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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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October 2024

## President's Message

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### The Coming of Fall: A Season of Change

As summer fades and the days begin to shorten, we find ourselves on the cusp of fall—a season rich with transformation. The air turns crisp, leaves shimmer in hues of amber and gold, and our region comes alive with the festivities of the fall season. This time of year invites us to celebrate nature's transformation and embrace the cozy comforts of autumn.

**Nature's Transition** Fall is marked by a stunning display of color as trees shed their green for vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows. This transformation is not just aesthetic; it signals a crucial time in nature's cycle. Animals prepare for winter, gathering food and finding shelter, while many plants enter a period of dormancy, conserving energy for the colder months ahead.

**Fall Celebrations** With the arrival of fall comes a plethora of festivals and traditions. Communities gather to celebrate harvests, with farmers' markets brimming with pumpkins, apples, and seasonal produce. Halloween festivities kick off a month filled with costumes, trick-or-treating, and haunted houses, while Thanksgiving invites us to reflect on gratitude and togetherness.

**Embracing the Change** The coming of fall often prompts introspection. As the year begins to wind down, many take this time to set new goals, reassess priorities, and embrace change. The season encourages us to slow down, savor warm drinks, and enjoy the company of family and friends.

**Preparing for the Future** As we transition into fall, it's also a time to prepare for the months ahead. Homeowners begin to winterize their properties, prepare our gardens for winter, and have our furnaces inspected. This season invites us to engage with our surroundings and ensure we are ready for the colder days to come.

**Seasonal Safety Tips** As the days grow shorter, it's also important to keep safety in mind:

- **Daylight Saving Time:** Remember to set your clocks back on November 5th. With shorter days, consider reflective gear during evening walks.
- **Fire Safety:** As we enjoy cozy fires and candles, please ensure that your smoke detectors are functioning and practice fire safety at home.

The arrival of fall is a reminder of nature's rhythm and the beauty of change. Whether it's enjoying a walk among the falling leaves, participating in local events, or simply cozying up with a good book, let this season inspire reflection and connection. Embrace the warmth of community and the stunning beauty that surrounds us as we welcome this transformative time of year.

*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

#### October's Bright Blue Weather

*O suns and skies and clouds of June,  
And flowers of June together,  
Ye cannot rival for one hour  
October's bright blue weather.*

*When loud the bumblebee makes haste,  
Belated, thriftless vagrant,  
And Golden-Rod is dying fast,  
And lanes with grapes are fragrant;*

*When Gentians roll their fringes tight  
To save them for the morning,  
And chestnuts fall from satin burrs  
Without a sound of warning;*

*When on the ground red apples lie  
In piles like jewels shining,  
And redder still on old stone walls  
Are leaves of woodbine twining;*

*When all the lovely wayside things  
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,  
And in the fields, still green and fair,  
Late aftermaths are growing;*

*When springs run low, and on the brooks,  
In idle golden freighting,  
Bright leaves sink noiseless in the hush  
Of woods, for winter waiting;*

*When comrades seek sweet country haunts,  
By two and two together,  
And count like misers, hour by hour,  
October's bright blue weather.*

*O suns and skies and flowers of June,  
Count all your boasts together,  
Love loveth best of all the year  
October's bright blue weather.*

- Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885)

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

## 2024 Victorian Christmas Tour

Presale tickets went on sale for our mailing list subscribers on Saturday, Sept 28th then sales to the general public on Oct. 1st. In less than five days we are halfway to a sellout! This is absolutely incredible and such a testament to how much people look forward to this event every year.

### Special Dates

Mailer "party" - **Monday, October 7 | 7pm** Calvary Church - Please join your neighbors to put labels on the tour mailers.

Tours - **Friday, 12/6 and Saturday, 12/7**

**Volunteer Opportunities** - The Christmas tour requires an incredible volunteer effort. The tour can't happen and won't be successful without your support. There are a lot of ways to get involved with the tour. Please consider leading one of the activities below and let me know if you're interested in volunteering your time.

If you have an interest in becoming more involved in the tour, see below for areas that can use your help. Below are just a few of the many volunteer opportunities:

**Volunteer Staffing** - Organize and manage the volunteer staffing of the tour (homes/runners).

**Cookie House** - Deliver cookies/cider/serviceware to the cookie house throughout the tour

**Volunteer Lunches** - Organize the prep and delivery of the homeowner lunches.

**Tour Program** - Secure ads, house write ups and assist proofing the final program and delivering programs to Calvary for the tour.

**Volunteer After Party** - THANK YOU to the Burton's for opening their home and hosting the after party!

**Docents** - Dan Sprumont will once again be at the helm of filling the docent slots to lead the tours. He has already sent a "Save the Date" to veteran docents. If you'd like to lead a tour, please reach out to Dan or me for more information or to sign up.

Dan.Sprumont@gmail.com

**Train Museum** - The train museum will be open this year. We need volunteers to staff the train rooms and assist at Holmes Hall. If you'd like to volunteer for this, Cecile Canales will be organizing the volunteers. Please contact Cecile at ccanales@icloud.com

**Other** - Not sure what you'd like to do but want to get more involved? Don't worry, there's plenty of volunteer opportunities. Just let me know what you'd like to try.

Please consider leading an effort above, or inquire about contributing in other ways. If you're thinking about putting your house on tour, but have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'd be happy to speak with you.

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

### Cocktail Corner

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

#### *Star Cocktail*

Stir the following in a mixing glass with Ice:

- 2 dashes gum syrup (see Notes)
- 3 dashes Peychaud's or Angostura bitters
- 1 oz. apple brandy
- 1 oz. red vermouth

Strain into a cocktail glass. Garnish with a lemon twist.

