
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

November 2009

Message From the President

The North Side Leadership Conference recently formed the Brighton Road Committee to explore issues along the corridor, and make recommendations to the NSLC Board on what direction the NSLC should take to assist neighborhoods along the corridor. At the October meeting, Johanna Mulcahy presented several base maps and sample demographic data for areas on the corridor. Johanna is an AmeriCorps volunteer working with the NSLC as a Community Liaison. She used data from two subsets of block groups from Census 2000 which were selected at random to eliminate preconceptions and stimulate conversation. Discussion of the physical appearance of the corridor began, it was noted that Brighton Road serves as an artery for residents of the Northern suburbs, as well as local residents. The current visual appearance and decay of vacant lots, building, and street infrastructure contribute to a negative image. Discussion and other options considered to improve the image included planting trees and flowers on vacant lots and other greening strategies. The removal of chain link fences and junk cars on unsightly vacant lots, as well as the removal of billboards was considered. The committee will further consider doing an RFP to an architect for corridor planning. Participants were asked to identify key lots and bad spots for discussion at the next meeting. The committee will also seek to identify vacant buildings, what property the city may own, if any, and if there are any tax delinquent properties. The Community Design Center of Pittsburgh would be invited to the next meeting to discuss funding options and other possible support.

North Side neighbors were asked to send a representative to the Urban Redevelopment Authority presentation of the Market Value Analysis (MVA) initiative, which I attended. MVA is a statistical tool that uses market data to classify geographic areas and produce a map of the varying market types within the City. Each color on the map represents one of seven distinct market types. Market types are designated according to clustering similar characteristics, including housing units, residential, sales prices, vacancy, percent commercial, new unit permits, code violations, foreclosures and section 8 rentals. Declining and aging population are other indicators that are critical. The MVA will guide URA investment strategy. The most recent MVA focused on residential property. MVA 2 is expected early next year, and will focus on commercial property.

The URA will use MVA data and talk to community groups to guide decisions and strategy. In the past, the URA's most intensive tool was housing, which has become more challenging due to rising costs. Other strategies remain open to consideration that might make an improved Pittsburgh.

Philadelphia has also done a similar study which was used to guide investments; they took \$6 million which was allocated to demolition and used it to raise \$13 million for a neighborhood transformation initiative. The program money was used for improvement of parks and recreation, building new housing, removing dead trees, nuisance abatement and abandoned car removal, land assembly for redevelopment and select demolition.

In Pittsburgh, the MVA will help guide how decisions get made regarding the disbursement of URA funds in the future.

November/December 2009

Calendar of Events

AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church
Tuesday, November 10 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday, December 8 @ 7:30 pm

Agenda:

- i. Reading of October 2009 Minutes
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Committee Reports
- iv. Ways and Means
- v. Housing & Planning
- vi. Old Business
- vii. New Business

Committee Meetings

Housing & Planning Meeting
844 Beech Ave.
Tuesday, November 17 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday, November 15 @ 7:30 pm

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
858 Beech Ave.
Tuesday, November 24 @ 7:30 pm
Tuesday, December 29 @ 7:30 pm

North Avenue Sub-Committee Meeting
Hoi Polloi
Tuesday, December 1 @ 7:30 pm



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

The 2009 Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas Tour

Friday evening, December 11 and Saturday, December 12.

As usual this year we will feature 6 unique homes on tour, all beautifully decorated for the holidays. The homes on tour will be:

926 Beech Avenue, the Burton family
842 Beech Avenue, the O'Neill family
838 N. Lincoln Avenue, the Whitmer family
849 N. Lincoln Avenue, Hal Dixler and Nick Duerlinger
845 N. Lincoln Avenue, Alex Watson
Holmes Hall at 719 Brighton Road, John Desantis.

At Holmes Hall, The Toy Train Museum will also be open for viewing. Then to end the tour there will be a visit to The Holiday Shop at Jones Hall.

Teas and brunches will be hosted at the homes of Mary Callison at 942 West North Avenue; Ingrid Berglund at 922 Beech Avenue; and John McDanel at 858 Beech Avenue. Our caterers will be Linda Iannotta and Lisa Ferguson.

Linda and Joe Iannotta will also be hosting a fabulous dinner at their home, 929 Beech Avenue.

Tickets may be purchased on-line this year. **Just check our web-site, alleghenywest.org**

Volunteer to help out for the Allegheny West Christmas Tour!

