
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

President's Message

November 2025

Dear Neighbors,

The holiday season is upon us! We've turned our clocks back, enjoyed that extra hour of rest, and now we are heading full speed into a season of joy, reflection, and celebration. I want to take a moment to wish each of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. May your homes be filled with warmth, gratitude, and great company.

Speaking of company: Last month's Allegheny West Awards Banquet was a truly special evening! It was wonderful to gather together and celebrate the neighborly contributions of Eleanor, Ann, and Martha. Fabled Table treated us to a delicious meal that paired beautifully with red and white wine from Refucilio, and Yulia's floral arrangements added a festive touch to every table. Some lucky guests even got to take them home! The cozy atmosphere, delicious food, and vibrant community spirit made for a memorable night. A heartfelt thank you to Sally and Helen for organizing such a lovely event. And how lucky were we to enjoy it all on the most beautiful fall day? I'm hopeful we can make this an annual tradition.

At our membership meeting, we'll also be talking about how we're gearing up for our biggest fundraiser of the year: the Allegheny West Christmas House Tour. You'll find more details in the newsletter, but I want to extend an early invitation to anyone who has time to lend a hand. Whether it's helping with decorations, logistics, or aiding the volunteer homeowners, your support will help make this year's tour the best one yet. Please join us at the meeting on the 11th to learn how you can participate, or email the contacts listed on page three. .

By the time the December Gazette reaches you, we'll have our Allegheny West welcome sign and Christmas tree proudly displayed in the heart of our business district. If you'd like to help with decorating or setting up the tree, please reach out to me or Aaron. We'd love to have you join us. We will be setting up the tree the weekend after Thanksgiving!

Wishing you all a joyful start to the holiday season!

Elizabeth Barbush
President, Allegheny West Civic Council

Neighborhood Notices

- Recycling will be picked up on Monday November 10th and November 24th. .
- This is the final month for scheduled street sweeping until spring. It will take place on the second Monday and Tuesday of November - check your street's signs.
- Also, stay alert for additional street sweeping ahead of the upcoming Christmas Homes Tour! Sign up for the listserv to receive notices via eBlast: <http://lists.alleghenywest.org/listinfo.cgi/awcc-announce-alleghenywest.org>

At the November General Membership Meeting, AWCC will vote on officers for 2026.

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates:

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

Cocktail Corner Submitted by Robert Griewahn**Black Strap**

To a mug or bar-glass, add:

- 2 oz. rum
- 1 tbs molasses
- 2 oz. hot water

Stir thoroughly, then grate some nutmeg on top.

Enjoy.

- “Professor” Jerry Thomas (1862)

Bartender’s Notes

- ❖ As always, drink responsibly.
- ❖ Here’s a nice hot cocktail for the cold months of the year. I make this one and the Apple Toddy (see the October 2021 *Allegheny West Gazette*) during autumn and winter. Supposedly, this drink started in New England in the very early 1800s. A lot of molasses and its derivative, rum, made its way up the coast from the Caribbean to the colder northern climes.
- ❖ For the rum, use something with a lot of flavor (it does not have to be an over-proofed rum, though). I would forego the bottle of Bacardi light and reach for the Smith & Cross or a dark rum like Myers’s Dark.
- ❖ For the molasses, black strap is your best bet. You want the real molasses taste, not just sweetness.
- ❖ The nutmeg garnish is a nice touch. Freshly grated works best. You could also garnish with an apple slice, I suppose.

Song of Myself by Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Verse 52

The spotted hawk swoops by and accuses me—he complains of my gab and my loitering.

I too am not a bit tamed—I too am untranslatable;
I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world.

The last scud of day holds back for me;
It flings my likeness after the rest, and true as any, on the shadow’d wilds;
It coaxes me to the vapor and the dusk.

I depart as air—I shake my white locks at the runaway sun;
I effuse my flesh in eddies, and drift it in lacy jags.

I bequeath myself to the dirt, to grow from the grass I love;
If you want me again, look for me under your boot-soles.

