
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

November 2019

President's Message

November and December traditionally are busy months in Allegheny West, and this year is no exception. There are a lot of opportunities to get involved and also to enjoy the holiday season with your friends and neighbors without leaving the neighborhood!

Some noteworthy upcoming events:

Tuesday, November 12 – AWCC General Membership Meeting & Election of Officers

The AWCC November meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Council. Included on the agenda are elections for Officers and Committee Chairs, election of Nominating Committee members, and a vote to determine dues for the following year.

It's also a regular Civic Council meeting and in addition to elections there is a full agenda. The Friends Committee will update us on the neighborhood signage they chose (using Block Grant Funds) There will also be updates from the By-Laws Committee, the Christmas Tour organizers, and Housing & Planning Committee.

Tuesday, November 19 – AWCC Housing and Planning Meeting

There are a few hot topics on the agenda for H&P, including WANID update, Graybar noise issues, CCAC Workforce building, Aviary events space, and Hipwell update. The committee meets at 7:30 P.M. at the Go Realty Office at 848 W North Ave. All are welcome.

Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone who celebrates. For those who struggle with this day, may it land gently. To everyone, be safe.

Saturday, November 30 – Small Business Saturday

We are very lucky to have a business district that is thriving and expanding. Small Business Saturday is another chance to support the businesses that make our neighborhood more livable. From food and drinks to books to haircuts to bikes to clean teeth to stretched muscles to soothed muscles and more, there is at least one business here to serve you. Let's all make an effort to stop in and spend some money in one or more Allegheny West small business on the 30th and throughout the holiday season.

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Friday, December 13 & Saturday, December 14 - Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour

The Christmas House Tour is the highlight of the Allegheny West tours. It's a beautiful event and our largest fundraiser of the year.

Everyone who has volunteered in the past knows how much effort is required to put on the house tour and is asked to volunteer again this year if at all possible. For newcomers or volunteer novices – there are volunteer opportunities large and small, and the tour committee will work with you to match your skills to the perfect role. Many neighbors, myself included, will say that volunteering for the Christmas Tour (and, more specifically, attending the volunteer party) really cemented our feeling of belonging to this community. A small commitment of time can pay dividends. A *quid pro quo* of the good kind.

— Ann Gilligan, AWCC President

AWCC Executive Board for 2020

Below are the names for the 2020 AWCC Executive Board slate:

Staying on for 2018:

President: Ann Gilligan

Vice President: Tom Barbush

Treasurer: Cathy Serventi

Secretary: Bob Griewhan

Committee chairs:

Housing and Planning: John DeSantis

Way & Means: Annette Trunzo

Property: Michael Shealey

Friends of Allegheny West: Diane Caruso

Sergeant of Arms: Sara Sweeney

Membership: Tim Zinn

Communications: Trish Burton

Support Allegheny West Businesses on Small Business Saturday

Remember to come out and support your local Allegheny West businesses on Small Business Saturday. This year, it will be Saturday, November 30. To learn more and see a video featuring Northside Businesses, visit Northside Shop Small at www.bit.ly/northsideshopsmall.

Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour

The 2019 Tour is quickly approaching! The tour dates are Friday December 13th and Saturday December 14th. The tour committee is thrilled to share that we currently have ALL houses for the tour! Thank you to all of the homeowners. The tour committee will be reaching out to you concerning expectations, as well as to answer questions. We are available for anything you need, even a hand for decorating.

Beech Avenue will be closed to traffic during the tour. Parking will be open to Allegheny West residents in the lower Babb parking lot starting on Friday the 13th at 4:00 P.M. and continuing through the tour on Saturday. Please keep our tour guests safe and utilize this lot. For residents who park on N. Lincoln, please consider parking in the Babb lot as well to clear the street during the tour.

New This Year: Carriage Rides

This year we will be offering horse-drawn carriage rides for an additional fee during the Saturday afternoon tours (weather permitting).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Swag Building and Hanging

Saturday 12/7 (Cathy and Gene's Garage) starting at 9:00 A.M., coffee and donuts provided.

