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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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January 2023

## President's Message

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New Year's greetings! First, as the newly elected president of the Allegheny West Civic Council, I would like to thank all of the members for your confidence in my ability to lead the organization for the next two years. I am excited that our new board contains a mix of new faces and long-time members. In the next few months the AWCC Executive Committee will be outlining our goals for the new year and beyond. I welcome your input as we set about this task. As always, there is ample opportunity to volunteer on any of our established committees. If you are new to the neighborhood, please plan to attend our next general membership meeting, which is detailed later in this edition of the *Gazette*, or feel free to contact me directly at tzinn106@msn.com.

I last served as president of the organization between 2011 and 2012. Interestingly, some of the projects remain on our agenda, others have reappeared, and of course some new ones have been added. During the next year or so, we will be advancing the Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID) project towards the finish line. There are still some blighted properties in the neighborhood that need to be addressed, and we will continue to review new development projects and meet with prospective business owners through our Housing and Planning Committee. Our Membership Committee will continue to provide social events such as bowling at the Elks and the neighborhood block parties. Our Friends of Allegheny West Committee will continue to beautify the neighborhood with parklet plantings, hanging baskets on Western Avenue, and organizing neighborhood cleanups. Our Ways and Means Committee will again carry out our series of successful home and garden tours throughout the year. Finally, we will likely welcome new neighbors with the proposed construction of single-family residential units on both W. North and Western Avenues.

Of course, none of this happens without you. AWCC owes its continued existence to the countless hours that our neighbors donate of their time and talents, all in an effort to improve our neighborhood. Our collective efforts have provided us with an unmatched track record of development undertaken by an organization staffed entirely by volunteers. I am honored to be a part of this and encourage each of you to join in this endeavor and share in our successes.

**Timothy G. Zinn**  
AWCC President



A 1917 view of a horse-drawn vehicle bearing the inscriptions "D.P.W. Bureau of Highways and Sewers, Pittsburgh, Pa." and "The Bain" on Ridge Avenue at Irwin Avenue (now Brighton Road).  
*Contributed by University of Pittsburgh Archives*

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## 2022 Victorian Christmas Tour

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Happy New Year Allegheny West!

Hoping everyone got through the deep freeze. The 2022 Christmas Tour is in the rearview mirror, but the work still continues on closing out some final tasks and finalizing the figures. The final P&L for the tour will be shared at the next AWCC Membership Meeting.

What I can share with you all is that this tour was one of the most successful Christmas Tours that I've experienced since being involved with the tours. The incredible demand for tickets was almost overwhelming. We completely sold out well before the Thanksgiving holiday. Over 1700 guests visited Allegheny West during the tour weekend (including the train tour). The neighborhood was a lot more festive this year with a gorgeous Christmas Tree that lit up the corner of Galveston and Western, welcoming guests. Special thank you to Sally Graubarth, Aaron Bryan and Abi Webb for organizing this and all of the volunteers who decorated. It's a great addition and hopefully a tradition that continues.

First, I can't thank the homeowners enough for opening their homes and spreading some holiday cheer. The comments I heard over and over again shared three common themes, "I'm so glad this tour is back" to "I look forward to it every year and wouldn't miss it" and "Wow! I didn't know this tour existed, I'm going to do it every year!" What wasn't spoken was evident by the joy on people's faces. This little neighborhood brings a lot of happiness to literally thousands of people year over year. It's really incredible. On a personal note, thank you to Mark Moore. The herculean task of decorating Holmes Hall, preparing and coordinating the trains and speaking to each tour group cannot go unrecognized. John would be thrilled. To all homeowners, thank you and well done!

--By the way, checkout Houses of Pittsburgh on Instagram, they posted a video of the tour . You'll see some of the comments from people who took the tour and others who can't wait for the 2023 tour!