You will hardly know who I am, or what I mean;
But I shall be good health to you nevertheless,
And filter and fibre your blood.

Failing to fetch me at first, keep encouraged;
Missing me one place, search another;
I stop somewhere, waiting for you.

The 2025 Old Allegheny Christmas Tour is Almost Here!

A lot is happening to prepare for the tour weekend; there are some changes this year, so please take a moment to get familiarized with the schedule of events and opportunities to volunteer.

DATES and ACTIVITIES

- **Tour Dates:** Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th
- **Street Closures:** 800 and 900 block of Beech Ave & 800 block of N. Lincoln closed on Friday, 4 pm to 10 pm & on Saturday, 9 am to 10 pm
- **Resident Parking:** Residents can park their cars in the lower lot of Babb Insurance, access from Galveston Ave starting at 3p on Friday. Please remove your car from Beech and the 800 Block of North Lincoln as the roads will be blocked off for tour-goer safety.
- **Swag Build:** There will NOT be a swag build this year. I will look for other decoration options for the lamposts.
- **Tree Lighting:** The community Christmas tree will again be on the corner of Western and Galveston. Updates will be communicated in eBlasts to organize decorating efforts.
- **Volunteer After Party:** Saturday, December 6th from 8:30 pm; further details provided to volunteers.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This tour cannot happen without a significant amount of volunteer hours. Please consider contributing your time in one or many of the activities needed to make the tour a success:

- **Runners:** Responsible for setting up street barricades, luminary at the tour houses and monitoring the tour route for the safety of all tour goers. Email Tours@Alleghenywest.org to volunteer as a runner.
- **Cookie House Leads:** At the designated house, provide cookies and warm cider to tour goers. Everything needed to provide this treat will be delivered to the property. Assist with securing and managing volunteers for the house. Email Tours@Alleghenywest.org if you're interested in being a Cookie House lead.
- **Homeowner Lunch Prep:** Build the lunchboxes for the homeowners and their volunteers. All food and service items will be provided. Secure volunteers to help deliver the lunches..Runners can assist with lunch delivery. Email Tours@Alleghenywest.org if you can help with lunch prep and/or delivery. *This is a Saturday afternoon task scheduled between 12 pm and 3 pm.*
- **Train Museum:** Contact Cecile Canales to volunteer at the Train Museum at Holmes Hall: ccanales13@icloud.com
- **Tour Docents:** Contact Dan Sprumont to sign up to be a docent: Dan.sprumont@gmail.com

I've shared earlier the incredible enthusiasm for the tour this year. Tickets sold out in 5 days! When tickets go on sale, I spend a lot of time talking to people answering tour questions. Something that I didn't expect this year were the personal stories people shared about what this particular tour year means to them.

A couple examples:

- A woman shared that she was married in Calvary Church and has been on the last 34 tours. She purchased her first Christmas tour ticket for \$7! She is thrilled to be able to attend this tour because she will be attending with a friend who is in from out of town and who introduced her to Allegheny West. This is the first time they will be taking the tour together.
- Another gentleman shared how much it will mean to provide tickets for his wife and her best friend whose husband passed away in October. His wife has been on the tour several times and he believes the tour will lift their friend's spirits as they try to help her through this difficult time.

In speaking with both of them and listening to their stories I was touched by what they shared: how our little eight block neighborhood has had an impact in very different ways. I was reminded that this tour is so much more than our biggest fund-raiser; we collectively share in something really special. This tour means so much to so many.

As we move closer to December 5th, I'm excited, with your help, to make this tour fun for the volunteers, a special experience for the homeowners and another wonderful memory for all who attend.

Carol Gomrick, Tour Chair

Tours@alleghenywest.org

November General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 11th** 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

8:55: New Business

9:05: Adjourn

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

AWCC November Calendar

Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting

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

Tuesday, November 11th at 7:30 PM (the second Tuesday of the month)

<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 November 4th at 7:30 PM; Tuesday December 2nd at 7:30 PM (the first Tuesday of the month)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427 Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

806 Western Avenue

Tuesday, September 30th at 7:00 PM (the last Tuesday of the month)

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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