

“Celebrating the Past, Present and Future” Is Theme for Wilkinsburg’s 125th Anniversary

The year 2012 marks the 125th anniversary of Wilkinsburg, and there are plans to mark this historic event throughout the year. Recently, the Pittsburgh Symphony dedicated their March 6 performance at Wilkinsburg High School as a celebration. A 125th Unity Picnic will be held at Hunter Park on Saturday, July 1. The American Wind Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Robert Austin Boudreau, who is doing his world tour, will perform at Point State Park on July 14 in Pittsburgh and dedicate the concert to Wilkinsburg.

In October, there will be a three-day celebration beginning on Friday, October 5, with a community reception to be held at Hosanna House during the hours of 6–10 p.m. On Saturday, October 6, the day will begin with a parade in the community, followed by a Gala Event later that evening at the DoubleTree Hotel located at Monroeville Mall. This memorable festivity will conclude on Sunday, October 7, with community-wide worship and celebration at the Wilkinsburg High School.

Mayor John Thompson, chairman for the celebration, announced the 125th Anniversary theme as “Celebrating the Past,



Present and Future.” A celebration committee coordinating the year’s activities includes Honorary Chairman, A. William Schenck; Co Chairperson, Ophelia Coleman; Treasurer, John Irwin; Secretary, Tracey Evans; Events Chair, Vicki Cherney; Promotion Chair, Ralph Yearick; Finance Chair, Barbara Ervin; and Parade Chair, Barbara Thompson.

“I want to encourage all of our residents, businesses and partners to become a part of the celebration,” said Mayor Thompson. “Help sponsor events, join a committee, or just attend and enjoy the activities. = These are all ways to show your support for our rich history.”

Donations to support the celebration activities can be made at any Citizens Bank and should be designated as “Wilkinsburg 125th Anniversary Committee.” All funds raised that exceed event expenses will be used to support youth programs in the borough.

More information can be found at Wilkinsburg Borough wilkinsburgpa.gov and Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation at www.wilkinsburgcdc.org websites.



19th century community development: The name “Wilkinsburgh” was first used by early landowner Dunning McNair in 1812, named in honor of his good friend Gen. John Wilkins, Jr. By 1840, the area of homes and businesses had grown enough that President Martin Van Buren established a post office and commissioned Abraham Stoner as the postmaster. At the time, the U.S. Government added an ‘h’ and the post office, located in Stoner’s general store, was officially known as ‘Wilkinsburgh.’ Above: Stoner’s store and our first post office at 732 Penn Avenue. Many decades later the residents of the area would petition the Court to become incorporated as the Borough of Wilkinsburg on October 5, 1887. (Photo courtesy of Wilkinsburg Historical Society)

WILKINSBURG 125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4/5 and 19 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Finance Committee at Borough Council Chambers
4/12 (Thurs.)	9 A.M.	Planning Committee at WCDC office, 1001 Wood St.
4/16 (Mon.)	5:30 P.M.	Parade Committee at School District Boardroom
4/19 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Event Committee at Borough Council Chambers
5/10 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Event Committee at Borough Council Chambers
5/17 and 31 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Finance Committee at Borough Council Chambers
5/21 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Parade Committee at School District Boardroom
5/24 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Planning Committee at WCDC office, 1001 Wood St.

