

ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

December 2020

President's Message

Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand. ~ Dr. Seuss

 **Recipe for Holiday Irish Coffee** ~ adapted from the Gilligan Family recipe collection
Heat cup. When warm, put a teaspoon of brown sugar and a jigger of whiskey in the cup. Add hot black coffee to about an inch from top. Put whipped cream on top. Serve.

Friday, December 11th should be the first night of the 39th Annual Allegheny West Victorian House Tour. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the House Tour was cancelled and we're all facing a holiday season with smaller gatherings and pared-down celebrations.

A small group of Allegheny West neighbors have stepped up to bring some holiday cheer to Western Avenue this year, with the added hope it will encourage shopping at our local Allegheny West businesses.

The AWCC Small Business Saturdays ad hoc committee (committee members are Aaron Bryan, Eric Grasso, Bob Griewahn, Sally Graubarth, Abi Webb and Ann Gilligan) formed with the goals:

- 1) Promote Allegheny West businesses on Small Business Saturday and throughout the 2020 holiday shopping season
- 2) Find ways to enhance Western Ave business district for the holidays and engage the neighborhood for COVID-alternate festivities

There was an announcement in the e-newsletter, and is also in this issue of the Gazette, about the Small Business Saturdays raffle sponsored by AWCC. The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate for doing what comes naturally in December – shopping!

The Committee also has some plans to make Western Avenue a holiday attraction as well as fill in some of the void of our cancelled House Tour. A Christmas tree will be put up at the corner of Galveston and Western Avenues, decorated with lights and ornaments supplied by the neighborhood and celebrated with a tree-lighting ceremony at 6:00 P.M. Friday, December 11th . The tree-lighting ceremony will be broadcast live on Zoom for those looking to avoid crowds and/or the cold. Look for the details in a separate article in this Gazette. We hope to see you, masked & person or on-line on the 11th!

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In a year like no other, this will be a holiday season like no other. Per the by-laws, as President of the Allegheny West Civic Council, I give everyone permission to do only what you can, to enjoy a smaller holiday without any guilt and to take time just for you and do something that makes you happy. I also wish everyone Peace, Joy and Hope for a better 2021.



This is my last column as AWCC President and Tuesday December 8th will be the last General Membership meeting I'll preside over before handing the reins to Bob Griewahn, President-Elect. Being AWCC President has been a great learning experience and I truly appreciate everyone who has offered support and encouragement over the past 2 years. The biggest lesson I learned seems obvious but became so clear to me: nothing happens without a volunteer making it happen. Whenever a sentence begins with the words "We should ..." it will quickly die on the vine without a sentence containing "I will" nearby. "We shoulds" are great— they're how we get new ideas, but I encourage everyone to be aware and thoughtful about suggesting volunteer opportunities for someone else to implement. Be the "I will"!

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the 2020 outgoing AWCC Board Members – Tom Barbush, Sara Beck Sweeney and Robin Zoufalik. Your service to AWCC is much appreciated.

— Ann Gilligan, AWCC President

Allegheny West Small Business Raffle

Win a \$100 Gift Certificate from your favorite Allegheny West business for shopping and supporting local businesses! Allegheny West Civic Council is sponsoring a raffle to make your local holiday shopping even more enjoyable. Simply make purchases from at least 3 AW businesses and add your name to win a \$100 gift certificate. Use the address below (link in e-Newsletter) to enter the raffle. See list of businesses in e-newsletter; contact business about curbside pick up and delivery. Happy local shopping!

- . *Open to Allegheny West Residents only.*
- . *You must make a purchase at three (3) Allegheny West businesses for one (1) raffle entry, or make purchases at five (5) businesses for two (2) entries.*
- . *Purchases must be made between Saturday, November 28th and Saturday, December 19th.*
- . *The winner must provide receipts of purchases.*
- . *The winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate at the Allegheny West business of his/her/their choice. Winner will be announced on Sunday, December 20, 2020.*

RAFFLE ENTRY: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/IRSVPi92SFBxLhjn4_uL8gN-FlzBX-puWuv5YFsjqYnM/edit?usp=sharing

AWCC Tree Decorating & Lighting Ceremony

On what would have been the first night of the Victorian Christmas House tour, join us instead to celebrate the lighting of the AWCC 2020 Christmas Tree!

