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UpTo Comes to Help Local Businesses

Last year, East Liberty-based marketing agency Shift Collaborative developed UpTo, a pop-up creative firm that offers discounted marketing advice, designs, and other services to small businesses.

Kicking off its 2014 schedule, UpTo will be in Wilkinsburg from April 28 through May 1, operating out of 619 Penn Avenue in Wilkinsburg’s central business district.

The primary goal of UpTo is to raise awareness of good design and writing services while helping local small businesses reach their potential. UpTo first launched in a main street storefront in Butler for three days last September, popping up again in East Liberty for four days during October.

Interested small business owners can drop in UpTo or make an appointment in advance at WhatAreYouUpTo.org. Stay tuned to the WCDC’s Facebook and Twitter for updates.

Your Tax Dollars at Work: Capital Improvements in the Borough

We’ve all heard the expression “There are your tax dollars at work!” usually delivered with a great deal of eye-rolling. But the Borough *has* been using your tax dollars to make improvements to our community, in ways both seen and unseen.

Here are some of the projects, with related costs, that were completed in 2013: the Police Department underwent renovations (\$248,534); the library’s air conditioning system was replaced (\$165,143); Borough-owned properties were demolished (\$63,000); emergency demolitions were completed on 2 private properties (\$60,890); decorative lighting on Wood Street was repaired (\$55,623); air conditioners were installed in the administrative offices (\$38,920); a drainage project was completed at the Eastridge Library building (\$33,585); repairs and upgrades were made to the Department of

Public Works garage (\$26,940); sections of the Eastridge Library roof were replaced (\$14,670); automatic doors to the Borough building were installed (\$13,800); repairs were made to the tile roof on the Borough building (\$11,135).

Other completed projects were less obvious, but no less necessary: installation of a sewer liner at Center/Woodworth to Barnes Street (\$228,006); McNary Pump Station repairs and maintenance (\$38,720); repairs and maintenance for the Fairmont Pump Station (\$22,786); Graham Boulevard sewer repairs (\$22,100).

The total cost, plus several smaller projects, was \$1,137,295!

This is a significant amount of money but the Borough, like any homeowner, knows that keeping on top of maintenance is less expensive in the long run. Rick

continued on page 3



Renovated locker room in Police Department.

Larry Patchel Recognized for Volunteerism

Larry Patchel, who volunteers a lot in the Wilkinsburg community, was named a finalist for ACTrees Volunteer of the Year because of his service with the Nine Mile Run Watershed Association (NMRWA). Larry organizes many volunteer events throughout the year, especially those pertaining to the planting of gardens and trees.

"Whether he is identifying poison ivy for kids at the high school rain garden, digging tree holes with students from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, or advocating for trees at the Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg, Larry's hands-on, contagious, and charismatic style is well-known..." said Carrie Gallagher, ACTrees executive director.

NMRWA is a member organization of ACTrees which is a national organization dedicated to engaging people, organizations and governments in urban forestry. Five million volunteers from ACTrees member organizations and partners have planted 15 million trees across the country.



Patchel is a volunteer who attends and often organizes volunteer events throughout the year, especially those pertaining to the planting of gardens and trees. People of all ages seem to be drawn to him, and he uses his horticultural knowledge and vast range of experience to teach other volunteers about proper tree planting, pruning techniques, soil composition, plant taxonomy, and proper tool usage.

Free Retrospective April 21

Historic Penn-Lincoln Once Held Reception for Amelia Earhart



Wilkinsburg's famous Penn-Lincoln Hotel was an important part of our community culture for many decades, beginning with its grand opening in June 1927. Due to its location on both the William Penn and Lincoln Highways, the Penn-Lincoln Hotel headquartered the Wilkinsburg Auto Club and its 3,500 members.

In 1932, the local Rotary sponsored aviatrix Amelia Earhart Putnam to speak at the high school, with a special reception for her at the Penn-Lincoln Hotel.

