
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

September 2017

President's Message

So what are you doing on Tuesday evening?

Following our two month Summer break without General Membership meetings, you should be well rested and ready to join your neighbors as we direct Allegheny West along the exciting course that we have now sailed together for more than 55 years.

A big THANK YOU to the many AW folks (you know who you are!) who continued to attend all of those OTHER meetings all Summer: Executive, Housing & Planning, Ways & Means, and Membership Committees — and meetings for the Northside Leadership Conference, Allegheny Commons Initiative, and others—as well as those who volunteered for clean-ups, and for our Allegheny West Summer community picnics on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day.

We will all be getting together again on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7:30 P.M.** at Calvary Church to find out what's going on. This is where you get the straight story and ask questions, where you can bring your local issues or problems, and most importantly where you and your neighbors decide what we're going to do about them.

This monthly meeting is where and when we make decisions about our neighborhood—decisions that in ways both small and large will affect you. And we always have a good time socializing and enjoying refreshments while we're at it!

Everyone is welcome—second Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., in the Calvary Church social hall, on the corner of Beech and Allegheny (use the Beech Avenue entrance). The meeting's usually over by 9:00. It's also a great way for newer folks to meet your neighbors and get involved! We hope to see you on Tuesday evening!

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Across the Summer and Fall of 1962, the residents of our community (not yet called "Allegheny West") were discovering new realities—some good, some bad, all moving at a bewildering pace.

Everywhere there were monumental plans being circulated that would wipe away most of what had been long familiar on the lower Northside. With so much change in the air, the residents and business people who occupied these few square blocks west of the Allegheny Commons began to discuss creating an organized effort to achieve self-determination . . . a way to make their own decisions about the future of their community.

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In the face of such grand transformations—all being rapidly initiated by the region’s most powerful political and business leaders—it would be understandable for folks to begin packing and saying their goodbyes. But our predecessors on these streets were discovering something that even they could barely have guessed at a few months earlier. Across a few organizational meetings that Summer, a consensus had formed. And the consensus was to take action.

Far from being defeated, there was a solid belief that some of the change could be good—so long as the neighborhood itself remained intact and functioning, and directing its own path forward. In order to achieve this, everyone would have to pull together—and in the same direction. There would need to be a reliable structure for communally creating a plan and advancing it. And there would also be a need for public visibility to distinguish this place as significant—apart from all the rest of the thousand acres awaiting the bulldozers.

As those years of the 1960s rolled along, these earliest stirrings produced a flood of action. To distinguish itself from the surroundings, a new neighborhood was proclaimed. “Allegheny West” would define the neighborhood west of the old City of Allegheny’s downtown center (now itself being renamed “Allegheny Center”, even as it was being cleared of all but a handful of its 300+ substantial buildings).

A neighborhood organization was formally created, initially as the “Lincoln-Beech Neighborhood Council”. In June of 1963 this became the “Allegheny West Neighborhood Council” and was formally registered with the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of City Planning and its Urban Redevelopment Authority. And at the turn of the decade, the 1970s would welcome a new name: “The Allegheny West Civic Council”.

— John DeSantis, AWCC President

Neighborhood Clean Up

A special thanks to Dr. Dan, Eleanor Coleman and Ann Gilligan--and any anonymous workers!--for weeding and picking up litter throughout the neighborhood. This has made all of our jobs easier.

In anticipation of the Alleys, Axles & Ales tour on September 23, we're asking that EVERYONE help to rid the alleys behind their properties of weeds and litter--most are in terrible need of attention right now! Anyone needing trash bags and gloves (can be delivered to your front door) should email Trish at tdburton3@gmail.com.

Thanks for your continuing help in beautifying Allegheny West!

—Trish Burton / Diane Caruso

Special Thank You

Thank you to all neighbors who so generously supported the Leukemia Society Neighborhood Campaign. Your generosity is overwhelming. My sincerest thanks to everyone for your donations. —Linda Ianotta

Attention Allegheny West Business Owners: Sign Up for Small Business Saturday

The Northside Chronicle and Northside Chamber of Commerce invites Allegheny West businesses to join the Second Annual Small Business Saturday on November 25th for Northside Shop Small. The Western Avenue business district will be the focal point to welcome residents and visitors this year for this national event.

Giveaways, raffles, and more await shoppers. We're asking those interested to sign-up for inclusion in our free promotions for #shopsmall this holiday season.

Visit www.bit.ly/northsideshopsmall now to register to receive additional details on the #shopsmall campaign, free in-store and social media marketing materials, plus opportunities and suggestions for the event. Questions? Send emails to northsideshopsmall@gmail.com or text 412-339-0712.

Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour

It's time to start thinking about this year's Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour. This year's tour will take place on December 8 and 9. We are looking for homeowners who are willing to open their homes for this year's tour. If you're interested and able, please contact Carol Gomrick at carolgomrick@gmail.com. Information about volunteering for the event will be coming out after this month's Alleys, Axles & Ales tour on September 23. Stay tuned to the calendar and e-newsletter to learn about the kickoff meeting for this year's tour volunteers.

NOTE: Gazette Deliverers

Thank you to all of the neighbors who faithfully deliver the Allegheny West Gazette each month. When you're able, please check in to confirm that you're still receiving the appropriate amount of copies—not too few, not too many—and to let me know what you're doing with the extras, if applicable. Also, please confirm your delivery route, so that I can ensure that all residents and business owners are receiving their copy of the Gazette. Simply check in before the end of September at gazette@alleghenywest.org. Thank you! —Karen Haller Beer

Reminders: Street Sweeping September 11 & 12. Please be sure to move your car!

The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Karen Haller Beer

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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AWCC Calendar

Tuesday, Sept 12 @ 7:30 p.m.

General Membership Meeting @ Calvary Church

Tuesday, Sept 19 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, @ AWCC Office (806 Western)

Saturday, Sept 23, @ 12:00 p.m.

Alleys, Axles & Ales Tour @ Babb, Inc.

Tuesday, Sept 26 @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, @AWCC Office (806 Western)

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Estate Planning
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DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 12, 2017 at 7:30 P.M.

- Visitors
 - Councilwoman Harris' office
 - Mayor Peduto's office
 - Pittsburgh Police Zone 1
 - Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy – Allegheny Commons
- New neighbors and guests
- Reading of previous meeting's minutes
- Treasurer's report/ Finance Committee progress report
- Committee reports
 - Membership (September mixer)
 - Ways & Means
 - Update on five-year Calvary plan
 - Debriefing 2017 Wine Tour
 - 2017 Alleys, Axles & Ales tour (9/23/17)
 - AW Christmas Candlelight House Tour (12/8 and 12/9)
 - Friends of Allegheny West - Green Space
 - Property
 - Housing & Planning updates
 - Parking & traffic issues
 - Blocks bounded by Western, Allegheny, Ridge, Bridge, MCC
 - Western Avenue revitalization
 - Light of Life ridge Avenue project
 - Revised AW Film Guidelines
 - Allegheny Commons update of 2002 Master Plan
 - Expansion of Historic District (LRC report)
 - Historic District enforcement issues – old cases
 - Decision to join ZBA Appeal - Medical Marijuana Dispensary
 - Comprehensive guidelines for new construction on vacant sites
- Northside Leadership Conference
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Air BnB issues/impacts in AW
 - Allegheny General Hospital Institutional Master Plan

Adjournment

**IF ANYONE'S GOING
TO LOSE SLEEP,
IT'LL BE US.**



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