
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

September 2025

President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

We've made it to September! As summer winds down and school resumes, our community is gearing up for a vibrant fall season. I'm looking forward to the crisp air and the brilliant colors of changing leaves—and I hope you are too.

Our General Membership Meeting will resume, after having been on summer break, on Tuesday, September 9th at 7:30 PM, and I encourage everyone to join us as we reconnect and look ahead to the coming months.

I would like to start by thanking Yulia and all the Allegheny West volunteers for organizing a fantastic Labor Day picnic block party—the final block party of the year! Your efforts brought joy and connection to our neighborhood, and we're so grateful.

While the final Yoga in Allegheny Commons Park session takes place on September 6th, closing out the summer session, our beloved Friday Night Farmer's Market continues through November 21st. Fresh and local produce is a great way to transition into soup season!

If you are looking for a fall celebration though, Oktoberfest returns to Deutschtown, hosted by our friends at Penn Brewery over two festive weekends: September 19–20 and September 26–27, with a traditional Munich-style keg tapping on September 18th. For details, visit: <https://www.pennbrew.com/oktoberfest2025>.

One final housekeeping note: Although our standard nomination notices are typically posted in November, we currently have a vacancy for the position of Sergeant at Arms. In accordance with our bylaws, we will hold a vote during our upcoming meeting to fill this role for the remainder of the year.

A heartfelt thank you to Deb Kelly for generously volunteering her time this year and for treating us to the delicious snacks at our membership meetings!

I'll have more updates to share in October, but for now, I hope to see many of you on the 9th. Wishing you a joyful and cozy start to fall!

Warmly,

Elizabeth Barbush
President, Allegheny West Civic Council

Announcements and Notices

- 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 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 September 15th and September 27th..
- 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.

Cocktail Corner

So So Cocktail

- ❖ 0.25 oz grenadine
- ❖ 0.25 oz calvados
- ❖ 0.50 oz Cinzano rosso [or any good red vermouth]
- ❖ 0.50 oz dry gin

Stir with ice and strain into a cocktail glass.

Harry M. McElhone, Henry's ABC of Mixing Cocktails (1922)

Notes

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Supposedly invented by Mr. P. Soso of London's Kit-Kat Club. I've never been. Was he inspired by a cocktail muse or just hanging out at the bar mixing up whatever was at hand? We will never know, and that's fine.
- Grenadine is readily available. You can go for the standard bottle sold at the PLCB or get some very good stuff online. Nominally, grenadine is pomegranate syrup, but it's almost always been just some red sugary syrup, often with not a hint of a pomegranate. I've used real pomegranate syrup and regular old grenadine, and it's often hard to tell much difference. You can make your own with a pomegranate, sugar, water, and a strainer, but why bother?
- For Cinzano rosso, read sweet, red vermouth. Again, you needn't break the bank looking for the best available, although a better vermouth usually makes a better cocktail. There's enough going on in this recipe, though, that a great vermouth like Antica Formula might be wasted.
- If you've read this column before, and I'm sure you have, you've heard me extol the virtues of calvados. It's an apple brandy from Normandy, and it's divine. If you haven't a bottle, get one. With autumn coming up, apple brandy-based cocktails and toddies are a sure hit.
- Use any decent dry gin. No Old Tom or Plymouth gin in this one, unless you like your drink very sweet. This cocktail is probably going to taste a bit sweet to your palate anyway. You should feel free to experiment with proportions, here. Make it as directed the first time and then doctor it up to suit your taste. The second one will be perfect. Probably.
- There are no bitters in this drink, so some would argue it's not a cocktail. I'd rather drink one than argue, though.

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

At the **Northside Chronicle's 40th Anniversary Party** in August, AWCC neighbor **Mark Fatla** received one of four awards given to city residents who have contributed to the Northside community. Here is the text of the speech given by Sean Ray, Managing Editor of the Chronicle, as he recognized Mark:

There are few people who have appeared in The Northside Chronicle more often than our next awardee, Mark Fatla. And that's not just because he's a bit of a publicity hound. If you search "Mark Fatla" on our website, you'll get ten full pages of results. And that's just since 2009 — if we had all the old print editions online, we'd probably need to give him his own archive.