Thousands of special events were held over the years, including wedding receptions and banquets. Now that the building is slated for demolition, the Wilkinsburg Historical Society will present a discussion and slide show about the Penn-Lincoln. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 21, in the Wesley Room of the South Avenue United Methodist Church (use the left rear Ross Avenue entrance). Admission is free, the general public is invited and refreshments will be served afterward.



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.

the *Wilkinsburg*
Sun

P.O. Box 86064
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.916.1790

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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, 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 412.916.1790. 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.

TAX DOLLARS, from page 1

Biedenweg spent years researching deferred maintenance and facilities renewal, primarily for schools and universities. The bottom line? Every \$1 of deferred maintenance costs \$4 of capital renewal needs in the future! The old adage, “Pay me now or pay me more later” is grounded in evidence.

So how will tax dollars be spent in 2014? Three new vehicles will be purchased for the Department of Public Works (\$170,000); upgrades to Ferguson Park will be completed (\$78,650); decorative lighting will be installed (\$75,000); old and faded street signs will be replaced (\$60,000); Borough playgrounds will be made safer (\$60,000); repairs will be made to the Department of Public Works physical plant (\$25,000), along with the construction of a larger salt storage facility (\$20,000).

This doesn't mean that the Borough is a spendthrift, however. “We will continue to prioritize capital projects based on how critical the need is,” says Borough Manager Marla Marcinko, “and take advantage of any state and federal dollars available to the Borough, and continue to spend *your* tax dollars wisely.”



Renovated conference room in Police Department.

It's Spring Time!
Come and Get Your Compost and Mulch!



Feeding the Earth

Make your gardens, lawn, shrubs, trees, potted plants
happy, strong and even more beautiful...

Up to 2 cubic yards free to each Wilkinsburg household!

Hunter Park (enter at Coal and James Streets)
Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m. to noon

***Tell your friends! Tell your neighbors! Share a car or truck!
Bring your family! Bring some big bags (or line your trunk with a tarp)!
We've got some shovels, but bring 'em if you've got 'em!***

**The Great
Wilkinsburg
Spring Yard-Waste
Pick-Up!**

Saturday, May 17



The Borough will collect the following, if **placed in large brown paper bags or cardboard boxes** and left

near the curb in front of your house before 9 a.m.:

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

Your yard waste will be converted into compost that will be available for all residents!

(Wilkinsburg residents only; no plastic bags or loose material, please.)



UPCOMING MEETINGS		
4/9 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Borough Council Meeting
4/16 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Council Work Session
4/17 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
4/23 (Wed.)	6 P.M.	Shade Tree Committee
5/1 (Thurs.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission
5/7 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Council Work Session

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

Please Welcome the WCDC's New Staff

The WCDC doubled in size this past March, welcoming two new staff members: Marlee Gallagher, Communications & Outreach Coordinator, and Chuck Alcorn, Economic Development Program Coordinator.

Prior to joining the WCDC, Marlee worked as the grant writer for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and as a nonprofit consultant for several local organizations, including Nine Mile Run Watershed Association, Friends of the Riverfront, and Allegheny CleanWays. A borough resident, Marlee also serves as secretary of the Wilksburg Shade Tree Committee.

Chuck joined the WCDC after eight


years at Riverlife, where he worked as an urban planner. Before that, he worked for the Office of Public Art, Charleroi Main Street Program, and as a consultant for the Charleroi Elm Street planning process. In 2013, Chuck earned his MPA from the University of Pittsburgh, focusing on Urban & Regional Affairs.

In addition to his work, Chuck participates in a variety of volunteer activities, including PARK(ing) Day Pittsburgh, Jane's Walk Pittsburgh, and the Lawrenceville Garden Tour. He was honored in 2012 as "Pittsburgh 40 under 40" by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and PUMP. Please join the WCDC in welcoming Chuck and Marlee!



