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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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November 2022

## President's Message

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Welcome to November. Our Novembers are usually blustery months with dropping temperatures and dropping leaves. I gather, however, that we are supposed to have rising temperatures for the first week of this November. There's nothing we can do to prevent the dropping leaves, though. So, rake them up and leave them at the curb for Yard Debris Pickup Day on *Saturday, November 12*.

Our upcoming AWCC membership meeting will be held early in the month this time. We will be meeting at Calvary UM Church on *Tuesday, November 8*. Please make a point to come to this meeting, as it is probably the most important meeting of the year. There will be a full agenda this month, including:

- Recognition of our most recent Neighbors of the Year (Diane and Tony Caruso, Carol Gomrick, and Larry Homitsky)
- Recognition of our 2022 "Good Neighbor" award recipient, Shaelyn Goodwine
- Recognition of the late John DeSantis with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" bestowed by the Northside Leadership Conference
- A presentation of the proposed townhouses development project on the 900 block of W. North Avenue
- Election of the 2023 AWCC officers and standing committee chairs, as well as the members of the Nominating Committee

Speaking of elections, November is the nation's general election month. Please do your civic duty and make it to the polls to cast an educated vote for the best candidates. If you are not yet registered to vote, I am afraid that the registration deadline for this year's election has already passed. But, you can make a commitment to registering in the coming weeks so that you will be able to vote in next April's election.

Lastly, I will remind you that we once again will be hosting the Victorian Christmas House Tour in December. This year's tour will be held on December 9th and 10th. There are many volunteer slots to fill. So, if you'd like to help please contact Sally Graubarth (Ways & Means chair), her trusty elf Carol Gomrick, or Doug Sprague (for those wishing to be a tour docent).

That's all I have for this month's Gazette. I hope you have a splendid Allegheny West November, and a Happy Thanksgiving.

**-Bob Griewahn, AWCC President**

### *At Day-Close in November*

*The ten hours' light is abating,  
And a late bird wings across,  
Where the pines, like waltzers waiting,  
Give their black heads a toss.  
Beech leaves, that yellow the noon-time,  
Float past like specks in the eye;*

*I set every tree in my June time,  
And now they obscure the sky.  
And the children who ramble through here  
Conceive that there never has been  
A time when no tall trees grew here,  
That none will in time be seen.*

- Thomas Hardy (1853)

## 2022 Victorian Christmas Tour

I'm thrilled to share that great progress has been made towards welcoming back guests for the 2022 Victorian Christmas tour. Below are the highlights and some updates in no particular order:

All houses have been secured for the tour. Big thank you to the property owners for opening their homes!

**852 Beech** | Ave Robin and Katie Zoufalik\*

**930 Western Ave** | Dr James Worry\*\*

**849 N Lincoln** | Nick and Hal\*\*\*

**845 N Lincoln** | Jim Wallace

**820 Chapel Way** | Marc Finer (Cookie and Cider House)\*\*

**719 Brighton Road** | Mark Moore

\* New to the Christmas tour

\*\*First time on any tour

\*\*\*Hal and Nick are busy getting their house decorated. NEXT Pittsburgh scheduled time this week to film the progress and post the video on their website. Once it's available, I'll send out a message so you can check it out.

Thrilled that in 2022 we had properties on Western Ave represented on both the Wine and Christmas tour!

**Ticket sales** are strong. To date we have >1000 tickets sold. 1400 is a sellout!

**Volunteer opportunities** | Doug Sprague is quickly filling up docent slots. Cecile Canales is working on the Train Tours. More volunteer opportunities available for sign up closer to the tour.

### Mark Your Calendars

- **Homeowner Meeting - properties on the tour** Wednesday, November 16th - 7 pm Carol Gomrick's house | 940 W. North
- **Swag Party** Saturday, December 3 - 9 am | Garage of Cathy and Gene (access on Downton Way - 800 block). Coffee and donuts provided. Will need ladders and some muscle to hang swags on the lamp posts
- **Docent Neighborhood Tour Walk** | Monday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 7 | As a docent, please attend at least 1 walk thru. More details to come
- **House Decorating Party** | Marc Finer of 820 Chapel Way has asked for volunteers (and decorations) to prepare his property for the tour. Date and time pending
- **Volunteer After Party** | Saturday, December 10th. Trish and John Burton - 926 Beech Ave

**Special Consideration** for volunteers who wish to take the tour | Historically, volunteers have been offered the opportunity to 'jump on' a tour group and take the tour. That is still being honored, however please be aware that it is based upon the availability of open slots within a particular tour group. If, as a volunteer you wish to take the tour, we will have a sign up sheet so we can keep track of and manage the size of the tour groups. The capacity of a tour group is 25 individuals. If we are at capacity, volunteers may be asked to join a smaller group at a different time. Please be respectful of this request as it is for the safety of the guests taking the tour and helps manage the flow of the tours through the houses. It gets very hectic when a group is too large. We really need to do whatever we can to manage this effectively. Based upon the number of tickets sold thus far, it's going to be a very busy tour so your consideration of this is much appreciated.

