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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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October 2017

## President's Message

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So what are you doing on Tuesday evening?

Join your neighbors on **Tuesday, October 10th at 7:30 P.M.**, at Calvary Church for the monthly meeting of the Allegheny West Civic Council.

Each month, this is where and when we make decisions about our neighborhood - decisions that in ways both small and large will affect you. And we always have a good time socializing and enjoying refreshments while we're at it!

Everyone is welcome – second Tuesday of each month, **7:30 P.M.**, in the Calvary Church social hall, corner of Beech and Allegheny ( use the Beech Avenue entrance ). The meeting is usually over by 9:00. It's also a great way for newer folks to meet your neighbors and get involved! We hope to see you on Tuesday evening!

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From it's founding in the summer of 1962, through adoption of the official name as that decade drew to a close, the Allegheny West Civic Council had concentrated on just a few basic needs.

First had been the question of gaining participation by those who lived and worked in our community. A fair majority believed that banding together in the face of sweeping change was an imperative in order to preserve and enhance the neighborhood. But there were also some who dismissed the effort as foolhardy and futile, preferring instead to reluctantly plan for their eventual displacement by “the powers that be.” And yet another segment saw opportunity in the words “urban renewal,” even as they hastened to acquire more properties on which to speculate for future highway and industrial development.

Another early necessity was the creation of a new identity for a few hundred people in a tiny neighborhood that only a short time earlier had just been “the North Side,” along with 60,000 other folks.

Of course, the impacts of huge construction projects to the immediate east, west and south meant a massive surge in traffic, noise, dirt, and general disruption.

And perhaps most challenging was the broad perception that the entire area had already been irrevocably planned for eradication.

The only interest in real estate came from speculators anxious to buy low and sell high when their land was condemned for a government “take.” Many residents and businesses were planning their own next moves—outward.

Although it took years, rather than months, and an immense amount of volunteer effort, by the time AWCC marked its tenth anniversary in 1972, real progress had been achieved on all of these fronts.

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New one-way street patterns on Beech and Lincoln brought a dramatic change in the impacts from the construction mania swirling all about. Beyond achieving two tranquil islands for the residents, this plan also demonstrated the ability of the young community to work successfully with local government to effect positive change. Perhaps most importantly, here was solid proof that a different outcome could still be achieved if we worked together.

In need of a way to both draw positive attention and to attract new residents and businesses, an annual event was created. The Allegheny West SpringFest became a prominent feature on the calendar the third weekend of May each year. This was quite an extravaganza: a self-guided tour of homes—often between 10 and 20 on a single tour—alongside a lively street festival with vendors filling both blocks of Beech Avenue, as well as continuous performances of music and theater staged throughout the neighborhood.

After only a few annual SpringFests, Allegheny West had established a very distinctive profile through coverage by the local media. Each year's event was followed by a flurry of new buyers who liked what they saw and wanted to be part of this up-and-coming place. Many of those who had considered leaving were now more than happy to stay. And there was a solid consensus that working together, we could address even our biggest challenges.

And so it was that by the mid 1970s, the people of Allegheny West started looking around at all of the really tough things that needed to be done—empty or abandoned buildings, vacant lots, nuisances, and eyesores.

Rather than wait for “somebody” to do “something” about these, maybe there was a way to speed things up. Maybe “somebody” could be us.

The next phase was just about to begin.

— John DeSantis, AWCC President

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## AWCC Executive Board for 2018

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Below are the names for the 2018 AWCC Executive Board slate:

**Staying on for 2018:**

**President:** John DeSantis

**Vice President:** Ann Gilligan

**Treasurer:** Dan Adam

**Secretary:** Michael Shealey

**Committee chairs:**

**Housing and Planning:** Tim Zinn

**Way & Means:** Carol Gomrick

**Property:** Elaine Stone

**Friends of Allegheny West:** Trish Burton

**Sergeant of Arms:** Fran Barbush

**Nominees for open positions:**

**Membership:** Greg Coll

**Communications:** Open

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## Allegheny West Businesses: Sign Up for Small Business Saturday

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The Northside Chronicle and Northside Chamber of Commerce invites Allegheny West businesses to join the second annual **Small Business Saturday** on November 25th for Northside Shop Small. Visit [www.bit.ly/northsideshopsmall](http://www.bit.ly/northsideshopsmall) now to register to receive additional details on the #shopsmall campaign, free in-store and social media marketing materials, plus opportunities and suggestions for the event. Questions? Send emails to [northsideshopsmall@gmail.com](mailto:northsideshopsmall@gmail.com) or text 412-339-0712.

