

# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

November 2010

## Twenty-nine Years of Christmas Tours!

Can you believe this great neighborhood has been hosting one of the most popular house tours in the city for 28 years? It's true!

And it's time for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking to feature 6 unique homes on tour, all beautifully decorated for the holidays. As of early November, the homes on tour will be 849 Beech Avenue, the home of Gretchen Duthoy; 913 Brighton Road, the Malakoff's; 845 N. Lincoln Avenue, Alex Watson; and 719 Brighton Road, John Desantis. At John's house, the train museum will also be open for viewing. Then to end the tour there will be a visit to The Holiday Shoppe at Jones Hall. Regular tour tickets are \$25 per person; train museum tickets are \$10 per person.

Teas and brunches will be hosted at the homes of Ethlyn Daniel at 907 Beech Avenue and Sherry Cramer at 946 Western Avenue. Linda Iannotta will be catering the brunches and Diane Porter of Cassis will cater the teas. Brunch or tea tickets are \$50 per person.

Based on the positive feedback we received from the wine tasting tour in October, we decided to offer a wine tasting in lieu of a formal dinner. Wines will be selected by Milko Maladinov of Winebow, Inc. especially for this event and will be paired with hors d'oeuvres created by Linda Iannotta. Hal Dixler and Nick Duerlinger of 849 N. Lincoln Avenue will be hosting this new event on Friday evening only. Wine tour tickets are \$75 per person.

Tickets are on sale now at [www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org). You can choose the exact tour time you want!

And of course we can always use help before, during and after the tour. We will be making and hanging the evergreen swags on approximately 70 light posts throughout the neighborhood; we will need help at the Holiday Shoppe at the cookie and cider table; we are always on the lookout for those who like public speaking and would like to be a tour guide; we can always use help at the volunteer party; and there are a variety of other opportunities as well. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Gloria Rayman at [glowalks@comcast.net](mailto:glowalks@comcast.net) or attend our next meeting this Wednesday, November 10, 7:30pm at Calvary Church.

## AWCC October Calendar

### AWCC General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church

Tuesday, November 9 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 14 @ 7:30 pm

### Combined Housing & Planning - North Avenue Meeting

852 Beech Ave.

Tuesday, November 16 @ 7:30 pm

Tuesday, December 21 @ 7:30 pm

### AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

858 Beech Ave.

Tuesday, November 30 @ 7:30 pm

Allegheny West Civic Council

812 Western Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15233

(412) 323-8884

## General Membership Meeting Agenda

- i. Reading of October 2010 Minutes
- ii. Treasurer's Report
- iii. Committee Reports
- iv. Ways and Means
- v. Housing & Planning
- vi. Old Business
- vii. New Business

### THE GAZETTE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ALLEGHENY WEST CIVIC  
COUNCIL

EDITOR: GENE WILSON

### Submissions, Advertising, For Sale and other notices:

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**Obituary: Michael L. Coleman / Longtime North Side resident who advocated for Allegheny West**  
**Died Oct. 23, 2010**  
**Tuesday, October 26, 2010**  
By Diana Nelson Jones, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Michael L. Coleman stood for years as a staunch advocate for Allegheny West, almost up to the day of his death Saturday at Allegheny General Hospital. He was 67.

He was always the go-to guy for comment about anything happening in Allegheny West or having to do with the Allegheny West Civic Council, on which he served many roles over the years.

A longtime resident of Lincoln Street, Mr. Coleman was the founder and owner of Allegheny R&D, a North Shore company that made EMS data collection software.

He was known for his strong sense of fair play and "wicked sense of humor, often very dry," said Gloria Rayman, a member of the civic council's board. She said his strength was "always being able to see both sides of an issue, which made him a good mediator."

"He was so fair about everything and always so positive, right up to the very end. I am going to miss him dearly. He was not only a great friend but he took on the role of mentor in things going on in the community."

Mark Masterson, executive director of the Northside Community Development Fund, said Mr. Coleman was a stabilizing force during times of transition as a member of the fund's board. He remained during a board upheaval several years ago and supported the fund's efforts to keep the Northside Chronicle in publication after the death of the paper's longtime editor John Lyon.

"He was one of the guys who said, 'We've got to stick with this thing.' "

Mr. Coleman was active in preservation efforts, supporting restorations at two historic churches and in the Allegheny Commons Park.

In a 2007 article about the legacy of the old city of Allegheny -- the current North Side neighborhoods -- Mr. Coleman, who

was president of the Allegheny City Society, described the North Side saying, "We're just different over here. When we moved here, we were amazed at how much like a village it is, apart from the rest of the city."

He often went to bat for his little sliver of the village.

With his neighbor John DeSantis, Mr. Coleman challenged the Steelers' organization to take a stronger role against the onslaught of fans parking in Allegheny West during Steelers home games.

