
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

December 2024

President's Message

Celebrating the Holidays in Allegheny West

I would like to wish all of you a happy holiday and a prosperous new year. As the year draws to a close, this is a time to be thankful for what we have, to reflect on the past, and to plan ahead for the new year. As I give thanks, I look at the many blessings in my life. Among them are my many friends and neighbors that make up the Allegheny West neighborhood. Sure, Allegheny West is a beautiful and convenient place to live, but its people are what makes for such a dynamic and inclusive neighborhood. Daily I am reminded of just how lucky I am to have found such a place. Wherever I may travel, I'm always anxious to return to my home in Allegheny West. I thank each of you for making this small Pittsburgh neighborhood so special.

The holidays are always a special time of year in Allegheny West with time-honored traditions such as the Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour, caroling, Christmas eve services, and holiday parties, along with some newer traditions such as the neighborhood Christmas tree lighting ceremony on the corner of Galveston and Western Avenues. Of course, none of these events would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our many volunteers. We extend our thanks for your countless hours of planning, coordination, and labor. On behalf of AWCC, we want to extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year to each and every one of you. May this season be filled with love, peace, and joy.

As my term as AWCC President also draws to a close, I reflect on these past two years and the challenges we've faced and the enjoyment we've had. I would especially like to thank the officers and members of AWCC for a truly rewarding experience. I have learned much from all of you, and I appreciate your dedication, commitment, and hard work.

Looking ahead to the new year and beyond, I am thrilled with AWCC's slate of officers for 2025. The slate contains a good mix of both long-time and new members. I appreciate the Nominating Committee's efforts over the past year to identify such a talented group of people who are willing to give freely of their time and talents for the betterment of the community. Remember, the election of officers will take place at the next general membership meeting on Tuesday, December 10.

As I have for the past two years, I will close this column for the last time, by again thanking you for providing me with this opportunity to serve the Allegheny West neighborhood. I look forward to receiving your comments at president@alleghenywest.org.

Timothy Zinn, President

Christmas Tour Weekend

Tour Weekend is here! Please read through the information below about neighborhood impacts and updates.

Street Closures

Friday, 12/6 4 pm to 10 pm | Saturday, 12/7 9 am to 10 pm

Beech Ave: 800 and 900 blocks

N. Lincoln: 800 block

>For the safety of the tour goers, please move your car from these streets during the tours

>>The lower lot of Babb Insurance has been secured for residents to park their cars starting at 3 pm and 9 am respectively.

>>>If you own a rental property, please ask your tenants to move their cars for the tour.

Babb will allow cars to be parked overnight Friday and Saturday. However, please have your car removed no later than 10 am Sunday morning. It's a home Steeler game and they need their lot cleared.

We are struggling a bit to coordinate street cleaning and the leaves are piling up. If you have some time to bag a few leaves to make the streets safe, your help would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteer After Party

Saturday, December 7 8:30ish pm

The Burtons - 926 Beech Ave

Thank you all who set up the incredible Christmas tree on Western@Galveston. Fantastic! Bundle up - it will be a chilly weekend. Please reach out to me directly if you have any questions.

Carol Gomrick, Tour Chair -carolgomrick@gmail.com

Cocktail Corner

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

Bronx Cocktail

Shake with cracked Ice:

- 1 oz Plymouth Gin
- 1 oz French vermouth
- 1 oz Italian vermouth
- 1 barspoonful orange juice

Strain into a cocktail glass and garnish with an orange peel.

(Attributed to Billy Malloy, Pittsburgh PA)

William "Bill" Boothby, World Drinks and How to Mix Them (1908)

NOTES:

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Although named after the New York City borough, this particular formulation of the Bronx Cocktail was attributed to a Pittsburgher. Go figure.
- Plymouth gin is readily available at the Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores. I've even seen it at the E. Ohio Street location. However, you should feel free to use a London dry gin like Tanqueray, Beefeaters', Gordon's, etc. According to cocktail expert David Woodrich, Plymouth gin was an advertiser in Boothby's cocktail book, which may explain why it was specified.
- For "French" and "Italian" vermouths, read "dry" and "sweet."
- Feel free to fool around with the proportions. For instance, you could cut back on the vermouths and add a bit more orange juice, if you fancy.

Renew your Civic Council Membership today!

If you pay your dues annually or are a new member now is a good time to pay your AWCC membership dues for 2025!

Annual Membership: \$5

Lifetime Membership: \$50

You can find out about the different types of membership, check your eligibility to join, and pay your dues here:

<https://allegHENYwest.org/get-involved/allegHENY-west-civic-council/becoming-a-member/>

Go to the bottom of the page for the PayPal link.

If you are a returning member you do not have to fill out the form.

You can also pay by cash, check or PayPal/Venmo during the Membership meetings or drop off cash/check at 851 Beech Ave. (Please include an envelope with your name/address/phone if you're paying cash!)

Members must be current on membership dues to be eligible to vote during Membership meetings. New members who pay before or at the 12/10/24 meeting will be eligible to vote at the January 2025 meeting. If you are currently a member, paying your dues now will extend your membership and voting eligibility through Dec 2025.

