

Message from the President

By *Timothy G. Zinn, AWCC President*

One of my goals as president of the Allegheny West Civic Council is to improve the cleanliness and attractiveness of our neighborhood. As I wrote about civic pride last month and promised to revisit that topic often, this too is an integral part of our neighborhood image and a reflection of our civic pride. In order to accomplish this I am asking for the cooperation of all property owners, business owners, and residents. The more that actively participate, the easier the task becomes and the more significant the impact will be.

There are several aspects to this task, which I will outline and address. The first aspect refers to building maintenance and upkeep of surrounding lots. Open windows and other means of access into vacant buildings, conditions caused by deterioration or by the actions of a property owner that may pose a danger to the public, accumulations of debris, and overgrown lots should be reported to the city's Bureau of Building Inspection by calling the Mayor's 311 response line, which may be reached by dialing 3-1-1 within the city of Pittsburgh, or 412-255-2621 from outside of the city. Please bring these matters to my attention as well: tzinn106@msn.com.

Secondly, there is the issue of litter. Here I encourage our property owners, residents, and merchants to regularly sweep their respective sidewalks and curbs, remembering that most of our properties have two curbs—the street curb and the alley curb. A commitment of few minutes a day, three or four times a week could make an enormous impact on all of our streets and alleyways. A sidewalk and curb free of litter speaks volumes to those visiting or shopping here, not just as it relates to civic pride, but also to the quality and safety of our neighborhood. As for the street on which I reside, Western Avenue, we (the Civic Council, the City, property owners, and others), have invested approximately \$1.8 million in streetscape improvements, which is negated if it is not kept clean and in good repair—let's protect this investment.

Thirdly, please observe the city's refuse collection times, calendar, and guidelines. Refuse should be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before collection and no later than 6:00 a.m. on the day of collection. Should our collection day (Monday) be a holiday, refuse will be collected the following day. If you miss the collection, please do not leave your trash in the alley for the remainder of the week. City workers will also not collect loose garbage—make sure your trash is bagged. The city will cite property owners who violate these guidelines.

Finally, and this challenge comes with a reward, is the issue of recycling. Recycling is easy with the city's "single-stream" system, which eliminates the need to separate items. The recycling program accepts glass, aluminum and bi-metal cans, paper, cardboard, and plastics marked 1-5. As the benefits of recycling are too numerous for this column, I will simply leave you with this challenge: *let's make Allegheny West a GOLD STAR recycling community in 2011*. Gold Star communities are those with over 90% of their households recycling. Central North Side was the first neighborhood to achieve this status in 2009 and was displaced by North Oakland and Friendship in 2010. For the past two years, Allegheny West has been a Blue Star neighborhood, with participation reaching 65% or above. Let's be a Gold Star in the recycling world. To assist in this effort, I have reprinted the collection schedule to re-circulate with this month's *Gazette*.

To view the collection guidelines online, visit:
www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/files

To view the collection calendar online, visit:
www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/files/schedules

Recycling will be picked up this month on Monday, Feb. 7 and Monday Feb. 21 and next month on Monday, March 7 and Monday, March 21.

FEBRUARY / MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AWCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG

Calvary United Methodist Church

Tuesday, February 8 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, March 8 @ 7:30pm

HOUSING & PLANNING/NORTH AVENUE COMMITTEE MTG

852 Beech Ave

Tuesday, February 15 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, March 15 @ 7:30pm

AWCC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

944 Western Ave.

Tuesday, February 22 @ 7:30pm

Tuesday, March 29 @ 7:30pm

Allegheny West Civic Council
812 Western Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
(412) 323-8884
info@alleghenywest.org

AWCC MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

February 8, 2011 7:30pm

1. Reading of January 2011 Minutes
2. Reports of Officers
 - a. Treasurer's Report
3. Reports of the Standing Committees
 - a. Housing & Planning/North Avenue Committees
 - i. Western Avenue PSI Update
 - ii. Lindo's façade proposal
 - iii. Development proposal—former BP site
 - iv. Allegheny Commons Park petition
 - v. West Ohio Street/Ridge Avenue Bridges Project
 - b. Ways & Means
 - i. 2011 Fundraising events
 - c. Property
 - d. Membership
 - i. February Mixer—Friday, Feb. 18, 6:00, MODERN CAFÉ
 - ii. Upcoming membership and community activities
 - e. Friends of Allegheny West
 - f. Communications
4. Old Business
 - a. Western Avenue/Property Owner Issues
5. New Business
 - a. Memorial tree planting for 2011

Ways & Means: 2011 Fundraising Ideas

The year has just begun but it's never too early to start planning for our annual fundraisers! Several good ideas have been recommended over the past few months. At the Christmas Tour wrap-up meeting in January, we decided to move forward with and plan the following events:

Spring Wine Tasting: we're looking to model this after our successful October wine tasting and Christmas Tour wine tasting events but with a spring twist. A change in the seasons brings a change in wine and food and another opportunity to host a great event. *Date TBD.*

Summer Auction/Flea Market: it's been years since AWCC hosted an auction fundraiser and there's no better time than this year, as the PBS hit series *Antiques Roadshow* makes a long-awaited return to Pittsburgh. *Date TBD.*

30th Annual Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour: We want to make this milestone extra special so put on your thinking caps! Ideas, themes and publicity help are welcome. *Dates: December 9 & 10, 2011.*

If you would like to be a part of any of these events, please contact Gloria at glowalks@comcast.net. Everyone is welcome!

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Allegheny West Neighborhood Mixer



**Friday, February 18
6:00 PM**

**MODERN CAFÉ
862 Western Ave.**

**BEER OF THE MONTH:
Big Hop of East End Brewery**

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

We will be open at 4:30 and will feature a halftime buffet, \$2.50 Miller Lite Drafts, and more!

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—Allegheny Branch

The Allegheny Branch of the Carnegie Library, located at 1230 Federal Street, has many free and fee programs and activities for individuals of all ages. Please visit: www.carnegielibrary.org/locations/allegheny/ and click on the "more events" link for a comprehensive listing or call 412-237-1890 or email allegheny@carnegielibrary.org.

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AWCC Membership

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. You can also pay for your membership online at www.alleghenywest.org/shop. Choose "Membership" in the left-hand sidebar under "Categories" and you will be given the option to purchase a 1-year (\$3) or lifetime (\$45) membership. Your paid membership enables you to vote at monthly membership meetings.

THE GAZETTE

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council *Valerie Nagel, editor*

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