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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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November 2024

## President's Message

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### Thanksgiving: A Time for Gratitude and Togetherness

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded of the importance of gratitude, reflection, and coming together as a community. For many of us, Thanksgiving is more than just a holiday; it's a cherished opportunity to connect with loved ones, share delicious food, and give thanks for the blessings in our lives. It's a time when we pause, reflect, and celebrate both the big and small things that bring us joy.

#### The Spirit of Gratitude

Thanksgiving traditions vary widely, but the heart of the holiday remains gratitude. Taking a moment to reflect on what we're thankful for helps us cultivate a positive mindset, strengthens our resilience, and builds stronger connections with others. Whether it's family, friends, good health, or the kindness of neighbors, Thanksgiving encourages us to acknowledge and appreciate the good in our lives.

#### Celebrating Together as a Community

Thanksgiving is also a wonderful time to reach beyond our own homes and share the holiday spirit with our larger community. Local food drives, community dinners, and volunteer opportunities abound this season, providing ways for us all to give back. Whether you donate to a food bank, volunteer at a local shelter, or organize a neighborhood event, participating in community activities strengthens our bonds and helps those who may be facing challenging times.

#### Reflecting on Traditions

For some, Thanksgiving wouldn't be complete without certain family traditions, whether it's watching a parade, cheering for a favorite football team, or preparing a special family recipe. However you choose to celebrate, the holiday offers a moment to cherish memories, old and new.

Let's also take a moment to remember the history of Thanksgiving. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the cultures and experiences that have shaped this country. While Thanksgiving originally marked a harvest celebration, today it serves as a reminder of our shared values of generosity and togetherness.

#### Wishing You a Warm Thanksgiving

As we gather this Thanksgiving, let's appreciate the comfort of good company, the joy of shared meals, and the sense of community that enriches our lives. Happy Thanksgiving from our community to you and yours! May your holiday be filled with warmth, joy, and an abundance of reasons to give thanks.

*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).*

Timothy Zinn, President

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### Trick or Treat! - AW Neighbors out in the wild on Halloween night!

Pictured are Two Allegheny West Victorian Police, Rubik's Cube Unsolved, Rubik's Cube Solved and Zombie Dinner Table!



## 2024 Victorian Christmas Tour

Ho! Ho! Ho! Christmas Tour 2024 is Right Around the Corner!

Get ready to welcome Christmas revelers back to Allegheny West for the 2024 Christmas House tour. As of Monday, Nov 4th we have sold 1600 tickets, almost a sellout. This is another record setting sales pace! I'm excited to announce the list of properties on the tour this year, including 2 new homes!

<b>START:</b> Calvary Methodist Church	971 Beech Ave
Kimberly Moore	937 Beech
Anthony Angelotto & Chad Crissman	936 W North
The Flashlight Factory Loft	831 W North Ave
Kathryn Bailey	814 Western
Hal Dixler and Nick Duerlinger	849 N Lincoln
Byers-Lyons Hall- <b>Cookie House</b>	901 Ridge Ave
<b>END:</b> Holmes Hall	719 Brighton Rd

Important upcoming dates and opportunities:

### Homeowner Meeting

Wednesday, 11/13 at 7 pm  
940 W North Ave

### Swag Build

Saturday, 11/23 | 9 am start  
>Carport of Aaron Bryan and Sandy Allen  
>Build and hang swag

### 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

**Volunteering** - Please consider signing up. This tour doesn't happen without you and your support!

Tour Docent: Contact Dan Sprumont [Dan.Sprumont@gmail.com](mailto:Dan.Sprumont@gmail.com)

Train Museum: Contact Cecile Canales [CecileCanales2@gmail.com](mailto:CecileCanales2@gmail.com)

Tour Announcements: Contact Brandon Williams [Brandonpwilliams103@gmail.com](mailto:Brandonpwilliams103@gmail.com)

Homeowner Lunch Prep and Delivery: Contact Carol Gomrick [Carolgomrick@gmail.com](mailto:Carolgomrick@gmail.com)

Byers-Lyons - Cookie House: Helen and Howard Harris are leading the effort for the cookie house and need volunteers to assist. A signup sheet will be sent out in a future eblast or contact me if you'd like to volunteer for a 3 hour shift. [Carolgomrick@gmail.com](mailto:Carolgomrick@gmail.com)

There will be more information sent out in the upcoming eblasts, including links to volunteer sign up sheets for docent and train museum volunteering. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Thank you in advance for your support in making this tour such a success!

Fa la la!

