

# the Wilkinsburg

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# SUN

VOL. 7 NO. 2 October 2013

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

## WCDC Hits "Home" Run: Wilkinsburg's Inaugural House & Garden Tour



Over 400 people toured homes, gardens, and churches at Wilkinsburg's first annual House and Garden Tour, held September 28 in the Regent Square neighborhood of Wilkinsburg. Sponsored by Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC), the tour featured six homes, various gardens, including a rain garden installed by StormWorks, two churches and the local coffee shop, Biddle's Escape.

Tour goers saw houses that dated back to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with three stories, spacious hallways, stairways, and bathrooms. Homes featured exquisite details in decorative stained glass windows, original parquet floors, rosettes, and mantels. A few of the homes had undergone significant renovations and restoration after being abandoned for a number of years.

"I can't get past that that house [613 Whitney] was condemned and it was brought back to life in such a beautiful way!" said Pam Ramaley.

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**Wilkinsburg will be celebrating Halloween on Thursday, October 31, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.**

**As usual, there will be a parade through the business district followed by a party at the Borough building.**

These pictures represent only a few of the many beautiful sights open to the public on September 28's Wilkinsburg House & Garden Tour. See more on page 4.



## Sign Up to Build a Playground!

Over 200 volunteers are needed to build a playground October 31–November 2.

The Borough of Wilkinsburg, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, and the Heinz Endowments have teamed up to build a new KaBOOM!-type playground at the existing Ferguson site in Wilkinsburg at Center and South Avenues.

This is a project where the design and materials will be provided, and volunteers build it. Ferguson is a borough playground

that is used by two local schools and by children in the neighborhood.

Two preparation days are scheduled for Thursday, October 31, and Friday, November 1. Thirty volunteers are needed for each of those days. The playground building day is Saturday, November 2. 200 volunteers will be needed beginning at 8 a.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided all three days.

To sign up to volunteer, go to <http://ourdreamplayground.kaboom.org/projects/10979-wilkinsburg-communit>.

## Advice on Stamps

The October 21 meeting of the Wilkinsburg Historical Society will feature the Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, a group dedicated to the collection, preservation and education about postal stamps.

This thriving stamp group, organized over 75 years ago, is one of the largest such clubs in Pennsylvania. Club officers Jim Senkewitz and Andy Novotny will discuss the history of the club and have invited folks to bring in their stamps.

The officers will look at collections that are brought in and make suggestions as to how to handle inherited stamps or get started in this historical and educational hobby.

The Monday evening program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Room of the South Avenue United Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg. Use the left rear Ross Avenue entrance. It is free and open to the public.

## Clean Up Your Block Day

Wilkinsburg Block Clean Up and Pitt Makes a Difference Day on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sign-in and supplies (gloves, vests, trash bags) will be at the fire department at 605 Ross Ave. & Hay St. from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All residents are asked to join together and clean-up their block.

Please Linda Kirkland-Law the liaison coordinator for more details at 412.628.8686.

## Safe Electronic Disposal Available October 12

Borough of Wilkinsburg Computer & Electronics Collection Day: Saturday, October 12 from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the parking lot behind the South Avenue United Methodist Church.

Bring in your unwanted computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, cell phones, digital cameras, chargers, adapters, microwaves, stereo systems, VCRs. Any hard-to-recycle electronic waste is welcome except for TVs.)

This year, they will also be accepting donations of household items! This event is sponsored by Goodwill.

## Important Holiday Dates

### OCT 31—Trick or Treating, 5-8 p.m.

See more information on page 1.

### NOV 20—49th Annual 'Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks Breakfast

Long-traditional breakfast, sponsored by the Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce, begins at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 20, at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, 300 Swissvale Ave. Tickets are \$7.50. Reservations can be made at [info@wilkinsburgchamber.com](mailto:info@wilkinsburgchamber.com) or by calling Vicki at 412.242.0234.

