
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

May 2025

President's Message

Happy May! Happy Mother's Day to all moms and all mother figures!

May is one of my favorite months in Pittsburgh. The city becomes vibrant and colorful as everything blooms, thanks to the frequent rain showers. The thunderstorms that left us without power for days were less welcome, though! Despite the weather's ups and downs, there's a lot to celebrate this month.

First is the freshly cleaned Lake Elizabeth, a testament to the hard work of Erin Tobin and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. On Arbor Day last month, Allegheny Commons was designated as an official arboretum; portions of the City of Pittsburgh's press release are reproduced below, and the event was recognized by an official proclamation by the City Council, sponsored by Councilman Bobby Wilson. The Conservancy's dedication to maintaining our beloved park is truly appreciated and part of what makes Allegheny West so special.

An exciting event coming up this month is the return of our local Farmer's Market. Starting May 16th and running through November 21st, you can find the market in Allegheny Commons Park (East Ohio at Cedar) every Friday from 3-7pm. It's the perfect place to pick up fresh produce, artisanal goods, and enjoy the community atmosphere.

May is also Historic Preservation Month, a significant time for the Allegheny West Civic Council. As an organization dedicated to preserving our historic neighborhood, this month is an opportunity to honor and acknowledge the efforts of our community. We celebrate the rich history of Pittsburgh and the ongoing work to preserve its unique character.

To cap off the month, we will celebrate Memorial Day on May 26th. This day is dedicated to honoring and remembering those who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. Allegheny West will hold its annual Memorial Day Picnic, which is our first block party of the year. Please join us on the 800 block of Beech Avenue starting at 4pm for an afternoon of fun, food, and community spirit. Let's hope for fair weather! I look forward to seeing you there!

Elizabeth Barbush
President, Allegheny West Civic Council

City of Pittsburgh Celebrates Arbor Day with New Arboretum Designation at Allegheny Commons Park

As the City of Pittsburgh marks its 20th consecutive year as a Tree City USA, the Department of Public Works is proud to announce that Allegheny Commons Park has been formally accredited as a Level I Arboretum by ArbNet, a global network that supports the work of arboreta through professional standards and accreditation.

This prestigious designation recognizes Allegheny Commons Park for its growing collection of tree species, community engagement, and commitment to education, stewardship, and long-term planning. ...

"This milestone is about more than just trees—it's about the health of our neighborhoods, the beauty of our parks, and the strength of our commitment to sustainability," said Mayor Ed Gainey. "Being a Tree City USA for 20 years shows how deeply Pittsburgh values its green spaces, and the ArbNet recognition at Allegheny Commons proves that we are continuing to lead with purpose, partnership, and pride." ...

To achieve Level I accreditation through ArbNet, Allegheny Commons Park met the following criteria:

- A collection of at least 25 species of trees or woody plants
- A documented arboretum plan and established planting and maintenance standards
- A dedicated group of staff or volunteers to manage the collection
- Ongoing community education and engagement efforts.

To read the city's full press release, visit

<https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/News-articles/Homepage/CITY-OF-PITTSBURGH-CELEBRATES-ARBOR-DAY-WITH-NEW-ARBORETUM-DESIGNATION-AT-ALLEGHENY-COMMONS-PARK>

Cocktail Corner

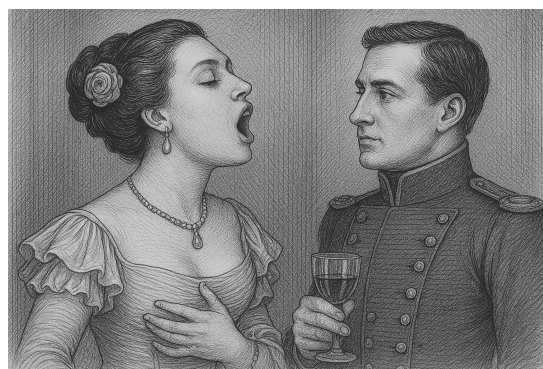
Submitted by Bob Griewahn

Opera Cocktail

- Stir with ice:
 - 2.0 oz dry gin
 - 0.5 oz Dubonnet (see Notes)
 - 0.5 oz maraschino liqueur
 - 1 dash orange bitters
- Strain into a cocktail glass

Notes

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Those who read last month's Cocktail Corner rushed out to buy a bottle of Dubonnet, if they didn't have one already. Dubonnet, like vermouth, is a fortified wine with added spices. What makes it different is that it contains some quinine (like tonic water). Like vermouth, Dubonnet comes in both sweet (red) and dry (yellowish) versions. You'll want to use the sweet Dubonnet Rouge in this drink.
- For gin, use a dry London gin, not a sweeter Plymouth or Old Tom gin.
- There were several versions of this drink published in bar guides over the years, mostly varying by the proportions. An early recipe calls for a 1:1 proportion of gin to Dubonnet. Another specifies 2:1. I think this is too sweet, which is why I use the 4:1 ratio above. Personal tastes vary, though, and you may find that the half ounce of Dubonnet, plus the maraschino liqueur, do not provide the level of sweetness you like. Change things up on your next iteration. Personally, I would use 2 dashes of the orange bitters. I'm that kind of guy.
- The Opera is an excellent drink to serve at your next cocktail party. I served it at my last party to my friends Falstaff, Carmen, Figaro, Madame Butterfly, and Boris Gudonov. They all loved it. Oh, and serve the drink in a cocktail glass, not a magic flute.



