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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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February 2023

## President's Message

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### **The Committees of the Allegheny West Civic Council**

If you are new to the neighborhood or just new to the Allegheny West Civic Council, you may not be familiar with the various committees of the organization. We were asked last month at the general membership meeting to report on the current activities of the committees. The Executive Committee is discussing how we can best communicate that information to our members. This article will serve to introduce the committees, their current chairs, and the activities that each committee typically performs. More information about AWCC, the board, and our committees is available on our website: [alleghenywest.org](http://alleghenywest.org).

**Communications Committee, Trish Burton, Chair.** The Communications Committee is responsible for the monthly publication of the Allegheny West Gazette and other forms of communication for the organization, such as the weekly email of happenings and useful information. The committee also has several members that serve as the distribution network for newsletters and event fliers.

**Friends of Allegheny West Committee, Deb Lantz, Chair.** The Friends of Allegheny West Committee—the Greenspace Committee under the proposed bylaws amendments—plants and maintains the garden at the corner of Western Avenue and Brighton Road, schedules and coordinates neighborhood cleanups, takes orders for the flower baskets on Western Avenue, and coordinates the Allegheny West Memorial Tree program in West Park.

**Housing and Planning Committee, Jim Wallace, Acting Chair.** The Housing and Planning Committee reviews all development and construction proposals in the neighborhoods, meets with prospective business owners, initiates planning studies, and reviews all projects that could affect the quality of life in our neighborhood. The committee will continue working on the Western Avenue streetscape project known as WANID and is also working to provide enhanced streetlighting for W. North Avenue and to evaluate the condition of our existing pedestrian-scale lighting on Beech and N. Lincoln Avenues.

**Membership Committee, Aaron Bryan, Chair.** This committee is responsible for adding new members to the roll and for maintaining present membership; it is perhaps better known for its role as the neighborhood social committee. Events in progress or planned include Wednesday night bowling at the Elks Lodge; the return of monthly neighborhood mixers; and our annual block parties including Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day.

**Property Committee, Michael Shealey, Chair.** This committee is responsible for overseeing the operation of all Council-owned properties, including our office at 806 Western Avenue.

**Ways and Means Committee, Sally Graubarth, Chair.** The Ways and Means Committee is responsible for all fundraising activities of the Council. In addition to the annual Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour, the committee will be organizing additional fundraising events throughout the year including the always-popular Tour and Tasting in Old Allegheny—a wine and food-paring tour of neighborhood homes and garden tour in the early summer—and Alleys, Axles & Ales—a car cruise and tour of the neighborhoods alleys and garages where you can view classic cars and sports cars while enjoying some of the best in local brews.

As our goals are ambitious, there is always a need for additional volunteers. We encourage and welcome new committee members and the ideas they bring with them. Please thoughtfully consider your participation in AWCC and in one or more of our standing committees. You need not be a long-time resident of the neighborhood to join a committee. The very fact that our neighborhood exists as we know it is only because of

the concerted efforts of our residents over the past 50 years. Our newer residents will hopefully carry on this tradition. I look forward to seeing you at next week's general membership meeting. To become a member of AWCC or to join one of the committees, visit our website at [allegHENYwest.org](http://allegHENYwest.org).

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Allegheny West neighborhood and look forward to receiving your comments, at [tzinn106@msn.com](mailto:tzinn106@msn.com).

**Timothy G. Zinn**  
AWCC President

## Tour and Tasting 2023!

It's that time again! February is not only the month of Valentine's Day, but also when the planning starts for the 'wine' tour. The date has been set: **Friday, June 23rd and Saturday, June 24th**. All of the heavy lifting will start now to update the website, secure food and wine sponsors and of course, the homes. There are 3 tours scheduled:

- 1 tour on Friday evening, 5 pm - 9 pm**
- 1 tour on Saturday afternoon, 1 pm - 5 pm**
- 1 tour on Saturday evening, 5 pm - 9 pm**
- Each tour has 6 groups with ~15 ppl per group**

At each property, guests will typically tour the property then be led to an outdoor space for a glass of wine with a food pairing.

As a thank you to the volunteers, there will be an after party.

Last year tickets sold out by April - I'm anticipating the same interest this year. I've already had inquiries about the date. If you have any interest and are willing to have your home on the wine tour, or host the after party please reach out to "[Tours@allegHENYwest.org](mailto:Tours@allegHENYwest.org)".

