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the Wilkinsburg SUN

VOL. 10 NO. 9 June 2017

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

Superintendents Lead 'Walk For One Promise' Fundraising Event



photo by Josh Franzos

Walk For One Promise 2017 kicked off in mid-spring with Dr. Linda Iverson, Dr. Anthony Hamlet from Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), and Saleem Ghubril from The Pittsburgh Promise. Walk for One Promise is a rain or shine 5k walk where participants raise awareness and fundraise money for Pittsburgh Promise scholarships.

Wilkinsburg students attending Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy or a PPS magnet school are now eligible to receive Promise scholarships if they meet academic and attendance requirements.

"That's what we're about, educating our students to be prepared for the 21st century, to be college and career ready, and this

promise makes that possible for many of the students in Wilkinsburg who might not otherwise have had the opportunity," said Wilkinsburg Superintendent Dr. Linda Iverson. "I'm hoping to continue this tradition and continue this relationship."



photo by Josh Franzos

Left to right: Dr. Anthony Hamlet (PPS), Dr. Linda Iverson (WSD), and Saleem Ghubril (Pittsburgh Promise)

Train Station Work Continues this Summer

Work at the Wilkinsburg Station continued over the past two months with the environmental abatement, including asbestos and other hazardous material removal, debris removal, and historic artifact cataloguing.

You may have also noticed that the overgrown pine tree in front of the station has been removed, making the historic landmark more visible!



After 40 years of vacancy, the historic Wilkinsburg Train Station has seen its first signs of new life this spring, with the start of renovation work aimed at restoring the 1916 structure to its former glory.

Led by the WCDC, the goal of the restoration is to attract uses that will create a vibrant community asset within the iconic landmark building and on the surrounding site. The first phase of the work, which is now underway,

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History and Mystery of the Forsythe Log House

The Wilkinsburg Historical Society will meet on Monday, June 19, to learn about the Forsythe log home, built in 1823 in Wilkinsburg. The saga of this house, once considered one of Pittsburgh's oldest homes, includes its relocation to East Liberty by its occupant



who loved her log home but was bored with country living in Wilkinsburg.

After the Mellon family saved the house from demolition, it became a museum of early American life.

What became of this log home? To find out, join the discussion at South Avenue United Methodist Church, Ross Avenue entrance, on June 19 at 7:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

4th Annual Block Party

On Saturday, June 24, Hilltop Block Watch hosts its 4th Annual Block Party with the theme Wilkinsburg Appreciation Day.

Wilkinsburg residents and business owners are invited to come and bring family and friends. Held at Eastridge Library, 1900 Graham Blvd, from 1-4 p.m., the block party will include games, face painter, a balloon artist, food, and entertainment.

The party will proceed regardless of weather.

Participants are asked to bring a dish to share or make a donation. For more info, contact Linda @ 412.880.8253.

A Peace of Mind on Wood Street Begins Art Therapy for Teens

A Peace of Mind (APOM's) art therapy initiative "Painting Through Pain" begins in June, focused on teens struggling with PTSD, depression and/or anxiety. Art is universal, and can be used to heal, repair and reconnect.

If you would like to contribute in any way, email felicia@apominc.org.

New-to-You Shop

A new secondhand shop is opening, located in the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg at 784 Wallace Avenue (directly across from the old high school).

The store will be open throughout the summer offering clothes, household items and paper products. Everything is free including light refreshments, although a small donation is always welcome.

Dates and times for the shop are Thursdays from 12-2 p.m. (May 4 and 18, June 1 and 15, July 6 and 20, and Aug. 3 and 17).

Summer Robotics Camps

This summer, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School is offering a beginner robotics camp June 26-30 and an advanced camp from August 14-18.

Contact Jen Moore or Rhonda Smith at pucrobotics@gmail.com for more information.



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Concerts, Movies and More

2017 promises to be a busy summer in Wilkinsburg. Many traditional events are being planned with some new ones being added.

