ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

October 2026

President's Letter

Happy October! Autumn has finally arrived and the leaves are beginning to change. Cooler temperatures settling in and fall activities are in full swing! I know you all are busy, so I'll keep my updates brief:

- First, don't forget our Annual Allegheny West Awards Banquet on October 22 at 6:00 p.m. This new community tradition gives us the opportunity to celebrate neighbors who have made a lasting impact on Allegheny West. This year, we are proud to honor Aaron Bryan and Carole Malakoff for their many contributions to our neighborhood. Tickets are selling quickly, so be sure to reserve yours soon. Ticket information and more details can be found on page 3 of this Gazette.
- At our last General Membership Meeting, we discussed the upcoming Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) hearing regarding the YMCA sign at 600 W. North Avenue. While the hearing concerns installation of the sign, there are questions about the original Historic Review Commission (HRC) approval, which called for refurbishment of the historic neon sign. That approval has expired and will require renewal, while current proposals appear to replace the neon elements with LED lighting. AWCC leadership is seeking further discussion with YMCA representatives to better understand their plans. As an organization committed to historic preservation, AWCC supports restoring the historic neon sign as originally proposed. The ZBA hearing is scheduled for October 15, and the matter is also expected to appear before the HRC in the future. Residents interested in learning more or attending can find information at https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Business-Development/City-Planning/City-Planning-Meeting-Calendar/ZBA-Agendas.
- We are also gauging interest in expanding our Neighborhood Watch efforts. Whether you're walking your dog, exercising, or simply enjoying a stroll through the neighborhood, a few extra minutes of awareness can help strengthen our community. If you'd like to learn more or volunteer, please contact me at president@alleghenywest.org.
- Finally, if you're looking for Halloween themed activities this month, you are in luck! Pittsburgh has plenty to offer. Here are just a few ideas for you: https://www.visitpittsburgh.com/events-festivals/halloween-events/

As always, thank you for your continued involvement and commitment to making Allegheny West a welcoming and vibrant community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and meetings.

Warmly, Elizabeth Barbush

Allegheny West Civic Council

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the slate for officers/committee chairs for 2027-2028:

(Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Ways and Means are held by incumbents for one more year.)

Election will take place at the November General Membership Meeting

- President: Bob Griewahn
- Vice President: Carol Gomrick
- Housing & Planning: Fran Barbush
- Communications: Brian O'Neill
- Membership: John Engle
- Sergeant-at-Arms: Sally Graubarth
- Property: *Pending*
- Friends of Allegheny West: *Pending*

October Poem
A haiku by Matsuo Bashō (1694)

秋深き 隣は何を する人ぞ	It's deep autumn now. As for my next-door neighbor, what is his life like?

THANK YOU to our Western Avenue Flower Basket Sponsors!

A big thanks to 2026 sponsors of the baskets that beautified our neighborhood's main commercial district this season:

- Allegheny City Realty/Keane & Megan George
- Allegheny West Civic Council
- Blinov Construction
- Bob, Pat & Sarah Mistick
- Calvary United Methodist Church
- Claire & Liz Mistick
- Councilman Bobby Wilson
- Gilligan's Sorbet
- Giorgio's Place
- Holly Pultz and Family
- In memory of Donna Raye Otto (Gary Otto)
- In memory of Mary Callison (Michael Shealey)
- In memory of Pat Kautter (Kautter Family)
- In memory of William Hodgdon (Bonnie Hodgdon Otto)
- Jo & Adrian Beatty
- LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, Attorneys/Bob Griewahn
- Motive Salon
- Neal Bernsten & Josefina Vergara
- Neighbors on W. North Ave/Carol Gomrick & Brett Kempf
- Nonie & Bob Knaus
- Peppi's
- Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show/Mark Moore
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- Q Development
- Refucilo Winery
- Wise County Biscuits

Please consider patronizing the local businesses that have sponsored a basket!

Allegheny West 2026 Victorian Christmas Tour

Tickets went on sale late last week, and as of this writing, we are just over 70% sold. If you are interested in attending the Christmas tour please visit the AWCC website to purchase tickets. Our tours typically sell out well in advance.
Our tours cannot happen without the support of this community. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities remaining:

- We are still looking for homes for the tour and are reaching out to homeowners. If you would like to have your house on this year's Christmas tour please reach out to tours@alleghenywest.org or directly to me and Carol Gomrick.
- Volunteering during the tours. We need help with a range of roles: runners, homeowner support during the tour, guides in the train museum, and tour preparation such as decorating the neighborhood. Please reach out to me directly if you are interested in volunteering. I will be confirming volunteers during October.
- Our tours run well due to our wonderful docents. Please contact Dan.Sprumont@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding the docent roster.
- If you are a business owner, consider advertising your business in our 2026 Victorian Christmas Tour program. Our program gets wide circulation among tour participants.

