
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

March 2021

President's Message

The Fallow Deer at the Lonely House

*One without looks in tonight
Through the curtain-chink
From the sheet of glistening white;
One without looks in tonight
As we sit and think
By the fender-brink.*

*We do not discern those eyes
Watching in the snow;
Lit by lamps of rosy dyes*

*We do not discern those eyes
Wondering, aglow,
Fourfooted, tiptoe*

—Thomas Hardy

*(With thanks to Ann Gilligan, who suggested
this poem despite Hardy's not being Irish)*

Why a poem about a deer this month? Because the Allegheny West Civic Council will be hosting a presentation on the playground near the iron deer statue in the West Commons. As some of you know, the playground fell into disrepair over the years. Last autumn, our city councilor, Bobby Wilson, made an inspection of the playground with Public Works personnel. They discovered that some of the equipment had become unsafe for the children, and had it removed.

Now the city is designing a new playground for the site and wants to discuss those designs in our neighborhood. So, we will be hosting a presentation by Andrea Ketznel, a Senior Project Landscape Architect with the Department of Public Works, prior to our March membership meeting. This is

Allegheny West's chance to learn how the city designs amenities like this, and to present our ideas and concerns to the designers.

Nota Bene: This presentation will take place from 6:45 PM to 7:15 P.M. on Tuesday, March 9. That should be enough time for Ms. Ketznel to present her ideas and get our feedback. It will be held as a Zoom video conference. We will be sending the Zoom link in an upcoming e-Newsletter.

Afterwards, at 7:30 P.M., we'll have our regularly scheduled membership meeting. Please join us as we discuss the current issues and happenings in Allegheny West. We'll hear from the usual guests from our elected representatives' offices, as well as reports from some of our committee chairs. And our Sergeant-at-Arms, Colleen Storm, will delight us with her usual selection of virtual refreshments (gluten-free). I hope to see you all there.

Beware the Ides of March, but happy St. Patrick's Day! That's all for this month's missive. I hope you have a great month.

Bob Griewahn, AWCC President

Wednesday Night Bowling At the Elks (Poetry)

A few of the Allegheny West bowling regulars, known in some corners as *The Alley Cats*, were recently reminiscing about pre-pandemic Wednesday nights at the Elks. As often happens on a cold winter night, sitting by the fire with a glass of wine and missing old friends, a limerick contest broke out. Below is what happened next. (Thankfully, most of us are better at bowling.)

There was an old man in the alley
Whose score no one could tally
Every frame, you see
Was marked with a 'G'
The gutter was his hidden valley
- Ann Gilligan & Bob Griewahn

When asked what was bowling's worst chore
John Engle said "Keeping the score"
"Do I carry the ten?"
"And add it again?"
At the lanes two and two don't make four
- Bob Griewahn

There once were some cats o' the alley
Who thought bowling would be a right sally
So the Elks lent them a lane
Then the cats, the cats they all came
And the kitties framed a 300 rally.
- Trixie Burton

When the goose poop was covered in snow
And the bone-chilling North Wind did blow
We'd head to the lanes
And bowl a few frames
While the Banjo Club played down below
- Bob Griewahn

Of strikes at the Elks I've been dreaming
While pints of beer I am drinking
And banjo tunes are prevalent
Alas, my dream is irrelevant
As a vaccine shot, I still am awaiting!
- Fran Barbush

'Twas in years before the virus
That lanes and banjos inspired us
The food was quite fine
And bourbon poured like wine
Of the Elks on Wednesdays, we are so desirous
- Tom Cihil

There once was a man named Bob Griewahn
Who's hook was described as a mean one
His style never boring
Quite excellent at scoring
'Twas the best in my humble opinion.
- John Engle

There once was a bowler named Bob
Who, concerned 'bout the poetry squad,
Did not work on the law
But limericked—hee-haw—
And told Laura, "No money, no prob!"
- Trixie Burton

Ten pins and a ball.
The pressure mounts. Need a strike.
Where is my whiskey?
- Mark Fatla

Memorial Tree Planting

In the past, we have planted trees in memoriam of departed neighbors and friends of the neighborhood. We recently learned of the passing of our long-time neighbor, Mrs. Patricia Rooney. She was a champion and fundraiser for the Allegheny Commons, and a positive spokesperson for the North Side. We also learned of the death of Greta Coleman. Her husband, Moe, and she were neighbors for many years. Moe passed away last year.

We did not purchase any trees last year, due to the pandemic. If you would like to make contributions toward memorial trees, you can prepare a check and make it out to AWCC, and put it through the mail slot at 806 Western Avenue; or contact treasurer@alleghenywest.org. Thank you for your consideration,

-Fran Barbush

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Sponsor a Western Avenue Flower Basket

We're delighted to announce that Western Avenue in Allegheny West will once again be beautified by hanging flower baskets provided by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). The WPC will provide the baskets, flowers, installation, watering and maintenance, "take down" and storage of the baskets. We had 40 baskets sponsored in 2020, but with 32 double poles, there is plenty of room for others to help in this worthy endeavor! We want to ensure that all who would like to participate be given the chance to do so.

In 2021, WPC is providing a discounted rate of \$355/basket—including the sign!—for the initial year, which includes purchase of the basket, as well as plants, hanging, maintenance, take-down and storage. Sponsors will be subsequently reassessed at a \$280/basket rate thereafter for plants, hanging and take-down, maintenance and storage. If interested in sponsoring a basket, please respond to Trish Burton (tdburton3@gmail.com) by March 21 to be included for 2021.

Draft Agenda for Membership Meeting

Allegheny West Civic Council | Membership Meeting March 9, 2021 (ZOOM)

- 7:30 Gather, say hello, and meet new neighbors**
- 7:35 City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford)**
- 7:40 City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office (Leah Friedman)**
- 7:45 Councilor Wilson's Office (Sally Stadelman / Mohammed Burny / Faith Mudd)**
- 7:50 Rep Wheatley's Office (Thomas Graham)**
- 7:55 Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)**
- 8:00 Iron Deer Playground discussion**
- 8:10 Treasurer's Report (A. Bryan)**
- 8:15 Executive Committee Reports**
 - **President (R Griewahn) – Executive committee actions**
 - **Past President (A. Gilligan) – Mayoral roundtable**
- 8:30 Conclude**

Zoom Meeting Info

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

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081

Passcode: 979088

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.



A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council 806 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
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