Have you ever wondered how those greens get hung on our lamp posts; how the litter gets picked up from our sidewalks; how those flyers get designed and printed; how those tickets get processed; how those phone calls get answered; and how 7500 flyers get prepared for mailing? All of these tasks are done by volunteers, your neighbors here in Allegheny West. Please become part of this group of neighbors who helps to make our neighborhood the best in The City. There are many tasks to do for our Christmas Tour. Here is what you can do:

To be a tour guide, contact Doug Sprague, dougsprague63@yahoo.com

To be a church greeter, contact Brandon Williams, brandonpwilliams@hotmail.com

To help bunch and hang greens, contact Matt Grebner, matthew@makeitmagnificent.com

To help organize the volunteer party, contact Debbie Kelly, kellern2001@hotmail.com

To help house sit, contact Carole Malakoff, carolemalakoff@hotmail.com

To help be a conductor at The Toy Train Museum, contact Chris Bladen, newenglishman@hotmail.com

To help serve cider and cookies, contact Linda Ehrlich, lindashsdy@aol.com

To help light luminaria, contact Chris Fetter, chrispgh1@aol.com

To get a group of friends together and go caroling on our streets, contact Tony Corasaniti, corasana@comcast.net

On Saturday, December 5 at 10am we will be bunching greens for our lamp posts at Matt Grebner's shop at the corner of Galveston and West North Avenues, please take an hour or two out of your day to help.

There will be a meeting of the tour committee on Thursday evening, **November 12 at 7:30pm at 913 Brighton Road**. This is when all the pieces of the puzzle will come together. If you are responsible for one of "the pieces", please plan on attending. We will discuss all of the details of the tour route, the shop, the luminaria, the party, and everything else.

Proposed 2010 AWCC Board of Directors

It's time to elect the 2010 Board of Directors for the Allegheny West Civic Council. Any member who's dues are current can be elected to the Board. Terms are for two years and the positions that need to be filled for 2010 are Recording Secretary, Housing and Planning, Membership, Ways & Means, Sergeant at Arms.

The slate listed below is the recommendation of the nominating committee. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the October and November meetings.

John McDanel - President
John DeSantis - Vice President
Robert Griewahn - Treasurer
Carole Malakoff - Recording Secretary
Jim Wallace - Housing & Planning
Jessica Burgan - Property
Gene Wilson - Communications
No Nominee - Membership
Gloria Rayman - Ways & Means
Timothy Zinn - Sergeant at Arms
Mike Coleman - Friends of Allegheny West

The election of the 2010 Board will take place at the November meeting.

If you plan on attending and voting, you must pay your annual dues of \$3 by the October 13 membership meeting. You can become a member online at www.alleghenywest.org. Never worry about your membership status again by taking advantage of a lifetime membership of \$45. It's the best deal in town! Checks made payable to "AWCC" can also be dropped through the mail slot at the Allegheny West office at 812 Western Avenue. Please be sure to include your mailing address, phone number and email address.

Allegheny West Door Decorating Contest

Let's really make an effort to welcome visitors to Allegheny West by decorating our doors, porches, and entranceways. The contest will again be sponsored by Coldwell Banker Real Estate. Judging will take place on Saturday morning, December 12. Prizes will be gift certificates to local businesses.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make the 2009 Spirits of Allegheny West Walking Tour a success! Thanks to Allison Fatla who took charge of our volunteer actors who portrayed neighbors from the past. She rounded up the group from various university theater groups, made sure they had the appropriate costumes and stories, plus gave them a little extra background information so they understood the context of their stories. The only neighbor to take the stage as a site host was Mark Fatla, who kept the crowds enthralled at Byers-Lyon Hall with his dramatic monologue...and black hat!

Thanks to our ticket sellers at Emmanuel Church; our tour guides; the folks who helped feed our actors; and to Rev. Don Youse at Emmanuel Episcopal Church for opening his beautiful church to all of our guests and for setting the stage for the tour with his great stories.

And thanks to everyone who helped spread the word about the tour. Gloria Rayman

**LECLAIRE GRIEWAHN
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835 WESTERN AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

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Notary Service by Appointment
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Volunteer Opportunity

Tutors needs for 1st to 3rd grade students for the "Up for Reading" program at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on the corner of North and Allegheny avenues. Hours are 3pm – 5pm Weekdays. Contact Carol Gonzales at 412.322.2189

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THE GAZETTE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEGHENY WEST CIVIC
COUNCIL

Editor: Gene Wilson

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