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the Wilkinsburg SUN

VOL. 11 NO. 1 September 2017

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

Johnston School Is Being Transformed

The former elementary school property will soon open again as a hub for community events and businesses



This summer, the social enterprise group Community Forge acquired the Johnston School at 1256 Franklin Avenue from the Wilkinsburg School District. Consisting of eight founding members and a growing network of volunteers and partners, Community Forge has been working over the summer to transform the former school building into a community space that will be a home for small businesses, local events, municipal meetings, and educational programs.

The building has over 20 classrooms, an atrium, library, gym, cafeteria, and other multi-purpose areas, which will become available as offices, co-working rooms, artistic venues, educational areas, and event spaces. The plans for the outside of the building include creating a playground, a sports park, basketball hoops, a community garden, and open

spaces for neighborhood gatherings.

The space will be open to the public by November. The first official event in the space was a well-attended community cookout on August 26. Similar events and community programs will soon be coming.

According to Executive Director Mike Skirpan, a native of the Mon Valley: "Everyone on this team is working toward a vision of the school being an agent of positive change. Coming in, we had different skills, from PhD scientists



to educators to extreme sports athletes, but all shared the value of wanting to create opportunity for and alongside Wilkinsburg. Coming in with ideas for education, arts, and business possibilities, we are eager to hear from members of the community and work together on what is most desired and needed."

The mission of the organization is to: "Grow an inclusive community center dedicated to supporting Wilkinsburg by cultivating arts, civic engagement, athletics, education, and mission-driven small business."

Borough Council President Patrick Shattuck said, "They are kind and



generous....they understand the value of Wilkinsburg, its residents and kids and want to see us thrive and grow while they too succeed."

Those interested in joining the space as a tenant, holding an event there, volunteering, or sharing ideas, should contact hello@forge.community or communityforgepgh.com.

Annual Library Book Sale Sept. 29-30 & Oct. 2 (see next page for details)

Annual Book Sale

Friends of the Wilkinsburg Library will be holding their popular Annual Book Sale September 29-30 and October 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. Browse a wide selection of fiction, history, biography, children's and more. Preview night is Thursday, September 28, 6-8 p.m. Admission that evening is \$10 or free to Lifetime FOLLOW members.

Latin Dance Nights at Liam's

Wilkinsburg has a new dance twist at Liam's Restaurant at 501 Penn Avenue. Latin Dance Nights are second and fourth Saturdays. Folks stopped in for food, drink, and a dance lesson. DJ Roberto takes song requests and the dance lessons are by Salsa Ritmo Dance. For more information, call 412.880.8253.



Annual Community Block Party

The Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf's (WPSD) annual Community Block Party is from 1-4 p.m. on September 16 on its campus at Walnut Street and Swissvale Avenue in Edgewood.

The afternoon includes games, a train ride for kids, petting zoo, hearing screenings, a children's talent show, food, music and more. This free event is an opportunity for local communities to come together and develop and strengthen relationships.

To receive a youth talent show application, email Alyia Paulding at apaulding@wpsd.org or call 412.244.3116. If you would like to reserve a table to promote your organization free of charge or get more information about the party, contact Aaron Noschese or Sarah Bartlebaugh at 412.371.7000 or sbartlebaugh@wpsd.org.

Wilkinsburg LGBTQIA Picnic

A picnic for the Wilkinsburg LGBTQIA community is being held at Taylor Park at Lamar Avenue on Sunday, September 17, from 1-4 p.m. There will be music, food and games. Attendees can bring snacks and drinks, but no alcohol. Kids and pets are

welcome.

Council Planning Senior Activities

More than 30 residents have attended several meetings over the summer to talk about ideas for activities for the borough's older citizens.

Wilkinsburg has not had a senior center in the community for more than eight years. Residents have expressed a desire to have their own center with activities based on the needs and desires of the community. The borough has the capability of holding activities in the Borough Building and the exploratory group has suggested activities throughout the community. Other events discussed were resident advocacy, field trips, education, wellness, safety and other topics.

A walking group has been formed to get things started. The group meets at the Borough Building and has a social gathering after. Contact the borough at 412.244.2900 or pick up flyers in the library. You can also find updates on the borough's Facebook page.

Architectural Tour and Photo Contest

Preservation Pittsburgh is teaming up with Captured::Pittsburgh to offer a photo walk and photo contest with prizes. The photo contest will accept submissions of details from Wilkinsburg sacred structures from September 14-October 14 via the Instagram hashtag #wilkinsburg_pp or by email, photocontest@preservationpgh.org.