Please email Cathy at treasurer@allegHENYwest.org to check the status of your current membership.

We're happy to have you join us!



Submitted by Cathy Serventi

Year End Reimbursements Reminder - Due 12/20!

Please don't forget to submit any reimbursement requests by the end of the year! Preferably by 12/20. The easiest way to submit a reimbursement is to take photos of any receipts you have and send them by email to treasurer@allegHENYwest.org. Please include

1. a description of what the reimbursement is for
2. If there are multiple receipts or multiple events please list the amount for each receipt / expense
3. The total amount you are requesting.

If you are requesting reimbursement for a Christmas Tour expense please cc: tours@allegHENYwest.org. If it is for another committee and you are not the chair please cc: the committee chair if you can.

We do not require the original receipts but if you would prefer to submit original receipts, please include the information above and put them through the mail slot at Cathy Serventi's house at 851 Beech Ave. or bring them to the Membership meeting on 12/10.

Email treasurer@allegHENYwest.org or text Cathy at (412) 418-2027 with any questions.

Submitted by Cathy Serventi

Blow Blow Thou Winter Wind

*Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly:
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly:
Then, heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.*

*Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! sing, heigh-ho! unto the green holly...*
- William Shakespeare
(excerpted from As You Like It, Act II Scene VII)
Submitted by Bob Griewahn

A Thank You Note From Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Please share our sincere appreciation for your recent tree plantings with the rest of your wonderful crew at the Allegheny West Civic Council. We are grateful for all of the love you pour into Allegheny Commons Park and for our continued relationship with this group of advocates. Until next planting season, take care and thanks again for your support!

Warmly, Elizabeth Mick
Philanthropy Manager at Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

WHAT: Galleryh

WHEN: December 1st through the 31st with opening reception on Wednesday December 11th 5-7pm

WHERE: 909 Western Ave

karlhuberillustration and galleryh in partnership with Refucilo wine are proud to present MERCH! Our annual merchandise and print sale and show, featuring the work of owner and artist, Karl Huber. The show will run from Dec.1 thru Dec. 31. Opening reception is Wednesday Dec.11 from 5-7 PM, at 909 Western Ave, Pittsburgh. Please join us in your finest Holiday attire and meet at Refucilo Winery afterwards for some libations!

WHAT: Refucilo Winery

WHEN: Saturday, December 14th from 5:30pm-7:30pm

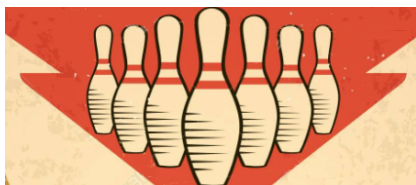
WHERE: 907 Western Ave

The Holiday Belles, an evening of musical cheer with Sara Barbisch & Laura Barletta, RSVP for shows, seating at 5:30 & 7:30 - \$5 cover - RSVP (412)251-0231

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:**

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

Street Sweeping- has ended for the season! Will resume in April!

Happy Holidays from AWCC! Scene on the right is from our tree lighting ceremony last Wednesday on Western at Galveston. Just in time for the Christmas House Tour!



AWCC December Calendar

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 10th** at **7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue (Beech Ave or Rear Entrance) - also on Zoom. info below.

7:30: Call to Order

7:30 Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors

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

7:40: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford/ Commander Malloy)

7:45: City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's Office (Lindsey Aquino-Robles)

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

7:55: Department of City Planning (Nazia Tarannum)

8:00: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)

8:05: Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office (Bobby Wilson/Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)

8:30: Guests and Presentations

8:30: Officer and Committee Reports

Minutes of Last Meeting (Bob Griewahn, Secretary)

Treasurer's Report (Cathy Serventi, Treasurer)

Communications Committee (Trish Burton)

Friends of Allegheny West (Deb Lantz)

Housing and Planning Committee (Jim Wallace)

- 939 Western Avenue (Ed Taimuty)

Membership Committee (Aaron Bryan)

Property Committee (Michael Shealey)

- 806 Western Avenue

Ways and Means Committee (Carol Gomrick)

- Christmas Tour Update

Executive Committee Actions (Timothy Zinn)

- YMCA Donation

North Side Leadership Conference Update (Ann Gilligan, Bob Griewahn)

9:00: Unfinished Business

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

- Street repair on Beech Avenue

- Tree trimming on Galveston and W. North Avenues

9:00: New Business

- Map of Memorial Trees in Allegheny Commons Park

- Election of Officers and Committee Chairs (Jo Beatty, Sergeant at Arms)

9:30: Adjourn

*Additions to the agenda can be made by emailing president@alleghenywest.org

Zoom Info: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86597684488?pwd=RHdIZG5QOUhXTmtkMElzbjZEWi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 9768 4488

Passcode: 336200

Upcoming Meeting Reminders:

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

Tuesday, December 17th @7:30pm

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

Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427

Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting - 806 Western Avenue - **Tuesday, December 31st @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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