We need a few (actually several) good men to help hang - please consider lending your time and ladders.

Train Tours

We will need volunteers for the train tours. A link will be sent in upcoming email blasts or if you are interested, please contact Cecile Canales at ccanales13@icloud.com.

Tour Docents

Tour guide sign up shifts now available. Doug Sprague leading the effort again this year. A link will be sent in upcoming email blasts. If you're interested, you can contact Doug directly at doug.osrg@gmail.com.

*Please note, tour guides are required to do a tour route walk through. Check future email blasts for walk through schedule.

Guest Greeters / Tour Announcers at Calvary

We will need tour announcers and guest greeters at Calvary during tour times. Brandon Williams will be leading the volunteer sign-up for this. Please check future email blasts for schedule opportunities or contact Brandon at Brandonpwilliams@hotmail.com

Thank you all for your participation and we're looking forward to another successful tour!

A Special Thanks

Thanks are in order . . .

. . . to the loyal group of volunteers who last week helped to put 7,435 labels on the lovely Christmas Tour mailers. A special thanks to Amelia Beer, who helped with set up and clean up, in addition to labeling about 3,000 mailers herself!

. . . to another small group who helped to do the fall clean-up for the Parklet. Tony and Diane Caruso, Sally Graubarth, Carol Schramke, and Emilio Diendomi pulled out the annuals, transplanted perennials and moved bricks. . . and Cindy and Rich Fraer from Washington County loaded up the 15 bags of yard debris to dispose of them!

Thanks to all! Your time and energy are much appreciated!

-Trish Burton



Love Your Block Grant Applications Now Open

Nonprofit organizations across Pittsburgh are invited to propose projects for up to \$1,500 in funds and the support of key City Departments. Funding supports volunteer-fueled neighborhood improvement projects that combat blight and build resilience, block by block. Projects may include but are not limited to: community garden maintenance, neighborhood clean ups, or tree and flower plantings. Successful projects will build strong partnerships, leverage donations, and most importantly, engage neighbors!

Apply at applyloveyourblock.pittsburghpa.gov by January 31, 2020. For detailed project guidelines and ideas, visit <https://pittsburghpa.gov/oca/projects-ideas>.

Call 412-255-4773 or email leah.friedman@pittsburghpa.gov with any questions.

Proposed Changes to By-Laws

At the next membership meeting, Tuesday, November 12th, revisions to the Allegheny West Civic Council's bylaws will be discussed for later adoption. Please orient yourselves to the changes as well as the committee putting them forth:

Allegheny West Civic Council Bylaws

Article II. Area

Original: The Council shall represent the following geographical area in the 22 Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Starting at the intersection of Allegheny Avenue and Ridge Avenue along Allegheny Avenue to the intersection of Allegheny Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue;
along Pennsylvania Avenue to the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks;
following tracks to the intersection of West North Avenue and Brighton Road;
along Brighton road to the intersection of Brighton Road and Ridge Avenue;
along Ridge Avenue to the intersection of Ridge Avenue and Bank Street;
along Bank Street to the intersection of Bank Street and Marburg Street;
south along Marburg Street until it intersects with the extension of Brighton Road;
along the extension of Brighton Road until it intersects with the ridge line;
along the ridge to the extension of Allegheny Avenue;
along the extension of Allegheny Avenue to the point of origin.

Proposed The Council shall represent the following geographical area in the 22 Ward of the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania:

Starting at the intersection of Allegheny Avenue and Reedsdale Street going north on Allegheny Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue;
East along Pennsylvania Avenue to the railroad tracks;
South east along the railroad tracks to Brighton Road;
South on Brighton Road to West Ohio Street;
South east on West Ohio Street to Ridge Avenue;
East on Ridge Avenue to Merchant Street;
South on Merchant Street to Martindale Street;
West on Martindale Street to Scotland Avenue;
South on Scotland Avenue to Reedsdale street;
West on Reedsdale street (westbound lanes) to Allegheny, point of origin.

