
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

January 2025

President's Message

Happy New Year, Allegheny West!

I'm excited to kick off 2025 as the new president of the Allegheny West Civic Council! It's an honor to serve this vibrant community, and I'm eager to work alongside our incredible members who are so dedicated to making our neighborhood an even better place to live.

First, a heartfelt thank you to Tim Zinn, who provided exceptional leadership over the past two years. His commitment has set a strong foundation for this council, and I'm truly grateful for his guidance. While I know I've got big shoes to fill, I look forward to learning from you all, and working closely with the rest of the council as we continue to grow and improve our neighborhood.

This year, we also welcome several new faces to the board:

- Helen (Vice President)
- Sarah (Communications)
- Tom (Housing and Planning)
- Yulia (Membership)
- Deb (Sergeant at Arms)

If you haven't had the chance to meet us yet, we'd love to get to know you! Please join us at our next general membership meeting (details on the last page of the Gazette!) to say hello and share your thoughts on how we can make Allegheny West even better.

Strike Up Some Fun at Our Weekly Bowling Night!

With winter settling in, I know many of us are feeling the cold and just want to hibernate. But here's a great reason to get out of the house: our weekly neighborhood bowling night! Every Wednesday night from now until about April, we gather at the Elks Lodge on 400 Cedar Avenue for some fun, friendly competition. It's a fantastic way to unwind, meet neighbors, and enjoy a good time together. Whether you're an expert bowler or just want to try something new, come join us!

But if bowling isn't your thing - no worries! Our new Membership Chair, Yulia, is already planning a local business mixer for February. Stay tuned for more details in our next Gazette!

As we move forward into this exciting new year, my goal as president is to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities ahead, all while continuing the important work of making Allegheny West a place where everyone feels valued, connected, and empowered. Let's work together to strengthen our community and make our neighborhood the best it can be.

I encourage each of you to stay involved, share your ideas, and make your voice heard. The success of the Civic Council is only possible because of your participation, and together, we can create lasting change and make Allegheny West an even better place to call home.

Please feel free to email me at president@alleghenywest.org.

Elizabeth Barbush, President

Join the Allegheny West Civic Council or Renew your Membership

For new and returning members alike, now is a good time to pay your AWCC membership dues - and tick one item off of your 2025 goals list! Annual memberships are \$5 per person and lifetime memberships \$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/>

Or scan the QR code to the right, using your phone's camera.

(Renewing members do not have to complete the entire membership questionnaire on the site.)

You can also pay by cash, check or PayPal/Venmo during the Membership meetings, or drop off cash/checks at 851 Beech Ave. Don't forget to include your name, address and phone number if you're paying cash.

If you're unsure whether you're current, please email Cathy Serventi at treasurer@alleghenywest.org to check the status of your membership. We're happy to have you join us.



Cocktail Corner (or, Mocktail Mourner)*Submitted by Bob Griewahn***Shirley Temple**

Build in a tall glass with ice:

*1 oz grenadine

*8 oz ginger ale or a lemon-lime soda, such as 7-Up or Sprite

Garnish with a cherry.

Notes

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Rose's Grenadine is readily available at PLCB stores as well as markets. You can buy superior pomegranate syrups online, though.
- Ginger ale is, apparently, more commonly used in the Northeast U.S., while other states go with the lemon-lime soda.
- This cocktail originated in the 1930s but was not formulated by Shirley Temple Black.
- I was a big fan of this drink when I was five years old. I no longer am.
- If you find it too sweet, try cutting it with seltzer or club soda.

Other Resources:

Mocktails are fairly common nowadays, and an industry of nonalcoholic "spirits" has arisen. I've tried several, and some of them aren't too bad. You can find different brands at better markets, including the Mayfly Market on Arch Street.

For those not celebrating Dryuary:

Dirty Shirley

Build in a tall glass with ice:

*2 oz vodka

*1 oz grenadine

*8 oz lemon-lime soda, such as 7-Up or Sprite (ginger ale is not used as often, but feel free to try it)

Garnish with a cherry.

Ways and Means Committee Report: 2024 Victorian Christmas Tour + Upcoming Events

Happy New Year! We made it through another tour and festive season with great aplomb. Reflecting on this past Christmas tour there were many reasons to be grateful. For one, as small of a neighborhood as Allegheny West is, I'm amazed every year that we somehow find new properties to be on tour. This year we had two new properties! Kara Bailey on Western and Chad Crissman and Anthony Angello on W. North. Thank you for taking the plunge and taking on the Christmas tour. It's no small feat and your homes were just wonderful. When you get a minute, please thank all homeowners, including those owners returning to the tour: Kimberly Moore, Elaine Stone and Mitchell Schwartz, CCAC Byer-Lyons property, Hal Dixler and Nick Duerlinger and of course Mark Moore for continuing the tradition of opening the Train Museum and all of Holmes Hall. It was an eclectic mix of properties which really delighted the tour-goers.