There will be a photo walk and tour on Saturday, September 30, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by refreshments and a chat on the significance of Wilkinsburg. Follow @realpreservationpgh and @captured.pgh on Instagram and Preservation Pittsburgh and



Captured Pittsburgh on Facebook for updates and details.

Discarding of Old Medication

If you have old medicines, you can discard them at the sheriff department in downtown Pittsburgh, 436 Grant Street,

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. No liquids, inhalers or syringes (needles), including those used by diabetics, are allowed.

2nd Saturdays in the Square

2nd Saturdays in the Square will next be on October 14 in Regent Square's Wilkins School Community Center at 7604 Charleston Avenue from 4-7 p.m.. The admission-free event features food trucks, craft beer, live music by The Shameless Hex and children's activities.



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New Equipment for Borough Fleet



The Wilkinsburg Public Works added to the equipment list with recent purchases of two items: a chipper, now available for more effective and efficient removal of trees, and a portable leaf vacuum.

The latter addition to the fleet will help with the work done by the leaf truck and be a back-up should the main truck break down. Major improvements have taken place in Public Works this year with the addition of staff and equipment to better serve residents.



New Electronics Recycling

The borough is adding to recycling efforts by offering regularly scheduled electronic pickups. Residents will be able to drop off items at the Department of Public Works. The next date is October 21 from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. 2018 dates are set for Jan. 20, April 21, July 21 and October 20.

There are charges for some items. Details will be available on social media and the borough website. More details will be in next month's *Wilkinsburg Sun*. Receive emails about borough events and alerts by signing up at the bottom of the contact page on www.wilkinsburgpa.gov.

Leaf Pick Up Instructions

The Department of Public Works is getting the word out early on how to discard leaves. Leaf collection will take place November 1–December 15 on your regular street sweeper day. If your street is not marked for sweeper, put your bags or leaf piles on the street and contact the DPW at 412.244.2959 or email the location to info@wilkinsburgpa.gov.

Leaves can be piled loosely or placed in *paper bags only*; plastic bags will not be picked up. Leaf bags can be purchased at major retail stores and at Pennwood Paint and Supply, 724 Wood Street, later this fall. Occasionally weather may delay pickups.

Special Thanks!

Wilkinsburg concluded its first summer recreation program in many years, and an outdoor movie series in August. The Park It! recreation program ran for 8 weeks and featured a variety of recreation and education opportunities, rotating among different parks three days per week.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to thank those who helped make it possible: Wilkinsburg Beverage; Wilkinsburg Community Ministry; South Ave. United Methodist Church; Hank Lotz; First National Bank; 9 Mile Run; Wilkinsburg Youth Project; Suds & Bubbles; Emma McCrae; Wilkinsburg Children's Library; Linda Gordon; Jennifer Chenoweth; Pam Macklin; Wilkinsburg Block Watch; Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community; Pittsburgh Dynamo; the Sierra Club; Allegheny County Bookmobile; Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire; Pittsburgh Urban Christian School; Youth Places; Learn and Earn; XPOGO; Pittsburgh-ISA Microsoft.

Funding for the Park It! program was provided by: Wilkinsburg Borough, Wilkinsburg School District, Local Government Academy, Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation and the SWPA Food Security Partnership. The Parks and Recreation Board under the leadership of Mike Milberger worked with intern Emily Pence and playground supervisor Tom Yarnall to provide the activities.

Thanks to a grant from Comcast, the borough launched its first outdoor movie nights series. Four movies were held at a variety of locations. Attendees also enjoyed free popcorn. Additional sponsors included PNC Bank, HRG Engineering, the HDH Group and US Bank. More plans for indoor movies are underway for the fall.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AT BOROUGH BUILDING, 605 ROSS AVE.

