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# ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

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August 2025

## President's Message

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### Greetings, Neighbors!

My dad always said, "When you hear the cicadas, it's time to go back to school." And sure enough, their buzz is back, reminding us that summer's golden days are winding down. Honestly, it feels like summer just got here, and now we're already talking about its finale!

But don't roll up the picnic blankets just yet. We've still got plenty of sunshine and the whole month of August ahead before our next General Membership Meeting in September. This is the perfect time to soak up the season—and personally, I'm not ready for pumpkin spice *anything* just yet.

Summer isn't officially over until we've celebrated our annual Labor Day Picnic, returning on Monday, September 1st at 4 PM on the 800 block of North Lincoln. As always, come hungry and bring a side dish or dessert to share. It's one of our favorite traditions: a great afternoon with the neighbors who make Allegheny West so special.

### Savor Summer at Allegheny Commons Park

Looking for more ways to hold onto summer? Two great events are happening right in our backyard:

- Pittsburgh VegFest – Saturday, August 16th A celebration of plant-based living, featuring local vendors, live music, and more. Details at [pittsburghvegfest.org](http://pittsburghvegfest.org).
- PedalPGH – Sunday, August 24th Pittsburgh's biggest bike ride, with scenic routes for all skill levels. Register at [pedalpgh.org](http://pedalpgh.org).

While you're in Allegheny Commons, don't miss a visit to Gus and Yia Yia's iconic orange cart, which is officially located on Gus and Yia Yia Way! On July 24th, the city held a dedication honoring this beloved local business: a true symbol of summer in Allegheny West. Read more about that below.

I hope the rest of August brings you warm days, cool evenings, and a few relaxing porch or stoop moments with good company. I'll see you in September!

Warmly,

**Elizabeth Barbush**

*President, Allegheny West Civic Council*



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An honorary street naming ceremony to recognize Gus and Yiayia's beloved orange food cart was held on Thursday, July 24 at the corner of West Ohio Street and Brighton Road.

Members of the Kalaris family offered remarks, as did Mayor Gainey, Council Member Wilson, and AWCC leadership.

**Cocktail Corner**      *Submitted by Bob Griewahn**Blue Moon Cocktail*

Harry Ensselin, Recipes for Mixed Drinks (1916)

- ❖ 1.5 oz Gin
- ❖ 0.5 oz French Vermouth
- ❖ 1 dash Orange Bitters
- ❖ 1 dash Crème Yvette (see Notes)

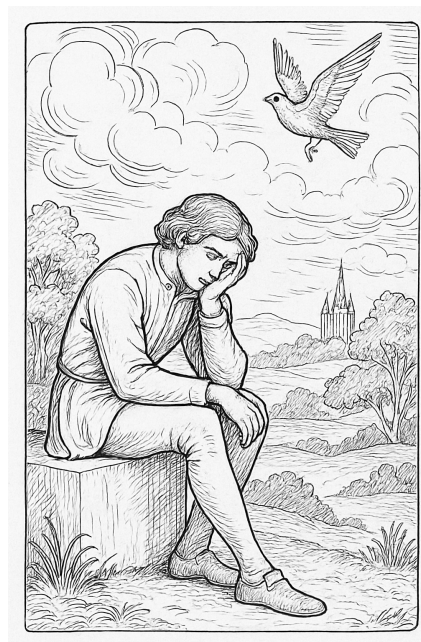
Stir with ice and strain into a cocktail glass  
 Float some Claret on top

*Notes*

- As always, drink responsibly.
- For French Vermouth, read dry. If you want the best color, use the clearest vermouth you can get. Dolin's is good. A vermouth that is too yellow will turn the drink a muddier color.
- Up until the Crème Yvette, this looks a lot like a Martini. Crème Yvette is a berry flavored purple liqueur, readily available at the PLCB. You may need a tad more than a dash to get the color you want. If you don't have any, you can substitute Crème de Violette (used in the Aviation Cocktail). Be careful, though: too much Crème de Violette can result in a soapy taste.
- The Claret is optional. No garnish is called for, but do as you please.

