
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

President's Message

September 2026

We're Back!

Back from vacation, back to school, back to work, and back to business!

Our General Membership Meetings resume this month. Please join us on Tuesday, September 8 at Calvary Church. Agenda and meeting details can be found at the end of this Gazette.

Until then, I will keep my updates brief:

- Many residents had contacted the Allegheny West Civic Council regarding a Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) hearing for a variance application that would have permitted firearm sales at 900 Western Avenue. We would like to inform everyone that the business owner has withdrawn the application at this time. As a result, the matter will not appear on the ZBA agenda for September 3. Should the application be resubmitted in the future, we will monitor the situation and notify the neighborhood so it can be discussed appropriately.
- This is also a reminder to review the proposed bylaw amendments before our September meeting. The proposed changes are available on our website, www.alleghenywest.org, under the Constitution and Bylaws tab.
- Our email discussion list was shut down in August when the company that hosted it discontinued the service. We are looking for a replacement so that we can share time-sensitive notices and updates.
- I also hope to see you at our final block party of the year! Our annual Labor Day Block Party will take place on Monday, September 7, beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the 800 block of N. Lincoln Avenue. See the bottom of the page for more details. We look forward to celebrating with you!
- Finally, the Department of City Planning will be hosting its final public workshop to gather community feedback for the city's comprehensive plan. The workshop will be held on September 16 at the Mattress Factory, 509 Jacksonia Street, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to participate and share their thoughts about Pittsburgh's future. To register, visit: <https://pgh2050.com/events>.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events and working together to continue making Allegheny West a great neighborhood.

Warmly, Elizabeth Barbush

Allegheny West Civic Council

Celebrate Labor Day with your Neighbors!
Join AWCC's final block party picnic of the 2026 season

AWCC will hold our annual Labor Day Picnic from 4pm to 730pm on Monday, September 7th, on the 800 block of North Lincoln Avenue. AWCC will provide burgers, hot dogs, all the fixings, and drinks. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, and a chair so you can sit and stay a while. Games and entertainment for kids of all ages. Say goodbye to summer with good friends and great neighbors!

2026 Allegheny West Christmas Tour Submitted by Joanne Beatty, Ways and Means Chair

Dates: Friday December 4th 2026, and Saturday December 5th

We kicked off activities for this year's Christmas tour last week. We have already had requests for tickets. Tickets will go on sale at the end of September, early October. As our tours have traditionally sold out early, please make sure to tell friends and family to sign up for advance notice Tour Mailing List - Allegheny West

Our tours are not possible without our wonderful volunteers. As with previous years there are several ways to get more involved with the tour:

Volunteer Opportunities

- Showcase your home and its wonderful history! There are no tours without homes. Each Christmas tour we seek six homes in addition to Holmes Hall (thank you Mark) and Calvary Church (thank you Beth). If you would like to have your home on this year's tour please contact Jo Beatty or Carol Gomrick. We are happy to walk you through the process and answer any questions.
- Sponsor the tour by placing an ad in our very popular tour program or help by underwriting the cost of the program by making a donation to Allegheny West Civic Council. Everything helps. Please reach out via tours@alleghenywest.org
- Volunteer to support the running of the tour. This is a great opportunity to be involved, meet neighbors and friends and experience the tour. Volunteer opportunities include helping homeowners or as a docent. This is our largest volunteer event. Please contact Dan Sprumont (docents) or Jo Beatty (all other volunteer opportunities) if you are interested. Please reach out directly or via tours@alleghenywest.org
- Runners. Our runners are a critical part of the tour, making sure the tour route stays cleared, the luminaries and flags at each home are set up and taken down as well as respond to matters that arise during the tour in real time. Don't worry there is no real running involved, but a degree of mobility is necessary. Please reach out via tours@alleghenywest.org
- Train Museum. The model train collection housed at Holmes Hall is unique and a "must see" on the tour. We need volunteers to help staff the second, third and fourth floors at Holmes Hall during the tour. We provide training and notes. Again reach out directly or use the tours@alleghenywest.org
- At Calvary Church. We need volunteers to announce the tours, support registration and help each tour group get on its way smoothly and on time. Let us know if this is something you are interested in.

If you are new to the Allegheny West neighborhood, a very WARM WELCOME. The holiday season and our Christmas tour is a special time in the neighborhood. The Christmas tour is a wonderful way to come together as a community so please consider volunteering.

