank Remcheck, owners

When Susan and Frank purchased 831 Western over a year ago they inherited a large project that was initiated by the previous property owner. The brick had already been stripped and cleaned, and new wood windows had been installed, but there was so much more to do. These new homeowners took over the renovation of the entire façade, paying close attention to historic detail and existing architectural elements. First floor window hoods were added, reflecting in scale and design those existing on the second floor. A wood hood, brackets, and decorative elements above the front door were made to match those on 833, next door. Other work included fencing, side entry steps, and a new door. This project reflects the significant research and planning that were done to complete it successfully.

840 North Lincoln Ave. garage in rear, Debra Kelly and Douglas Debelak, owners

It's evident that, if you walk the streets and allies of Allegheny West, lately there has been an interest in auxiliary structures, garages, carports, designated places to park our cars. This project is a garage construction. The original garage on this property was deemed unsalvageable due to structural deterioration, and so was demolished. The HRC determined that the new structure be moved to the other side of the property so that it would be aligned with the existing gate at the front of the house. It was also designed to be compatible with the house in scale, materials, architectural elements, and trim colors. This project demonstrates how a new auxiliary structure can be designed to be compatible with an historic building.

852 North Lincoln Ave., Greg Kobulnicky, owner

Talk about research and planning! This project reflects both! Greg completed an entire façade restoration at 852, from removing the fake front, exposing the original brick, to installing new stone front steps to match the existing, and redesigning and rebuilding the dormers to match the original. All were done in accordance with the HRC Guidelines. Other projects include brick cleaning and pointing, installing new wood windows, replacing window and door surrounds and brackets, and even replacing chimney pots. This project sets the standard for restoration in our neighborhood.

852 Beech Ave. carport and rear gate, Katie and Robin Zoufalik, owners

Here's another example of an auxiliary structure that is a well-planned design with a gabled roof to match that of the adjoining property and a wood paneled garage door resembling stable doors. The paint colors selected add to the attractiveness of the carport and doors.

These four projects add to the historic ambience of our neighborhood streets and alleys, contribute to the economic development of our neighborhood, and enhance the quality of life in Allegheny West. To celebrate Historic Preservation Month, these awards will be presented at the May Membership Meeting of The Allegheny West Civic Council on Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30. Please attend and honor these neighbors.

A Big Thank You

We'd like to extend a big thank you to Ed Menzer at the Parador Inn, a B&B on Western Avenue, for his donation of (a lot of!) mulch that we used for the tree wells in the 900 block of Western. It looks great. Thanks, Ed!

We'd also like to thank Dr. Dan Strinkoski who continues to ensure that our neighborhood is clean and litter-free. It used to require about ten volunteers to do the work that Dr. Dan does each week with his leaf and litter blower. Thank you, Dr. Dan!

The volunteers who helped with our first clean up on Saturday, April 28th. Ann Gilligan, Tim Zinn, Mike Douglas, Tom Barbush and Tony and Diane Caruso joined Trish Burton in mulching Western Avenue tree wells, transplanting grasses to the parklet and weeding and sweeping the neighborhood and alleys! Let's keep this up and keep Allegheny West looking lovely all summer long!

2018 Wine Tour and Tasting : *A Toast to the Central Coast*

The 2018 Tour and Tasting planning is well underway. As a reminder, the homes to be featured this year are:

Annette Trunzo - 800 Beech

The Zoufaliks - 852 Beech

The Malakoffs - 913 Brighton

Cathy Serventi and Gene Wilson - 851 Beech

Doug Debelak and Deb Kelly - 840 N. Lincoln

Emmanuel Episcopal Church - Corner of W. North and Allegheny Ave

Thank you all for opening your homes and gardens!

The theme this year is *Ground to Glass from the Central Coast*. I'm excited to share with you that several Central Coast wineries (Paso Robles) are contributing to this event for the walking tour. In addition to the wineries, the food pairings are being primarily selected from a cookbook of a premier Paso catering company, Cahoots Catering. Cahoots is donating cookbooks and product for raffle to the event.

Here are the details:

Walking Tour (\$75)

June 22 - 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

June 23 - 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. / 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Showcase Event at Holmes Hall (\$150)

June 23 - 7:00 to 9:30 P.M.

Contact Carol Gomrick if you have interest in volunteering in any other way. carolgomrick@gmail.com.

Thank You to our Western Avenue Flower Basket Sponsors!