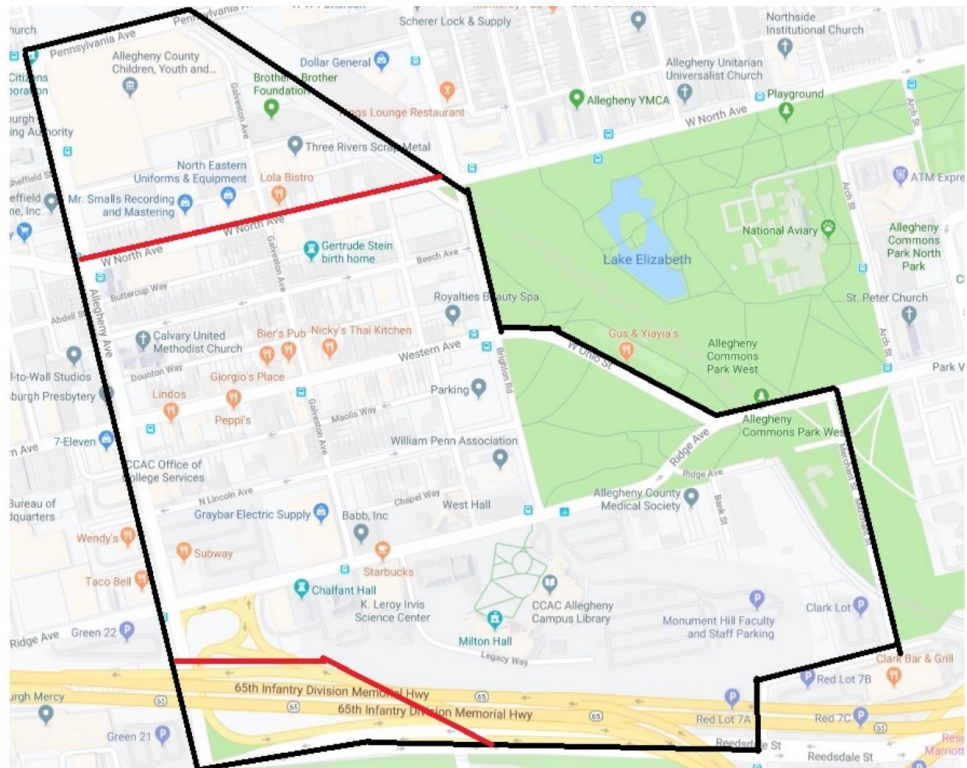
Comments: The description of the southern boundary was written before the Ft. Duquesne Bridge access roads were created. It is confusing and refers to a street that no longer exists (Marburg Street). The "ridge line" is not well defined. "South along Marburg Street to the until it intersects with the extension of Brighton Road" does not make sense since Brighton Road also goes south.

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The northern border of the City's definition stops at West North Avenue, assigning the area from the north side of West North Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue to Central Northside. The old bylaws description added the area bounded by Allegheny, Pennsylvania, the railroad tracks and West North Avenue to Allegheny West. That is unchanged.

The proposed southern and eastern boundaries are more in line with the City's definition of the neighborhood. The City's boundary on the South goes along the road that comes up from Reedsdale street and tunnels under the highway. That road is unnamed. It is simpler to just to continue on to Allegheny. The change adds part of the park, 2 parking lots and a highway interchange to the neighborhood. We should work with the city to change the northern boundary so that they place some active AWCC members in Allegheny West.



AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, November 12 @7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting @ Calvary Church

Tuesday, November 19 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @ GoRealty Office 848 West North

Tuesday, November 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, @AWCC Office (806 Western)

Saturday, December 7 @ 9:00 a.m.

Greens bundling at Cathy & Gene's house: 851 Beech Ave.

Please direct comments to BobMalakoff@verizon.net.

In Memoriam

I got word yesterday that one of my favorite and best customers unexpectedly died in her sleep Monday night. She lived a block from the store. I am shocked and heartbroken.