The Arts in the Park Concerts are back starting in June. This year the park will feature a new stage thanks to a grant from Comcast. The July 1 Wilkinsburg Community Festival has become a much anticipated event and will be held again this summer at Hunter Park. The library also has a variety of programming scheduled for all ages.

New items for the summer season include a weekly parks recreation program. Neighborhood kids will be treated to recreational and educational programs in different parks.

The Borough's Parks and Recreation Board is developing the schedule and an intern acquired through a grant from the Local Government Academy will be in charge of the programs.

The Special Events Committee is also planning a new movie night series. Titles and a schedule will soon be chosen for

outdoor movies at various park locations. Thanks to the Comcast grant, a projector, sound system, and screen have been purchased for the movie nights. Sponsors have also been found to offset the costs of the events. Free refreshments and popcorn will be served at the events as well.

Volunteers are being sought for another project this summer. The Local Government Academy intern will be looking for volunteers over 55 who would like to work on programming for senior citizens in the borough.

An advisory group is being sought for meetings starting in June. Interested parties can contact the Borough at 412.244.2900 and leave contact information. The initial goal is to start a weekly seniors program at the borough building starting in August. Volunteers will be asked for input on activities and programs.

For more information on all activities please watch the Borough Facebook page and web site or check with the Borough offices or library.



Youth Police Academy Starts in July

The Wilkinsburg Police Summer Youth Academy (WPSYA) will offered for two weeks from July 17 to July 28, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for youth from ages 6 to 16. Applications for the program are at the police department.

The objective is to educate the cadets about public service, including local government, the judiciary, emergency services and law enforcement with a strong emphasis on self-respect, respect of others, teamwork and commitment to one's goals.

Cadets will be divided into two groups by age. The curriculum will consist of educational activities as well as physical activities. Lunch will be provided for cadets.

This year's WPSYA will be held at the police department, and there will be field trips.

The motto of the WPSYA is "Dedication to Our Community through Honor, Loyalty and Respect."

MRWA Is Surveying Trees

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association's planning effort for the watershed's trees is in full swing.

A significant project within the Watershed Forest Master Plan is collecting street tree data, and NMRWA is utilizing a professional contractor this summer to collect this information.

The data gathered will be immediately used to help inform the plan's goals and recommendations.

Equally as important, the NMRWA wants to hear how residents feel about the trees in their neighborhoods. Look for NMRWA staff surveying residents at various watershed events this summer.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT BOROUGH BUILDING, 605 ROSS AVE.

6/2 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
6/6 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
6/7 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor
6/8 (Thurs.)	10 A.M.	Constituent & Community Relations, 2nd floor
6/12 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Finance Committee, 1st floor
6/12 (Mon.)	6 P.M.	Library Board, 2nd floor
6/13 (Tues.)	1 P.M.	Social Media & Promotions Committee, 1st floor
6/14 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Legislative Session, 2nd floor
6/15 (Thurs.)	12 P.M.	Public Safety Forum, 2nd floor
6/15 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Park & Recreation Advisory Board, 1st floor
6/15 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Wilkinsburg Arts Commission, 2nd floor
6/19 (Mon.)	4:30 P.M.	Public Safety Committee, 2nd floor
6/26 (Mon.)	5:30 P.M.	Joint Tax Committee, 2nd floor
6/28 (Wed.)	5:30 P.M.	Blight Committee, 1st floor
6/28 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Shade Tree Advisory Committee, 2nd floor
6/28 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Capital Planning Committee, 1st floor
6/29 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Special Events Committee, 2nd floor
7/5 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor

Meet the WCDC's New Staff Member

photo by Greg Sciuilli



Kevin Boyle joined the WCDC team last month as the Vacant Property Coordinator.

Tasked with streamlining the vacant property acquisition process, Kevin brings his enthusiasm for neighborhoods, preservation, and people to the organization.