### DEC 8—36th Annual Wilkinsburg Sing Christmas Concert

This special community concert will be held at South Avenue United Methodist Church, 733 South Avenue, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. For further information contact Linda Kirkland-Law 412.628.8686

### DEC 14—Holiday Parade

This year's holiday parade will be held on December 14. Line up starts at 10 a.m. at Wilkinsburg DPW building on across from Park Playground. The parade will end in front of Wilkinsburg High School.



P.O. Box 86064  
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
412.916.1790

Lynne Gordon, Editor

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*The Wilkinsburg Sun* is a free monthly community newsletter published by the volunteer Wilkinsburg Community Newsletter Board, with the support of the Wilkinsburg Borough, the Wilkinsburg School District, the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation. The Sun is printed by Knepper Press.

Please submit all articles and calendar events to: [editor@wilkinsburgsun.com](mailto:editor@wilkinsburgsun.com), or by mail, P.O. Box 86064, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221. **Please submit articles 6 weeks before publication and calendar events 4 weeks before publication.** To advertise, e-mail [adsales@wilkinsburgsun.com](mailto:adsales@wilkinsburgsun.com), or call 412.916.1790. 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.

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE SUN BY EMAIL

For those of you who are used to getting your copy of *The Sun* in your Pennysaver, we are no longer able to deliver that way as the Pennysaver no longer circulates in Wilkinsburg. But never fear: All you have to do to ensure you never miss another issue is go to <http://eepurl.com/v0iBP> and sign up to receive a link to each and every issue via email just as soon as they hit the street.

## Borough Announces Amnesty Program for Real Estate Tax and Municipal Service Fees

amˈnɛs.ti [am-nuh-see] noun

1. a general pardon for offenses, especially political offenses, against a government, often granted before any trial or conviction.

2. Law. an act of forgiveness for past offenses, especially to a class of persons as a whole.

As the expression goes, “it’s better to beg forgiveness than to ask permission”, but from November 1 through December 31, 2013, Wilkinsburg residents won’t have to beg for forgiveness. By taking advantage of the tax amnesty program recently adopted by the Borough Council, residents can ask to have the penalties and interest on unpaid real estate taxes and municipal service fees forgiven.

In addition, the Borough’s delinquent tax collector, Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. has agreed to forgive half of any outstanding attorney’s fees for collection of the outstanding real estate taxes and municipal service fees.

In order to qualify, the following amounts must be paid – in full – during the amnesty period, which runs between November 1 and December 31, 2013:

- Delinquent real estate taxes and/or
- Delinquent municipal service fees, and
- Half of the attorney fees and collection costs

No new payment plans will be established during the amnesty period, however taxpayers who previously established payment plans with Portnoff Law Associates may participate in the amnesty program under the same terms and conditions (a, b, and c above).

If you have delinquent taxes and/or fees, you will receive a letter regarding the Amnesty Program with a breakdown of

the balance owed as well as the amnesty balance. The letter will also include instructions for payment under the amnesty program.

Take advantage of this opportunity to be forgiven—no begging required.

### New Law Will Improve Housing Standard in Borough

A new ordinance was adopted to ensure minimum living standards are met for housing units in the Borough.

This new Borough order came into effect on July 1. Officially known as the Occupancy Permit Ordinance, Ordinance Number 2905 promotes the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Borough by enforcing a minimum housing standard. To read the full version of the Occupancy Permit Ordinance, visit <http://ecode360.com/27357709>.

The Department of Code Enforcement has been identifying an increased number of housing units with sub-standard living conditions (lack of water, electric, and life saving systems). This new law will contribute to the overall health, safety and welfare of the residents of Wilkinsburg.

Under the new law, all properties must obtain an occupancy permit prior to occupancy or at the time of a change in tenancy. The application shall be filled by the owner, landlord or property manager

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## Attention, Wilkinsburg Residents

### The Great Wilkinsburg Fall Yard-Waste Pick-Up!

Place any of the following in large brown paper bags or cardboard boxes (no plastic bags or loose material, please!):



- Leaves
- Garden Waste
- Tree Trimmings (less than 1” diam only, please)
- Shrubbery, chipped or cut

Place bags or boxes near curb, in front of your house before 9 a.m.

