ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

November 2026

Dear Neighbors:

And just like that, we've arrived at the holiday season! What a beautiful autumn we've had. I've really been enjoying these sunny days, along with the cooler evenings and changing colors on the trees. This autumn has felt particularly special.

This past month, Councilman Wilson joined us for a neighborhood walkthrough to look at concerns residents have raised over the past year. CM Wilson was accompanied by staffers Julianne Hluska and Morgan Martin, along with representatives from the Mayor's Office, Permits, Licenses, and Inspections, Community Health and Safety, and other city departments. We covered streetlight repairs, drainage, brickwork restoration after the recent pipe replacement projects, parking, and trash regulations. Councilman Wilson is also looking into the sidewalk near the playground on our side of the park, where several tripping hazards have been identified. One message came through clearly from everyone in the group: call 3-1-1. It is the best way to get a concern, complaint, or question on the city's record, even if you are also raising it another way. Thank you to Councilman Wilson and his team, along with other city employees, for spending the time with us. I look forward to seeing what improvements come in the months ahead.

Looking ahead, our Victorian Christmas Tour will be here in a month! If you're new to the neighborhood and would like to get involved, I encourage you to join one of our volunteer teams. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet neighbors, make friends, and celebrate the season together. More details are included in the comprehensive update on the tour on page 2 and 3. If you're interested in helping decorate our community Christmas tree, please reach out to Aaron Bryan or me. We'd love to have you be part of the festivities.

Congratulations to Modern Café for taking the top spot during Northside Sandwich Week! What a great accomplishment and well-deserved recognition for one of our neighborhood favorites.

The 14th Annual Handel's Messiah Sing-Along Concert will be held at Calvary United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 12. Free tickets are available by registering online here: https://allevents.in/pittsburgh/14th-annual-handels-messiah-sing-along-concert/100002003010776151.

Lastly, I want to say how grateful I am to be part of this community. Whether we're volunteering together, socializing with neighbors, advocating for historic preservation, or simply enjoying a walk through the neighborhood, it is the connections we share that make this place so special.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy Thanksgiving and a joyful start to the holiday season. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

Warmly,

Elizabeth Barbush

AWCC President

AWCC 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.)

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

Election will take place at the November 10th General Membership Meeting.

The 2026 Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas Tour: updates and important information

Tour Schedule

Friday December 4th

- Calvary Church opens to guests 4pm
- First group tour starts at 5pm
- Last tour leaves Calvary at 8pm

Saturday December 5th

- Calvary Church opens to guests 9am
- First group tour starts at 10am
- Last tour leaves Calvary at 8pm

Tour groups leave Calvary United Methodist Church every 12 minutes.
Tours will last approximately 2.5 hours each.

Street Closures: From Friday Dec 4th from 3.30pm to 10pm; Saturday Dec 5th from 9.30am to 10pm:

- All of Beech Ave & the 800 block of North Lincoln Ave will be barricaded to vehicular traffic during the tour. Please do not expect to be able to drive on these streets during the tour and plan accordingly.
- Galveston Ave will be blocked at the intersection of Beech. Through traffic is permitted on Dounton and Buttercup Way.
- Western Avenue will be fully open to traffic.

Parking

- Tour attendees & volunteers can park for free in the CCAC Lot on Ridge Avenue, open Friday at 3pm & Saturday at 9am.
- Residents on Beech and 800 Block of N Lincoln are asked to move their cars from the street during the tour. The parking lot at Babb Insurance, corner of Galveston Avenue and Chapel Way is available to residents for their vehicles at no charge. The lot opens Friday at 3pm and is available through to Sunday at 10am. **If you park there, you must ensure your car is moved from the Babb Lot by 10am on Sunday.**

Antique Shoppe

- The Antique Shoppe will be open to the public in the basement of Calvary. Many of the vendors from prior tours are back, along with some new ones too. Please visit during the tour; you do not need a tour ticket.

Guests in the Neighborhood

- This year we expect more than 1500 people to walk through our streets during the tour! It's a testament to all those who, over the past 43 years, have built this tour into one of the most sought-after Christmas events in Pittsburgh. Thank you to all for your efforts in making wonderful memories for so many!

Preparing for the tour – what you can do

- Clearing leaves and debris: Street sweeping ends well before the tour begins and Fall is upon us. Please take some time to clear leaves and debris on your walkway and assist in making the sidewalks safe. Many of the tours happen in the evening and it is important that the sidewalks are kept clear. Thank you for your assistance with this request.
- Decorating the neighborhood: Please consider decorating your home in the traditional Victorian Christmas way. We are not doing swags this year due to safety and signage considerations. Let's keep the focus of tour participants on our wonderful homes. There will be prizes for the best-festooned homes ready in time for the tour.
- Tree Lighting: The community Christmas tree will again be on the corner of Western and Galveston. Updates will be communicated in eBlasts (see page 5 for details on how to sign up!) to organize decorating efforts. Please consider helping with the tree decorating.
- Volunteer Only After Party: Saturday, December 5th from 8:30 pm; further details will be 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 help: At the designated house, volunteers provide cookies and warm cider to tour goers. Everything needed to provide this treat will be delivered to the property. Email Tours@Alleghenywest.org if you're interested in helping with the cookie and cider house.
- Homeowner Lunch Prep: Build the lunchboxes for the homeowners and their volunteers. All food and service items will be provided. Runners 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.
- Homeowner support: Let us know if you can help support one of our homeowners during the tour. Please reach to tours@alleghenywest.org
- Train Museum: Contact Cecile Canales to volunteer at the Train Museum at Holmes Hall: ccanales13@icloud.com
- Tour Docents: There are still spots left! Contact Dan Sprumont to sign up to be a docent: Dan.sprumont@gmail.com

As we move closer to December 4th, we are humbled by the volunteer spirit of this community, the selflessness of so many who make the tour possible (truly - thank you) and the excitement that comes with experiencing a bygone era.

Together let's work as a community to ensure the 2026 tour brings a special experience for the homeowners who are opening up their homes and wonderful memories for the many tour goers who have purchased tickets for this special event.

Thank you, Allegheny West! - Jo and Carol; email: Tours@alleghenywest.org

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The **AWCC Email List** is back up and running on a new service (the old eBlast program was discontinued).
We've sent a number of eBlasts in September & October, along with event announcements and AWCC meeting news; if you are subscribed to the list but have not seen any emails, please make sure you check your spam folder. You can add "gaggle.email" to your safe senders list to ensure you don't miss any updates. Please join the email list by signing up on our Allegheny West webpage: https://alleghenywest.org/neighbors-mailing-list/
Please email questions or concerns to communications@alleghenywest.org. We'll help make sure AWCC emails are getting to you.

Trash and Recycling are picked up on Monday the 9th and 23rd of November. Trash only on the 16th and 30th

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Street Sweeping has one last run this month before it ends till April. Check your street's signs and make sure to move your car !

AWCC November 2026 Calendar

November General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, November 10th** 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/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
  - 1st Tuesday of the month: November 3rd; December 1st
  - Zoom info: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXlMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09
  - Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427; Passcode: 045565
- AWCC Executive Committee Meeting
  - 806 Western Avenue
  - Last Tuesday of the month: November 24th at 7:00 PM

The Allegheny West Gazette **Editor: Sarah Cook**
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