Previously, he worked for Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG), engaging residents in

Sharpsburg to develop a collective community vision, which included the incorporation of a community development nonprofit. After receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 2013, Kevin worked for the Pittsburgh Mayor's Office and on Project 15206, a storm water mitigation program through State Senator James Ferlo's Office.

Welcome Kevin!



photo by Greg Sciuilli

'Good All Over' Banners Installed

The WCDC unveiled new banners last month, celebrating the Good All Over Wilksburg theme.

Check them out the next time you are in the business district!

The WCDC will also be selling Good All Over t-shirts throughout the summer. You can stop by their office at 1001 Wood St., Wilksburg to pick one up.

TRAIN STATION,
from page 1

includes abatement of hazardous materials, remediation of safety hazards, and temporary protection of valuable historic features, such as the original terrazzo floors in the original waiting room.

Design work on the full restoration project, by Pittsburgh architects MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni (MCF), is in progress, with construction anticipated to begin in the early summer.

—John Evans, MCF
Architects



a donation, check out WilkStation.org. Donations may also be sent via check to 1001 Wood St. Wilksburg, PA 15221. Be sure to note "Wilksburg Train Station" in the memo. Get On Board!

For ongoing updates, visit and like fb.com/WilksburgTrainStation.

To view the project video and make



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

Save the Dates!

Thursday, June 1, 6 p.m.: WCDC Business Workshop Graduation—807 Wallace Ave.

Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m.: WCDC Board Meeting—1001 Wood St.

District Hires Dr. Cathleen Cubelic as Assistant to the Superintendent



At the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Linda Iverson, the school board hired Dr. Cathleen Cubelic for the role of assistant to the superintendent.

“She brings a wealth of experience working with school districts, principals and teachers,” said Dr. Iverson. “I believe her expertise will help materialize our vision of a world class elementary school system that prepares students in grades PreK-6 for the 21st century.”

Dr. Cubelic began May 22 and works closely with the superintendent, human resources, and the director of finance and business operations. She will also transition into Dr. Dan Matsook’s role as liaison for the Wilkinsburg School District in its partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools. Her responsibilities as assistant to the superintendent include oversight of:

- curriculum, instruction and

assessment alignment with PA core standards

- analysis of PSSA/PVASS data to inform district goals
- state principal/teacher effectiveness evaluation tools
- district state assessments and testing
- comprehensive district and school-level improvement planning

- management of grants, Title I and federal programs
 - Wilkinsburg School District/Pittsburgh Public Schools Partnership
- Prior to joining the Wilkinsburg School District, Dr. Cubelic was the Midwestern Intermediate Unit Curriculum Director in Grove City, PA, where she

continued on next page

High School Building to Reopen for Elementary Students During Turner Renovations

For the 2017-2018 academic year, PreK-6th grade Turner Elementary School students and staff will move to the Wilkinsburg High School building, while extensive renovations and heavy construction take place at the elementary school. The temporary move will ensure the least amount of disruption possible for instruction and learning.

“Moving to the former high school will eliminate the dust and the noise and the frequent movement of classrooms during the different construction phases,” says Tanya Smith, the Principal of Turner Elementary School. “This is a lot more stable. Both our teachers and students are excited about the move.”

“The renovations at Turner will create a learning environment that students and teachers can be proud of,” says Ed Donovan, President of the School Board.

The scope of work will include upgrading building systems such as heating, cooling, plumbing, lighting and safety/security technology; replacing exterior windows and doors, repairing masonry, repainting, installing news ceilings and floors, as well as making ADA and code improvements.

In late May, students and teachers at every grade level went on a field trip to the high school to see model classrooms and tour the building.

The district is also planning registration and open houses at the high school before the new year starts for the families of new and current Turner Elementary students.

“We want the transition of our students and staff to be as smooth as possible,” says Dr. Linda Iverson, Superintendent. “We’ve organized field trips for them to see the school, and we have allocated funds in the budget to clean up the high school and decorate its spaces so that it is welcoming to our elementary students.”