Secondly and as importantly, I must recognize collectively the volunteers, all of you, who stepped up and jumped in to help wherever necessary. There was a lot of rust that needed to be scraped off after a two year hiatus and a lot of unexpected challenges, but holy cow, the tour went off like a well oiled machine (at least that's what the guests experienced)! It's overwhelming at times to think about how many people are needed to pull off an event like this and what could derail it. I'm grateful to all of you who never said, "no" or "I can't" when asked, nor shied away from challenges that popped up (and this year, there were a lot of unexpected challenges)! Somehow, once the tour starts, the spirit of Allegheny West kicks into full gear and it is marvelous to be a part of it. There are so many to thank, I wish there was more space to do so individually. You all make this tour what it is and has been for 40 years. Cheers to you!

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the volunteers and support of the tour by Calvary Methodist Church. This is the first stop on the tour and Calvary always makes sure the guests' initial welcome to the neighborhood is warm and cheerful. This year was no different with one exception. Some of you may not know, but Calvary has a new pastor, Shane Sciliano. This was his inaugural tour and Shane jumped in with gusto and greeted the groups at Calvary. Thank you to everyone at Calvary for your efforts and continuing to be a part of the tour.

Lastly, a special mention this year to East Street Beer Distributor. Upon learning that a purchase was for the Christmas tour afterparty in Allegheny West, they donated the beer! Please consider returning the favor with your patronage and thanking them for such an incredible token of generosity.

Can't rest on our laurels too long. The Tour and Tasting (wine tour) event planning will start in February (Yikes!). More to come on that later!

With great gratitude and appreciation,  
Carol Gomrick  
*Victorian Christmas Tour Chair*

### Cocktail Corner

#### Northside Special

- Juice of one orange
- 2 tsps superfine sugar
- 1/2 oz. lemon juice
- 2 oz. Myer's Dark Rum

Put ingredients in a Collins glass. Fill with ice, and then top with seltzer. Stir slowly so as not to disrupt the carbonation too much. Garnish with the lemon twist and serve with a straw.

**NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Supposedly, this drink comes from the Myrtle Bank Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. I've never been, so I can't vouch for that. It's a pretty summery drink for January, but what the heck?

*Submitted by Bob Griewahn*

**Recycling Dates** - Reminder: No plastic bags or lids (fees are being enforced this year)!

- January 9th and 23rd
- February 6th and 20th

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**Across**

**Down**

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| 5. Once Irwin Avenue  | 1. Avenue once known as "Millionaire's Row"                  |
| 6. Dog friendly brewpub on Western Avenue                               | 2. Italian Cuisine since 1993!                               |
| 8. Street named after the 16th US President                             | 3. Alex - the first AWCC President                           |
| 9. Avenue formerly "Grant"  | 4. Where to find great works of literature on Galveston Ave! |
| 10. Avenue named after a sturdy tree whose homophone is a vacation spot | 7. Filming location of 'Wonder Boys' and a tasty lunch spot  |
| 11. Famous author born in Allegheny West who lived in Paris             | 9. Former AWCC President and Cocktail Master                 |
| 13. Famous painter born in Allegheny West (rumored West North Avenue)   | 12. Great spot for a "New Do"                                |
| 14. Current AWCC President  |  |
| 15. Lunch spot on Western where you can get "The Franco" sub            |  |

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## Notice of Special Election

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

### January General Membership Meeting Draft Agenda

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The Allegheny West Civic Council January Membership Meeting will be held

**Tuesday, January 10 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)

8:00: Neighborhood Community Development Fund, Letter of Support (Tony Folino)

8:05: Executive Committee Reports

- Treasurer (Dan Adam)
- Ways and Means Committee (Sally Graubarth / Carol Gomrick)
- Housing and Planning Committee
- Membership Committee (Aaron Bryan)
- Property Committee (Michael Shealey)
- Friends of Allegheny West (Deb Lantz)
- Communications Committee (Trish Burton)
- Executive Committee Actions (Timothy Zinn)

9:00: Conclude

#### **Upcoming Meeting Reminder:**

Combined Housing and Planning and North Avenue Committees Meeting- (3rd Tuesday of the Month)

- **Tuesday, January 17th @7:30 (via Zoom)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 870 7404 5427

**Passcode:** 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting (via Zoom) - **Tuesday January 31 @7:30**

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### 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.



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