Many thanks to our 2018 sponsors of the lovely baskets that will beautify our neighborhood's main commercial district from June to October. We'll have 41 baskets—and Western PA Conservancy will be maintaining them, so we can just admire and enjoy them!



Any questions, please contact Trish Burton,
412-523-9402/tdburton3@gmail.com.

New Sponsors: Eugene Beck Co. Heating-A/C & Plumbing
Giorgio's Place
The Knaus Family
Pittsburgh Acupuncture & Massageworks
The Robert Family

Returning Sponsors: Allegheny Sandwich Shop
Annette Trunzo/memory of Olga & Paul Trunzo
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Fourth Annual Allegheny West Art Show

The 4th Annual Allegheny West Art Show is back! Showcasing work by artists living and/or working across the Northside, and their fellow artists. The opening will be Friday night, May 11th, starting at 6:30. Enjoy food and beverage courtesy of AWCC while browsing a great and diverse collection of art on display, at HIP's wonderful space! (HIP at the Flashlight Factory, 831 West North Avenue) The show continues on Saturday, May 12th from noon to 5:00 P.M.

Help Wanted: Gazette Delivery

The Allegheny West Gazette is in need of a new delivery person to take the 900 block of West North Avenue and all of Galveston Avenue. This is approximately 50 homes, and takes 15-20 minutes monthly. It's a great way for neighbors - young or old - to volunteer. Please contact Karen at gazette@alleghenywest.org if you are able to help out!

Alleys, Axles & Ales

Allegheny West will hold the initial planning meeting of Alleys, Axles and Ales tour Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 at 844 N. Lincoln Avenue.

R.S.V.P. to ccanales13@icloud.com if you plan to attend or to receive more agenda information.

Cecile Canales and Tom Barbush will co-chair this tour. If you are interested in having your garage on tour or would like to volunteer, please email Cecile at ccanales13@icloud.com.

Volunteers will be able to sign up at <http://goo.gl/gVBCBg> Please speak with garage/car owners before signing up to volunteer at a garage/beer stop. The tour is scheduled to be held September 29, 2018.

Meeting Agenda:

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

Consider Donating Blood

It's always a good season to donate blood, but summer is especially important due to regular donors often being on vacation. If you're able, consider a donation at a convenient blood drive. One of our Allegheny West neighbors has needed fourteen units of blood and six of platelets over the past 6–8 weeks. Accident victims, surgery candidates, and blood cancer patients will be very grateful for your generous donation.

AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, May 8 @ 7:30 P.M.

General Membership → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Friday, May 11 @ 6:30 P.M.

Allegheny West Art Show

Saturday, May 12 @ 12:00 P.M.

Allegheny West Art Show

Tuesday, May 15 @ 7:30 P.M.

Housing & Planning Committee → Office: 806 Western

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

Executive Committee → AWCC Office: 806 Western



Remember: Street Sweeping

It's street sweeping season again. Remember to check signs and move your car. The street sweeper will come on Tuesday, May 8 and Monday, May 14.

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.

A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council 806 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233
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DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

Tuesday, May 8 @ 7:30 P.M.

Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave

- Visitors: Councilwoman Harris' office
Mayor Peduto's office
Pittsburgh Police Zone 1
Representative Wheatley's Office
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy - Allegheny Commons
- New neighbors & guests
- Reading of previous meeting's minutes
- Treasurer's report: Preliminary 2019 Budget
- Presentation of 2018 Allegheny West Preservation Awards
- 8:15: Screening of the Springfest 1979 (20 minutes)
- Committee Reports

Membership:

- Volunteers for the Memorial Day Picnic

Ways & Means:

- 2018 Wine & Garden Tour (June 22 and 23; Signature Event 6/23)
- 2018 Alleys, Axles & Ales tour (September 29)

Friends of Allegheny West: Clean-up, flower basket

Property

Housing & Planning:

Updates:

- Discussion of Allegheny Commons Master Action Plan
- Parking and traffic issues, Galveston
- North Avenue lighting
- Western Avenue revitalization/electric relocations
- Western Avenue New Alcohol Outlets
- Light of Life Ridge Avenue project
- Expansion of Historic District
- Historic District enforcement issues – old cases
- ZBA Appeal, new City zoning: Medical Marijuana Dispensary
- Air BnB issues/impacts on AW
- Comprehensive guidelines for new construction on vacant sites
- Railroad bridge replacements, double-stack train impacts
- Allegheny Center Master Plan
- North Shore impacts
- Nominating committee - 2018 Neighbor of the Year
- Northside Leadership Conference
- Other business (Old & New)
- Adjournment



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