
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

President's Message

October 2025

Happy Halloween, Allegheny West!

The Halloween season is upon us, and there's truly nothing like October in Allegheny West. As the leaves begin to fall and a crispness settles into the air, our neighborhood begins its joyful transition into the holiday. I love seeing pumpkins perched on stoops and porches, and by month's end, our streets will fill with laughter as children in costume dash from house to house collecting treats.

But this October brings more than just spooky fun—it offers a chance to celebrate the heart of our community.

We're thrilled to announce the First Annual Allegheny West Awards Banquet, a special evening dedicated to honoring the incredible neighbors who make our community shine. Join us on Friday, October 17th at 6 PM as we recognize:

- Eleanor Coleman, our 2025 *Neighbor of the Year*
- Ann Gilligan, our 2024 *Neighbor of the Year*
- Martha Helmreich, recipient of a *Lifetime Achievement Award*

This event is a tribute to the spirit of Allegheny West—where kindness, dedication, and neighborly love are always in season. A big thank you goes out to Sally and Helen for organizing what promises to be a truly memorable evening.

I'm looking forward to celebrating with all of you and honoring these outstanding individuals. If you'd like to purchase a ticket, please check the next page of this Gazette for details.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Barbush

Allegheny West Civic Council

The Nominating Committee's Slate of Officers for 2026

The Allegheny West Civic Council Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for consideration to fill the officer and committee chair positions for the 2026 term:

- **President:** Elizabeth Barbush (incumbent)
- **Vice-President:** Helen Harris (incumbent)
- **Treasurer:** Chris Sweeney
- **Recording Secretary:** Timothy Zinn
- **Corresponding Secretary/Communications Committee:** Sarah Cook (incumbent)
- **Sergeant-at-Arms:** Deb Lantz
- **Property Committee:** Aaron Bryan (incumbent)
- **Friends of Allegheny West/Green Space Committee:** Trish Burton (incumbent)
- **Housing and Planning Committee:** Tom Cihil (incumbent)
- **Membership Committee:** Yulia Bhonsle (incumbent)
- **Ways & Means Chair:** Joanne Beatty

These individuals bring dedication, experience, and a deep commitment to our neighborhood. Elections will be held at the upcoming general membership meeting on **Tuesday November 11th**. Please make sure you have paid your membership dues by October 31st to be able to vote. Your participation matters!

Cocktail Corner

Submitted by Bob Griewahn

Ward Eight Cocktail from Robert Vermeire's *Cocktails – How to Mix Them* (1922)

Shake with cracked ice:

- ❖ 2 barspoons of grenadine
- ❖ 0.5 oz orange juice
- ❖ 0.5 oz lemon juice
- ❖ 1 oz rye whiskey

Strain into a cocktail glass

Notes

- As always, drink responsibly.
- Some say this was invented at an election celebration at the Locke-Ober restaurant for Martin “the Mahatma” Lomasney, a Boston politician. Maybe so, maybe not. Lomasney was a major figure in Boston and Massachusetts politics for decades. He was famous for being shot (and surviving), and for telling the Archbishop of Boston to “mind his own business.” He was that sort of fellow, and may have been the alderman in one of Boston’s wards, hence the name of this cocktail.
- There are several different versions of this drink. Some call for crème de menthe or a sprig of mint, while others substitute orange bitters for the orange juice. This recipe, though, is as good as any. All the recipes call for rye, not bourbon, so I’d stick with the rye.

You're Invited! The First Annual Allegheny West Awards Banquet**Date:** Friday, October 17, 2025 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM**Location:** Fabled Table, 1400 Buena Vista St, Pittsburgh, PA 15212**Free Parking:** Corner of Brighton Road and Sampsonia Way (Opposite Rite Aid)

Join us for an evening of celebration, connection, and recognition as we honor three outstanding Allegheny West neighbors who have made a meaningful impact on our community:

- Martha S. Helmreich – Lifetime Achievement
- Ann Gilligan – Neighbor of the Year 2024
- Eleanor Coleman – Neighbor of the Year 2025

Enjoy a delicious dinner, heartfelt tributes, and the warmth of good company in one of our neighborhood’s most walkable, accessible and charming venues. Tickets are \$45 per person

Available at <https://www.showclix.com/event/awcc-2025-awards> or by scanning this QR code:

Tickets include:

- A welcome glass of sparkling wine by Refucilo
- Red or white wine by Refucilo with dinner
- Your choice of
 - apple, cranberry & brie stuffed chicken, asparagus with lemon and goat cheese, or
 - vegan entrée of roasted acorn squash with quinoa
- Dessert is Gilligan’s Sorbet from the Mayfly Market, made by our very own award recipient, Ann Gilligan



We encourage you to purchase your tickets as soon as possible. Our maximum seating capacity is 50 people and tickets will no longer be available for purchase after October 12th. Let’s raise a glass to the people who make Allegheny West shine!

