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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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August 2023

## President's Message

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### UPDATED HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

Timothy Zinn, AWCC President

As a reminder, the general membership meeting for August has been cancelled for our summer break. The Housing and Planning and Executive Committees continue to meet this month, and the next general membership meeting will be September 12.

In 2018, the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning began a process of updating the design guidelines for city-designated historic districts. Allegheny West was chosen as the pilot project, with the goal of using the revised guidelines as a template to update the historic district design guidelines for other neighborhoods throughout the city. Consultants held several meetings with the Allegheny West Local Review Committee and the planning staff to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the existing guidelines and what was needed to ensure the fair and consistent review of applications for exterior alterations. This continued involvement throughout the development and review processes ensured that the new guidelines will:

- Provide property owners and applicants clear direction regarding the historic appropriateness of a proposed maintenance activity, alteration, construction, or demolition to a historically designated property or any applicable project within the historic district;
- Promote the retention of the distinctive and historical character of the district without placing unreasonable financial burdens and time delays on building owners and residents;
- Establish standards that the City's Historic Review Commission can utilize in determining the appropriateness of applications, and provide applicants a framework of how the Historic Review Commission (HRC) makes decisions; and
- Ensure that any new buildings fit in with their surroundings, while allowing for creativity in the details of additions and new construction.

The revised guidelines expanded the 20-page document dating to the 1980s into a 120-page document with added sections on how to use the guidelines; a brief history of Allegheny West and its most prevalent architectural styles; guidelines for maintenance and alterations, additions, new construction, demolition, and signage; and a quick reference, glossary, and additional information section. The guidelines contain illustrations showing examples of proper and improper alterations in an effort to make the document more user friendly, to add interest, and to promote understanding. The guidelines are designed to exist in electronic format with each section serving as an independent document to fit the needs of property owners and applicants for HRC review.

The draft guidelines were completed in the fall of 2019, and the planning department was set to launch a public involvement process to obtain feedback on the revised guidelines. As with nearly every aspect of life at the time, the design guidelines were put on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic. With restrictions on public meetings lifted, the planning department is now ready to initiate the public involvement process.

Sarah Quinn, the City of Pittsburgh's Preservation Planner, attended the May 2023 AWCC general membership meeting and announced that public input from the Allegheny West neighborhood was needed before the Historic Review Commission would take action on adopting the revised Allegheny West Historic District Design Guidelines. The details of where the document will be uploaded for review and how to obtain comments are still being finalized, but it's likely that the draft guidelines will be posted on the Allegheny West website—[alleghenywest.org](http://alleghenywest.org)—in the coming weeks. AWCC will post notices on the document's availability and details of the review and comment process in the Gazette, on the AWCC website, and via the neighborhood email system.

*I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Allegheny West neighborhood and look forward to receiving your comments at [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org)*

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## 2023 Tour and Tasting - The Numbers are In!

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Thanks to a lot of number crunching from our Treasurer, Dan Adam, we have the final numbers from the 2023 "Wine Tour". We increased our profit over 2022. Thank you all again for your support in making this tour an incredible success.

### 2023

Gross Income: \$29,098.50

Net Income: \$15,235.27\*

*\*This is an increase of \$1,394.51 over 2022 net income.*

Please make sure to say 'thank you' with your patronage to our vendors who provided the food and wine for the tour.

>All In Good Taste Productions

>Allora Wine Group

>Bob Mariavelli

>DiAnoia's Eatery

>Dreadnought Wine

>Refucilo

>The Sandwich Shoppe

>Wise Biscuit Co

### Victorian Christmas Tour

The dates for the 2023 Victorian Christmas tour are:

Friday, December 8th, and Saturday, December 9th.

*I plan to work on the updates to the website and get the tickets ready for online purchase by late September/ early October.*

If you are interested in having your house on tour, I'd love to talk with you. Please contact me, Carol Gomrick at [tours@alleghenywest.org](mailto:tours@alleghenywest.org).

Cheers!