Free Housing Fair Offers Local Resources

The WCDC will host another Housing Informational Fair on Thursday, May 8, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Landmarks Preservation Resource Center (744 Rebecca Avenue). Several organizations, including Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, Habitat for Humanity, and Wilksburg Christian Housing, will be on-site to provide information about their low-cost and no-cost services, including home repairs, weatherization, homebuyer financial education, and more. All are welcome to attend.



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

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#)

Wilksburg Restoration Is Part of PCRG Summit

The Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) will host their Fourth Annual Community Development Summit, *Reaching Across Boundaries*, May 14-15. Sessions will highlight cross-sector and regional collaboration in community planning, land recycling, affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and neighborhood revitalization.

As part of the summit, the Wilksburg business district and surrounding areas have been selected as a mobile workshop site titled *Restoring Wilksburg through Historic Preservation*. For more information and to register for the summit, visit pcrg.org/conference.

Help WCDC on Day of Giving!

While traditionally held in October each year, this year's Day of Giving takes place during an 18-hour window on Tuesday, May 6, so please mark your calendar! Donations made to the WCDC on the Day of Giving will be partially matched The Pittsburgh Foundation. To learn more and to donate, visit pittsburghgives.org.





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WCDC CALENDAR

5/1 (Thurs.)	9 A.M.	Business District Safety Meeting—WCDC office
5/6 (Tues.)	ALL DAY	Day of Giving— pittsburghgives.org
5/8 (Thurs.)	6:30-8 P.M.	Housing Fair, Landmarks Preservation Res. Ctr.
5/20 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Business Financing Workshop, 906 West St.

SCHOOL EVENTS & BOARD MEETINGS

4/15 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Planning Session
4/22 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Legislative Session
5/16 (Fri.)	7 P.M.	PSO Concert @ High School

Meetings will take place in the Wilkinsburg Admin. Building

No school on Friday, April 18

or

Wednesday, April 30.

(There is school on April 21, because it is a snow makeup day.)




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News Shorts


Pre-K and Head Start Registration

April is considered "Month of the Child." On April 30 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Kelly and Turner Elementary will be hosting Pre-K and Head Start registrations. Parents need to bring the child's immunizations, birth certificate and social security card. There will be refreshments, raffles, a magician, face painting and much more.

Literacy Day

On May 21 from 4-5 p.m. at Kelly and Turner Elementary will have a Literacy Day program. Parents and students will get the opportunity to visit the next grade level up during this time. They will also get a chance to meet the teachers and gather summer practice activities. Refreshments and a raffle will follow.

-Walter Wilson, parent/community liaison



**WILKINSBURG
COMMUNITY
CONCERT**

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2014. 7PM
WILKINSBURG HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM



Wilkesburg Public Library April Events

Reservations can be made for these programs by calling 412.244.2940.

Adult Programs

Growing Your Garden, April 15, 22, 29, 2 p.m.)—These classes are for the beginner and the experienced gardener alike. To make your yard or porch a successful vegetable or flower garden this year, veteran Wilkesburg gardener Ken Pruszynski will share his expertise with his home garden and his work with the Borland Garden Cooperative.

Financial Checkup 101, April 21, 6 p.m.—Ryan Hall from Fifth Third Bank will present information on saving, budgeting, identity protection, using credit wisely, homeownership, and investing options.

General Fiction Book Group, April 23, 1 p.m.—Monthly titles will be from a variety of genres. A copy of this month's selected title is available at the circulation desk

Urban Fiction Book Group, April 28, 6 p.m.)—This month's title is at the front desk.

Computer 101 Class, Wednesdays—Covers beginner computer skills and refresher tips for veteran users. New class will begin when last few spaces are filled.

Children's Programs

Gaming Club, April 8, 3-5 p.m.—From chess to mancala to Settlers of Catan and Pandemic, there is a game for everyone to play.

Mini-Maker Night, April 15 3-5:30 p.m.—Build your own robot this month. All ages.

World Book Night, April 22, 4-6 p.m.—Celebrate *The Bridge to Terabithia* and all things literary—trivia, how to make a book, and a free book to keep. All ages.