A part of preparing the high school building for elementary students includes furnishing it with the smaller desks, chairs and tables moved from Turner. The classrooms and hallways will also be outfitted with colorful charts, bulletin boards,

posters, rugs and all the other hallmarks of a typical elementary school classroom. The first and second floor classrooms will be reopened to students, as well as the gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and library. However, the third and fourth floors will be closed off.

Over the summer, Kelly Elementary will also undergo major renovations to the outside entrance, the internal lighting system and the kitchen. These renovations will continue throughout the next school year but will cause minimal disruption to the daily operation of the school.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

6/6 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Public Budget Hearing
6/9 (Fri.)	ALL DAY	Clerical Day (No Students)
6/12 (Mon.)	ALL DAY	Last Day of School
6/14 (Wed.)	ALL DAY	School Picnic
6/20 (Tues.)	5:30 P.M.	Finance Committee—Review final budget changes
6/20 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Board Planning Session
6/27 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Legislative Meeting—Adopt final FY18 budget
6/27 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Board Legislative Session

'Humans Being' Opens at Percolate Gallery June 9



Humans Being, a new exhibit at Percolate, brings four artists together, who tell their own story of what it means to be human through their work.

Through installation, sculpture, painting and portraiture, artists Tony Cavalline, John Eastman, Timothy Kelley and Samir Elsabee, honors what it should mean for all of us to be *Humans Being*.

This exhibit asks that you free yourself from the chains of your phone, tablet, and social media, and once again just *be* with each other. Social media has re-defined what it means to socially interact with one another. There is a loss of the warmth that one feels when shaking hands and meeting face to face. Collectively, we as a race have lost what it means to be “humans being.”

The exhibition runs June 6–July 1, with an opening reception on June 10 from 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Percolate is located at 317 S. Trenton Avenue in Wilkinsburg and is a community art space. It also houses Purple Room Fine Art Consulting. For more information, visit facebook.com/PercolateArt and purplepierotti.com.

From top left, clockwise: Samir Elsabee: A Face from the American Melting Pot, Timothy Kelley: Centered, John Eastman: Installation (Zen Room), Tony Cavalline: Such a Secret Place

PUCS Recognized for Commitment to Art

This year, the Charles Gray Award was awarded to Pittsburgh Urban Christian School (PUCS) in Wilkinsburg during the Gene Kelly Awards event held at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts. The award, a Pittsburgh CLO arts education recognition award, is given annually to a school in Allegheny County that has demonstrated an enduring commitment to providing, preserving and developing quality arts education for all students as part of required curriculum.

PUCS, located on Center Avenue, weaves the arts into all its curricula. Each year, an all school unit is selected. Reading, research, field trips, and writing projects focus on that unit, ending with Art Expression Day in October.

In December, students learn about the music, costumes and athleticism of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and attend a PBT performance. Arts education continues January through March as original story, music, verse, sets, props, and choreography come together in a Spring Production.

Middle schoolers study with an artist in residence. Renaissance paintings become tableau photographs with students in costume. Pottery is thrown, using a foot-pedaled potter's wheel, and mosaics are made by hand.



CUBELIC, continued from previous page

supported local school districts and administrators in curriculum development, instructional improvement and assessment strategies.

Additionally, she has eighteen years of experience in the positions of principal, assistant principal and teacher.

“We chose Dr. Cubelic because her background and perspective from the state's side of the teaching-learning equation brings critical strength to our leadership team,” says Ed Donovan, school board president. “I'm confident she will play a pivotal role in the growth and success of our district.”