9/1 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
9/5 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
9/6 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor
9/11 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Finance Committee, 1st floor
9/11 (Mon.)	6 P.M.	Library Board, 2nd floor
9/12 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
9/13 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Legislative Session, 2nd floor
9/14 (Thurs.)	10 A.M.	Constituent & Community Relations Committee, 2nd floor
9/18 (Mon.)	4:30 P.M.	Public Safety Committee, 2nd floor
9/21 (Thurs.)	5 P.M.	Public Safety Forum, 2nd floor
9/21 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 1st floor
9/21 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Wilkinsburg Arts Commission, 2nd floor
9/25 (Mon.)	5:30 P.M.	Joint Tax Committee, 2nd floor
9/27 (Wed.)	5:30 P.M.	Blight Committee, 2nd floor
9/27 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Shade Tree Advisory Committee, 2nd floor
9/27 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Capital Planning Committee, 1st floor
9/28 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Special Events Committee, 2nd floor
10/3 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
10/4 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor
10/6 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
10/9 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Finance Committee, 1st floor
10/9 (Mon.)	6 P.M.	Library Board, 2nd floor

An Update on the Train Station Restoration Project

The WCDC kicked-off the Train Station Capital Campaign in August 2016 with over 50 volunteers participating in the fundraising effort. These volunteers included local business owners, residents,



government officials, and Wilksburg High School alumni.

To date, the WCDC has secured \$3,400,000 (over its initial goal of \$3,200,000). Donations and pledges from 356 individuals, totaling over \$135,000 have been received.

The property title has been transferred from the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County to the Borough of Wilksburg. Language is being finalized for a 99-year renewable lease agreement between the borough and the Wilksburg Railroad Station, LLC, an affiliate entity of the WCDC Holding Co. The official address of

the building is now 901 Hay Street.

The Train Station restoration team includes MacLachlan, Cornelius, and Filoni (MCF) Architects and Sota Construction, both noted for their historical restoration expertise. MCF has completed construction drawings and architectural renderings. Permit applications and engineering drawings have been submitted to the borough for approval. Environmental clean-up and asbestos abatement have been completed.

MCF and Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation (PHLF) are



preparing a submission for Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. This is a two-part process requiring approval from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Parks Service. Sota Construction

is seeking construction bids for exterior renovations, and work is expected to begin in the early fall.

Overall, construction costs are significantly higher than original budget estimates based on several factors: estimating methodology, unforeseen conditions, prevailing wages, and additional scope items. Our total project cost has been adjusted to \$5.5 million; therefore, we will need to raise an additional \$2 million in contributions.

We feel confident that we have a good strategy in place to raise these additional funds and that visible work in progress will bolster our fundraising efforts.

Thank you all!

—Tracey Evans, WCDC Executive Director

Now is the time to get involved with this exciting project! Check out WilkStation.org to watch the project video and make a pledge. You can also follow the project on Facebook at fb.com/WilksburgTrainStation.

Free Business Workshop

The WCDC will kick off the next free eight-week business planning workshop series this fall. If you're interested, please plan to attend the registration and info session on Thursday, September 21, 6 p.m. at Hosanna House. Classes will begin Thursday, September 28. To learn more, call Gordon Manker at 412.727.7855, or email gordon@wilksburgcdc.org.

Get Your Tickets for Meet Me at the Station



You're invited! The WCDC will host Meet Me at the Station, a gala benefiting their work to promote the revitalization of Wilksburg, this September. Guests will enjoy an evening of live music, local food, libations, and more set in the late 1910s when the Wilksburg Train Station first opened.

Tickets are on sale now! Visit bit.ly/mmats17 or call 412.727.7855 for details and ticket information.

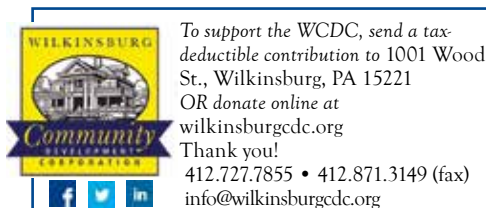
What: Meet Me at the Station, a gala

benefitting the WCDC

When: Saturday, September 30, 6 p.m. (VIP/\$125)/7 p.m. (General Admission/\$50)

Where: Wilksburg Train Station (Outside), Ross Avenue at Wood Street

Want to get involved with this year's event? Email marlee@wilksburgcdc.org or call 412.727.7855. See you at the station!



Save the Dates!

Saturday, Sept. 9, 9-11 a.m.: WCDC Board of Directors Meeting, 1001 Wood St.

Thursday, Sept. 21, 6 p.m.: Business Planning Workshop Registration & Info Session; 807 Wallace Ave.

Saturday, Sept. 30, 6-9:30 p.m.: Meet Me at the Station Gala; call 412.727.7855 or visit bit.ly/mmats17 to learn more.