Story Time, Tuesdays, 11:30 p.m.—Children ages 6 months to 5 years and a caregiver are invited for stories, songs and games.

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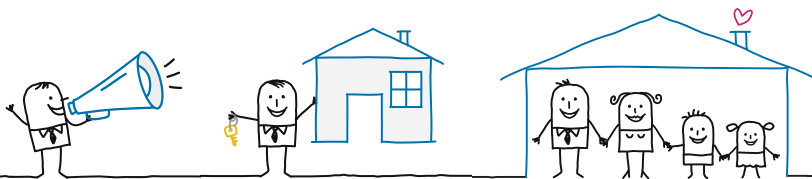
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It's where vacant houses become loving homes
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Easter is April 20



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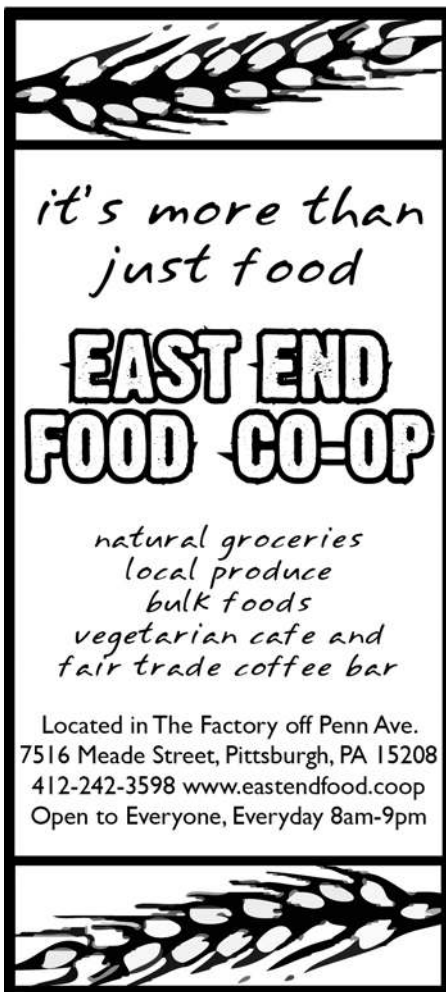
One Coupon per Customer

Workshop Offers Help for Businesses

Business owners and entrepreneurs can learn more about financing options at the Business Financing Workshop with the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation (WCDC) and a panel of lending professionals on Tuesday, May 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the Village of PennWood at 906 West Street in Wilkinsburg.

This free workshop will cover conventional and special loan products; public and non-profit lending resources; business planning assistance; and personal credit requirements.

Food will be provided. Make your reservation today! Call 412-727-7855 or email info@wilkinsburgcdc.org.



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The Wilkinsburg Chamber Is Growing!

The Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce announces new members to its organization: Community LIFE, IMPACT REDevelopment, John "Jack" Ward, and Fifth Third Bank. The Chamber would like to recognize these members for their commitment to the Wilkinsburg community. If you would like to join its growing membership, please contact info@wilkinsburgchamber.org or 412.242.0234. Membership is open to businesses, non-profits and local residents.

• Community Life



Community LIFE offers all-inclusive care for the elderly, committed to enabling older adults to remain at home while preserving their dignity, independence and quality of life. They bring together the region's experts in geriatric medicine and care to work as a team in their specialized Day Health Centers. Their wide range of services are designed to meet the varied needs of seniors, and include medical care, social services, meals, activities, in-home services and transportation. Community LIFE recently celebrated their first anniversary at their Wilkinsburg location serving the East End area of Allegheny County. Currently they serve over 100 participants with a capacity to serve an estimated 150 participants at this location. For more information or to schedule a tour, call 1.866.419.1693 or visit www.commlife.org.