- *George J. Kappeler, Modern American Drinks (1895)*

#### **NOTES:**

- As always, drink responsibly.
- This cocktail may have been introduced at The Manhattan Club, the bar that is often credited with creating the Manhattan. There were a lot of cocktails introduced around that time with the same basic formula: some base spirit such as a whiskey or brandy, plus vermouth and bitters. So, I think it's hard to say who really created this.
- Show of hands: how many of you have gum syrup lying around the house? Yeah, me neither. It's not necessary as it only sweetens this drink, which is already sweet enough due to the red vermouth.
- For the apple brandy, you're best off using a brandy made with apples, rather than a grape brandy with apple flavoring. Calvados from France is easy to get, and you can buy Laird's, which is made in New Jersey. Laird's makes several kinds, and the cheapest is made by adding some apple brandy to neutral spirits. You're better off buying their more expensive offerings or choosing another apple brandy.
- Use whichever bitters you have. At the time this cocktail became popular, some bars used orange bitters instead. Peychaud's, Angostura, and orange bitters are readily available (the Mayfly Market has all three, I believe). Why not try experimenting and letting me know which you prefer?
- A later version of this cocktail calls for the addition of orange curacao. Just a dash, mind you. That would add sweetness to the drink.
- Still other versions added yellow (not green) Chartreuse liqueur and cherry brandy (such as Cherry Heering). I've never tried those. Do so and report back, please.
- The lemon twist is fine. You could also try a maraschino cherry, such as the Luxardo brand.

**The Oldest Object**

I heard a rumor that the ancient maple tree in the Calvary UMC parking lot was going to be cut down; it's all hollowed out, it's a danger. I've looked at that tree every day for the last 32 years. I'm sad.

I've always wondered how old it was, so I measured and identified it as a Red Maple that's approximately 216 years old. It started out in 1808, between The Whiskey Rebellion and The War of 1812. The church was built in 1895; let's say the house that abuts the tree is the same. When they were being built, it might have been in the way, but it was already 87 years old, and someone wanted to save it. 129 years later, it still stands. How long ago was the entire root structure paved over? I can hardly believe it's still here.

I encourage everyone in the neighborhood to stop and notice before it's gone. (Good luck to all the tree-huggers; you'll have to get at least three people involved to encircle it, and that might make a scene). Beyond the dirt, I think this is the oldest object in the neighborhood.

*Submitted by Carson Lane*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

**Parklet Clean-Up**

As the seasons transition, please consider joining the team that manages the neighborhood parklet, located at the corner of Western Avenue and Brighton Road. The parklet has served as a beautiful gateway to Allegheny West, and credit for this year's maintenance goes to Gabe Hopkins and James Worry (pictured). From watering and weeding, James and Gabe have been key to ensuring a colorful display of annuals and perennials. It was a hot summer, so please be sure to thank these gentlemen for their generous support and hard work!

If you have a few hours to offer for this year's parklet clean-up, please contact Dr. Worry at [worryj@gmail.com](mailto:worryj@gmail.com). Our clean up day will be **Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10am to Noon**. No green thumb is necessary! The parklet team will need help pulling, trimming, and bagging plants. Tools will be provided.

*Submitted by Deb Lantz*



**WHAT: Neighborhood Wine Tasting with Refucilo Winery**

**WHEN: Wednesday, October 16th starting at 6pm**

**WHERE: 907 Western Ave**

Hello Neighbors! We're excited to invite you to a special evening to experience new wines at Refucilo Winery. Expert Sommelier, Luis Rios, will guide you through a tasting of 9 wines and tapas from the upcoming menu. This evening will be unforgettable, sharing and building connections. Limited seats! (412) 251-0231.

**Tree Memorial at Allegheny Commons Park**

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: GalleryH - Ghoulies Ghosts and Goblins!**

**WHEN: October 1st through November 30th - Open Reception Wednesday October 30th from 5-7pm**

**WHERE: 909 Western Avenue**

karlhuberillustration and galleryh in partnership with Refucilo wine are proud to present Ghoulies Ghosts and Goblins! Pen&Ink illustrations of owner/artist Karl Huber (just in time for Halloween). The show will run from Oct.1 thru Nov.30, 2024. New works will be added in November. Opening reception is Wednesday Oct.30 from 5-7 PM, at 909 Western Ave, Pittsburgh. Please join us in your finest Halloween attire and meet at Refucilo Winery afterwards for some libations! Hope to see you there

**WHAT: East Allegheny Community Council - A Children's Harvest Festival Pumpkinfest**

**WHEN: Saturday, October 12th from 1-5 pm**

**WHERE: East Ohio Street and Cedar Avenue**

Join us for the 30th annual harvest day celebration in East Park! Select your own pumpkin to decorate for the Jack-O-Lantern contest. Pony rides, hay rides, petting zoo, pumpkin games, live entertainment, amusement rides, plus much more will add to your family fun. \$5 donation per child and free adult admission. For More Information Call 412-321-1204.

[www.deutschtown.org/pumpkinfest](http://www.deutschtown.org/pumpkinfest)



**Recycling Dates:**

- October 14th and 28th
- November 11th and 25th

**Street Sweeping -** Every 2nd Monday & Tuesday of the Month

- October 8th and 14th
- November 11th and 12th

## AWCC October Calendar

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 8th** 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

- Registered Community Organization

- 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=RHdIZG5OUUhXTmtkMElzbjZEWi8rUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 9768 4488

Passcode: 336200

### Upcoming Meeting Reminders:

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

**Tuesday, October 15th @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, October 29th @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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