**Sonnet 29**

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,  
 I all alone beweepe my outcast state,  
 And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,  
 And look upon myself and curse my fate,  
 Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,  
 Featured like him, like him with friends possessed,  
 Desiring this man's art and that man's scope,  
 With what I most enjoy contented least;  
 Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,  
 Haply I think on thee, and then my state,  
 (Like to the lark at break of day arising  
 From sullen earth) sings hymns at heaven's gate;  
     For thy sweet love remembered such wealth brings  
     That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

*William Shakespeare*

To watch Dame Judi Dench recite this sonnet on the Graham Norton show, visit:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\\_X1dbO-quI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_X1dbO-quI) or search "Judi Dench Sonnet 29"

## A brief glimpse into the old world charm of Buttercup Way, Allegheny West

*Contributed by Joanne Beatty, Allegheny West resident and lover of history*

Nestled quietly in Allegheny West lies Buttercup Way, a name that conjures images of meadows in bloom, childhood daydreams, and a gentler pace of life. Buttercup Way runs along the back of old Victorian homes and warehouses located along the more stately West North and Beech Avenues in Allegheny West.

According to Pittsburgh Streets, the lane was laid out as Buttercup Alley in 1879 in a plan of lots that subdivided the estate of Elizabeth F. Denny. (1,2) It became Buttercup Way in 1914, when a City of Pittsburgh ordinance changed all “alleys” to “ways”. (3) In a 1929 column in the Pittsburgh Press, Frank C. Harper used Buttercup Way as an example of a name that recalled an earlier time in Pittsburgh's history: "For there is no buttercup now on Buttercup way and Verdant way long ago ceased to be verdant." (4)

Buttercup Way's history indicates that it served purposes beyond being a thoroughfare; it also contained places of business. William P Price and his son George ran an electrical contracting business from a building constructed in 1895. (5)

Recently, as part of its planned street surfacing work, the City excavated the yellow bricks of the 900 block of Buttercup Way and repaved the entire alley to Rope Way with asphalt. The bricks of the 800 block of Buttercup Way remain in situ under the asphalt. In between the old asphalt being removed and the new paving poured, residents of Allegheny West were treated to Buttercup Way's true self, a wonderfully laid herringbone pattern of yellow bricks. The adjacent photo of Buttercup Way's herringbone pattern was taken at night from the corner of Galveston and Buttercup shortly after the old asphalt was removed. The picture shows the wonderful detail of the pattern and color of the bricks.



The herringbone pattern was chosen for many of the older laneways and alleyways of Pittsburgh for several reasons. The pattern itself, formed by arranging rectangular bricks in a zigzag or V-shape, creates an interlocking structure that is exceptionally strong and can withstand heavy loads and resist shifting. This was especially valuable for lanes and alleys which often (and still do) experience significant traffic. These days however, it is more garbage trucks and cars versus horse drawn carriages. Beyond its functional benefits, the herringbone pattern also offered a visually engaging and structured appearance, adding to the architecture of the area.

Sadly, when the City assessed the condition of the bricks of Buttercup Way it was deemed cost prohibitive to be considered for repaving. The City did assure us that some of the yellow bricks that were dug up have been stored in the event there is an opportunity to consider restoration of Buttercup Way in the future. I surely hope there is a way.

Sources:

- (1) [Buttercup Way - Pittsburgh Streets](#)
- (2) [Denny-estate-allegheny-plan - Pittsburgh Streets](#)
- (3) [Ordinance-1914-402 - Pittsburgh Streets](#)
- (4) [Harper - Pittsburgh Streets](#)
- (5) [Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions](#)

**AWCC August Meeting Calendar**

- **General Membership Meeting**
  - Summer Recess! No meetings until September.
- **Housing & Planning Committee**
  - Tuesday, August 12th 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
- **Executive Committee**
  - Tuesday, August 26th at 7:00 PM
  - 806 Western Avenue

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**Announcements and Notices**

- **Allegheny West Labor Day Picnic**

Our last neighborhood summer picnic is coming up! On Labor Day, Monday September 1st, AWCC will host its annual celebration on the 800 block of North Lincoln Avenue. The party is from 4 to 8pm. AWCC will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and a lawn chair.
- 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](mailto:awcc-announce@lists.alleghenywest.org); moderators will review the message, and if approved, it'll be sent to over 150 neighbors. Not yet on the list? You can subscribe here: <http://lists.alleghenywest.org/listinfo.cgi/awcc-announce-alleghenywest.org>
- **Recycling** will be picked up on Monday August 18th and Tuesday September 2nd - sliding a day because of Labor Day.
- **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.

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**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](mailto:gazette@alleghenywest.org). Submission does not guarantee publication.



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