Wilkinsburg School District Pushes to Attract Charter School Students

The school district is contacting parents of Wilkinsburg students enrolled in charter schools to encourage them to give Wilkinsburg schools another look.

Many positive things are happening at Turner and Kelly Elementary Schools, grades PreK-6. Parents might not be aware of them, including small class sizes, special attention for children who need it, technology in the classrooms, and a greater emphasis on STEAM education.

The Wilkinsburg School District has a specific focus on and a wealth of expertise in elementary education, with a team in place that has devoted their careers to educating younger children. The district's connection and deep understanding of the community and the unique issues its families face allows it to serve Wilkinsburg students better than the local charters.

Small Class Sizes

The student to teacher ratio at Turner is 9.4:1, and at Kelly it is 11.2:1, which ensures students get the maximum amount of attention.

Classroom Technology

Classrooms are equipped with SMART Boards, Apple TVs, and laptops. Each student also gets an iPad to use while in school.

Special Subjects

New this year is a year-round STEAM class for all grade levels. The district has expanded its music program to include instrumental lessons for grades 4-6. Additionally, students receive enriching instruction in physical education, library, science and art.

Fully Staffed Academic Support Services Pre-K—6th Grade

The Pre-K Counts program is a full



day service that's free for families who meet certain income guidelines. At all grade levels, teachers and students receive extensive support from math and reading coaches, special education teachers, guidance counselors and social worker.

The district also has highly trained reading interventionists who assist students in small group settings outside regular classrooms.

Second Step Social Skills Curriculum

The behavioral curriculum used within the district strengthens students in their ability to listen, stay calm, maintain control, have empathy, manage emotions and solve problems.

After bringing Second Step into district classrooms, students have met behavioral expectations and are more productive.



Positive Behavior Intervention Support

An alternative to in-school suspension, pull-out classrooms operate with the goal of deescalating emotions and turning behavior around so students can return to their regular classrooms. They give students a safe, quiet space to work out their issues with an adult, who help them calm down and manage their own behavior using positive language.

Special Education

An emotional support classroom has been added to the district's Special Education Department and will support students district-wide with social and emotional challenges.

Parents considering Wilkinsburg Schools may contact the district for a tour or to request additional information.

To Enroll in Wilkinsburg Schools

For Pre-K Counts or kindergarten program, call Summer Pendro, the early childhood/literacy coordinator at 412.371.9504 ext. 2744 or 412.304.4393.

For Turner Elementary School, call Rebecca Tucker, the office secretary at 412.871.2156 or come visit the school's temporary new home at 747 Wallace Ave.

For Kelly Elementary School registration, call Karla Givner-Lewis, the office secretary at 412.871.2216 or visit the school at 400 Kelly Ave.

For grades 7-12, the district has a special partnership with Pittsburgh Westinghouse Academy on 1101 N Murtland Street. To register your child, call 412.529.3941.

At the time of enrollment, parents or guardians should bring:

- Child's birth certificate
- Social security card
- Current immunization records
- Proof of Residency (current light, gas, water or landline telephone bill)
- Parent/guardian photo identification

SCHOOL CALENDAR

9/19 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Board Planning Session
9/20 (Wed.)	HALF DAY	Early Dismissal (1/2 In-Service Day)
9/21 (Thurs.)	ALL DAY	Act 80 Day—No Students
9/26 (Tues.)	ALL DAY	Board Legislative Session

Wilkinsburg's Boyce Receives National Award



Wilkinsburg resident Lonzo Boyce Sr. received the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) Regional Exceptional Service Award. This award honors resource officers throughout the nation who demonstrate exemplary service that goes above and beyond the typical duties of a school security officer. Boyce has been lead security officer at the Duquesne City School District since 2013 and founded and runs a junior constables program where students serve their school by

performing duties of those similar to elected constables.

Boyce has been a certified Pennsylvania state constable since 2003 and was elected to his second six-year term in November 2016. He is a Pennsylvania Act 235 Officer, an ALICE-certified active shooter trainer, and crossing guard instructor.

Duquesne Elementary School Principal Jennifer Jennings said, "Officer Boyce means a lot to the school community. He is helping to create a positive image of those who work in law enforcement. The students look forward to fulfilling their duties of junior constables each day and take pride in their leadership."