**Carol Gomrick, Tour Chair**  
[carolgomrick@gmail.com](mailto:carolgomrick@gmail.com)

### There's Nothing Like the Sun

*There's nothing like the sun as the year dies,  
Kind as it can be, this world being made so,  
To stones and men and beasts and birds and flies,  
To all things that it touches except snow,  
Whether on mountain side or street of town.  
The south wall warms me: November has begun,  
Yet never shone the sun as fair as now  
While the sweet last-left damsons from the bough  
With spangles of the morning's storm drop down  
Because the starling shakes it, whistling what  
Once swallows sang. But I have not forgot*

*That there is nothing, too, like March's sun,  
Like April's, or July's, or June's, or May's,  
Or January's, or February's, great days:  
August, September, October, and December  
Have equal days, all different from November.  
No day of any month but I have said---  
Or, if I could live long enough, should say---  
'There's nothing like the sun that shines to-day.'  
There's nothing like the sun till we are dead.*

- Edward Thomas (1878-1917)

Thomas was a British soldier in the Great War. He was killed in France, during the Battle of Arras.

*Submitted by Bob Griewahn*

## Cocktail Corner

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

**Royal Smile**

Shake with cracked Ice:

- 0.75 oz lime juice (juice of ½ lime)
- 0.5 oz grenadine
- 0.5 oz dry gin
- 1 oz apple brandy

Strain into a cocktail glass.

**Attributed to The Hotel Belvedere, Baltimore, MD** - George R. Washburne & Stanley Bronner. *Beverages de Luxe, The Wine and Spirit Bulletin, Louisville, 1911*

**NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- The Belvedere Hotel, a Beaux Arts style building, still stands in Baltimore, Maryland. It was converted to condominiums in 1991, but the ballroom and restaurants were preserved.
- It's apple season, so here's another apple brandy cocktail. For the apple brandy, I recommend calvados from France. If you're lucky enough to have some of the U.S.-made Laird's (the real 100% apple brandy, not the neutral spirits flavored with apple brandy), then use that.
- I've mentioned before, I believe, that the limes sold in the U.S. were the small, round kind back in the day. So, it may be best to measure out three quarters of an ounce of lime juice rather than just squeezing half a lime into the shaker.
- Grenadine is available at the Fine Wine & Good Spirits store. You can also obtain better grenadine (pomegranate syrup) online.
- As with all cocktails, you may find your first batch is too sweet or too dry. A little more or less grenadine should do the trick. You could also add a spoonful of Cointreau, Gran Marnier, or triple sec to sweeten things. Those all play well with lime juice.
- Enjoy, and don't be afraid to share with your neighbors. I mean me.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS****WHAT: Tree Memorial at Allegheny Commons Park****WHEN: Sunday, November 10 at 3 o'clock****WHERE: Allegheny Commons Park, Brighton Road near North Lincoln Avenue**

Hello Friends and Neighbors, Please join us Sunday, **November 10** at 3 o'clock in the Allegheny Commons Park, Brighton Road near North Lincoln Avenue to remember John DeSantis, Mary Callison, Dan Pultz, Dennis Bergevin, and Paula Cellini as we view the memorial trees planted in their honor.

**WHAT: Pittsburgh Farmers Market: Northside location - last few weeks!****WHEN: Every Friday until November 22nd 3-7pm****WHERE: Allegheny Commons Park, East Ohio St & Cedar Ave****WHAT: Allegheny West's Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony****WHEN: Wednesday, December 4th at dusk - Time to be determined and posted via E-newsletter****WHERE: Southeast corner of Western Avenue at Galveston Avenue**

Time to light up our Christmas Tree and get excited for the Victorian Christmas House Tour! Specific time is still TBD so please look out for our E-newsletter. Last year we kicked things off at 6:30pm.

**Recycling Dates:**

- November 11th and 25th
- December 9th and 23rd

**Street Sweeping-** ends November 30th

November 11th and 12th

**The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2025**

The nominating committee proudly submits the following confirmed nominations for vacant officer positions (along with current officers nominated to serve a second term) for publication in the November/December Allegheny West Gazette, presentation at the next AWCC executive committee meeting, and membership vote at the December AWCC general meeting.

**President:** Elizabeth Barbush**Vice-President:** Helen Harris**Treasurer:** Cathy Serventi (incumbent)**Recording Secretary:** Bob Griewahn (incumbent)**Communications Chair:** Sarah Cook**Sergeant-at-Arms:** Deb Kelly**Property Committee:** Aaron Bryan**Friends of Allegheny West/Green space Committee:** Trish Burton**Housing and Planning Committee:** Tom Cihil**Membership Committee:** Yulia Bhonsle

**Ways and Means Committee:** Carol Gomrick (incumbent)

\*Please make sure you have paid your membership dues by October 31st in order to be able to vote!

*Submitted by Adrian Skinner*

## AWCC November Calendar

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 12th** 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)

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)

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
- Duquesne Light's tree trimming on Galveston and W. North Avenues

### 9:00: New Business

### 9:15: Adjourn

\*Additions to the agenda can be made by emailing [president@alleghenywest.org](mailto: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, November 19th @7:30pm**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXIMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427

Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting - 806 Western Avenue - **Tuesday, November 26th @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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