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the Wilkinsburg

SUN

VOL. 10 NO. 6 March 2017

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

Commission Asks for Feedback on Sign Designs

The Wilkinsburg Community Art and Civic Design Commission hosted a public meeting on February 16 for feedback on the gateway sign project. The chosen design will be installed at South Trenton and Penn Avenues, the site of the old brick sign that was destroyed by a crashed vehicle years ago.



Two main designs were presented by artists Joe Petrina and Anders Anderson. Petrina's design, though not finalized in terms of color and scale, is a free-standing, 3-dimensional "W" in steel. Anderson's design incorporates a rooftop silhouette of the borough with the train

station in the background.

Attendees viewed the potential sign designs, met the artists, and offered feedback.

The Community Art and Civic Design Commission meets monthly to review and approve proposed designs for new or renovated structures, landscapes, art, etc., on all public property and on all private commercial property.

For more information on the gateway sign project, email wilkinsburgartscommission@gmail.com or visit wilkinsburgpa.gov/communityartandcivicdesign. The commission also has a Facebook at www.facebook.com/pg/WilkinsburgArtsCommission.



Westinghouse Unveils New Parent Resource Center

During its monthly Parent School Community Council (PSCC) meeting, Westinghouse High School celebrated the grand opening of its new Bulldog Family Community Resource Center.

The room, located on the first floor near the main office, will be open for parents, students, and community members to explore.

This space offers learning opportunities for parents such as classes, training, and workshops that focus on extending learning at home. The resources provide support in the areas of academic, technology access, social services, and health and wellness.

Some of the classes offered include How to Support Your Child in Math or Reading, How to Navigate the Home Access Center, Curriculum Lunch and Learns, and How to Deal with Adolescents During the Teenage Stages.

Last year, in partnership with the Homewood Children's Village, Westinghouse parents, teachers, staff and community partners submitted a proposal for a family community resource room. The Bulldogs Parent Resource Center will serve as welcoming space of

resources for all families, both Westinghouse and Wilkinsburg. The parent resource room was created to empower parents, students, and the community for the school's success.



Attendees of February's PSCC meeting tour the new resource center.

PSO Returns to Wilkinsburg

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will play its 14th concert in Wilkinsburg on March 23 at 7 p.m. at the former high school building.

Concert goers should use the North Avenue entrance. See more information on page 8.

Historical Society Meets in March

The Wilkinsburg Historical Society will meet on Monday evening, March 20 at 7:30 pm at South Avenue United Methodist Church, using the left Ross Avenue entrance. This meeting will focus on current Society projects and an overview of plans for 2017. Members, guests and anyone interested in Wilkinsburg history is welcome to come.

WBA's Opening Day and Parade

Wilkinsburg Baseball Association's opening day and "Stop the Violence" parade will be held Saturday, May 6 at 10 a.m.

Residents can join the Wilkinsburg Baseball Association (WBA) coaches, parents and youth, Community Action Organizations and other residents past and present as they come together as a community to promote unity in the community and take a stand against violence.

The parade march will begin at the Wilkinsburg Borough Building on Ross Avenue and will conclude at Turner Field on Laketon Road. The motto of the WBA is "Each One, Reach One."

For more information, contact David E. Reese at 412.657.2411, Cliff McCaulley

at 412.609.077, or Zachary J Reese at 412.636.6653.

5th Annual Art and Talent Show for Peace

The Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project (WSP) is sponsoring The Fifth Annual Art and Talent Show for Peace on Saturday, March 4 from 1-4 p.m. at the Homewood Library, 7101 Hamilton Avenue.

For more information, contact Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris at pastorjanethb@gmail.com or 412.241.3556. The WSP website is wilkinsburgsanctuaryproject.org.

New Exhibition at Percolate Features Female Artists

Emerging and established female artists are coming together for a special exhibition and benefit at Percolate Art Space in Wilkinsburg—inspired by music, political and feminist views.



Gateway, by artist Heather Heitzenwater, oil on panel

Girls Rock benefit and art exhibition will have its opening Reception on March 10 at 6-8:30 p.m. The exhibition will run from March 8-31.

Percolate will donate a portion of its commission for every piece of art sold to Girls Rock Pittsburgh (www.girlsrockpittsburgh.org). During the opening reception, Percolate will also be holding a raffle where all proceeds will go directly to Girls Rock Pittsburgh. Donors for this raffle include many local goods and services.

