
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

March 2025

President's Message: Marching into Spring

Dear Neighbors:

As we march into March, the days are getting longer, and the promise of spring is on the horizon. If March had a color, it would undoubtedly be green—symbolizing new growth and renewal. Of course, St. Patrick's Day on March 17 is the greenest of all days, closely followed by the first official day of spring on March 20. Fish Fry season is also officially upon us! Starting March 7 every Friday until Easter, it's truly a unique Pittsburgh tradition that I look forward to every year. There's something special about this iconic tradition that brings communities together while supporting local businesses and churches.

We also have a busy March for AWCC. At our upcoming General Membership meeting, we will have Nathan Hart present his plans for the development of the "H&P lot" at the corner of Brighton Rd and W North Ave. I encourage all members to attend and learn more about the plans for this key site.

AWCC is also moving forward with our Registered Community Organization (RCO) application with the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning (DCP). Benefits of becoming an RCO include: formal recognition as stakeholders in our specific geographic area; enhanced notification and communication regarding development projects in the area; and training and support from DCP. However, there are two important policies that need to be adopted by AWCC membership before we can finalize our application: the Policy Against Discrimination and the Conflict of Interest Policy. We will be reviewing the drafts of these policies at the upcoming meeting and will vote on their adoption.

Here is the Policy Against Discrimination Statement:

The Allegheny West Civic Council is committed to embracing diversity in all its forms as a core value. We are a multicultural organization dedicated to providing culturally competent community services and programs. We are dedicated to promoting an environment of respect and appreciation for the race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, age, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, physical/mental ability, and socioeconomic status of all. We aim to provide a safe, welcoming, and affirming environment for everyone.

The Conflict of Interest Policy is longer, but in summary, is designed to foster public confidence in the integrity of Allegheny West Civic Council and to protect AWCC's interest when it is contemplating entering a transaction that might benefit the private interest of an Officer or Committee Chair.

Generally, no Executive Committee member, or any member of his/her family should:

- accept any gift, entertainment, service, loan, or promise of future benefits from any persons who either personally or whose employees might benefit or appear to benefit from such board of committee member's connection with AWCC;
- perform, for personal gain, services to any AWCC supplier of goods or services, as employee, consultant, or in any other capacity which promises compensation of any kind should have any beneficial interest in, or substantial obligation to, any AWCC supplier of goods or services or any other organization that is engaged in doing business with or serving AWCC unless the facts of such transactions or contracts are disclosed in good faith and the Executive Committee authorizes such a transaction.

We will discuss and vote on these policies at our next General Membership meeting on March 11. Your participation and input are valuable as we work to complete our RCO application, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you for your continued involvement, and I hope you enjoy the start of a beautiful spring season –

Elizabeth Barbush
President, Allegheny West Civic Council

Cocktail Corner

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

Old Fashioned Whiskey Cocktail*George J. Kappeler, Modern American Drinks, 1895*

- ❖ Combine in a whiskey glass:
 - 1 lump of sugar
 - 1 splash of water
- ❖ Muddle to dissolve
- ❖ Add:
 - 2 dashes Angostura bitters
 - 1 large lump of ice
 - 1 lemon twist
 - 2 oz of bourbon or straight rye
- ❖ Stir
- ❖ Serve with a spoon

Notes

- As always, drink responsibly.
- This drink will be somewhat controversial, because most imbibers think they know how to make a “real Old Fashioned.” The drink has evolved over the years, but this 1895 version is pretty close to how I think it should be prepared. You often will see bartenders muddling all sorts of fruit, especially cherries, pineapple, and orange slices, in this drink. This may result in a flavorful drink, but it is not, to my mind, an Old Fashioned. You’re going to do what you’re going to do, though, despite my advice. I know you.
- I add the bitters to the sugar cube prior to the splash of water. This helps the sugar dissolve quicker, thereby leading to quicker dissolution.
- As for the sugar, I use Demerara sugar cubes. Sugar cubes are easier to use than simple syrup, because they’re pre-measured.
- For “splash” of water, read bar spoonful (not tea spoonful).
- You do not need to leave a spoon in the glass. You might poke yourself in the eye while drinking, which is to be avoided.

Announcements and Notices

New Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Nuisance and Disruptive Properties: Calling all concerned and interested neighbors! The AWCC Housing and Planning Committee is forming a new ad hoc subcommittee focusing on nuisance & disruptive properties within the neighborhood. Think excessive noise, trash and litter, health and safety violations, neglected property, and other issues. Many of you know such instances that affect you. Here is your chance to have your voice heard and do something about it with the help of the neighborhood. Send a message with your interest and concerns to housing-planning@alleghenywest.org. Help make Allegheny West the best neighborhood it can be.

