

Plug in to Pittsburgh



Connect to Your Community with Apps and Social Media

By Jodie Free

Many of us use apps and social media platforms to keep in touch with friends and family living far away. However, these tools also provide an easy way to stay engaged with your local community. Whether you want to find out about local restaurants, follow news and politics or get to know your neighbors, these sites and apps are an excellent way to get plugged in!

Twitter

Twitter is more than just trending hashtags and hilarious GIFs—it’s also a simple way to receive succinct and immediate updates on what’s happening in town. Your favorite local news station, for example, likely provides up-to-the-minute weather and traffic updates on Twitter. The key to making Twitter work for you on a local level is to follow accounts and conversations focused on the ‘Burgh. Search for these hashtags and users to get started

Pittsburgh Hashtags:
#Pittsburgh, #SquirrelHill or #PGH.

Local Government
@PGHPolice
@CityPGH
@billpeduto

Arts & Culture
@CulturalTrust
@carnegielibrary
@ShowsPittsburgh

Squirrel Hill News
@squirrelhillmag
@uncoversqhill

Facebook

If you want more from your newsfeed than your friends’ pet and baby photos or your extended family’s political musings, follow some locals for recommendations within the city. **Discover the Burgh** is an amazing resource for deciding what to do with your weekend or where to take your out-of-town visitors. If you need recommendations on delicious local eats, check out **eatPGH**. And to balance out all that delicious food, follow **Fittsburgh** for information on local health and fitness opportunities.

To find local Facebook groups, use the search bar at the top of the site’s homepage and type in “Pittsburgh”. You can also type in a keyword for a hobby or specific interest, and then narrow the results by location—this is a great way to meet like-minded neighbors.

412 Area

Local website 412area.com helps you find what you’re looking for in Pittsburgh: bar and restaurant recommendations, real estate postings, job listings, things to do and upcoming events. But 412 Area is more than just a source of information; you can make an account and connect to other Pittsburghers at the same time—perfect if you want to get in touch with someone attending the same local event.

MeetUp

Whether you’re looking to find people who share your faith, profession, age, hobbies, or passion for pizza, chances are you’ll find a relevant group on MeetUp.com. Can’t find exactly what you’re looking for? Create your own MeetUp group and invite your neighbors! MeetUp is accessible through their website and app.

NextDoor

NextDoor is like an online community center. You and your neighbors can swap recommendations, share information, and post classifieds. Unlike other platforms, NextDoor verifies your address and only connects you to your immediate neighborhood (e.g. Squirrel Hill South), giving the website and mobile app a hyper-local feel.

412 Food Rescue

The 412 Food Rescue is devoted to ending hunger and reducing waste right here in Pittsburgh. The organization collects unwanted food from retailers, wholesalers, restaurants and caterers and delivers to soup kitchens, pantries, shelters and other community programs. Their new app makes the process even easier for volunteers: similar to Uber, the app alerts users to immediate opportunities for pick-ups and has a built-in navigation system.