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## Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour

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On September 28, the Christmas tour Kick Off meeting was held. Thank you to all who attended. Below is a summary of where we are at with the planning of the 2017 tour:

**Houses:** Currently we have 3 homes on the tour. We need 3 more. Please contact Carol Gomrick ([carolgomrick@gmail.com](mailto:carolgomrick@gmail.com)) if you are interested in putting your house on the tour.

**Tour volunteers—lead needed:** Our fearless leader, Doug Sprague, will not be able to coordinate volunteers this year. We all wish him well on his new adventure! With Doug's absence, we need a volunteer to help coordinate the docents and other ancillary volunteer openings. Please contact Carol if you're willing to help, or if you know someone who is.. We will be sending out a spreadsheet for signups.

**Flyer Mailings:** Trish Burton has offered to coordinate the flyer mailing activities. Tentative meeting to address and send these out is Monday, November 6th.. More details to come. Thank you, Trish! Greg Coll will do the graphics and printing of the flyer. Thank you for your efforts, Greg!

**Tickets, emails and website updates:** Cathy Serventi will get the website updated and the emails out to announce the event. I'm getting a lot of requests to purchase tickets already, so I'm sure we'll have another great turnout this year. Thanks for all of your help, Cathy!

**After party:** Tom Cihil and John Engle are the organizers of this year's after party. Thank you both for stepping up to do this. We now just need an after party venue!

**Greens:** We're tentatively scheduling a 'swag' party at Cathy Serventi's porch on Saturday, November 2. Tom Cihil and John Engle will lead efforts to get these on the lamp posts. If you're interested in volunteering to help with this, please let Carol know.

**Administration**(permits, etc.): Carol will work with Cathy to get these permits in place for the tour. There will be new banners for the tour homes this year.

**Train tours:** Cecile Canales will be the contact person for the train tour volunteers.

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**Reminders:** Street Sweeping October 9 & 10. Please be sure to move your car!

## AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, October 10 @7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting @ Calvary Church

Tuesday, October 17 @ 7:30 p.m.

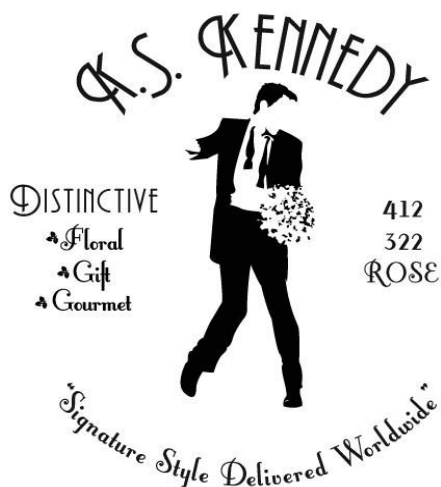
Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @ AWCC Office (806 Western)

Tuesday, October 24 @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, @AWCC Office (806 Western)

Tuesday, October 31 @ 5:30 p.m.

Halloween: Trick-or-treat



### DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

- Visitors
  - Councilwoman Harris' office
  - Mayor Peduto's office
  - Pittsburgh Police Zone 1
  - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy – Allegheny Commons
- New neighbors and guests
- Reading of previous meeting's minutes
- Treasurer's report/ Finance Committee's report
- Committee reports
  - Membership (October mixer)
  - Ways & Means
    - Update on five-year Calvary plan
    - Results of 2017 Alleys, Axles & Ales tour
    - AW Christmas Candlight House Tour (12/8 and 12/9)
  - Friends of Allegheny West - Green Space
  - Property
  - Housing & Planning updates
    - Parking & traffic issues
    - Blocks bounded by Western, Allegheny, Ridge, Bridge, MCC
    - Western Avenue revitalization
    - Light of Life Ridge Avenue project
    - Allegheny Commons update of 2002 Master Plan
    - Expansion of Historic District ( LRC report )
    - Historic District enforcement issues – old cases
    - ZBA Appeal - Medical Marijuana Dispensary
    - Air BnB issues/impacts in AW
    - Comprehensive guidelines for new construction on vacant sites
    - Revised AW Film Guidelines
- Northside Leadership Conference
  - Allegheny General Hospital Institutional Master Plan
- Old Business
- New Business
- 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](mailto:gazette@alleghenywest.org). Submission does not guarantee publication.

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