SPOTLIGHT: The Wilkinsburg Sanctuary Project hired [left to right]: Matthew and Marcus Smith, who are post-high school, and Porsha Sheffey, a rising high school junior to work in construction for six weeks this summer with Rebuilding Pittsburgh Together. The

interns learned how to paint, plaster, parge, build railings, install carpet and flooring for low-income neighbors.

The interns raved, "It was wonderful. I learned so much. We worked hard, but still the RTP staff helped us have fun."

RTP has now hired Marcus and Matthew part-time, while Porsha has said, "I'll be back next summer."

Mentor Antwan McKamey [on right] said, "They were enthusiastic.... It was an awesome experience to work with them."



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A Chat with Graduate from Wilkinsburg's PUCS

The following is an interview with recent PUCS (Pittsburgh Urban Christian School) graduate Anthony, who is starting high school this month. This past year, he spent some time with PUCS Robotics Club Camp, mentoring young and aspiring engineers. His mom, Christine, is a long-time Wilkinsburg resident and serves on PUCS' board.

When did you start at PUCS?

Anthony: 5th grade.

What was one of your first memories?

Anthony: Meeting the gym teacher, Mr Rhodes. Our gym school teacher from my previous school was out for a while and we had rotated through a bunch of subs. Mr Rhodes was like him—a fun loving guy that enjoyed his work.

What was one of your favorite classes?

Anthony: Spelling, because it was easy. I'm a great speller. I liked how we had a reading area in Ms. Fuller's classroom. Her room was a really nice, peaceful, and great place to be.

How was PUCS different from your previous school?

Anthony: The size of PUCS classrooms and number of kids—it seemed more relaxed.

How did PUCS impact your faith?

Anthony: We go to church, but can't get there that consistently (my mom's a nurse's aide) but being here every Friday during chapel, having Christian friends and just being surrounded by more conversations about Jesus and the Bible really shaped my faith.

How did your friendships look different?

Anthony: I make friends really easily. I had a few friends from sports. I was comfortable at PUCS the first day.

Were the academics hard?

Anthony: I could tell a difference. At my previous school, I was a part of the gifted program but the normal track was a little different. Some kids didn't seem to care as much as they do here about what they are learning and how.

What does your mom think?

Anthony: She wanted me to go to PUCS since 1st grade, as soon as she found out about it. When we were finally able to make it happen, she just talks about how much she loves the academics, the faith piece, the people. She's so invested in the school.

Where are you headed next year?

Anthony: Alderdice in the engineering program.

What do you anticipate? Are you ready?

Anthony: I'm ready for it. I want to pursue sports, but if they don't work out, I'll fall back on the engineering. I'm not even doing it career-wise; I really enjoy engineering.

It will be a big change! What do you anticipate?

Anthony: Because I went to public school before PUCS. I feel like I know what I'm getting into.



Anthony has been a mentor to younger students.

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

Adult Programs

General Book Discussion Group, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1 p.m.—Titles to be selected. Everyone invited. (M)

Book Sale Preview Night, Thursday, Sept. 28, 6 to 8 p.m.—Get first pick at this year's selection of treasures with a \$10 admission.

Annual Book Sale, Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—Books, DVDs, music CDs, VHS tapes and flea market items at bargain prices.

One-on-One Tech, by appointment—Call to reserve your 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 & 4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m., 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 11 a.m.—All ages welcome. (E)

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

Children's Programs

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

Play K Class, Wednesdays, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.—Give your children the skills they will need to be successful in kindergarten. For all preschoolers with an adult. (M)

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

COLUMBIA HOSPITAL from page 8

constructed to provide personal medical services has aged into a health care facility for the growing geriatric population of the community. Since 2011, the building has housed the Village at Pennwood. The facility provides care to residents in their personal care home, rehabilitation, and skilled services to short term residents and now several long-term residents. After over 100 years, dignity, care, respect and love are still the purpose for the old Columbia Hospital building that is now Village at Pennwood.

— Stephen Stasko and Gwyn Gilliland

The Chamber of Commerce Gets a New Location

The Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce that they now have a new location at 900 Wood Street in Wilkinsburg. They will hold their meetings, networking events and other special occasions at the new facility. If you are thinking about starting a business, are already a business owner, or are an entrepreneur ready to move to the next level, the Chamber is here to help you thrive.

Wilkinsburg Renaissance Award Reception

125th Year Anniversary Kick-off

Next year the Chamber will commemorate its 125th year anniversary. Join them for an award presentation and networking reception to kick off this milestone by honoring

some Wilkinsburg business and community leaders for their contributions to the community.