Also in March are events for teens, for adults to draw with a live model, and for aspiring writers. For more information on these events, visit Percolate's Facebook at www.facebook.com/pg/PercolateArt.



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Please submit all articles and calendar events to: editor@wilkinsburgsun.com, or by mail, P.O. Box 86064, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221. **Please submit articles 5 weeks before publication and calendar events 3 weeks before publication.** To advertise, e-mail adsales@wilkinsburgsun.com, or call 412.680.1381. The Sun accepts submitted articles provided they are related to Wilkinsburg and are civic-minded. *The Sun* reserves the right to withhold articles from print. Please note that *The Sun* does not publish political or opinion pieces.

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CORRECTIONS

Photos of MLK Vigil at the train station for the February issue were taken by Greg Sciulli.

Shade Tree Committee meetings begin at 6:30 p.m., not 6 p.m. as reported in the February issue.

Wilkinsburg Clean-Up Day!

On April 29, community members and residents, block watch groups, and affiliate organizations will all come together to clean up our streets and alleyways to help maintain the beauty of the borough. The borough will help with gloves, vests and some tools for your project.

Keep an eye on the borough's Facebook page and website for updates. Email your clean-up area and contact information to info@wilkinsburgpa.gov or call 412.244.2900.

Grant Provides New Waste Collection Truck and Recycling Containers



The Wilkinsburg borough recently received a grant for the purchase of a new waste collection truck to improve the

borough's recycling efforts.

The truck will allow for a more efficient and timely collection of recyclable materials around the borough.

The truck has compaction ability, allowing for fewer trips to the recycling center.

The grant also included the purchase of new recycling containers to be distributed in the coming weeks!

UPCOMING MEETING

3/1 (Wed)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor
3/3 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
3/7 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
3/8 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Legislative Session, 2nd floor
3/9 (Thurs.)	10 A.M.	Constituent & Community Relations committee, 2nd floor
3/13 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Finance Committee, 1st floor
3/13 (Mon.)	6 P.M.	Library Board, 2nd floor
3/14 (Tues.)	1 P.M.	Social Media & Promotions Committee, 1st floor
3/16 (Thurs.)	5 P.M.	Public Safety Forum, 2nd floor
3/16 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 1st floor
3/16 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Wilkinsburg Arts Commission, 2nd floor
3/20 (Mon.)	4:30 P.M.	Public Safety Committee, 2nd floor
3/22 (Wed.)	5:30 P.M.	Blight Committee, 1st floor
3/22 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Shade Tree Advisory Committee, 2nd floor
3/22 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Capital Planning Committee, 1st floor
3/23 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Special Events Committee, 2nd floor
3/27 (Mon.)	5:30 P.M.	Joint Tax Committee, 2nd floor
4/4 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
4/5 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor

All meetings will take place in Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Ave.

Website Launch and Call for Wilkinsburg Photos

The borough has exciting news! It will launch its new website in the month of March, which will allow you to easily navigate important documents and information about the borough and its services.

If you have pictures of Wilkinsburg that you would like to submit for the new website, please email them to info@wilkinsburgpa.gov. Additionally, as a part of this rebranding process, the borough will unveil a new logo to reflect our historical past while always looking forward to the future. Long-term goals for the website include making online payments for a variety of borough-related fees.

The borough already launched a YouTube page to keep all residents updated with events, announcements, and council meetings in Wilkinsburg. You can subscribe to the page and watch the videos at goo.gl/frhGEF

The borough website can be found at wilkinsburgpa.gov and they have a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WilkinsburgBorough



WCDC Business Workshop Starts Up April 6

The WCDC will host another free business planning workshop this spring, beginning with an orientation on April 6 and then running for eight weeks from April 13 through June 1. The workshop will be led by Gordon Manker, WCDC

Business Development Specialist, and will follow the CORE FOUR Business Planning Course®.

FOUR Business Planning Course® in Wilksburg in 2015, and since then, has supported dozens of entrepreneurs. From contractors to restaurateurs to childcare providers, workshop participants have all shared a desire to grow their businesses in




photo by Jason Cohn

the Wilksburg community. The WCDC looks forward to helping a new class of entrepreneurs this spring!

