

Message from the President:

Good Things Come to Those Who Wait...Right?

By Timothy G. Zinn, AWCC President

We're all familiar with the old saying "Good things come to those who wait." But, do they and how long is that wait? Well, in this case, something good did finally happen after an extended wait. I am referring to the city finally cleaning up the rear yard of two derelict properties in our neighborhood, namely 928 and 930 Western Avenue. These properties, which have been vacant for years and known to most of us old-timers as the SRO (Single Room Occupancy) houses, were purchased by a Lawrenceville developer nine years ago and have been deteriorating ever since. When the owner was contacted, he stated that he really has no intention of doing anything with the buildings. In addition to the boarded up entrance and broken and open windows on the front of the buildings, the rear yards, which back onto Dounton Way, have not been mowed for several years and have become a favorite dumping ground, where a pile of garbage—including appliances and mattresses—reached nearly five feet high.

I, along with several surrounding property owners, have been reporting the condition of the properties to the city's 311 Mayor's Service Center since January to no avail. A few weeks ago, members of AWCC's board scheduled a neighborhood walk-through with Councilman Daniel Lavelle. These were among a number of properties we visited. I am happy to report, after eight long months of waiting, the rear of the properties has been cleared of brush, weeds, and that enormous trash pile. Mr. Lavelle, I tip my hat to you for finally making something happen when the rest of us could not. We all know the process is not supposed to work like this, but let's not be discouraged by this incident. If you see conditions that are in violation of the city's own laws, please continue to report them to the 311 center and to me. I promise to remain diligent until these code violations are corrected.

On a more positive note, the *Housing and Planning Committee* has been working on a Master Plan for the 800 block of West North Avenue for the past several years. After another long wait, it appears that additional interest is sparking in the "Lofts District," as it has come to be known. With the five former Hipwell Manufacturing buildings currently under conversion into loft apartments, we are beginning to see the first tangible evidence of the Lofts District becoming a reality. In addition, we recently met with a developer who is interested in the former A&P lot—a vacant expanse at the corner of West North Avenue and Brighton Road. Although we are a long way from agreeing on what the development might look like and how many new units of housing can be accommodated on the site, I am very encouraged that developers and investors are buying in on our vision for that area.

Yes, good things do come in time. Sometimes we can speed up the process a little on our own; sometimes we have to wait until the economic climate is right. But, we will always be able to accomplish more collectively than singularly. AWCC is committed to advancing our neighborhood forward by protecting the things that make us a unique, attractive, and vibrant community and by promoting good and appropriate development. Again, I urge you to join AWCC, attend our general membership meetings, and join one of our standing committees to be a part of this effort and for the betterment of our neighborhood and.

I continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve this neighborhood. I am always available and look forward to receiving your comments at tzinn106@msn.com.

Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer

Friday, August 19, 6:00 PM

at

BYOB!

**Georgio's Place
908 Western Avenue**

**Italian
food!**

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Calvary United Methodist Church (Beech Ave. entrance)

Tuesday, August 9 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 13 @ 7:30 p.m.

HOUSING & PLANNING/NORTH AVE. COMMITTEE MTG

852 Beech Avenue

Tuesday, August 16 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 20 @ 7:30 p.m.

AWCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

832 Western Ave.

Tuesday, August 30 @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27 @ 7:30 p.m.

