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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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November 2023

## President's Message

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### A Time of Thanks

Timothy Zinn, AWCC President

As we approach this season of gratitude and reflection, we, the members of the Allegheny West Civic Council, want to take a moment to express our heartfelt thanks to our incredible community.

Thanksgiving is a time to come together, to appreciate the beauty of our shared values, and to acknowledge the strength that is born from unity. This past year has presented its own set of challenges, but it has also shown us the remarkable resilience and kindness that define our community. Whether it is through volunteering, donating, or simply checking in on our neighbors, we have proven that we are a community that cares deeply for one another.

The Civic Council is guided by the belief that positive change is achievable when neighbors join forces to address the needs of our community. Your unwavering support, active participation in our events, and dedication to the betterment of our neighborhood have been the driving force behind all of our successes.

As we gather with our loved ones this holiday season, let us remember to express our gratitude not only for the blessings in our own lives but also for the collective strength and resilience of our neighborhood. Let us continue to support one another, uplift those in need, and work together to build a brighter future.

On behalf of the Allegheny West Civic Council, we wish you and your loved ones a warm, joyful, and blessed Thanksgiving. May this holiday season be a time of reflection, appreciation, and love.

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).

### Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID) Update

An update on the WANID project will be given at the general membership meeting on Tuesday, November 14. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

### November Night

*Listen...  
With faint dry sound,  
Like steps of passing ghosts,  
The leaves, frost-crisp'd, break from the trees  
And fall.*

*-Adelaide Crapsey, 1878 - 1915*

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## 2023 Christmas Tour Updates!

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Fa La La La La N@!

We are slightly over a month away from the 2023 Victorian Christmas Tour. The interest in this event is huge based on the ticket sales. We have over 1400 tickets sold as of October. I anticipate a sellout. This reinforces how much this tour means to the attendees and how much they anticipate the event year after year to kick off their Christmas festivities.

### Upcoming Activities:

**Tour** | Friday, Dec 8 / Sat Dec 9

**Beech Ave** will be closed during the tour

Auxiliary parking has been secured at the lower Babb lot...accessible via Galveston

**Homeowner Meeting:** 940 W. North | 7 pm

Discuss the tour scope / expectations / volunteers / questions

A follow-up announcement will be sent to the homeowners

**Neighborhood Clean Up:** Please take some time to assist with gathering leaves on the street. We will be working with the city to try and get/confirm street sweeping. It would be greatly appreciated if you could clean up some of the leaves on the street for the safety of the tour attendees.

### VOLUNTEERS

**Swag Build and Hang:** Saturday, December 2 | 9 AM | Garage of Cathy and Gene 851 Beech

Please join your neighbors to build swags to decorate the neighborhood in prep for the tour.

**IMPORTANT:** We need several strong volunteers to hang swags on the lamp posts. For safety reasons, we will need a 10ft free-standing ladder for hanging swags. We cannot use ladders that lean against the poles. If you can donate a ladder for use, please contact me. Also, I really need to confirm volunteers to hang/remove the swags. If I can't confirm volunteers to do this, I'll need to cancel the swags for this season.

**Docents:** Dan Sprumont and Doug Sprague are actively recruiting docents to lead the tours. If you have an interest in being a docent, I can put you in touch to sign up for a tour(s). We need 67 slots filled! Thank you to all who have signed up already. The docent engagement with the attendees elevates the experience and really sets the Allegheny West tours apart. Thank you to all who make this such a special experience. If you'd like to be a docent, please contact Dan Sprumont -- dan.sprumont@gmail.com

**House Volunteers:** After I meet with the homeowners, I'll have a better sense of open slots to support the properties on the tour. I'll follow up separately on this.

**Holmes Hall / Train Museum:** Cecile Canales is working through scheduling volunteers for the Train Museum. Please reach out to Cecile for more information and to sign up. The Train Museum is such a gem to have as part of the tour. Please contact Cecile to sign up: ccanales13@icloud.com

**Runners:** I'll have a sign up sheet available - Runners are responsible for walking the route, checking homeowners and being a contact point for the docents and tour leads to assist/mitigate any issues (deliver lunches/light luminaries).

