
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

July 2025

President's Message

Greetings, Neighbors!

I hope everyone has been enjoying summer fun in Allegheny West!

As a quick reminder, there will be no General Membership meetings in July or August. We'll resume our regular schedule in September. Even though we're on a summer recess, the spirit of community is alive and well—thanks to the tireless efforts of our committee chairs, volunteers, and neighbors who continue to work behind the scenes to keep Allegheny West thriving.

About that community spirit: We celebrated Independence Day with a fantastic neighborhood picnic! A huge thank you to Yulia for organizing such a fun and festive event. Check out more details and photos in the newsletter. And cheers to Carol, our fearless Ways and Means Chair, for leading another successful Allegheny West Summer Wine Tour. This beloved fundraiser wouldn't be possible without the dedication of our amazing volunteer; your time and energy are what make events like this so special. Read Carol's note on page five of the Gazette.

I also have two special announcements for this month's newsletter.

First: RCO Status Achieved. We're proud to announce that Allegheny West has officially been recognized as a Registered Community Organization (RCO) by the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning (DCP). This designation identifies AWCC as a key stakeholder in our geographic area and ensures we will be included in important conversations about development in our neighborhood. We've completed the onboarding process and look forward to working with the DCP and our neighbors to help shape the future of Allegheny West.

Second: Historic Recognition. In nearby news, the Allegheny Second Ward has been designated an Industrial Historic District by the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. This area—between Pennsylvania and North Avenue, and between Allegheny Avenue and Brighton Road—is now officially recognized for its historical significance.

Even if we're not officially meeting this month, there are plenty of ways to come together. I hope to see you at the ceremony honoring Gus and Yiayia on the 23rd, and I'll be out at the Northside Music Festival July 18-20. Details of both are in the Announcements section.

Thank you all for your continued support, energy, and commitment to Allegheny West. Wishing you a joyful and safe rest of the summer—I look forward to seeing everyone again in September!

Warmly,

Elizabeth Barbush

President, Allegheny West Civic Council

Cocktail Corner

Whiskey Ginger

Here's a very refreshing summer drink that's quick and easy to make: Add ice to a glass (Collins does well for this). Add one part whiskey (Irish, bourbon, rye; your choice), and three parts ginger beer. Garnish it with mint if you want to be fancy. Ginger ale works fine in place of ginger beer, too. Enjoy responsibly. *Submitted by Bob Griewahn*

AWCC July Calendar

- **AWCC General Membership Meeting**
 - Summer Recess! No meetings until September.
 - **Housing & Planning Committee**
 - These meetings will now be held on the 1st Tuesday of the Month.
 - Tuesday, August 5th at 7:30 PM
 - 806 Western Avenue & also on Zoom
 - Zoom info:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZOV0JaT1MxUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427
 - Passcode: 045565
 - **AWCC Executive Committee**
 - Tuesday, July 29th at 7:00 PM
 - 806 Western Avenue
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Announcements and Notices

- **Gus and YiaYia's Celebration** Council Member Wilson's office is hosting an honorary street naming ceremony to recognize Gus and Yiayia, beloved for their orange food cart on West Ohio Street. The event will take place on Thursday, July 24 at 10:00 AM at the corner of West Ohio Street and Brighton Road. Please attend!
- **Farmers Market** The Northside Farmers market is open every Friday from 3 to 7pm through November 21, in Allegheny Commons Park, at East Ohio St. & Cedar Avenue. New this year: There is a Beer Garden open on the last Friday of each month, with local brewers and live music.
- **The Northside Music Festival** returns July 18–20 in Deutschtown—just across the park. It's a free, family-friendly celebration of music, food, and community. For details, visit www.northsidemusicfestival.com.
- **Recycling** will be picked up on Monday July 7th and 21st.
- **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.
- Did you know that the **Allegheny West Email List** is a moderated listserv? To share important announcements or upcoming events of interest to the neighborhood, send an email to awcc-announce@lists.alleghenywest.org; moderators will review the message, and if approved, it'll be sent to over 150 neighbors. Not on the list yet? You can subscribe here: <http://lists.alleghenywest.org/listinfo.cgi/awcc-announce-alleghenywest.org>
- **Correction:** The notes accompanying last month's Gazette poem, June Fourth by Gerald Stern, misspelled the name of Allderdice High School, which the poet attended.

4th of July Rib Contest Gets Saucy *Submitted by Adrian Skinner*

Ribs can be a labor of love, but the results are worth it!

No one knows this better than contestants entering the annual 4th of July rib contest. Entries this year included a diverse selection of recipes, from tried-and-true dry brined rubs finished under smoke to saucy Asian-inspired racks. Sometimes the smoke gets in your eyes, but these ribs were enough to make a grown man cry. This year's contestants spared no effort!

