
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

July 2023

President's Message

SUMMER BREAK AND REQUESTING CITY SERVICES

Timothy Zinn, AWCC President

As has been customary for the past few years, the members of the Allegheny West Civic Council voted last month to suspend the July and August general membership meetings. General membership meetings will resume the second Tuesday of the month in September. Our committees will continue to meet throughout the summer including the regularly scheduled Housing and Planning Committee on the third Tuesday of the month and the Executive Committee on the last Tuesday of the month. With the outstanding success of the Ways and Means Committee's Tour and Tasting in Old Allegheny—our summer home and garden tour—the committee is likely taking a short break to regroup before beginning the planning of our major fundraising event, the Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour.

Lately, I have received several emails regarding problem properties in our neighborhood. These issues include graffiti on buildings, vacant and unsecured buildings, overgrown lots, stagnant water, air conditioners on street-facing windows, construction work without a building permit, construction work without a certificate of appropriateness for properties within the city historic district, and trash issues. As an affected property owner or concerned neighbor, you should call 311, which is the city's preferred method of responding to non-emergency concerns. To reach the office, simply dial 3-1-1 within the city of Pittsburgh, or 412-255-2621 from outside of the city. You can also submit an on-line 311 complaint and attach digital photos of the problem at this web address: <http://pittsburghpa.gov/311/form/>. Online submissions sent with a valid email address will receive an email response with a ticket number for tracking purposes. For smartphone users, you can download the myBurgh App, which is available for both Android and iOS phones. Remember to be persistent, use your tracking number to follow up with phone calls or emails, encourage your neighbors to report the same incidents, and inform the civic council of your 311 submissions so that we know what neighborhood concerns exist. Multiple submissions from various neighbors will also produce faster results! In addition to reporting the problem via 311, please be sure to forward your request and tracking number to Councilman Bobby Wilson's office by emailing Constituent Services Liaison Faith Mudd at faith.mudd@pittsburghpa.gov. Informing the Councilman's staff of 311 complaints will usually result in quicker action and enforcement. If a situation poses health risks (mosquitos, rodents, etc.), an additional course of action is to report such cases to the Allegheny County Health Department. Multiple complaints from various neighbors will also produce faster results!

When bringing these concerns to the attention of AWCC, please realize that AWCC has no enforcement powers. AWCC will not and cannot make demands on property owners or tenants; we can report violations but can do nothing to enforce compliance. Only the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County have enforcement power through their various departments.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Allegheny West neighborhood and look forward to receiving your comments at president@alleghenywest.org

Claire de Lune

*Your soul is like a landscape fantasy,
Where masks and Bergamasks, in charming wise,
Strum lutes and dance, just a bit sad to be
Hidden beneath their fanciful disguise.*

*Singing in minor mode of life's largesse
And all-victorious love, they yet seem quite
Reluctant to believe their happiness,
And their song mingles with the pale moonlight,*

*The calm, pale moonlight, whose sad beauty, beaming,
Sets the birds softly dreaming in the trees,
And makes the marbled fountains, gushing, streaming—
Slender jet-fountains—sob their ecstasies.*

- Paul Verlaine (1869)

2023 Tour and Tasting - Lasting Memories

The 2023 "Wine" Tour is now in the history books. Thank you to all of the homeowners who graciously welcomed guests and made this event so successful. We are still working through the receipts and expenses to get a final tally on the financial success of the tour, so I'd like to share a wrap up with which made this particular tour extra special.

Local Business Engagement

This tour had the most involvement from local businesses in recent memory. Please take some time to show your gratitude by thanking the owners/contributors and with your patronage.

North Side

All in Good Taste Productions
 Bob Maravelli
 Refucilio Winery*
 S&S Trophy
 The Sandwich Shoppe*
 Wise Biscuit Company*

**Allegheny West Businesses*

Greater Pittsburgh

Allora Wine Group
 Di'Anoia's Eatery
 Dreadnought Wine and Palate Partners
 Follow "Houses of Pittsburgh" on Instagram - they post fantastic videos from the tour and help promote our tour events.