**Tour Callers:** Brandon Williams will be leading the efforts to schedule tour callers at Calvary. Please contact Brandon to sign up: brandonpwilliams@hotmail.com.

### HOUSES ON TOUR

>Calvary Parsonage on Beech

>936 and 938 W. North - The "Brownstones"

We have a new neighbor in 938. His property is being renovated now. He will be on tour as the 'after' surprise - guests will see 936 as the 'before'. Working to see if we can also include the AW timeline into the 936 property - this will be a very interesting experience for tour goers.

>939 Western Ave - The Parador Inn | Ed is working with NextPittsburgh.com to do a walk through of the property as he prepares for the tour. I'll send a link when the video is available.

>849 N. Lincoln - Hal & Nick

>Holmes Hall

### AFTER PARTY

The Burtons | 926 Beech - Saturday 12/9 | 8:30pm - ??

If this year is anything like last year....you don't want to miss it! Thanks Trish and John

### SPECIAL THANKS!

-Thank you to all who showed up to assist with the mailers. It is such a great community event. The crack team labeled 7700 mailers in record time! Special thanks to Trish Burton for her mad mailing skills and Cathy Serventi for the address list cleanup and printing.

-Next time you see Doug Sprague, please give him a big "Thank You" for the many years he organized and led the efforts to coordinate the docents. The tour has 67 slots to fill, and backups are always needed for contingency. A lot to track. Not to mention running throughout the tour to help keep the groups moving and on time! This is no small task. Doug is transitioning the docent organization to the capable hands of Dan Sprumont but is still assisting. I'd be remiss if I didn't give Doug recognition for his many years of support for the Christmas tours, but also the summer tour and tasting event.

-There are so many who contribute so much to the tours that I could have an entire article to list everyone. Please know how grateful I am to all who contribute time (a lot of time) and effort to ensure these tours are successful year after year. What you do has such an impact on so many.

If you have any questions, please contact me - [Tours@alleghenywest.org](mailto:Tours@alleghenywest.org)

**Cocktail Corner***Submitted by Bob Griewahn****Bamboo Cocktail***

- 1.5 oz. French vermouth (see Notes)
- 1.5 oz. Sherry
- 2 dashes orange bitters
- 2 drops Angostura bitters
- Garnish with a pimola

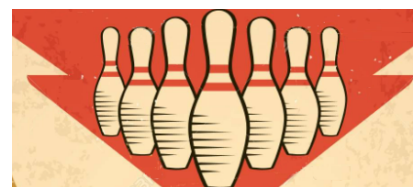
William T. "Cocktail" Boothby, World Drinks and How to Mix Them (1908)

**NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- This cocktail appears to have been created by one Louis Eppinger, who ran the Grand Hotel in Japan, among other establishments. The Grand Hotel was a popular destination among world travelers and celebrities at the turn of the century (the twentieth one), including Rudyard Kipling.
- "French" vermouth, in old recipes, generally refers to dry, rather than sweet, vermouth. The Bamboo can be made with either, but most recipes use sweet red vermouth (often referred to as "Italian" vermouth). I've only had this cocktail once, and it used sweet vermouth. Of course, it's possible to get sweet vermouths made in France and dry ones made in Italy (although the PLCB does not carry a large selection, so you may need to special order or "import" from another state).
- In any event, vermouth aficionados should experiment (and please report back).
- For the sherry, you can use an oloroso, amontillado, or fino; the recipes are all over the board on that one
- Proportions vary among the recipes for this drink. Some use equal parts sherry and vermouth, some favor more of one than the other. Again, experiment!
- A pimola is simply an olive stuffed with a pimienta. I learn something new every day, and then forget it.
- This drink, which is also called an Adonis, has a pretty low alcohol content for a cocktail, thereby making it easier to "drink responsibly."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS****WHAT: Farmers Market:****WHEN: Every Friday, 3:00-7:00pm through November 17th****WHERE: Allegheny Commons Park, E. Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue****WHAT: GalleryH - Announcement****WHEN: November 5 through November 30th****WHERE: 909 Western Avenue**