Thank you in advance for all your efforts and support for the tours.

September Trash and Recycling Dates (with apologies for August's incorrect recycling dates):

- Trash: September 8th (collection slides to Tuesday because of Labor Day) and September 21st
- Trash and Recycling: September 14th and 28th
- Street Sweeping: Week of September 7th

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

The Mexican War Streets Society is proud to announce that its 54th Annual House and Garden Tour will take place on Sunday, September 20 from 11 am – 5 pm, and will present beautifully restored homes, as well as private and community gardens. The tour is never cancelled and always goes on—rain or shine! Tickets are \$35 per person and will be sold online only; there will be no tickets sold on tour day. Buy your tickets at:

<https://www.mexicanwarstreets.org/events/2026-housetour>

Brighton Heights House Tour 2026: Saturday, October 3rd from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m Your self-guided tour will begin in Legion Memorial Park (intersection of Brighton Road and Davis Avenue). From there you can set off on a day of exploring eight properties, from a classic four square to a once-condemned farmhouse turned showstopper. A trolley will be available for all ticket holders to travel between 3 stops near the properties. Once you've completed the tour, return to Legion Park for the BHCF and Allegheny City Brewing Summer Series. This festival will feature live music, vendors, food trucks, and an exclusive Brighton Heights Ale created by ACB for the house tour.

Mark your calendars and join on October 3rd for a day of architecture, design inspiration, and celebration in Brighton Heights! <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/brighton-heights-annual-house-tour>

Duquesne Club Founders Tour

On Tuesday, September 15, at 5:30 p.m., the Allegheny West Civic Council (AWCC) will welcome members of the Duquesne Club for a private walking tour of Allegheny West. This special event offers participants the opportunity to explore the neighborhood's historic streets and learn about the homes and landmarks associated with several of the Club's founders.

The tour will also highlight notable works by the architectural firm Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, designers of the Duquesne Club building and several significant properties in Allegheny West. Tim Zinn has graciously volunteered to serve as docent for the evening and will lead a group of up to 20 participants. Most tour stops have a direct historical connection to the Duquesne Club. A special thank you goes to Carole and Bob Malakoff, who have generously opened their home to provide guests with an opportunity to learn about the property's important place in Pittsburgh history.

Tour Stops

- Willock House (Brighton Row), courtyard access only; associated with founding member B.F. Jones
- Byers-Lyon House, Ridge Avenue
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church
- Kaufmann House
- Holmes Hall, featuring ballroom window treatments originally from the Duquesne Club

Additional Properties of Interest

- Gary Otto Residence, 838 N. Lincoln Avenue; designed by Longfellow, Alden & Harlow
- William Penn Association Building, 709 Brighton Road; associated with founding member Harry Darlington

There will be no street closures associated with this tour. We are grateful to the property owners and volunteers who have helped make this event possible. Please email tours@alleghenywest.org with questions.

Jazz @ Emmanuel 2026-2027 Season. Sundays at 5 PM. 957 W. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15233 412-231-0454
September 13: Rhythm | October 11: Playing the Changes | November 8: Interlude
December 13: Transposition | January 10: Harmony/Dissonance | February 14: Chord Progression
March 14: Syncopation | April 11: Perfect Pitch | May 9: Improvisation

AWCC September 2026 Calendar

September General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 PM at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue—also on Zoom.

7:30: Call to Order

7:35: Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors Reports of Elected Officials, City Departments, Organizations

7:40: City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Defeo)

7:45: City of Pittsburgh Mayor Corey O'Connor's Office (CJ Thorpe)

7:50: State Representative Aerion Abney's Office (Tom Harnett)

7:55: Department of City Planning (Nazia Tarannum)

8:00: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)

8:05: Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office (Bobby Wilson/Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)

8:10 Guests and Presentations

8:35: Officer and Committee Reports

Minutes of Last Meeting (Tim Zinn, Secretary)

Treasurer's Report (Chris Sweeney, 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 (Jo Beatty)

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

Zoom Info:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969724081?pwd=dGFWNTRaalpJZThHNjBWQmswenNYQT09>
- Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081; Passcode: 979088

Upcoming Meeting Reminders:

- Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, 806 Western Avenue also on Zoom
 - Tuesday, September 1st at 7:30pm
 - Tuesday, October 6th at 7:30pm
 - Zoom info: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>
 - Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427; Passcode: 045565
- AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
 - 806 Western Avenue
 - Tuesday, September 29th 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.



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