Updates and Announcements

From the Allegheny YMCA Executive Director

I'm Michele Charmello and in June, I took on the role of the new Executive Director of the Allegheny YMCA.

I'm thrilled to be part of this incredible project, this amazing community, and the Y's next chapter.

I'm pleased to share that exciting progress continues on the Allegheny YMCA's major renovation project! The work includes the addition of two new elevators, central air conditioning, and upgrades to our historic pool, along with modernized locker rooms and refreshed wellness floor and community spaces. A new child care center will be added to the second floor of the building. Upgrades to the three floors of resident housing include updated bathroom and laundry facilities; once completed there will be the capacity to house 89 men.

We are deeply grateful to our Allegheny West neighbors for your generous support and donation toward this transformation; you're bringing new life to this beloved building and helping to ensure the Y remains a welcoming and vibrant part of our community for years to come.

The newly renovated Y is expected to reopen in early 2026 with a grand celebration. We hope you can join us!

Ahead of the NFL Draft, Pittsburgh has launched **The Immaculate Collection**, a multi-month effort to red up the city by picking up litter! Get involved by going to the Immaculate Collection site online at www.immaculatecollection.org, where you can volunteer with a local neighborhood group, start a new litter group, create your own trash toss video, or donate to the cause.

Get ready to sink your teeth into something delicious: **Northside Sandwich Week** is back, and you're invited to the tastiest event of the season!

Join the Northside Chronicle on **Monday, October 27, 2025**, from **6:00 PM to 9:00 PM** at **The Priory** for an evening of mouthwatering sandwiches, local flavor, and community celebration.

Tickets are \$25 and include sandwich samples from some of the Northside's best eateries. This is your chance to support local businesses, connect with neighbors, and enjoy a night of food and fun—all thanks to Northside Restaurants and all of the sponsors! Visit <https://northsidesandwichweek.com/> to learn more and purchase tickets.

The **AWCC Victorian Christmas Tour** sold out in a record six days! While there may not be more tickets available, there are still several ways to be involved with the tour. From selling ads in the tour program, to building and hanging our greenery swag, and day-of activities like being runners, docents, and train museum guides, there's a way for everyone to help.

Key Dates

- Nov 22nd | Swag build and hang
- Dec 5th and 6th | TOUR WEEKEND (including the Antique Shoppe)
- Dec 6th | Tour Afterparty

The tour is successful because year after year, residents join in not only to volunteer their time, but also open their homes. We are actively seeking homeowners willing to put their home on tour. If you'd like to have your house on tour, please contact Carol Gomrick at carol.gomrick@gmail.com. If you would like to be a docent, please email Dan Sprumont at dan.sprumont@gmail.com. If you're new to the neighborhood, 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!!

Recycling will be picked up on Monday October 13th and Monday October 27th.

Street Sweeping in AW takes place on the 2nd Monday and Tuesday of each month- check your street's signs!

In Memoriam: Joe Iannotta

Joe Iannotta, who lived on Beech Avenue with his wife, Linda, and daughter, Joah, for 40 years, died at 78 on June 24. At a celebration of his life on a recent Saturday, Linda shared a newspaper story, “So Long, Suburbs,” that offers a glimpse back at what new arrivals to our neighborhood faced as the 1970s morphed into the 1980s.

Not least, they faced the question, What the heck are you doing?

Banks had essentially redlined the North Side and much of the rest of the city in those days. (Bob Knaus’s cousin at Mellon Bank helped the Iannottas secure a loan.) Implicit in the story by Sylvia Sachs in the Sunday magazine of the Pittsburgh Press was the idea that moving into the city by choice was News with a capital N. By even looking for a three-story rowhouse on the North Side, “it seemed they were completely reversing the requirements for a young American couple’s dream home.”

But the kitchen was “a show-stopper.” A metal spiral staircase leading from the kitchen to a small library and a study was a nice brush stroke on their urban masterpiece. And in those days before the world started getting hotter, four ceiling fans were all this family of three needed to say cool.

When the reporter asked if all the money, work and worry they put into their home was worth it, Joe was ready.