But when you lead the Northside Leadership Conference for 15 years and volunteer at Allegheny West Civic Council and help raise money for scholarships and do everything else Mark has been involved with, you tend to make news — a lot of it good. Whether he was fighting for funding, championing neighborhood development, or emceeing a scholarship luncheon or some other major Northside event, Mark always seemed to be in the right place and in front of a camera. Some people just have a knack.

During Mark's tenure, he boosted the Northside in an unimaginable number of ways, from securing a \$3 million community benefits agreement with Rivers Casino to organizing Northside Sandwich Week to raising tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to partnerships with Allegheny General Hospital to helping revitalize East Ohio Street. He was also there for the smaller things that didn't make the newspaper, like helping neighbors deal with problem landlords or finding time to help neighbors in need with free legal help.

While no longer at the Conference, Mark continues to appear in The Chronicle even now. In fact, he adds another appearance in this very issue with the recent release of his new book "Pittsburgh's Historic Stadiums and Arenas."

Congratulations, Mark!

2025 Christmas House Tour

(Yes! It's almost that time again!)

Activities for the 2025 Christmas House tour are well underway. There are already requests to purchase tickets! Speaking of tickets, they go on sale starting September 30th. If last year was any indication, tell family and friends to purchase early; the tour sold out in 2024 by mid-October.

This tour is not successful without the willingness of volunteers to jump in and help out. If you have interest, there are several ways to get more involved with the tour. Please see some of the volunteer opportunities below. I'd love to talk with you about your interests and how to get more involved.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Tour Program** | Outreach to secure ads for the program - this is very important as it helps to cover the cost of the program.
- **Volunteer Tracking** | This is the largest volunteer-need event. It's critical to ensure all slots are covered so the tour hums like a well oiled machine
- **Swag Build and Hang** | We get into the spirit early by hanging fresh greens. Help build and hang.
- **Runners** | Responsible for making sure the tour route stays cleared and the luminaries and flags are setup and taken down. Also, jump in and be ready to handle unexpected shenanigans.
- **Docents** | Lead tour groups through the neighborhood on the designated route. There is training and notes to help with the details. Dan Sprumont will be the docent lead this year and sending out a signup sheet in the upcoming months.
- **Train Museum** | The definitive model train collection in the world. Volunteers needed to staff the third and fourth floor of Holmes Hall during the tour. Training and notes provided.
- **Tour Announcer** | Announce the upcoming tours to corral the tour goers at Calvary.

Key Dates

- Sept 30th | Tickets go on sale
- Nov 22nd | Swag build
- Dec 5th and 6th | TOUR WEEKEND (including the Antique Shoppe)
- Dec 6th | Tour Afterparty

Finally, there is no house tour without houses. Between the start of the tour at Calvary Methodist Church to the final stop at Holmes Hall, there are **six** open slots for homes. If you'd like to have your house on tour, please contact me. If you're thinking about it and have questions, I'd be happy to talk with you about the tour and your questions.

If you're new to the neighborhood, WELCOME! The tour is a great way to meet your neighbors and learn about Allegheny West. Please consider volunteering.

Thank you in advance for the efforts of so many who make this tour so special. Cheers to you all!

Carol Gomrick
Ways and Means Chair
Tours@AlleghenyWest.org

September General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 9th** at 7:30 PM at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue—also on Zoom (see below).

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: 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

8:55: New Business

- Nominating Committee Report

9:05: Adjourn

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

AWCC September Calendar

Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church (Beech Avenue or rear entrance); also on Zoom

Tuesday, September 9th at 7:30 PM

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

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081 Passcode: 979088

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting

806 Western Avenue; also on Zoom

Tuesday, September 2nd at 7:30 PM and Tuesday, October 7th at 7:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZOV0JaTlMxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427 Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

806 Western Avenue

Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 PM

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

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