
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

January 2026

Happy New Year, Allegheny West!

As we begin 2026, I'm delighted to welcome you to a new year in our neighborhood and to thank you for being part of the Allegheny West Civic Council community. I'd like to extend sincere gratitude to three members of the AWCC Executive Committee whose terms concluded at the end of 2025: Bob Griewahn, Carol Gomrick, and Cathy Serventi. Their decades of service, steady commitment, and thoughtful leadership have played a vital role in keeping our council - and our broader community - strong and vibrant. We are deeply grateful for their contributions.

As the new year begins, it's also a great time to check your AWCC membership status and renew if needed. Membership supports the work of the Civic Council and ensures your voice remains part of shaping the future of Allegheny West. Membership information is available on our website:

<https://alleghenywest.org/get-involved/allegheny-west-civic-council/becoming-a-member/>

As a neighborhood, we are continually rediscovering how much Allegheny West has grown and how much there is still to learn about its houses and the people who lived in them. This winter and spring, AWCC will be collecting home histories, old posters and pamphlets, and other historical materials, with the goal of digitizing and preserving them for the future. If you have documents you'd be willing to share, please email information@alleghenywest.org. We're happy to pick up, scan and return materials to you, or catalog them with other AWCC records if you prefer.

Looking ahead, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service will take place on Monday, January 19. This year marks 70 years since Dr. King first preached in Pittsburgh at Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Hill District. In his honor, there will be opportunities to volunteer with meaningful causes throughout the North Side and beyond; watch for opportunities advertised through local nonprofits, news outlets, and .

Thank you for your continued engagement, care, and pride in our neighborhood. I look forward to all we'll accomplish together in 2026.

Elizabeth Barbush

President, Allegheny West Civic Council

2025 Christmas Tour Recap

A big thank you and congratulations to everyone who helped make the 2025 Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas Tour another remarkable success. Thanks to the dedication of our homeowners, tour guides, docents, runners, business sponsors, advertisers, and many other volunteers, more than 1,700 visitors experienced the beauty, generosity, and holiday spirit that truly define our neighborhood. The tour is deeply meaningful to attendees and remains a cherished tradition and an important fundraiser for our civic council.

This year's tickets sold out in just five days - a new record! - and we're already receiving inquiries about the 2026 tour. As 2025 marked my final year as Ways and Means Committee Chair, I also want to extend my personal gratitude for your support and collaboration. It has been a true pleasure to serve in this role, and I look forward to supporting the tour and the recently elected W&M Chair, Joanne Beatty, however needed, in 2026.

Cheers and Happy New Year,

Carol Gomrick

January

for Susan

The ashtrays need emptying
and the cat's been sick.
The mice in the attic are giving out stink.
As we watch our breath drift
across the kitchen, central heating
is a luxury as distant as trays
of oysters at the Galway Races.
The year struggles to its feet,
like a lamb stranded in deep snow.
Strange then to think, this evening in Siberia,
that these are the good days;
I, the unknown "poet and critic",
You, the next F. Scott Fitzgerald,
up all night, putting the world to wrong;
writing new versions of old songs.

Kevin Higgins (1967-2025)

Reprinted with permission of the author's estate

The NFL Draft is coming to Pittsburgh in April 2026! Beginning in March, the NFL will transform the North Shore into a destination for athletes, media, and fans. The Draft will start on Thursday, April 23, with events concluding on Saturday, April 25, after 257 players have been selected over seven rounds. The anticipated event footprint includes the North Shore south of Ridge Avenue, bounded by the Carnegie Science Center to the west and Cedar Avenue to the east. Point State Park will also be part of the official event. 500,000 to 700,000 fans are expected to attend, and the economic impact of previous Draft destinations has ranged between \$120 and \$213 million.

The Allegheny West Civic Council (AWCC) has participated in planning meetings with VisitPittsburgh, the North Side/North Shore Chamber of Commerce, and the NFL to better understand the Draft's potential impacts on our neighborhood. Representatives from these organizations have been invited to attend AWCC meetings and share updates. In the meantime, the NFL encourages fans and neighbors to download the NFL OnePass app, which will provide real-time updates, schedules, and event information.