AWCC MEMBERSHIP MTG. AGENDA

1. READING OF JULY 2011 MINUTES
2. REPORTS OF OFFICERS
 - Treasurer's Report
3. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES
 - Housing & Planning/North Avenue Committees
Development Proposals
 - A&P Lot Proposal (W. North & Brighton Roads)
 - Western Avenue Proposal
North Avenue Sub Committee
 - Value Added Foods Building--*UPDATE*
 - *Western Avenue Project*
 - Project Update
 - Casino Funds Grant Acceptance
 - *West Ohio Street and Ridge Avenue Bridges*
 - *Wyllie Holdings Properties (928-930 Western Ave.)*
 - Membership
Labor Day Picnic/Block Party
AW August Mixer: Friday, August 19, 6 p.m. Georgio's
 - Property
Realtor report/Sale of 816 Western Ave.
Repairs on units
Additional listings: 806 & 814 Western Ave.
 - Ways & Means
Christmas House Tour-- UPDATE
 - Friends of Allegheny West
Neighborhood Cleanup: August 20, 9:00 a.m.
 - Communications
4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - Heinz Field additional seating—UPDATE
 - Stage AE Sound Study
 - North Side Leadership Conference Report
 - NSLC NID Steering Committee
 - Light of Life expansion/relocation
 - Noise Taskforce
 - Steeler game neighborhood off-duty police patrols
5. NEW BUSINESS: North Shore Billboards
6. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Zone 1 Appreciation Day: Wednesday, August 10, 11 a.m.—6 p.m.

Allegheny West Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, August 20: 9 a.m.

Please meet at the AWCC office (812 Western Ave.) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 20 for our monthly Neighborhood Cleanup. We'll provide the bags and gloves, please bring your rakes, brooms and clippers.

Meet the Friends of Allegheny West Committee
 by Tim Zinn

As we continue to highlight one of the AWCC's standing committees each month to encourage greater participation in the organization, this month we feature the Friends of Allegheny West Committee. According to AWCC's Bylaws, "The Friends of Allegheny West Committee shall be concerned with bringing to the council support and services from individuals, from both within and outside of Allegheny West, who are concerned with the human and physical development within the neighborhood."

While the duties of the committee have varied over the years, currently the Friends of Allegheny West Committee performs the following duties:

- Plants and maintains the garden at the corner of Western Avenue and Brighton Road.
- Plants and maintains the triangular garden at the corner of Brighton Road and W. North Avenue.
- Schedules and coordinates neighborhood cleanups
- Coordinates the Allegheny West Memorial Tree program in West Park.

The current chair of the Friends of Allegheny West Committee is Mary Callison, a resident of the 900 block of W. North Avenue. Mary and her volunteers have been doing an amazing job of maintaining our community gardens this year. Be sure to view both of these important spaces that help to beautify the eastern approaches to our neighborhood. The Western/Brighton garden has been especially beautiful this year, which seems to change weekly with something new in bloom.

Mary has also coordinated very successful monthly neighborhood cleanups (third Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.) If you are concerned about the appearance of our neighborhood, or you consider yourself to be an avid gardener, this is the committee for you. Please contact Mary at 412-321-5951 or at callismar@comcast.net

Each month, I will continue to highlight one of our committees. As you become familiar with the duties and functions of the various committees, I encourage you to contact our committee chairs and join one that interests you or would benefit from your time and talents.

SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIE SERIES: A Reel Good Time for Neighbors (by Tim Zinn)

Our first outdoor summer movie was a big hit with those who attended a couple of weeks ago. In last month's *Gazette*, I provided a list of ten movies and asked neighbors to vote on which movie they would like to see. *The Valley of Decision* and *Meet Me in St. Louis* tied for first place. Provided we have good weather, we will show *Meet Me in St. Louis* on Sunday, August 14, at 9:00 p.m. The movie will be shown in the side yard of 843 Beech Avenue and projected onto the side of 849 Beech. Bring your lawn chairs or a blanket and your own refreshments. Thanks in advance to Bob and Nonie and Gretchen and Dan for making this possible.



Don't be Left in the Dark

To report a street light problem either within the neighborhood or anywhere within West Park, please contact **Allegheny City Electric:**

(412) 734-0818
 info@alleghenycityelectric.com
 www.alleghenycityelectric.com

AWCC Membership—Become a Member Today!

To become an AWCC member, send your name, address, phone number, and email address to:

Allegheny West Civic Council - Membership Chair
 812 Western Avenue
 Pittsburgh, PA 15233

Annual Dues are \$3 and Lifetime Dues are \$45. Checks should be made payable to AWCC.

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A-West parking is often quite tight
 Would that all would do what's right

So many times parking spaces are wasted
 Certainly everyone's personally faced it

Half a car length here, a third down there
 What if we all show a bit more care

Make an effort to tighten up those spaces
 So all can find full-sized parking places

Parking Doggerel