He also coordinated the regular neighborhood clean-up and was an at-large member of the Northside Leadership Conference.

He was awarded the Northside Leadership Conference's lifetime achievement award in June.

Calling Mr. Coleman one of the council's founding members, Ms. Rayman said his death "has left a huge hole in the collective heart of Allegheny West."

Mr. Coleman, who had cancer for several years, told Mr. Masterson, "I'm not giving in to this," he said, "and up until the last week, he was still doing things."

Mr. Coleman is survived by his wife, Eleanor, of Allegheny West; his daughter, Jennifer Logue; and one granddaughter.

A private ceremony was held Monday.

Diana Nelson Jones: [djones@post-gazette.com](mailto:djones@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1626.

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Eleanor Coleman has indicated that she would be very pleased to have people make donations to a memorial tree fund for a tree in West Park planted for Mike. Donations may be made to The AWCC Memorial Tree Fund for Mike's tree.

## Western Avenue Update

WE HAVE TREES! The planting started earlier in the week and we expect to have all of the trees planted within two weeks. Lawn Sense, the company planting the trees, is also including a weed barrier and about 3 inches of mulch to help protect the roots and slow the process of any of the really persistent mutant weeds. They are also under contract to water the trees. The trees are under warranty so if any of them die this winter they will be replaced in the spring.

The trees that are being planted were chosen specifically for our business district. We did get these trees for free from the City as part of a federal stimulus grant. But before we accepted the trees we met with a representative from the Forestry department to go over exactly what trees we would receive and made sure they fit the plans prepared by Pashek & Associates (the landscape architect for the Western Avenue plan). Pashek & Associates approved the tree choices and we were able to accept the free trees!

You might have also noticed that the junction box covers (the cement rectangles in the sidewalk) were replaced. We were not satisfied with the original junction box covers as many of them were not flush with the actual sidewalk and presented a tripping hazard to pedestrians; our contractor repoured them at his expense. In the original plans, these covers were to be tinted to blend in with the surrounding bricks. While on paper that idea sounded wonderful, in reality the tinted concrete looked quite bad. There was a sample tinted cover in front of the Modern Café that was more noticeable (because of how bad it looked) than the plain concrete.

The next part of the project is the utility line relocation. Before that happens we have approximately 26 properties that have to have work done to relocate their electric service drops from Western Avenue to the rear alleys. You won't see this work but it is starting. The poles don't come down until the end of this process so don't expect them to see them removed in the next few weeks!

And last but not least, I'd like to welcome our new project manager from the North Side Leadership Conference. Kelsey Walko joined our team about a month ago and is working diligently on the numerous details of the electric service moves. Kelsey is a native of western PA (Ford City to be exact) and comes to us from a similar position with the government of New York City.

Yours in progress,  
Gloria Rayman

## Proposed 2011 AWCC Board of Directors

It's time to elect the 2011 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 still need to be filled for 2011 are treasurer and property. 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.

PRESIDENT	Timothy Zinn
VICE PRESIDENT	Bob Griewahn
TREASURER	John Burton
RECORDING SECRETARY	Carole Malakoff
MEMBERSHIP	Tom Barbush
SGT. AT ARMS	John DeSantis
WAYS AND MEANS	Gloria Rayman
FRIENDS OF ALLEGHENY WEST	Mary Callison
HOUSING AND PLANNING	Jim Wallace
COMMUNICATIONS	Valerie Nagel
PROPERTY	(open)

The election of the 2011 Board will take place at the November meeting.

## Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer



Friday, November 12,  
beginning at 6:00 PM at the  
**MODERN CAFE** 862 Western  
Ave.

**BEER OF THE MONTH:**  
**ROGUE DEAD GUY ALE!**  
Enjoy \$5.50 16oz Dead Guy  
Drafts all NOVEMBER!!

**Import Beer Night! \$1 off of all  
import beers!**

**LECLAIRE GRIEWAHN  
& SCOTT LLC**  
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW  
835 WESTERN AVENUE  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

Email: [Coordinator@lg-law.com](mailto:Coordinator@lg-law.com)  
Phone: 412-321-9300

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## Missed an issue of the AWCC Gazette?

We've started archiving them online at our website in PDF format, you can get all of this year's issues at:  
<http://www.alleghenywest.org/news/alleghe-ny-west-gazette/>. We'll work on putting previous year's editions up soon.

## Note about street cleaning in Allegheny West.

Correction: we gave out some incorrect information last month. The city will be cleaning streets according to the posted schedules and will be ticketing cars that are not moved.

## AWCC Membership

Membership is open to all residents of Allegheny West

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

2009 Annual Dues are \$3 and Lifetime Dues are \$45.  
Checks should be made payable to AWCC.

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