**Added Bonus** this year - Ameila Beer has offered to play holiday Carols on her violin during the tour. This will definitely add to the festive spirit. Thank you Amelia! More to come!

**Special Thank You** to all who attended the 'label party' earlier this month. The team got over 7600 mailers labeled and Trish Burton got them in the mail. The amazing metric on this is that the label task is completed in under 90 minutes! Tremendous effort!

I'm still dusting off the cobwebs around the tours so please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions  
- Carolgomrick@gmail.com.

Fa la la n@!

Carol Gomrick, Victorian Christmas Tour Chair

## Cocktail Corner

### *Calvados Cocktail*

- 1 dashes Angostura bitters
- 2 dashes curacao
- 3 drops gum syrup
- 1 oz calvados

Stir with ice, then strain into a cocktail glass. Garnish with a brandied cherry.

Frank Newman, *American-Bar, Boissons Anglaises et Américaines, Société Francis, D'Imprimerie et de Libraire* (Paris), 1904

#### **NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Another month, another cocktail featuring calvados, the French apple brandy. It's available at the Premium LCB stores around Pittsburgh.
- No gum syrup? Use simple syrup made with equal parts sugar and water, heated in a saucepan. Let cool before using.
- If you don't have any brandied cherries at hand, just use some good Marasca cherries, like Luxardo. They carry them at some of the LCB stores, but I get mine at the Mayfly Market on Arch Street. (I believe you can also get the Angostura bitters there.) Avoid using the day-glow maraschino cherries you see at the supermarket. Unless that's your thing.

## Street Cleaning and Recycling

Street Sweep/Cleaning is Every 2nd Monday and Tuesday of the Month. Cleaning Dates are:

- November - 8th and 14th
- December 12th and 13th

Recycling dates: No plastic bags or lids!

- November 14th and 28th
- December 12th and 26th

On November 1st, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy planted a White Pine tree in Allegheny Commons in honor of John DeSantis. Thank you to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy!



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## The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2023

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**President:** Timothy Zinn

**Vice-President:** Elizabeth Barbush

**Treasurer:** Dan Adam (incumbent)

**Recording Secretary:** Carol Gomrick

**Corresponding Secretary/Communications Committee:** Trish Burton

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Jo Beatty

**Property Committee:** Michael Shealey

**Friends of Allegheny West/Green space Committee:** Deb Lantz

**Housing and Planning Committee:** Dr. Dan Strinkoski

**Membership Committee:** Aaron Bryan (incumbent)

**Ways and Means Committee:** Sally Graubarth (incumbent)

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### October Membership Meeting Draft Agenda

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The Allegheny West Civic Council September Membership Meeting will be held

**Tuesday, November 8 at 7:30 PM** at Calvary UM Church.

7:30: Gather, say hello, and meet new neighbors

7:35: Presentation of awards

7:45: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford/ Cmdr. Malloy)

7:50: City of Pittsburgh, Mayor's Office (Rebekkah Renallo)

7:55: Councilor Wilson's Office (Mohammed Burny / Faith Mudd)

8:00: State Rep Abney's Office (Aerion Abney)

8:05: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)

8:10: Executive Committee Reports

- Treasurer (D. Adam)
- Ways & Means (S. Graubarth / C. Gomrick)
- President (R. Griewahn) - Executive committee actions

8:25: Election of 2023 Officers and Standing Committee Chairs

8:35: Election of 2023 Nominations Committee

8:45 Conclude

#### Upcoming Meeting Reminder:

Housing and Planning - (3rd Tuesday of the Month) - **Tuesday, November 15th @7:30 (via Zoom)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZOV0JaT1MxUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 870 7404 5427

**Passcode:** 045565

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### The Allegheny West Gazette

**Editor: Elizabeth Barbush**

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