The Borough will pick them up, and make lovely compost from them.

The compost will be available for all



## Saturday, November 9

### Help with Taxes

**On October 15, a representative from Portnoff Law Associates will be on-site at the municipal building, 605 Ross Ave, second floor Council Chambers, to provide assistance with your delinquent real estate or delinquent municipal service fee accounts. Hours are 2 PM – 6 PM.**

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

10/9 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Legislative Meeting
10/16 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Council Planning Session
10/17 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Parks & Recreation Meeting
10/17 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Wilkinsburg Community Art & Civic Design Commission
10/31 (Thurs.)	5–8 P.M.	Trick or Treat—Borough-wide
11/6 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Budget Work Session

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

## WCDC Welcomes New Board Members

The WCDC is pleased to welcome two new board members for a term of three years, which began July 1—A. Loretta Carter of LMT & Associates Tax Services and Albert Niko Triulzi, an architectural graduate of Carnegie Mellon University. Both are Wilkinsburg residents and actively involved in the community. The WCDC is excited to have the passion and commitment of these new board members!

Carter, a long-time resident of Wilkinsburg, has a background in small business. She has raised her three sons in Wilkinsburg and desires “to be part of the solution in improving Wilkinsburg in all aspects of the community.”

Triulzi believes that “Wilkinsburg is poised to become an example of how an economically depressed neighborhood can revitalize itself from within through civic organization.” He is eager to bring his “architectural skills and perspective to the WCDC with the hope to contribute to a community with such great potential.” He served on the WCDC Event Committee and provided the photos for the Wilkinsburg House and Garden Tour program book.

Current officers include Ralph Yearick, President; Cameil Williams, Vice President; Glenn McKenzie, Treasurer; Christine Kush, Secretary; Leslie Patterson, Former President, James Butler, Jan Maczka, Ernestine Stevens, Iris Whitworth, and Gerrod Winston.



Photos courtesy of Albert Niko Triulzi

### HOUSE TOUR, from page 1

Rob and Heather Masterson, who live in the neighborhood, commented that, “It’s been amazing to come into these homes. We’ve seen them from the outside, and we’re just so thankful to the homeowners for letting us see the inside!”

The tour loop was a little over a mile long and a relatively flat walk. Two food trucks, *Steer and Wheel* and *Street Foods Pittsburgh*, made an appearance and were sold out by 2:30 p.m.. Throughout the day, Biddle’s Escape was hopping with folks who were visiting for the first time.

Thanks in part to the weather and media coverage in the *Post-Gazette* and *Shady Ave Magazine*, more than 140 tickets were sold the day of the event. Overall ticket sales were nearly twice the anticipated goal.

WCDC thanks the generous homeowners for opening their homes, the enthusiastic volunteers who kept the energy going throughout each house, the sponsors, advertisers, and donors who made this event possible, and the event staff and committee.





To support the WCDC, send a tax-deductible contribution to 1001 Wood St., Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
OR donate online at [wilkinsburgcdc.org](http://wilkinsburgcdc.org)  
412.727.7855 • 412.871.3149 (fax)  
[info@wilkinsburgcdc.org](mailto:info@wilkinsburgcdc.org)

### WCDC CALENDAR

10/3 (Thurs.)	8:30 A.M.	Business District Safety Meeting—WCDC office
11/7 (Thurs.)	8:30 A.M.	Business District Safety Meeting—WCDC office





**School Calendar**

October 28	Act 80 Day (No Students)
October 31	End of First Grading Period
November 1	In-service (No Students)
November 4	Clerical Day (No Students)
November 5	Parent/Teacher Conferences
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 23-January 3	Holiday and Winter Recess
January 20	Martin Luther King Day (Schools Closed)
January 23	End of Second Grading Pd.
January 24	Clerical Day (No Students)

**MANIFESTO**, from page 6

others, listen to understand, preserve the planet, and contribute to the development of community. You can see the Manifesto hanging at the Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg now!