DETAILS: karlhuberillustration and galleryh are proud to showcase the watercolor works on paper of Pittsburgh artist Michael Maskarinec. From Jazz Inspiration to French Interpretation. The show will run from Nov. 5-30, 2023. Opening reception on Thursday Nov.9, from 5-7 PM, at 909 Western Ave, Pittsburgh. Please join us at Refucilo Winery afterwards for a brief libation! Hope to see you there!

**WHAT: Allegheny West Alley Cats Bowling Night at the Elks****WHEN: Every Wednesday night from 7 til 9****WHERE: Elk Lodge No. 339 - 400 Cedar Avenue, 2nd floor****Recycling Dates:**

- November 13th and 27th
- December 11th and 26th

**Street Sweeping - 2nd Monday & Tuesday of the Month until November 30th.**

- November 13th and 14th

**Reminder of The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2024****President:** Timothy Zinn (incumbent)**Vice-President:** Elizabeth Barbush (incumbent)**Treasurer:** Cathy Serventi**Recording Secretary:** Bob Griewahn**Corresponding Secretary/Communications Committee:** Trish Burton (incumbent)**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Jo Beatty (incumbent)**Property Committee:** Michael Shealey (incumbent)**Friends of Allegheny West/Green space Committee:** Deb Lantz (incumbent)**Housing and Planning Committee:** Jim Wallace**Membership Committee:** Aaron Bryan (incumbent)**Ways and Means Committee:** Carol Gomrick

## November Meeting Agendas

The Allegheny West Civic Council October Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 14th at 7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue (Beech Ave or Rear Entrance) - also on Zoom.

### 7:30: Call to Order – Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors

### 7:35: Reports of Elected Officials, City Departments, Organizations

7:35: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford/ Commander Malloy)

7:40: City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's Office (Lindsey Aquino-Robles)

7:45: Councilor Bobby Wilson's Office (Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)

7:50: State Representative Aerion Abney's Office (Austin Jefferson)

7:55: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)

### 8:00: Guests and Presentations

#### 8:00: Officer and Committee Reports

Treasurer (Dan Adam)

Communications Committee (Trish Burton)

Friends of Allegheny West (Deb Lantz)

- Western Avenue/Brighton Road Parklet

Housing and Planning Committee (Bob Griewahn)

- 1112 Galveston Avenue (Value Added Foods Building)
- 827 Western Avenue—forthcoming sale
- 939 W. North Ave—under agreement, continued use as a manufacturing/warehouse facility
- Duquesne Light Ridge Avenue parcel
- W. North Avenue detours and signage—need “do not enter” sign on Rope Way

Membership Committee (Aaron Bryan)

- Bowling
- Neighborhood Christmas Tree
- Mixer

Property Committee (Michael Shealey)

- 806 Western Avenue

Ways and Means Committee (Sally Graubarth/Carol Gomrick)

- Christmas House Tour
- Good Neighbor Award

Nominating Committee

- 2024 election of officers

Executive Committee Actions (Timothy Zinn)

### 8:45: Unfinished Business

Registered Community Organization

Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID)—project updates)

### 9:00: New Business

### 9:15: Adjourn

\*Additions to the agenda can be made by emailing [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto:president@alleghenywest.org)

### Upcoming Meeting Reminders:

Housing and Planning Committee Meeting- (3rd Tuesday of the Month) - Zoom Meeting

**Tuesday, November 21st @7:30pm**

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

**Meeting ID:** 870 7404 5427

**Passcode:** 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting - 806 Western Avenue

**Tuesday, November 28th @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.



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