Residents with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact members of the AWCC Draft Subcommittee - Aaron Bryan, Dan Sprumont, and Sarah Cook - and/or email those concerns to communications@alleghenywest.org. AWCC will compile community feedback and share it with event organizers. We will also prepare a neighborhood document outlining how to escalate concerns during the event.

Announcements & Events

Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra returns to the Tiffany Concert series, sponsored by the Allegheny Historic Preservation Society, on January 18 2026. Concerts are held at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue.

The concert will feature PYSO's Strings Section performing divertimenti, chamber music, and other works. Please come support young musicians, including Allegheny West resident Amelia Beer. The concert begins at 4:00 and tickets can be purchased at the door (\$15-25 based on last year's prices).

Congratulations to neighborhood restaurant **Fry Bar**, which just received accolades in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette as one of the city's best new restaurants of 2025! Fry Bar is at 1100 Galveston Avenue and is open Wednesday through Sunday.

Please use the city's **3-1-1** service to report any non-emergency City of Pittsburgh concerns. Access the service online at <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Resident-Services/311/Online-Request-Form> or search the "MyBurgh" app in your phone's App store; you can also dial 3-1-1 or 412-255-2621.

Black American History takes center stage this month in Prime Stage Theatre's production of ***Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance***. Black Pittsburgh History, to be sure.

From Jan. 23-Feb. 1, 2026 Prime Stage Theatre premieres a new stage work that tells a uniquely Pittsburgh story of innovation, compassion and civic empowerment. *Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance* by playwright L.E. McCullough dramatizes the 1967 creation of Freedom House Ambulance Service, America's first mobile emergency medical unit staffed by professionally-trained paramedics from Pittsburgh's Black communities.

The cast includes Willa "Katy" Cotten, Cynthia Dallas, Justin Mohr, Darrin Mosley, Anne Rematt, DeVaughn Robinson and Ryan Warsing. Directed by Scott Calhoon, tickets are available by calling New Hazlett Theater at 412-320-4610 x10 or by reserving online at <https://primestage.com/productions/freedom-house>.

Freedom House: Giving Life a Second Chance is the first-ever stage production of the Freedom House story, and it portrays a topic that couldn't be more timely, as America's public health resources face an ongoing wave of new challenges. And – as with the original Freedom House – new heroes are needed to step forward.

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- Recycling will be picked up on Monday January 5th and Monday January 19th
 - To find the trash and recycling schedule, go to <https://pgh.st/> and enter your address
 - Street sweeping has concluded for the year, and will restart in April 2026.

January General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, January 13th at 7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue - also accesible on Zoom.

7:30 **Call to Order**

7:35 **Greetings and Introductions of New Neighbors**

7:40 **Reports of Elected Officials, City Departments, Organizations**

City of Pittsburgh Zone 1 Police (Officer Defeo)

City of Pittsburgh Mayor Corey O'Connor's Office

State Representative Aerion Abney's Office (Tom Harnett)

Department of City Planning (Nazia Tarannum)

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Erin Tobin)

Councilman Bobby Wilson's Office (Bobby Wilson/Jordyn Gilliard/Julianne Hluska)

8:15 **Guests and Presentations**

8:25 **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

AWCC January Calendar

Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting

Calvary United Methodist Church (Beech Avenue or rear entrance); also on Zoom

Tuesday, January 13th at 7:30 PM (the second Tuesday of the month)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969724081?pwd=dGFWNTRaalpJZThHNjBWQmswenNYQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6972 4081 Passcode: 979088

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting

806 Western Avenue; also on Zoom

Tuesday January 6th at 7:30 PM & Tuesday February 3rd at 7:30 PM (the first Tuesday of the month)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87074045427?pwd=MUVvbUpEOXIMZDhBTEZ0V0JaT1MxUT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7404 5427 Passcode: 045565

AWCC Executive Committee Meeting

806 Western Avenue

Tuesday, January 24th at 7:00 PM (the last Tuesday of the month)

The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Sarah Cook

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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