Saturday even saw a group of exceptional young adults, members of the boys and girls soccer teams from Shadyside Academy come out for the Games, who received large amounts of affection from the youth for their volunteer spirit.

Many thank to the day's sponsors who made the event possible, notably the Wilkinsburg Rotary Club, Boys and Girls Club, Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community, and The Sanctuary Project. We appreciate the support from the participating youth, parents, and the entire community!

The event was spear-headed by the Cameroon Football Development Program ([www.cameroonfdp.org](http://www.cameroonfdp.org)), an international sport for development organization whose mission is to provide leadership, life skills, and health education on the soccer field. The nonprofit organization is based in Pittsburgh and predominately works with youth in the West African nation of Cameroon. With this new local chapter of a national network, Play Soccer Pittsburgh, founded and run by Cameroon Football Development Program, youth in the Wilkinsburg community can gain a global perspective and learn the game of soccer with after-school programs at the Boys and Girls club throughout the year.

**Tigers, a Free After-School Program, Now Available**

Wilkinsburg Middle School program, Tigers, is offering student in grades 7 and 8 an engaging and meaningful after-school learning experience, four days a week, conducted in a safe and bully-free environment with caring adult staff. The Tigers Program is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



certified teachers and programming provided the Carnegie Science Center, Family Service of Western Pennsylvania, Sense of Place Learning, and Marilyn G. Rabb Foundation.

The program is offered from 2:45 p.m.-5:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday until June.

The program includes tutoring with

Student's transportation home is available, as well as healthy snacks and dinner, too. Bi-monthly family dinners are scheduled as well.

For further information, parents or guardians should contact Christopher Spradley at 412.871.2296. The program is limited to the first 100 students.



**SCHEDULE**

**@Cardinal Wuerl North Catholic**  
**@Avonworth**  
**Lady of the Sacred Heart @home**

**Fri, Oct. 11, 7 p.m.**  
**Fri, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.**  
**Sat, Oct. 26, 1 p.m.**

## Local Youth Sign UNESCO Manifesto of Peace

Boys and girls in Wilkinsburg were part of a world-wide commemoration of the United Nations International Day of Peace—and it all happened on something like unfamiliar territory—the soccer field! Play Soccer Pittsburgh, a new initiative in the community, hosted the event at

the Boys and Girls Club as part of the 2013 Global Peace Games! Participating alongside thousands of children all across the world in more than 30 different countries, a great group of youth and volunteers come out for the event, which ran from 10 a.m.—1 p.m.



The children learned lessons on communication and teamwork with various soccer drills and games, exchanged greetings in the languages of some of the other participating countries, and signed the UNESCO Manifesto of PEACE in which they pledged to: respect life, reject violence, share with

continued on page 5

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national origin, age, disability, or any other  
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### You're Invited to the Thanksgiving Breakfast!

The Chamber of Commerce is pleased to host the 49th annual Thanksgiving Breakfast. Join us Tuesday, November 26 at 8 a.m. at the Western PA School for the Deaf, 300 East Swissvale Avenue, for a delicious breakfast and reflective program. Tickets cost \$7.50 and can be bought that day. More details to come.

### Wilkinsburg Merchants Make Wedding Happen

Chamber Secretary and WCDC Staffer Jenn Alfieri received a romantic surprise when her boyfriend, Jon Salmans got down on one knee on last December. His proposal presented a custom made engagement ring from Kenyon Jewelers, confirming how much Jon cared about what she does at work.

The diamond and purple sapphire engagement ring came from Kenyon's Jewelers, just three storefronts away from where Jenn works at the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC). Jenn loves supporting the local businesses, adhering to her work towards the revitalization of Wilkinsburg. In 2011, Jenn joined the WCDC as an intern and later came on full time as the Administrative Coordinator assisting the many people who walk in or call the office. She participated in the Chamber of Commerce as the WCDC representative and later became the board secretary for 2013.