A reminder of key dates:

- End of November, date to be confirmed | Decorating the community, tree and swags
- Dec 4th and Dec 5th | TOUR WEEKEND (including the Antique Shoppe at Calvary Church)
- Dec 6th | Tour after party for volunteers

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in advance, including homeowners and volunteers. It is much appreciated. Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding the tour. - Jo Beatty, Ways and Means Chair, ways-means@alleghenywest.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

Please join neighbors and friends at the **Allegheny West Awards Banquet** on Thursday, October 22, at 6:00 p.m. at the Fabled Table, 1400 Buena Vista Street.

This year, the Allegheny West Civic Council is honoring Aaron Bryan as Neighbor of the Year! Aaron has served as Treasurer, Membership Chair, and most recently Property Chair. For many years he has led the neighborhood Christmas tree effort, from purchase and transport to hoisting and decorating. But his good-neighbor credentials go well beyond his service as an officer. He lends his Red Truck to neighbors in need, helps with heavy lifting, and shares saws, weights, batteries, and just about anything else, from the obscure to the mundane. Call Aaron and his answer is always "What do you need?" said with a genuine smile, not a grimace. We are lucky to have him as a neighbor.

AWCC is also honoring Carole Malakoff with a Lifetime Achievement Award. In her decades in the neighborhood, Carole has served as AWCC President, led the Christmas, Tea, Dinner, and Wine Tours, chaired the Local Historic Review Committee (LRC), and chaired numerous other neighborhood committees. She is also a master gardener and has volunteered with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. She did all this while teaching art in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, raising her daughter, and restoring her home on Brighton Road. Carole's life has been one of service, and we are grateful for all she has given our neighborhood.

At dinner, the LRC will present the 16th Annual Allegheny West Historic Preservation Awards. These awards recognize property owners who completed projects in the past year that retain or restore historic character and follow neighborhood guidelines. This year's honorees did their research, made careful plans, followed the neighborhood's historic guidelines, and worked with the LRC and the City's Historic Review Commission throughout the application process.

This year's Historic Preservation awardees are:

- Megan and Keane George, 835 North Lincoln Avenue, restoration of a prominent residence
- Meha and Damian DeCostanza, 829 Western Avenue, new construction in an historic district

2026 AWCC Awards Banquet

The ticket cost for the 2026 AWCC Awards Banquet is $50.00 per person. Please use this PayPal link (https://tinyurl.com/2u4dbwum), or the QR code to the right. There is a $2.50 processing fee for using the PayPal option. Payments can also be made by check, payable to AWCC. You can mail or drop off a check at the AWCC Offices, 806 Western Ave - First Floor, Pittsburgh PA 15233.

We look forward to celebrating our honorees with you! *If you have special dietary restrictions, please contact Fran Barbush via e-mail – mfbarbush@gmail.com*

Iris's Girl Scout Troop is raising money to fund this year's activities. Iris is selling nuts and candies, magazines (including new subscriptions and subscription renewals, for digital and print editions), BARK Boxes for dogs, insulated tumblers, candles, and personalized products. The deadline to order nuts and candies and have them delivered by Iris is October 21st. Hand-delivered items will arrive before Thanksgiving. Shipped orders can continue through December 6th.
To place an order, click here: https://tinyurl.com/mr3bv4ds Thanks for all of your support for Girl Scout Troop 41425!

Jazz @ Emmanuel 2026-2027 Season. Sundays at 5 PM. 957 W. North Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15233 412-231-0454
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

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October Trash and Recycling Dates

- Trash: October 5th and 19th
- Trash and Recycling: October 12th and 26th

Don't forget street sweeping!

A **hearty thank you** to our Allegheny West Gazette delivery team:
the Beers, the Sweeneys, Fran Barbush, Bryan Gallagher, and Tim Zinn + Michael Douglass

AWCC October 2026 Calendar

October General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, October 13th** at 7:30 PM at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue—also on Zoom (see below).
7:30: Call to Order; Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors
7:35: 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, October 6th at 7:30pm & Tuesday November 3rd
  - 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, October 27th at 7:00 PM

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