A special appreciation message for Hal and Nick. Their property on North Lincoln has been a recurring property on the Christmas tour for almost as long as anyone can remember. Taking months to decorate, it has been a "Christmas wonderland" for all who visited. The 2024 Christmas tour was Hal and Nick's last. Allegheny West is incredibly grateful for the many years of their participation and contribution to keeping the Christmas tour successful year over year. Please extend a big "Thank You" the next time you see them. Hal and Nick, your Christmas wonderland will be missed!

2025 Tour and Tasting

Mark your calendars, the 2025 Tour and Tasting (wine tour) is *scheduled for Friday, June 27th and Saturday, June 28th*. If you have any interest in opening your home for the tour, please let me know.

Tour Archives

Soon, I'll be asking anyone with pictures from any tour, any year to please upload the pictures to a shared folder. It will be a wonderful addition to our archives. More information and instructions on how to upload will be forthcoming.

Stay warm, Allegheny West!

With great gratitude, Carol Gomrick | Ways and Means Chair

The Letter

From the very first coming down
 Into a new valley with a frown
 Because of the sun and a lost way.
 You certainly remain: to-day
 I, crouching behind a sheep-pen, heard
 Travel across a sudden bird,
 Cry out against the storm, and found
 The year's arc a completed round
 And love's worn circuit re-begun,
 Endless with no dissenting turn.
 Shall see, shall pass, as we have seen
 The swallow on the tile, spring's green
 Preliminary shiver, passed

A solitary truck, the last
 Of shunting in the Autumn. But now,
 To interrupt the homely brow,
 Thought warmed to evening through and through,
 Your letter comes, speaking as you,
 Speaking of much, but not to come.

Nor speech is close nor fingers numb,
 If love not seldom has received
 An unjust answer, was deceived.
 I, decent with the seasons, move
 Different or with a different love,
 Nor question much the nod,
 The stone smile of this country god
 That never was more reticent,
 Always afraid to say more than it meant.

- W.H. Auden (1928) *Submitted by Bob Griewahn*

**Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID) Project Update:
 Electric Service Connections**

With two property owners in McIntosh Row refusing to permit new electrical service connections from the rear (at no cost to the property owners), the committee explored various alternatives including trenching in front of McIntosh Row (at additional cost), and leaving poles in front of McIntosh Row, but permitting removal of the poles on the remainder of Western. A meeting is being scheduled with the McIntosh Row property owners to review these options to see if there is anything that will be agreeable to all. Any option is still subject to review and approval by Duquesne Light.

Submitted by Mark Fatla

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Please use the city's **3-1-1** service to report any non-emergency City of Pittsburgh concerns: You can access the service online at <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Resident-Services/311/Online-Request-Form> or search the "MyBurgh" app in your phone's App store; you can also dial 3-1-1 or 412-255-2621.

WHAT: Allegheny West Alley Cats Bowling Night at the Elks

WHEN: Every Wednesday night, 7-ish p.m.

WHERE: Elk Lodge No. 339 - 400 Cedar Avenue, 2nd floor

Contact Tim Zinn at tzinn106@msn.com with questions...

and be sure to attend this winter so you can place an order for an Alley Cats Bowling Shirt!

Norfolk Southern Final Design Project

The final design presentation for Norfolk Southern's *Pittsburgh Vertical Clearance Projects* can be viewed at <https://www.norfolksouthern.com/en/commitments/in-your-community/other-resources/pittsburgh-bridge-projects>.

Two projects directly impact Allegheny West: the *West North Avenue Bridge* and the *Allegheny Commons Pedestrian Bridge*. Both are detailed in the presentation.

->If you have AWCC-related events to submit to the Gazette, please email: gazette@alleghenywest.org

->For events for the weekly e-newsletter, please email: communications@alleghenywest.org

Recycling Dates: January 6th and 20th

Street Sweeping has ended for the season & will resume in April!

AWCC January 2025 Calendar

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 14th 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

7:35: Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors

7:40: 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)

8:10: Guests and Presentations

8:30: Officer and Committee Reports

- Minutes of Last Meeting (Bob Griewahn, Secretary)
- Treasurer's Report (Cathy Serventi, Treasurer)
- Communications Committee (Sarah Cook)
- Friends of Allegheny West (Trish Burton)
- Housing and Planning Committee (Tom Cihil)
- Membership Committee (Yulia Bhonsle)
 - Elks Bowling, Wednesdays 7-9pm
 - Upcoming Mixer
- Property Committee (Aaron Bryan)
 - 806 Western Avenue
- Ways and Means Committee (Carol Gomrick)
- Executive Committee Actions (Elizabeth Barbush)
 - Master Plan Update
- North Side Leadership Conference update (Ann Gilligan, Bob Griewahn)

9:00: Unfinished Business

9:15: New Business

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 Meetings occur on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 730pm, on Zoom only:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXIMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>
 Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427 Passcode: 045565
- AWCC Executive Committee Meeting take place on the 1st Tuesday of the Month at 730pm, at 806 Western Avenue

The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Sarah Cook

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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