Optimism vs Pessimism, submitted by Carson Lane:

I'm not sure how everyone's feeling right now or how everyone feels at baseline. I thought it would be a good exercise to have neighbors consider their favorite quotes about optimism and pessimism; this is certainly not a scientific endeavor but I'm curious about how it'll turn out. Please tell the Gazette editor if you want attribution for quotes you submit; I'll start with two: "The man who is a pessimist before 48 knows too much; if he is an optimist after it, he knows too little," Mark Twain; "An optimist will tell you the glass is half-full; the pessimist, half-empty; and the engineer will tell you the glass is twice the size it needs to be," Oscar Wilde.

Wine + Garden Tour: The 2025 Allegheny West Wine and Garden tour will be held June 27th and 28th. Tickets sales begin March 31st on the AWCC website. There are many opportunities to help; please contact Dan Sprumont at dan.sprumont@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer.

Dover Beach

The sea is calm tonight.
 The tide is full, the moon lies fair
 Upon the straits; on the French coast the light
 Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand,
 Glimmering and vast, out in the tranquil bay.
 Come to the window, sweet is the night-air!
 Only, from the long line of spray
 Where the sea meets the moon-blanch'd land,
 Listen! you hear the grating roar
 Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling,
 At their return, up the high strand,
 Begin, and cease, and then again begin,
 With tremulous cadence slow, and bring
 The eternal note of sadness in.

Sophocles long ago
 Heard it on the Ægean, and it brought
 Into his mind the turbid ebb and flow
 Of human misery; we
 Find also in the sound a thought,
 Hearing it by this distant northern sea.

The Sea of Faith
 Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
 Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.
 But now I only hear
 Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,
 Retreating, to the breath
 Of the night-wind, down the vast edges drear
 And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true
 To one another! for the world, which seems
 To lie before us like a land of dreams,
 So various, so beautiful, so new,
 Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
 Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;
 And we are here as on a darkling plain
 Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
 Where ignorant armies clash by night.

Matthew Arnold, 1822-1888

EVENTS

galleryh show

Hello Friends and Neighbors. We wanted to let you all know that we will be having a grand Spring opening in April. In the meantime, please come by 909 Western Ave. Wednesday March 12 from 5-7 for a bit of fresh air and some more art. One night only, so stop in and take a look. Cheers!

Date: Wednesday, March 12
 Time: 5pm to 7pm
 Location: galleryh, 900 Western Ave

Allegheny West Membership Mixer

Come meet and mingle at the AWCC-sponsored Membership Mixer. AWCC will provide the pizza and drinks, including beer and wine. Please come and say hello to neighbors you know and meet new friends!

Date: Thursday, March 20
 Time: 530pm to 730pm
 Location: Giorgio's Place, 908 Western Ave

2026 NFL Draft Source Procurement Program Informational Session

The 2026 NFL Draft Source Procurement Program is just one way the 2026 NFL Draft will have a positive economic impact on our city and region. This program is a fantastic opportunity for Pittsburgh-area businesses, especially diverse and event-ready companies, to play an integral role in this historic event.

Date: Friday, March 21, 2025
 Time: 9:00 am Registration and Networking | 9:30 am Presentation
 Location: Acrisure Stadium, UPMC East Club

Sessions are free to attend, but registration is required by Wednesday, March 19 at Noon. Register at: https://steelers.formstack.com/forms/nfl_source_info_session_2025_0321. For questions or more information, please contact at NFLDraftSource26@alwaysbusyconsulting.com.

Recycling Dates: March 3rd, March 17th, 31st **Street Sweeping** will resume in April - check your street's signs!

AWCC March Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday March 11th** at **7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church. Use the Beech Avenue Rear Entrance, or attend on Zoom (info below).

Please arrive a few minutes early to review February's meeting minutes before the meeting begins.

7:30: Call to Order; 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)

8:10 Guests and Presentations

- Nathan Hart/John Costello – Hart Architects

8:30: Officer and Committee Reports

- February Meeting Minutes (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, Elizabeth Barbush)
- Membership Committee (Yulia Bhonsle)
- Property Committee (Aaron Bryan)
- Ways and Means Committee (Carol Gomrick)
- Executive Committee Actions (Elizabeth Barbush)

9:00: Unfinished Business

- Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID)—project updates
- Streetlight repair on Beech Avenue
- Tree trimming on Galveston and W. North Avenues

9:15: New Business

9:30: Adjourn

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

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969724081?pwd=dGFWNTRaalpJZThHNjBWQmswenNYQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081 Passcode: 979088

Upcoming Meeting Reminders:

- Housing and Planning Committee Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7:30pm, on Zoom
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>
Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427; Passcode: 045565
- AWCC Executive Committee Meeting: Last Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, in person at 806 Western Ave

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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