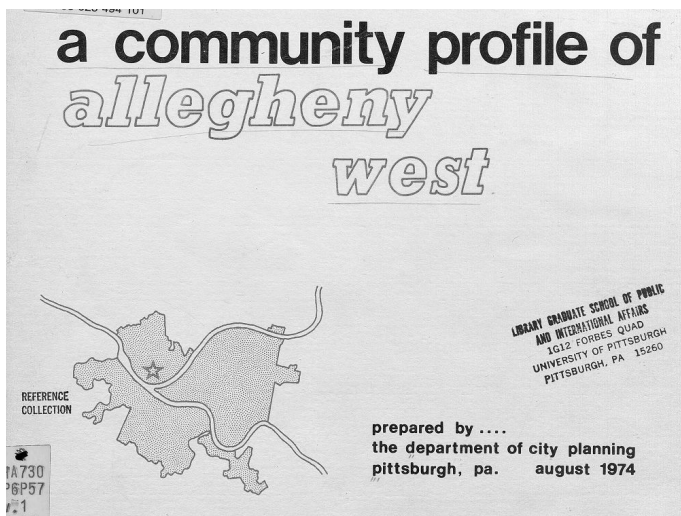
“Eventually,” he said, “we expect substantial returns, both economic and psychic, from our city home.”

The story concluded, “The Iannottas believe they are in the forefront of an irreversible trend back to the city. They see no easing of the energy crises which, to them, signals the end of far-flung suburbs. And they think the North Side can’t help but get better and better, as a place to invest in real estate and as a place to live.”

OK, so suburban sprawl hardly slowed during the past three and half decades. But we who enjoy Allegheny West today owe a lot to the people who zigged when the world was telling them they must zag.

Submitted by Brian O’Neill

NB: You can read Joe’s obituary here: <https://obits.slaterfuneral.com/joseph-iannotta>



ALLEGHENY WEST

Allegheny West is a small mixed residential-institutional neighborhood located in the lower North Side adjacent to West Park. It lies in Census Tract 2201 and has an approximate population of about 1200 people. It was historically the home of many prominent Pittsburgh industrialists whose homes lined Ridge Avenue, the present site of the new campus for Allegheny Community College. This area was also known as the Lincoln-Beech area because of the two prominent residential streets that presently provide the residential character. However, many institutions are now located in this area and help define its functions as more than just residential. With convenient access to highways and major arteries, many community facilities and a local shopping district on Western Avenue the community may continue to be residential. Fortunately, an active Citizens Council has done much to preserve the area with the cooperative help of the local institutions.

Cover and excerpt from *A Community Profile of Allegheny West. vol. 1, no. 2*

Pittsburgh (Pa.). Department of City Planning, August, 1974. Posted on the HistoricPittsburgh.org website



The Allegheny West **Cycle to Coffee Club** ushered in October and the beginning of the end of the cycle-to-coffee season with a ride in Ligonier. On a beautiful 11.5 mile ride, seven CCC cyclists passed through forests and fields, waved to cows, horses, deer, and bald eagles, and blew raspberries in the direction of Bob Nutting's house. Only a few of the hills were long enough and steep enough for a member or two to have to walk up them!

Having started with coffee in town, the ride ended with a cookout that celebrated cycling, coffee, and community, reminding us once again that the best journeys are those taken together. Many thanks to Shannon and Chris for hosting.

There's still more time to join Saturday morning rides this fall: if you're interested, text Kunal at 724-205-8805 to be added to the text chain or What'sApp group. Rides to a different coffee shop each week are usually 7 to 12 miles round trip, and leave the neighborhood around 9am.

Inversnaid

This darksome burn, horseback brown,
His rollrock highroad roaring down,
In coop and in comb the fleece of his foam
Flutes and low to the lake falls home.

A windpuff-bonnet of fawn-fróth
Turns and twindles over the broth
Of a pool so pitchblack, féll-frówning,
It rounds and rounds Despair to drowning.

Degged with dew, dappled with dew,
Are the groins of the braes that the brook treads through,
Wiry heathpacks, flitches of fern,
And the beadbonny ash that sits over the burn.

What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

Gerard Manley Hopkins written 1881, published 1918

October General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, October 14th** 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: Guests & Presentations

- Chris Sweeney – One Northside Education Committee
- Chris Furman

8:25: 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

9:05: Adjourn

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

AWCC October Calendar

Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, October 14th at 7:30 PM

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

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

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081 Passcode: 979088

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting: Tuesday, November 4th at 7:30 PM

806 Western Avenue; also on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaTlMxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427 Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 28th at 7:00 PM

806 Western Avenue

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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