Carol Gomrick - Tour Chair



*Lake Elizabeth Bathers,  
August 8th 1913*

Source Pittsburgh City Photographer Collection, 1901-2000

**An August Midnight**

*I*  
 A shaded lamp and a waving blind,  
 And the beat of a clock from a distant floor:  
 On this scene enter—winged, horned, and spined—  
 A longlegs, a moth, and a dumbledore;  
 While 'mid my page there idly stands  
 A sleepy fly, that rubs its hands...

*II*  
 Thus meet we five, in this still place,  
 At this point of time, at this point in space.  
 — My guests parade my new-penned ink,  
 Or bang at the lamp-glass, whirl and sink.  
 "God's humblest, they!" I muse. Yet why?  
 They know Earth-secrets that know not I.  
 Thomas Hardy (1901)

**Cocktail Corner****Diablo**

- 1.5 oz light rum
- 0.5 oz lime juice
- 0.5 oz crème de cassis
- Ginger ale

Shake the first three ingredients with ice.  
 Strain into a tall glass, such as a Collins glass, filled with ice.  
 Fill with ginger ale.  
 Garnish with a lime wheel and cherries.

**NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Don't shake the ginger ale. Not that I've ever done that.
- The crème de cassis gives it a nice red hue. Perhaps that's the origin of the name. Who knows?
- This cocktail appears to have originated from the makers of Ron Rico rum. For best results, use a light rum, not a heavy or funky rum. If you don't have a bottle of Ron Rico, that old bottle of Bacardi Superior will work just fine.
- If you substitute tequila for the rum, you get an "El Diablo" instead.
- Salud

*Submitted by Bob Griewahn*

**EVENT REMINDERS****Annual Labor Day Block Party!**

**WHEN:** Monday, September 4th from 4-8pm  
**WHERE:** 800 block of N. Lincoln Ave  
**DETAILS:** Bring your lawn chairs and a side dish or dessert!  
 All are welcome to join!

**Farmers Market:**

**WHEN:** Every Friday, 3:00-7:00pm  
**WHERE:** Allegheny Commons Park, E. Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue

**GalleryH Opening!**

**WHEN:** August 9 through August 23rd  
**WHERE:** 909 Western Avenue  
**DETAILS:** karlhuberillustration and GalleryH are proud to showcase the photography of neighbor and renowned photographer, Roy Englebrecht in a solo show featuring images of Pittsburgh's Northside and beyond. The show will run from Aug. 9-23, 2023. Opening reception on Wednesday August 9, from 5-7 PM, at 909 Western Ave, Pittsburgh.

**Calvary Organ Concert**

**WHEN:** Sunday, August 6th at 4:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Calvary United Methodist Church - Brian Burns and David Bridge will perform on Calvary's 1895 Farrand & Votey Pipe Organ. Admission is FREE. Donations are appreciated!

<p><b>Recycling Dates;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 7th &amp; 21st</li> <li>• September 5th &amp; 18th</li> </ul>	<p><b>Street Sweeping -</b> 2nd Monday &amp; Tuesday of the Month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 8th &amp; 14th</li> <li>• September 11th &amp; 12th</li> </ul>
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## August Meeting Agendas

The Allegheny West Civic Council Membership will be on Summer Holiday for the months of July & August. Therefore, there will be no membership meeting this month.

### **Upcoming Meeting Reminders:**

AWCC General Membership Meeting -  
**NO Meeting (Summer Break)**

Housing and Planning Committee Meeting- (3rd Tuesday of the Month) - Zoom Meeting  
**Tuesday, August 15th @7:30pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXIMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 870 7404 5427

**Passcode:** 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting - In Person Meeting, 806 Western Avenue  
**Tuesday August 29th @7:30pm**

### **The Allegheny West Gazette**

**Editor: Elizabeth Barbush**

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.



**A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council** 806 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15233 [www.alleghenywest.org](http://www.alleghenywest.org) ~ [info@alleghenywest.org](mailto:info@alleghenywest.org) ~ (412) 323 - 8884