Besides her fiancé's choice in a local vendor, Jenn and Jon sought to use as many Wilkinsburg vendors they could throughout the wedding planning. James Floral & Gift Shoppe at 712 Wood Street provided the flowers for the wedding. The wedding rings came from Kenyon Jewelers, 711 Penn Avenue. Hosanna House at 807 Wallace hosted the rehearsal dinner. LionWorks Printing, located in the Western PA School for the Deaf at 300 East Swissvale Avenue, printed the invitations and programs.

Jenn and Jon were married July 27 at Bellefield Presbyterian Church in Oakland. We wish Jenn and Jon all the best in their marriage!

### Farmer's Market

Fresh Produce for purchase each Thursday from 3-6 p.m. in the South Avenue United Methodist Church parking lot, 732-744 Ross Ave.



### Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 86064, Wilkinsburg, Pa 15221 • 412.242.0234  
[info@wilkinsburgchamber.com](mailto:info@wilkinsburgchamber.com)

### Check Out the Library!

*Don't Ever Get Old* by Daniel Friedman.  
"Friedman's excellent debut mystery introduces a highly unusual hero, 87-year-old, politically incorrect Buck Schatz, a former member of the Memphis P.D., who's become a living legend....Wickedly funny."  
—Publishers Weekly

*Think, Act, and Invest like Warren Buffett: the Winning Strategy to Help You Achieve Your Financial and Life Goals* by Larry E. Swedroe; illustrations by Carl Richards.

*The First 20 Minutes: Surprising Science Reveals How We Can Exercise Better, Train Smarter, Live Longer* by Gretchen Reynolds.  
A quick guide to getting in shape.



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through  
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NEW LAW TO IMPROVE PROPERTIES, from page 3 with correct and current information. A fee for the permit must be submitted at the time the application is made and then an inspection will be scheduled.

A Wilkesburg Borough Code Enforcement Officer will conduct the property inspection to ensure the requirements of the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and any associated residential, commercial and fire codes, adopted by the Borough, are met. The results of the inspection will determine whether occupancy will be permitted. If any life-threatening or uninhabitable conditions are found, an occupancy permit will not be issued and continued or further occupancy of the unit may be denied.

Where violations are noted, a temporary occupancy permit may be issued which provides a time certain for correction of the deficiencies. When there are no violations connected to the unit, a Certificate of Occupancy shall be issued to the owner, manager or landlord with the occupants or lease holder named as part of the permit. This occupancy permit is good as long as the tenant resides within the unit and meets the conditions of the occupancy permit.

## For Your Next Event



807 Wallace Ave  
Wilkesburg 15221

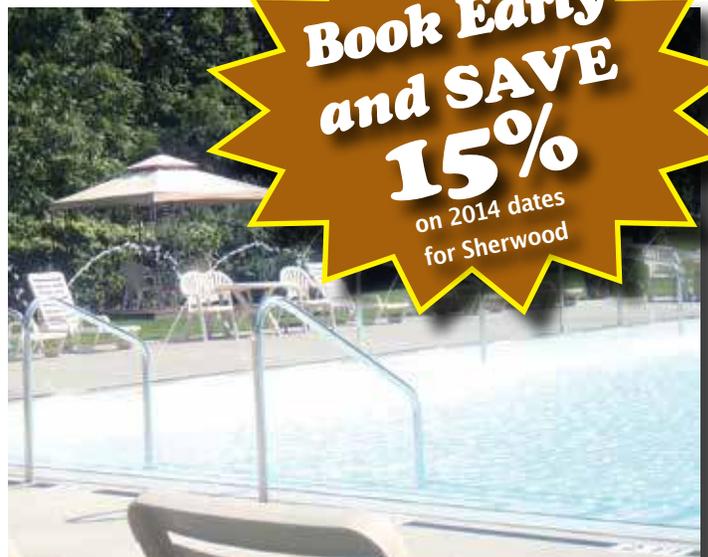
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