Neighborhood Involvement - Heart warming Story

What it takes to make these tours an exceptional year over year are contributions of so many. It never ceases to amaze how this small neighborhood always rises to the occasion. This year was no different. From the sweat equity to mulching the parklet (and the tree wells), to cleaning the streets and beautifying the neighborhood, it really is incredible to watch the people join together and be a part of the tour, however they can. I hesitate to call out everyone by name as there are too many to list, but from the beautification efforts, coraling volunteers, runners, docents, hosting the after party, program creation and editing and all of the behind the scenes wizardry for ticket sales and communications - it is just magic to see it all work (not to mention Mother Nature shined her grace on the weekend!)

I do have an extraordinary story to share. I was contacted by ticket holders prior to the tour asking for the addresses of homes on tour this year. This is not an unusual request as that happens frequently because we have so many people who take the tours year after year. I didn't share the addresses but inquired as to their interest. They shared that their grandfather lived in a house on Klee Row and they were hoping against hope that their grandfather's house was on tour. **This family was driving in from New Jersey!** We did have a Klee Row house on tour, but not the grandfather's, it was the house next door. Through a series of fortunate events and thoughtfulness of Tom Cihil and John Engle, Tom and John put me in contact with the homeowner, Neal Bernsten. Neal and I were able to coordinate a private walk through of his home, the grandfather's home! The family shared stories and pictures with Neal of the house when the grandfather lived there. The grandfather raised racing pigeons on the roof! The generosity of Neal opening his home to this family created a memory for them that will be shared for years. It touched my heart to think how much this neighborhood means to people, and how incredible our neighbors are when welcoming strangers tour after tour ...year after year.

All of the hard work by so many really makes a difference to so many, all I can say is, "Well Done Allegheny West! You did it again!"

Carol Gomrick - Tour Chair

Editor's note: Congratulations to Carol for all her hard work in putting together this wonderful event. Carol is a true asset to this neighborhood and we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude. Thank you, Carol!!

Cocktail Corner

French 75 Cocktail

- 2 oz dry gin
- 0.5 oz lemon juice
- 1 bar spoons superfine sugar

Shake with ice. Strain into a cocktail glass. Fill with champagne
 “If you use club soda instead of champagne, you have a Tom Collins.”

Judge Jr., Here’s How!, (1927)

NOTES:

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Thanks to cocktail muse Ann Gilligan, who suggested this cocktail for the month of July, in honor of the French, our allies in the War of Independence. You needn’t wait until Bastille Day (July 14) to enjoy it, though.
- The cocktail was named after the 75 mm French artillery gun used in World War I (the “Matériel de 75 mm Mle 1897”).
- It was created in 1915 in Paris at the New York Bar (later called Harry’s New York Bar) by Harry McElhone.
- The drink has been featured in several films, including Casablanca (1942).
- It originally was made with calvados (French apple brandy), rather than gin, and with 2 bar spoons of grenadine syrup. There was no champagne used, either. I’ve never tried the original recipe. Someday.
- Don’t bother using your bottle of Dom Perignon for this. Any sparkling wine such as Italian Prosecco or Spanish Cava will do in a pinch, although it won’t be as French as what you get with champagne.
- Santé

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

EVENT REMINDERS

Farmers Market:

WHEN: Every Friday, 3:00-7:00pm

WHERE: Allegheny Commons Park, E. Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue

Northside Music Festival

WHEN: July 14th starting at 6pm through July 16th, 2pm

WHERE: Deutschtown, Pittsburgh - lineups and maps can be found on their website

The Northside Music Festival is a FREE three-day music and arts festival. It is a non-profit, volunteer run event featuring 65 bands, art vendors, and over 30 food trucks. Visit www.northsidemusicfestival.com for more info!

Recycling Dates:

- July 10th & 24th
- August 7th & 21st

Street Sweeping - 2nd Monday & Tuesday of the Month.

- July 10th & 11th
- August 8th & 14th



Parade along East Ohio Street at Middle Street. Photo Courtesy of Allegheny City Historic Gallery

July 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, July 18th @7:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaTlMxUT09>
Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427
Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting - Zoom Meeting
Tuesday July 27th @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. Submission does not guarantee publication.



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