
ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

February 2026

President's Message

Happy February, Neighbors!

As expected, Punxsutawney Phil spotted his shadow, meaning six more weeks of winter await us. After weathering the largest snowstorm we've had in years this January, I hope everyone found moments to appreciate both the beauty and the occasional chaos of the season. I'm glad most of us have finally dug out our parking spots! I especially love this time of year when Lake Elizabeth freezes. I was able to get out ice skating a few times and enjoyed watching the impromptu hockey games that popped up across the ice.

What truly warmed my heart, though, was watching our community come together. So many of you were out helping shovel sidewalks, dig out stuck cars, and check in on neighbors. On Monday morning after the storm, residents along North Lincoln witnessed more than 20 police academy cadets arrive and shovel the entire north-side of the sidewalk on the 800 block from Galveston Avenue to Brighton Road. This included all walkways and steps. No one asked them to do it, and they did an outstanding job. A sincere thank-you to the cadets for their generosity and kindness!

I noticed that this year, February is a "perfect month." Each day of the week appears exactly four times, forming a satisfying and tidy rectangle on the calendar. The last time this happened was 2015, and we won't see it again for a while—so enjoy the symmetry while it lasts! And for such a perfect little month, there are plenty of reasons to celebrate.

In addition to Valentine's Day, Black History Month, and the start of Fish Fry season on February 20, Mardi Gras arrives on Tuesday, February 17! If you're looking for local ways to join the festivities, here are two great options:

- Allegheny Elks Lodge Mardi Gras Celebration Tuesday, February 17 at 7:30 PM Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased online: <https://alleghenyelks339.weebly.com/events.html>
- Calvary's Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Tuesday, February 17 from 5:00–7:30 PM Suggested donation: \$10 Details at <https://calvarypgh.com/upcoming-events>

Wishing you all a warm, connected, and joyful February. As always, thank you for being such a caring and engaged community.

Warmly,

Elizabeth Barbush

President, Allegheny West Civic Council

Love and Friendship

Love is like the wild rose-briar,
 Friendship like the holly-tree—
 The holly is dark when the rose-briar blooms
 But which will bloom most constantly?

The wild rose-briar is sweet in spring,
 Its summer blossoms scent the air;
 Yet wait till winter comes again
 And who will call the wild-briar fair?

Then scorn the silly rose-wreath now
 And deck thee with the holly's sheen,
 That when December blights thy brow
 He still may leave thy garland green.

Emily Brontë, 1818-1848

Winter Bowling at the Allegheny Elks Lodge

Submitted by Tim Zinn

Join your Allegheny West neighbors, friends, and guests for casual Wednesday night bowling through the end of April! We gather around 7 PM for friendly games; no league commitment required, just show up when you can.

- **Where:** Allegheny Elks Lodge, 400 Cedar Avenue (second floor)
- **Entry:** Press the doorbell by the front door; when the red button lights up, come on in and head upstairs
- **Equipment:** Shoes and bowling balls available to rent (cash only)
- **Bonus:** The Pittsburgh Banjo Club performs downstairs from 8–11 PM, and the kitchen serves sandwiches and snacks (cash only)

Drop in for a few frames and good company ... we'd love to see you there!

Time to Renew Your AWCC Membership!

New and returning members: knock one item off your 2026 to-do list by paying your Allegheny West Civic Council dues today! Membership Options are Annual, \$5 per person, or Lifetime, \$50 per person.

How to Pay:

- **Online:** Visit <https://alleghenywest.org/get-involved/allegheny-west-civic-council/becoming-a-member/> to learn about membership types, check your eligibility, and pay your dues. (*Renewing members don't need to complete the full questionnaire.*)
- **In Person:** Bring cash, check, PayPal, or Venmo to any membership meeting.

Not sure if you're current? Email Chris Sweeney at treasurer@alleghenywest.org to check your membership status.

- Following the schedule change after the snowstorm, recycling will be picked up on Monday Feb 16th
- To find the trash and recycling schedule, go to <https://pgh.st/>
- Street sweeping has concluded for the year, and will restart in April 2026

Pictures from the January Snowstorm, courtesy of Paul Eley



Neighbors toted smaller neighbors through the snow on sleds



A glorious parking chair



“Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds” ... but sometimes it takes a neighborhood! Neighbors pitched in to dig out and tow this USPS truck on Beech Avenue.

February 2026 General Membership Meeting Agenda

The next Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 10th at 7:30 PM** at Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Avenue - also accessible over 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 February Calendar

Allegheny West Civic Council General Membership Meeting

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

Tuesday, February 10th 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 February 3rd at 7:30 PM and Tuesday March 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, February 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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