

NEIGHBOR NOTES
at the
PITTSFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY

FEBRUARY 2026

Executive Director's Desk:

We just passed the middle of cold, mixed-precipitation, ice, snow and oh yes, rain when it's over 35 degrees - that turned to ice again in the evening. Now we face frigid temperatures on or below zero degrees. It's so important to be extra careful when venturing outdoors. Stay safe, stay in if you can. Our maintenance staff is working diligently to keep walkways and parking lots sanded/salted and plowed. If you have concerns, please call the maintenance hotline 617-591-1068.

Your windows should stay closed to avoid water pipes freezing. All air conditioners should have been removed by now. Always keep your apartment temperatures above 50 degrees, especially with freezing temperatures and throughout the winter/early Spring to avoid pipes freezing. You will be held responsible and charged for damages created by frozen pipes. Call the maintenance hotline should you have any concerns; our crew will check on your concern.

In case you haven't heard, PHA received a Mass Broadband Institute (MBI) RANGE grant in the amount of \$400,000 to bring digital literacy to our sites. There's much to do before we're up and running. We will be adding computer labs at 4 sites in the community rooms (Columbia Arms, Providence Court, Dower Square and Rose Manor). All PHA residents will have access to one-on-one training with a specialist who can help you become proficient using your smart phone, iPad, tablet or laptop. Call the office 413-443-5936 if you would like us to set up an appointment with one of our partners.

I am excited to announce that Veronica Warren, currently PHA's Federal Public Housing Specialist, will take on a new role as our full-time **RSC (Resident Services Coordinator)** starting the first week of February. I recognize how important it is to have the RSC meeting our tenants' needs full-time at our 12 housing sites. She will be working 8:30-4:00 Monday-Friday.

Tina

FEBRUARY CALENDAR:

Together Tuesday @ Wahconah Heights community room. PHA's Veronica Warren facilitates "Together Tuesdays" each week at 5-6:30 p.m. Arts, Crafts, Music, Games for all.

- **State & Federal unit citation re-inspections continue.**
- **State & Federal recertifications: Scattered Sites, Dower Square.**
- **Monday, February 16, PHA Office Closed for Observation of Presidents' Day Federal Holiday**
- **Tuesday, February 17th Board of Commissioners Meeting: Noon: Dower Square Community Room, 253 Wahconah Street**

MARCH 2026

Together Tuesday @ Columbia Arms community room. PHA's Veronica Warren facilitates "Together Tuesdays" each week at 5-6:30 p.m. Arts, Crafts, Music, Games for all.

17th Board Meeting, Noon: Location TBD

- **State Annual Inspections begin at Providence Court.**
- **Re-inspections will continue for tenant unit citations.**
- **State rent recertifications being for McGill Court.**

TENANT RESOURCES:

Resident Services Coordinator (RSC) Veronica Warren: veronicawarren@pittsfieldhousing.org. Beginning February 2026, Veronica will be assisting with tenant paperwork, filing for rental assistance, computer literacy and other tenant issues as they arise. She will work full-time during office hours at 65 Columbus Avenue. For an appointment call 413-443-5936.

HANDY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Maintenance hotline: 617-591-1068

State Property Manager: Gwen Cariddi 413-344-9022
gwencariddi@pittsfieldhousing.org

State Program Specialists:

Walk In hours: Wed. & Friday 1-3 p.m. all other times by appointment.

Wilson Park, Providence Court, Scattered Sites, and Wahconah Heights

Lisa Houghtlin: 413-344-9014
Lisa.houghtlin@pittsfieldhousing.org

Christopher Arms, McGill Court, Rose Manor, and Francis Plaza

Christine Viel: 413-344-9013
Christineviel@pittsfieldhousing.org

Note: The mobile food pantry @ Columbia Arms : 10:00-11:00 a.m. Third Wednesday of the month. Bring your shopping bags and fill your fridge!

Mary Oliver

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.

**You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.**

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

**Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.**

**Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.**

**Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting -
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.**