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Library June Events

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. (M=Main Library; E=Eastridge branch)

Adult Programs

Oriental Brush Art Class, Mondays, June 5 and 12, 10 a.m.—Discover or continue your skill at this amazing art form. Registration required. (M)

General Book Discussion Group, Wednesday, June 28, 1 p.m.—Title to be selected. Everyone invited. (M)

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

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

Chess, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 11 a.m.—All ages welcome. (E)

Crochet, Saturdays, 11 a.m.—Join Frankie to get tips and help with projects. (E)

Children's Programs

Summer Reading, June 19–August 12—Reading challenge and activities for everyone. (M & E)

Lunch & Learn, June 19–August 12—Enjoy a delicious lunch and fun activities. All ages. (M)

Family Storytime, Mondays, 11 a.m. & Thursdays, 11 a.m. (E)—Read stories, play games and sing songs. For babies through preschoolers with an adult.

Videos Games, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.—Play Wii and Xbox One. Ages 10 and up. (M)

STEM Exploration Days, Tuesdays (M) & Thursdays (E), all day—Build or create, solve or discover a different activity or challenge each week. All ages.

Coloring Club, Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.—Color to your heart's content. All ages. (M & E)

Make & Take, Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.—Children's simple crafts to make at the library or to take home and create. All ages (M & E)

Play K Class, Saturdays, 10 a.m.—Give your children the skills they will need to be successful in kindergarten. For all preschoolers with an adult. (M)

The Wilksburg Chamber is Making News

The Wilksburg Chamber of Commerce's new revitalization is catching the attention of the local media. Two members appeared on PCTV 21 to talk about the benefits of being a chamber member, and how the Chamber has helped their businesses. Member Felicia Renee Upshaw, Executive Director of Vision Towards Peace Counseling Service, was interviewed on KDKA's The Sunday Business Page along with Scott Wolovich, Executive Director of New Sun Rising to discuss collaborations with their monthly business workshops.

Some of the Chamber members will be showcased in Onyx Woman Magazine's online website. Future media spotlights are scheduled to take place as the Chamber continues to share their message of being a resource for business owners in Wilksburg and surrounding areas.

Attention Vendors

Now accepting application for vendors for the Wilksburg Thursday Open Market. Please note the new location is at LifeCare Hospital's parking lot at Trenton and Penn Avenues, June 15 through November 16, from 3–6 p.m. Contact the Chamber at: info@wilksburgchamber.com or call 412.242.0234.

Member Spotlight!

Simone Godson, owner of Cabaret Banquet Hall and Event Center, located on Frankstown Avenue on the border of Homewood and Wilksburg has close to 10 years in the Hospitality Industry. Her multi-purpose facility has hosted everything from weddings, receptions, birthday parties, anniversary celebrations to children's events.



The retired Pittsburgh police officer says her children inspire her to keep working hard and moving forward. She also considers her mother, Sylvia Godson, her role model. "She has shown me that all things are possible through hard work, perseverance, and dedication," says Simone.

You can book your next event by contacting

the banquet hall at: 412.537.3061 or www.cabaretbanquethall.com

Social Media

Go to the Chamber's website to sign up for its monthly newsletter. Also stay in touch by following them on social media: facebook.com/wilksburgchamberofcommerce, twitter.com/Wilksburgcc, info@wilksburgchamber.com, www.wilksburgchamber.com.

The Greater Wilksburg Chamber of Commerce nurtures the growth, prosperity and sustainability of businesses in Wilksburg and the surrounding communities.

Join Today!

The WCC Advantage

Research points out that consumers are more likely to do business with a company if it's a member of their local chamber of commerce.

According to a research study by The Shapiro Group, Inc. and Market Street Services, when consumers know that a small business is a member of their local chamber of commerce, they are 44 percent more likely to think favorably of it and 63 percent more likely to purchase goods or services from the company in the future.

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To find out more about the benefits of becoming a member, call 412.242.0234

Greater Wilksburg Chamber of Commerce

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The Greater Wilksburg Chamber of Commerce ensures the growth, prosperity and sustainability of businesses in Wilksburg and the surrounding communities.

Scenes from the Two-Way Street Fest on Wood Street

May 20