A Tour & Tasting in Old Allegheny (aka the Wine & Garden Tour) returns Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28th. AWCC is collecting donations to include in the very popular raffle baskets: bottles of wine, gift cards, gift certificates, or tour themed items are welcome. Please contact Carol Gomrick with any questions or donations at carolgomrick@gmail.com. Additional opportunities to volunteer and other ways to help will be featured in next month's Gazette.

The Moving Finger writes: and, having writ,
 Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit
 Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
 Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam,
 Quatrain 51
 tr. Robert Fitzgerald, 1859



Illustration of Quatrain 51 by EJ Sullivan, 1913

A Message from Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Dear Friends,

Happy Preservation Month!

In May, we celebrate historic preservation because of its ability to improve the quality of the lives of people through saving buildings and places that are not only an important part of our cultural heritage, but can be the basis of helping renew communities for the future.

But even as we celebrate this National Preservation Month, our organization is concerned about the ongoing dismantling of federal historic preservation programs, and other support services that are vital to our socio-cultural life.

We have seen this in the decimation of funding for community development incentives, institutions of higher learning, libraries, museums, national parks, and public broadcasting. The loss of funding for these programs collectively affects all of us, including the preservation community.

Here in Pittsburgh, we have seen partner organizations including the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Carnegie Library of Homestead, and the Society to Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka at St. Nicholas Church in Millvale— to name but a few— targeted for loss of critical funding that was dedicated to substantive historic preservation work.

Over the years, our organization has been intimately involved not only with these three organizations but many others caught up in this hollowing out of the capacity of non-profit organizations dedicated to improving the lives of people.

Our organization opposes these measures and we will continue to seek partnerships with other organizations, donors, members and friends, who, like us, believe that renewing communities and building pride is an important part of saving our city and region's distinctive built environment— both because of its history and adaptation for use in the future.

Find out more at phlf.org

Announcements and Notices

In Memoriam Longtime Allegheny West resident Erik VanBuren, 46, passed away on May 3 2025. Erik lived a life marked by curiosity, compassion, and a vibrant spirit that touched all who knew him. A Certified Addictions Registered Nurse (CARN), Erik's professional journey was defined by empathy and intelligence—qualities that made him not only a skilled nurse but also a trusted presence for those in need. Outside of his career, Erik cultivated a rich array of interests that reflected his inquisitive nature and joyful personality. He found peace and satisfaction in gardening—both indoors and out—nurturing life with the same attentiveness he gave to those around him. Erik and his husband, Drew Gorenz, opened their home on Beech Avenue for AWCC's Garden + Wine Tour and the Christmas Tour. Those who knew Erik will remember him as intelligent and loving—someone whose spirit could brighten even the darkest day and whose empathy left an indelible mark on countless lives. Erik's final act of kindness was to give the gift of life through organ donation. May his memory bring comfort to all who mourn his passing.

Memorial Day Picnic Kick off the summer season with your Allegheny West neighbors at the AWCC Memorial Day Picnic, as we honor members of the military who fought and died in service, and celebrate community. Held on the 800 Block of Beech Avenue on Memorial Day Monday, May 26th, from 4 to 8pm. AWCC will provide burgers, hot dogs, and drinks; please bring a side dish or a dessert to share with neighbors.

Farmers Market The Northside Farmers market opens for the season on Friday May 16th and is open every Friday from 3 to 7pm through November 21, 2025 (Closed on July 4th). Allegheny Commons Park, East Ohio St. & Cedar Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Recycling will be picked up on Monday May 12th and 26th

Street Sweeping takes place on the 2nd Monday and Tuesday of each month- check your street's signs! NB: this year, the city will mail violation tickets rather than leaving them on the windshield.

AWCC May 2025 Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council Membership Meeting will be held on **Tuesday May 13th** 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 the April minutes before the meeting begins.

- 7:30: Call to Order
- 7:35: Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors
- 7:40: Reports of Elected Officials, City Departments, Organizations
 - 7:45: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Burford/Commander Malloy)
 - 7:50: City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey's Office (Lindsey Aquino-Robles)
 - 7:55: State Representative Aerion Abney's Office (Tom Harnett)
 - 8:00: Department of City Planning (Nazia Tarannum)
 - 8:05: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)
 - 8:10: Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office (Bobby Wilson/Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)
- 8:15: Guests and Presentations
 - Magisterial Judge Jehosha Wright
- 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)
 - Property Committee (Aaron Bryan)
 - Ways and Means Committee (Carol Gomrick)
 - Executive Committee Actions (Elizabeth Barbush)
- 8:50: Unfinished Business
 - Western Avenue Neighborhood Improvement District (WANID)—project updates
 - Streetlight repair on Beech Avenue
 - Tree trimming on Galveston and W. North Avenues
- 8:55: New Business
- 9:05: 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 AWCC Meetings:

- **Housing and Planning Committee Meeting:**
 Tuesday May 20th at 730pm, in person at 806 Western Ave or on Zoom
 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>
 Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427; Passcode: 045565
- **Executive Committee Meeting:**
 Tuesday May 27th at 700pm, 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.



A publication of the Allegheny West Civic Council 806 Western Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 15233 www.alleghenywest.org ~ info@alleghenywest.org ~ (412) 323 - 8884