Important note: Unlike the Christmas tour, there will not be a sign up sheet for volunteers to take the tour for free. This is due to the cost for the food and wine. Additionally, as a courtesy to the homeowners and guests, volunteers who are not specifically leading a tour or assisting homeowners should not take liberties to enter the tour properties during the event.

Cheers!  
Carol Gomrick  
Tour Chair

### America

*Although she feeds me bread of bitterness,  
And sinks into my throat her tiger's tooth,  
Stealing my breath of life, I will confess  
I love this cultured hell that tests my youth.  
Her vigor flows like tides into my blood,  
Giving me strength erect against her hate,  
Her bigness sweeps my being like a flood.  
Yet, as a rebel fronts a king in state,*

*I stand within her walls with not a shred  
Of terror, malice, not a word of jeer.  
Darkly I gaze into the days ahead,  
And see her might and granite wonders there,  
Beneath the touch of Time's unerring hand,  
Like priceless treasures sinking in the sand.*

- Claude McKay, "America" from *Liberator*  
(December 1921).

-Festus Claudius McKay (a/k/a Claude McKay) was a Black Jamaican-American poet and novelist who was part of the "Harlem Renaissance" of the early twentieth century. You can learn more about him at [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_McKay).

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

### Cocktail Corner

#### Coffee Cobbler

(Use a large bar glass)

Fill a large bar glass nearly up with finely broken ice:

- 1 tablespoon of fine sugar
- 1 pony glass [ounce] of cognac (Martell)

Fill up the glass with a good, strong, black coffee; stir well with a spoon, and serve with a straw.

From Harry Johnson's *New & Improved Illustrated Bartender's Manual* (1900 edition).

**NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- I occasionally receive feedback that the cocktail recipes I provide are a bit "fiddly." You shouldn't have a problem with this one, though.
- Superfine sugar is best here, unless you like a lot of unblended sugar in the bottom of your glass.
- You needn't stick with Martell cognac. Any of the dozen or so cognac brands you have lying about the house will do.
- Substitute Kirsh (dry cherry brandy) for the cognac, and you get a "Massagrind" cocktail. Alternatively, delete the ice and you get "breakfast."

*Submitted by Bob Griewahn*

**Recycling Dates** - Reminder: No plastic bags or lids

- February 6th and 20th
- March 6th and 20th

**Did you Know?** - On February 14, 1861, president-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived at the Federal Street Station in the City of Allegheny. The station stood near the corner of South Commons and Federal Street. Today, a commemorative bronze plaque hangs on the wall of the Post Office on this corner (placed there in 1917). Even though the train arrived several hours late at 8pm, the crowd waited all day in the rain for his arrival.

**Crossword Answer Key from January Gazette:**



*Federal Street Station c 1905 (photo from the Heinz History Center Detre Library Archives)*

## Notice of Special Election

An election will be held at the general membership meeting on February 14, 2023, to fill the recently vacated chair of the Housing and Planning Committee.

### February General Membership Meeting Draft Agenda

The Allegheny West Civic Council February Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 14 at 7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue..

- 7:30: Call to Order
- 7:30: Greetings and introductions of new neighbors
- 7:35: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford/ Commander Malloy)
- 7:40: City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office (Rebekkah Renallo)
- 7:45: Councilor Bobby Wilson's Office (Mohammed Burny / Faith Mudd)
- 7:50: State Representative Aerion Abney's Office
- 7:55: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)
- 8:05: Executive Committee Reports
  - Treasurer (Dan Adam)
  - Ways and Means Committee (Sally Graubarth / Carol Gomrick)
  - Housing and Planning Committee (Jim Wallace)
  - Membership Committee (Aaron Bryan)
  - Property Committee (Michael Shealey)
  - Friends of Allegheny West (Deb Lantz)
  - Communications Committee (Trish Burton)
  - Executive Committee Actions (Elizabeth Barbush)
  - Nominating Committee—Special Election
- 9:00: Adjourn

#### Upcoming Meeting Reminder:

Housing and Planning Committee Meeting- (3rd Tuesday of the Month) - Zoom Meeting  
**Tuesday, February 21st @7:30pm**

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

**Meeting ID:** 870 7404 5427

**Passcode:** 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting - Zoom Meeting  
**Tuesday February 28 @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