Josette was a vibrant 80 years young. She never walked by without stopping in to say hello. She was a spry woman with a cracking wit who craved information the way some people hunger for adrenaline.

Books were Josette's rush. A way for her to rise above the madness of twenty-first century life and discover the minutiae of the past. She preferred nonfiction because she felt it helped her better understand people. She was an ardent feminist, though that might not be a label she was comfortable with. She told me she lost friends as a young woman because she told new brides to stand up to their husbands.

For the years I knew her, Josette almost exclusively read biographies of US first ladies. She didn't read them in order, so I kept a chart in the store to keep track. Her latest purchase was a bio of Rose Kennedy. It is probably still on her bed stand.

She was just beginning to read the memoirs of the female Supreme Court Justices. I knew her reading pace and tastes so well, that sometimes I ordered books in anticipation of her visits. Though occasionally, she would change it up and order the diaries of John Wilkes Booth, or *War and Peace*. She read *To Kill a Mockingbird* for the first time this summer. I loved her unpredictability.

In the coming days, I expect I will meet her son—the one who lives in Iowa who likes to read about wartime aviation—and I hope I can be a comfort to Andy, the son who lived with her, who enjoys reading personal accounts of the Civil War.

We all know what it's like when we finish a book or when one of our favorite characters dies. That emptiness, that sadness. Yesterday was a rough day, so I was thankful for the rain and a hot cup of tea. Today begins a new chapter. When you crack open your book this evening, know that you are part of a larger story and, no matter the size of the role you play, you are seen and valued. Thanks for being part of mine. RIP (Read in peace) Josette K. 1939-2019

-Arlan Hess, City Books



NORTH PROMENADE COMMUNITY MEETING

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

10 Children's Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy staff to discuss the plans for restoring the North Promenade in Allegheny Commons Park. Pizza, childcare, and kids' activities will be available.

Discussion begins at 6:00 p.m. Join us at the George Washington monument at 4:00 p.m. for an optional pre-meeting site walk.

ETOBIN@PITTSBURGHPARKS.ORG

Holidays With Harp!

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Principal Harpist Gretchen Van Hoesen joins the Renaissance City Winds on Saturday November 30 at 8:00 P.M. as they return to Allegheny West for their annual performance in the ballroom at Holmes Hall on Brighton Road.

This year's concert features Gretchen Van Hoesen and the Winds in a particularly beautiful musical program. The harp will be featured in French music of Ravel and Berlioz, an exotic Russian work, a delightful Christmas setting by the late Pittsburgh composer Roland Leich, and a pleasant selection of holiday favorites.

Included in the ticket price is a post-concert reception with the musicians and a tour of the private Toy Train Museum on the upper floors of Holmes Hall, the world's largest collection of antique American toy trains, featured nationally last holiday season on NBC's Today Show.

Founded in 1975 and based at Carlow University, the Renaissance City Winds have been performing annually at Holmes Hall in Allegheny West for over a decade. Their performances and recordings have garnered accolades and awards throughout the country.

Advance reservations are strongly recommended, as seating is limited. Tickets for the November 30 concert can be purchased at rcwinds.org - Adults \$20.00, Seniors \$15.00, Students \$10.00

DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting Tuesday, November 12 at 7:30 PM.

7:30 Guests

- Officer Burford, Pittsburgh Police
- Molly Onufer, Mayor's Office
- Councilwoman Harris's office
- Senator Wheatley's Office
- Erin Tobin, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

7:50 Reading/approval of previous meeting's minutes

7:55 Treasurer's Report

8:00 Ways & Means Committee Update

- AW Christmas Tour Update

8:10 Housing & Planning updates

- Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID)
- CCAC Workforce building

8:25 Friends of Allegheny West

- Block Grant Update, Neighborhood Signage

8:30 By-Laws Committee

- Proposed boundary change

8:45 - Election of Officers

- Nominating Committee Election

9:30 New Business

9:35 Adjournment

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.

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