To take advantage of this free opportunity to grow and enhance your business, email gordon@wilksburgcdc.org or call 412.727.7855.

- planning for business success,
- planning to meet the needs of the marketplace,
- planning cash flow needs, and
- planning how the business will operate.

The WCDC introduced the CORE



To support the WCDC, send a tax-deductible contribution to 1001 Wood St., Wilksburg, PA 15221
OR donate online at wilksburgcdc.org
Thank you!
412.727.7855 • 412.871.3149 (fax)
info@wilksburgcdc.org



photo by Greg Scullin

Save the Date for the Two-Way Street Fest

Join the WCDC and its partners for the first Two-Way Street Fest on May 20, 12-4 p.m.!

This inaugural event celebrates community, small businesses, and some major infrastructure improvements taking place in Wilksburg this year. Food, music, local vendors, activities, and more will be part of this free, family-friendly event—save the date and stay tuned for more details!

If you would like to help with planning the fest, email marlee@wilksburgcdc.org or call 412.727.7855.

Help Clean Up Main Street on April 29

As part of the borough-wide clean up on April 29, the WCDC seeks volunteers to assist with cleaning up Wilksburg's Main Street area, including Penn Avenue and Wood Street.

If you can help pitch in, email jennifer@wilksburgcdc.org or call 412.727.7855.

Save the Dates!

- Saturday, March 18, 9–11 a.m.: WCDC Board meeting, 1001 Wood St.
- Saturday, April 29, 9–11 a.m.: WCDC Board meeting, 1001 Wood St
- Saturday, April 29: Wilksburg Clean-Up Day
- Saturday, May 20, 12–4 p.m.: Wilksburg Two-Way Street Fest

6th Graders Attend Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Concert with Future Westinghouse Peers

Sixth graders from Wilkinsburg Elementary Schools and Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy went on a field trip together to see “A Musical Journey Through Latin America,” which was conducted by Andres Franco of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) at Heinz Hall with musical pieces from Latin countries such as Chile and Mexico.

After the concert, Wilkinsburg and Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy students enjoyed a catered lunch, mingling with their future classmates and meeting the musicians in person. Afterwards, the 6th graders discovered their own musical talents in a workshop with PSO percussionists.

The trip finished with Human Bingo, where students and teachers filled their bingo boards with interesting facts about one another and won fun prizes.

The Wilkinsburg School District (WSD) has had a very close relationship with PSO for the past seventeen years. Our students have not only attended Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra concerts at Heinz Hall but have also enjoyed concerts performed at the district with their families. The proceeds go towards Wilkinsburg music programs. The next

concert will be Thursday, March 23.

PSO musicians also volunteer their time to lead interactive learning sessions with the students.

Through the partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, Wilkinsburg schools report that they are happy to have been able to share these experiences with the 6th grade students at Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy. Future transition activities will continue to solidify these bonds and make students’ 7th grade year a smooth and successful one.

Wilkinsburg and Westinghouse 6th Graders Write to Future Classmates

Sixth graders from Wilkinsburg Schools and Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy began exchanging letters last month with their future classmates



through a joint schools’ pen pal project.

In one letter, a Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy student tells her Wilkinsburg pen pal about her favorite teachers and her goal to join the student council. She also offers recommendations and reassurances about overcoming shyness.

Transition activities like these are meant to form bonds between students and make their 7th grade year a smooth and successful one. And so far, so good. The students report they are really looking forward to writing and receiving more letters!



Sixth graders get hands-on experience with PSO percussionists in workshop.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

3/21 (Tues.)	5:30 P.M.	Finance Committee, board room, 718 Wallace Ave.
3/21 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Planning Session, board room, 718 Wallace Ave.
3/23 (Thurs.)	7 P.M.	Pittsburgh Symphony Concert, Wilkinsburg High School 747 Wallace Avenue, Wilkinsburg
3/28 (Tues.)	10 A.M.-1 P.M.	Council Legislative Session, 2nd floor
3/28 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Legislative Session, board room, 718 Wallace Ave.
4/7 (Fri.)	ALL DAY	Parent Conferences (No Students)
4/10 (Mon.)	ALL DAY	Clerical Day (No Students)
4/11 (Tues.)	ALL DAY	Local Holiday (No School)



The East End Food Co-op raised \$2,115.37 for Free Store Wilkinsburg through the Register Round Up program, where shoppers round up their total to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to charity. A check was presented to Free Store Wilkinsburg during a coffee reception and celebration at the Co-op.