Contestants:

- Tom Barbush
- Aaron Bryan
- Tom Cihil
- Scott Mosser
- Adrian Skinner
- Robin Zoufalik

There can be only one ... rib contest winner. The first-place trophy (and bragging rights) for the 2025 Best Ribs award goes to first time entrant Tom Cihil!



Tom created tantalizingly sweet and savory sauced racks using Chinese five spice powder, hoisin sauce, sesame seeds, and a whole lotta time and love. Congratulations to Tom and thank you to everyone who prepared baby back ribs, whipped up side dishes and desserts, and donated their time and effort into making another great 4th of July picnic in Allegheny West!





Recap: A Tour and Tasting in Old Allegheny

2025 Tour and Tasting is in the rearview mirror. It's hard to believe the tour has come and gone so quickly. Mother Nature tried but failed to dampen the fun and in retrospect, the rain was greatly appreciated, taking away some of the oppressive heat. A big "thank you" to the homeowners who really braved the heat and humidity prepping their homes and gardens. By the comments I received, this year was exceptional! Well done:

- Mark Moore
- Doug Debelak and Deb Kelly
- Joe Froetschel
- John and Trish Burton
- Paul Eley and Art Garza
- Rev Beth Nelson
- Fr Don Youse & volunteers at Emmanuel Episcopal
- Aaron Bryan and Sandy Allen (after party hosts)

This tour sells out every year because of our incredible homes and homeowners, but also because of the vendors who continue to elevate the experience with their food and wine. Please show your appreciation for all that they do with your patronage:

- Allora Wine Group
- Bistro to Go
- DiAnoia's Eatery
- Dreadnought Wine
- Grand Concourse
- Refucilio Winery
- Wise County Biscuits

There are so many volunteers, too many to list, but it's because of you that this tour train can leave the station and stay on track every year - a tremendous "thank you" for the smooth ride!

There are still expenses to be submitted and receipts to be counted, I'll have an update on the money generated from the tour next month. I can say that we did the best this year with our raffle. Roughly \$1400! Thank you for all the donations and to Yulia for the exciting baskets. The bar has been set!

August will be a month of rest before the planning starts for the Christmas Tour. This year the tour will be on the weekend of December 5th/6th. If you would like to get more involved with the behind the scenes planning, I'd love to talk with you. There are a lot of opportunities to assist with volunteers, program ads, etc.

I say it every tour so I'll say it now: it's truly inspiring and heartwarming how this little neighborhood continues to come together and bring so much joy to so many. Just incredible and a testament to the spirit of Allegheny West.

Cheers to you all!

Carol Gomrick, Ways and Means / Tour Chair

In Memoriam



Carole Carlson Robert, age 83, of Pittsburgh, passed away June 9, 2025, at her home on Galveston Avenue. She was born April 23, 1942, in Ridgway, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late Carl Gustaf and Mary Cunningham Carlson.

Carole is survived by her husband of 52 years John Ray Robert and two sons, John Justin, (current partner Shamra Fallon and ex-spouse Amy) and David Carlson, (wife Cayley). Nine grandchildren brought so much joy to the Robert household: Carolyn, Dylan, Otto, Watson St. Phillip (stepson), Preston, Tiernan, Alistair, Cambria, and Jasper. Carole was preceded in death by her parents and sisters Anna Carlson Caruso and Mary Ellen Carlson Hart. She leaves many other family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

A former student wrote when hearing of her passing, "I loved when Ms. Robert taught us. She would come into the algebra room with that short, bob haircut, cool round glasses, and that sweet, semi-dry sense of humor. She was always in control and one of those steady things in your life. Great teacher...great to be around. When you are

a teenager and uncertain...wait, she was also married to Mr. Robert. Oh, that all makes sense now. I hope her last days were peaceful, surrounded by people who love her."

Carole lost her mother at age ten. She wanted to attend Penn State, but her father suggested Seton Hill, a women's liberal arts college taught by the Sisters of Charity. A friend writes about those days, "I am always grateful for ending up at Seton Hill so many years ago. I wasn't always delighted with all aspects of those years but was always grateful for the women I met there and the friendships we forged. Those friendships were strong and despite our different lives any time over the years when we came together, we could just pick up again."

The Department of Defense Dependent Schools claimed Carole as a math teacher for thirty-nine years. She spent two years at Kubasaki High School on Okinawa, Japan and thirty-seven years at H.H. High School in Wiesbaden, Germany. After retirement from government service, she tutored math at Point Park University. Carole didn't just teach math. She was an important part of the school's fabric. She sponsored clubs and organizations, attended after school events, motivated students, and delighted her fellow teachers with her wit and charm. She raised the bar on shopping in Germany, loved eating in the many, many great restaurants in the area, and knew where to buy the delicious, local wines. She raised two amazing sons who went on to excellent careers after college and have now become superlative dads.

Death is inevitable, isn't it? Yet we rail against the loss with each person that passes before us. Carole lived a singular, long life. She was blessed with good friends, a wonderful family, and the joy of living in places most only visit on vacations. A celebration of life is pending. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society.

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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