The keynote speaker is Mike Capsambelis, Product Management for Google Pittsburgh.

You can register online or send your check to: Wilkinsburg Chamber, 900 Wood Street, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.



Date: Thursday, September 14, 2017

Time: 6–8:30 p.m.

Registration: \$30 in advance; \$45 after September 9

Place: Sherwood Event Center, 400 Sherwood

Road, Wilkinsburg

Contact: 412.242.0234, info@

wilkinsburgchamber.com

Farmers Market

Wilkinsburg Thursdays

The Chamber's Wilkinsburg Thursday Open Market will last until November 16. Join them at their new location at the parking lot of Lifecare Hospital at 225 Penn Avenue and S. Trenton in Wilkinsburg from 3 p.m.–6 p.m. You still have time to become a vendor. Contact the Chamber at info@wilkinsburgchamber.com and please put "Thursday Market" in the subject line.

The Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce nurtures the growth, prosperity and sustainability of businesses in Wilkinsburg 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.

Facebook.com/wilkinsburgchamberofcommerce
 Twitter.com/Wilkinsburgcc
 info@wilkinsburgchamber.com
 www.wilkinsburgchamber.com

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

Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce

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

Table Talk: Look for These around Town



Artist Jennifer Chenoweth's two-year placemaking project in Wilkinsburg, *Come Over, Come Eat, Come Play*, reached a summer crescendo at a community party on August 5 at Hosanna House's ballroom. The celebration included dancing, local food, and games of dominoes on tables crafted by Chenoweth.

"The idea for the tables is that they are for eating or playing dominos in the community, as a conversation starter about the historic architecture that people see every day in Wilkinsburg. Community and trust are built one conversation at a time, so a

table is a great place to start that," explained Chenoweth.

Each table showcases architectural elements from Wilkinsburg—especially sacred spaces. The original sketches were created by Chenoweth's architectural intern Chaz Barry who grew up in Wilkinsburg and is studying at Carnegie Mellon for his master's in architecture.

Local sourcing is important to Chenoweth. She built the tables with bases from Construction Junction and steel for the tops from Wallace Metals. After she recreated the art on the steel surface with ink, marker and a die grinder, she coated the surface with an anti-rust gloss from Radcliffe's Paint on Penn Avenue.

The tables will "live" in community hubs around Wilkinsburg. So far, there is one at Nancy's, Biddle's and the Working Space at 900 Wood St. For more information on Chenoweth's ongoing project, visit fisterrastudio.com/wilkinsburg-come-over-come-eat-come-play.



Columbia Hospital Building Has a Legacy of Caring

As you drive by many old buildings in Wilkinsburg, do you wonder why they were built and the history behind them? Take Columbia Hospital, for instance. Originally, the hospital was at the corner of Penn Avenue and West Street, in the building that has housed the Village at Pennwood since 2011. Prior to that it was Westwood Nursing and Rehabilitation and Wilkins House.

Columbia Hospital was founded from an earnest plea by a young pastor, Rev. James Fulton D.D. He expressed a desire to see the small community of Wilkinsburg get more personal service and better healthcare than the larger surrounding hospitals could allow. He said they needed a "little memorial hospital."

Initially, the hospital was temporarily located on the North Side while a plot of land was purchased at the corner of Penn and West and plans were made and adjusted. In 1906, Columbia Hospital finally opened its doors. It was large yet not large enough that the patients felt cut off from doctors. It was a hospital in the old-fashioned sense, where doctors and nurses came together in pursuit of good care toward their patients.

The proximity to the new Parkway led many an automobile accident victim to the ER. Those patients were cared for at the hospital and many had a healthy recovery. Locally, it saw the



delivery of many babies also. A School of Nursing began in 1909.

As time went on, single hospitals joined into complex networks. Columbia Hospital found itself within the Forbes Health System, a non-profit, multi-hospital healthcare organization based in Pittsburgh. Eventually a new building was built across the street and Columbia Hospital moved there (now LifeCare).

Poetically, the original building

continued on page 7

PITTSBURGH URBAN FARM TOUR

Saturday, September 30th from 1 - 6 PM

TICKETS & INFO: PASAFARMING.ORG/EVENTS



Presented by East End Food Co-op.
All proceeds benefit Pennsylvania
Association for Sustainable Agriculture