Pictured left to right: Co-op employees Ebony Thomas, Kate Safin, Erica Peiffer; FSW Co-Founder & Board President Marita Garrett; FSW Board Member Markie Maraugh; Co-op employee Meta Hill.

March Landmarks Preservation Resource Center Calendar

The following workshops are available at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center, 744 Rebecca Avenue. RSVPs are appreciated: marylu@phlf.org or 412.471.5808, ext. 527. These lectures are free to members and \$10 for non-members.

Thursday, March 9, 6–7:30 p.m.—Preservation Lecture: Rockefeller and Colonial Williamsburg, The Early Years, by Matthew G. Hyland, assistant professor of history at Duquesne University

Thursday, March 16, 6:30–8:30 p.m.—Workshop: Multiple Molding Making Methods with Regis Will from Vesta Home Services LLC.

Tuesday, March 21, 6–7:30 p.m.—Today's Best Perennials for Your Garden with Martha Swiss, garden writer and designer.

Thursday, March 23, 6–7:30 p.m.—Modular Building in Practice with Ian Miller, general contractor

Thursday, March 30, 6–7:30 p.m.—Economic Change in Pittsburgh Since the 1980s with Christopher Briem, regional economist, University of Pittsburgh.

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March Library Calendar

These library programs and events are free and open to everyone. Reservations can be made in advance at the circulation desk or by calling 412.244.2940.

Adult Programs

One-on-One Tech, by appointment—Call to reserve your time with a staff member for computer, laptop or other digital device coaching.

General Book Discussion Group, Wednesday, Mar. 22, 1 p.m.—Title to be selected. Everyone invited.

Crochet with Frankie, Mondays, 2 p.m.—Beginners and experienced crocheters welcomed. Bring your materials.

Eastridge Coffee & Coloring, Tuesdays, 9 a.m.—A relaxing start to the day with adult coloring and a warm beverage.

Eastridge Chess, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m. and 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 11 a.m.—All ages welcome.

Eastridge Sit and Stitch, Fridays, 1 p.m.—Knit, embroider, quilt or other stitching.

Eastridge Crochet, Saturdays, 11 a.m.—Join Frankie to get tips and help with your projects.

Children's Programs

Video Games, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.—Come play Wii and Xbox One. Ages 10 and up.

Eastridge Homeschool Discovery, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.—Topical discussions, activities, and various resources to enhance children's learning. K-5

Eastridge Family Storytime, Thursdays, 11 a.m.—Read stories, play games and sing. For babies thru preschoolers with an adult.

Wilkinsburg Residents Wanted To Share Stories

Wilkinsburg residents are being sought to share their stories of living here for a guided audio tour project, funded by the University of Pittsburgh. The goal of this project is to create a tour of stories that can help produce positive change in the narrative of Wilkinsburg. There will be a small stipend available to residents who share and record their stories.

Interested parties can contact Christiana at cmolldrem@gmail.com

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Water Talks Offered in Wilkinsburg at NMRWA

Are you looking to learn more about why and how we should protect and conserve water here in our community? Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA) is hosting a series of free open houses to discuss and showcase water-related topics over good brews.

At each "water talk," beer or coffee will be provided from local partners to highlight that for a good drink, clean water is the main ingredient. NMRWA staff will host interactive discussions how we can contribute to a healthy watershed community. The talks will be held at the NMRWA office in Wilkinsburg at 321 Pennwood Ave, Suite 202.

The series will be held once per quarter and will kick off on World Water Day, March 22. The first talk will focus on rainbarrels and at-home stormwater management with the Stormworks team plus Green Flash Brewing Company will be providing samples. Dates and focus topics are as follows:

Wednesday, March 22, 6-7:30 p.m.: Beer + (Rain) Barrels

Saturday, May 20, 10-11:30 a.m.: Coffee + Water Quality

Thursday, August 24, 6-7:30 p.m.: Beer + Trees

Thursday, November 9, 8-9:30 a.m.: Coffee + Sustainable Stormwater

NMRWA partners for the talks are La Prima, a local roaster with its well-known cafe in the Strip District, and Green Flash Brewing Company.