WHERE: Southeast corner of Galveston and Western Avenues

WHEN: Friday, December 11th, 6PM

NOTE: If you are planning to join the tree-lighting in person, please wear a mask and stay socially distanced.

Join the live broadcast via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969724081?pwd=dGFWNTRaalpJZThHNjBWQmswenNYQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081

Passcode: 979088

We're requesting donations to light and decorate the tree.

Saturday, December 5th 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Please bring donations of Christmas lights and tree ornaments to 910 Maolis Way.

Encouraged: Light strings, non-breakable ornaments, homemade ornaments, ribbons, tree topper

Sunday, December 6th 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The Committee will put up and secure the tree, and start stringing lights and adding decorations.

Monday, December 7th through Thursday, December 10th, 2020

Additional decorations can be placed in the marked box near the Christmas tree at Western Ave and Galveston.

AWCC MEETING ZOOM INFORMATION

Membership meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969724081?pwd=dGFWNTRaalpJZThHNjBWQmswenNYQT09>

By phone +1 301 715 8592 US
(Germantown)

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081

Password: 979088

Problems connecting? Text (do NOT call)

Cathy at (412) 418-2027.

AWCC Informational Meeting

Tuesday, December 8th, 2020 via Zoom

Agenda

- 7:30pm Gather, enjoy holiday Zoom backgrounds
- 7:35pm Update - City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office
- 7:40pm Update - Councilman Wilson's Office
- 7:45pm Update - Rep Wheatley's Office
- 7:50pm Update - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- 8:00pm WANID End of Year Report (Mark Fatla, NSLC)
- 8:20pm Treasurer's Report
- 8:30pm Trivia Contest - Victorian Christmas Edition
- 8:45pm Conclude

Thanksgiving Isn't Over Yet

I'd like to extend thanks to the following people who have made our neighborhood a little bit prettier, cleaner and greener in a year when we needed all that and more.

Business District Basket Sponsors: Allegheny Sandwich, AWCC, Ethelyn Daniel, Elsen Associates, Gilligan Sorbet, Keane George/Allegheny Realty, Giorgio's Place, Sally Graubarth, Bob Griewahn, Martha Helmreich, Nonie & Bob Knaus, Pat, Bob, & Sarah Mistick, Modern Cafe, Gary & Bonnie Otto, Pittsburgh Home & Garden, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Q Development, Refucilo Winery, John & Carole Robert, Dr. Dan Strinkoski, Eileen & Bill Swazuk, Ashley Webb, Katie & Zoufalik, and the Burton Family

Parklet Gardeners: Thanks to the group that has helped to clean, shop, plant, weed, water... and pull it all out and bag it until next season: Holly Pultz, Sally Graubarth, Carole Malakoff, Nonie Knaus, Katie Zoufalik, Diane & Tony Caruso, and Emilio Leonardo.

Litter Picker-Uppers: We no longer need to have "clean up days" because of the weekly, under-the-radar efforts of Dr Dan Strinkoski and Sue and Frank Remcheck, who use leaf blowers and grabbers to keep our streets and sidewalks tidy!

Plant donors: Thanks again to Casey O'Connor and Rubab Jafry for (again) donating many hostas so that more tree wells on Western Avenue are planted and the Parklet grouping continues to expand! Thanks also to John Burton for donating several shrubs to fill in some gaps in the Parklet.

... and, last but not least, thanks to residents like Tim Zinn and Mike Douglas, Tom and Mary Ann Cola, T. Rankin/State Farm, and The Bloom Brigade who plant and tend lovely tree well gardens along Western ... and all who plant window boxes and urns throughout AW!

The Greenspace/Friends of Allegheny West Committee looks forward to continuing this work in 2021. Please let us know if you'd like to be a part of the group!

—Trish Burton



The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Karen Haller Beer

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