You can sign up for the NMRWA newsletter at www.ninemilerun.org. For more information, please contact Maranda Nemeth at 412.371.8779 ext. 123 or maranda@ninemilerun.org.

Local Non-Profit Hosts Dance and Exercise Classes

A Peace of Mind, Inc. Therapeutic Art/Dance/Fitness Studio located at 620 Wood Street in Wilkinsburg is a nonprofit that opened in September 2016. The studio offers various dance and exercise classes for children, adults and families.

For more information, call 412.241.2766 or visit www.APOMinc.org

Spring Fling Fundraiser, March 21, 6 p.m.

Appetizers, Drinks, Networking

RSVP now for an evening of appetizers, drinks, and networking. Help your Chamber raise funds to do more good in the community. Join us at Istanbul Sofra on the corner of Forbes Avenue and S. Braddock Ave, across from Frick Park. Tickets include appetizers and open bar. Help the Chamber do more good!



Tickets available through EventBrite.com: www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-fling-with-the-wilkinsburg-chamber-tickets-31616551958

Revitalize with Impact

Reserve furnished private office or co-working space for spring 2017 at 900 Wood Street.

Reserve at jerry@impactredevelopment.com.

360 Degree Assessment Workshop

March 21, 2:30-4 p.m. at the Abator building at 615 South Avenue in Wilkinsburg.



Thank You to Chamber Members

Admintrinsic, Mansmann Foundation, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, Kenyon Jewelers, Abator Information Services, Bridges to the Desired Future, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Eastern Area Prehospital Service, BPI inc., St. James Church, Enrich Products Inc., Trash 2 Treasure, Abracadabra Cleaning Services, David-Fetch Corp. of Pennsylvania, John Irwin, Jody Guy, Ralph Yearick, James Flower Shoppe, CP Development, Rocky Enterprises, IMPACT Redevelopment, Pennwood Paint & Supply, South Avenue United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh Dry Cleaners & Furrries, Kerr Engineered Sales Company, Nancy's East End Diner, Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, The Wilkinsburg Sun, The Bible Chapel, Wilkinsburg Community Development Corp., Salvatore's Pizza House, Stanton Industrial Electric Supply, Community Life, Amore Management Company, Community Hearing, Covenant Church of Pittsburgh, Wilkinsburg Rotary Club, East Liberty Family Health Care Center, Metro Community Health Center, Wilkinsburg Borough, Salisbury Legal, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, White Memorial Chapel, Hanini Market, Flynn Construction Management, First National Bank, Red Dog Grooming, Thomas Moore - Cruise Planners, III Solutions Computer Service, Friends Of the Living Library of Wilkinsburg, Frankstown Road Giant Eagle, Liam's Fish, Wings & Things, Pete and Vicki Smith, A Peace of Mind, Vision Towards Peace Counseling, WTAE, Pamela Macklin, Patrick Shattuck, Portia's Fiefdom vacation home rentals, Town Investments

Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce

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Architects Discuss Plans for Train Station Renovation



In a February 16 meeting open to the public, William Szymczak and John Evans from the architect firm MacLachlan Cornelius & Filoni, which is working on the first phase of the train station restoration, gave an overview of next steps for the project.

Goals include preserving and restoring the structure, increasing connectivity and access to the building, promoting a green and safe environment, creating a visual identity and involving local participation and labor. Work has already begun and next steps include assessing hazardous materials, doing a light demo and testing before rehab begins in late spring. The budget for this phase is \$3.2 million and work should be completed in late 2018. The historic building, with about 11,000 square feet of space, will offer a focal point for the business district and activity in the community. For more information, visit wilkstation.org.



Young Preservationists 'Heart Bomb' Wilkinsburg



Members of the Young Preservationists Association (YPA) placed love notes on three historic buildings in Wilkinsburg on February 11: Lohr Building (South & Wood), Hunter Building (Penn & Wood), and the Train Station.

The YPA's next event is a Saving Sacred Spaces Summit on Thursday, March 23, 6-8 p.m. at the Priory Hotel.

Mike Panzitta, William Prince, Ariel Beach-Westmoreland, Rene Cuenca, Katy Sawyer, and Arthur Notaro