• Impact REDevelopment

The mission of IMPACT REDevelopment is to create value, increase the standard of living in our communities and help sellers, renters and buyers with their real estate concerns. IMPACT REDevelopment repositions a large number of single-family and multifamily properties throughout the Pittsburgh area with the intention of revitalizing communities and encouraging home ownership. They recently purchased their first property in Wilkinsburg, a triplex at 529 North Ave and will soon have it ready to rent. IMPACT REDevelopment has two partners, Jerry Gaudi Jr. and Craig Keto. Gaudi buys properties in the neighborhoods that are located in the path of progress. Keto's experience in distressed and commercial real estate, along with his experience in real estate investment, marketing, sales and rehabilitation/renovation, combined with his finance and economics background, gives him a unique and value-added skill set.



• John "Jack" Ward



Jack Ward is a returning member to the Wilkinsburg Chamber. He has been a resident of Wilkinsburg since 1954 and graduated from Wilkinsburg High School in 1959. He left Wilkinsburg to join the Marines shortly after graduating but came back in 1963, and has lived on Swissvale Avenue since 1975. Ward is a very active member of the community. He likes to attend Chamber meetings as well as all Wilkinsburg council meetings. He is always involved in local festivals and parades. He says, "My heart is in this town; it's my town." You can often find him outside his home, cleaning up around the street and beautifying his neighborhood.

General Chamber Meeting

Chamber members will meet on Thursday April 17 at 8 a.m. at the Wilkinsburg CDC Office located at 1001 Wood St.



Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 86064, Wilkinsburg, Pa 15221 • 412.242.0234
info@wilkinsburgchamber.com

Literary Types Meet at Biddle's Escape

A variety of literary events are taking place in April at Biddle's Escape coffee shop coordinated by B E Literary. The coffee shop is at 401 Biddle Ave. at S. Trenton Ave.

"The Write Spot" free writers' workshop meets on Thursdays, April 3 and 17 at 7 p.m. with Savonna Johnson.

On Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m., is a "Madwomen in the Attic Fiction Reading" event. All are invited to come and hear their favorite fictionistas, including Samantha Barrett, Jude Blank, Christina Deka, Kristen Edelen, Maeve Murray, and Christine Wolfe. Readers are members of the Madwomen in the Attic workshop groups run through Carlow University. From published authors to brand new writers, the Madwomen span everything from literary and lyrical fiction to fantasy and horror genres.

A spoken word open mic will be held on April 10 at 7 p.m. All readers welcome. Predetermined performers include Shaina Bazyk, Lisa Alexander, and Victoria Dym.

A book club will meet to discuss *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole on Thursday, April 24, 7 p.m. The book club takes place every last Thursday of the month.

A creative writing workshop will be offered with local writer Stefanie Wielkopolan. The 8-week, intensive workshop will allow writers to gain feedback from a group of supportive writers. The cost is \$80. It meets Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m. from May 13-June 24. The reading is Sat., June 28. mail to register by May 6: swielkopolan@gmail.com.

For more information, visit facebook.com/beLiterary.



The House and Garden Tour 2014

The WCDC will host the second Wilkinsburg House and Garden Tour on Saturday, September 27. This new annual event showcases some of the unique homes that make up our neighborhood and display what a wonderful community Wilkinsburg is. The WCDC is looking for homes that have been preserved, restored or remodeled for this year's tour. To keep the homes within walking distance of each other, the tour will feature the Regent Square area of Wilkinsburg. Those interested in opening their homes can call the WCDC at 412.727.7855 for more information. Last year, more than 425 people toured six homes, several gardens, two churches, and a local coffee shop.

RCCG-LIVING SPRING INTERNATIONAL PITTSBURGH EASTER OUTREACH PROGRAM



Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pittsburgh cordially invites the general public to its forthcoming annual Easter program—The Risen King—slated for April 19–20. Highlighting on the reason for the Easter season, this program is primarily intended to testify about God's love and Christ's triumph over death.

As part of this two-day program, there will be an evangelism-based community outreach event from 2–5 p.m. on Saturday, April 19 at the Parklet (743 Penn Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA, 15221). Featuring in this outreach event are live band ministrations by Voice of Oasis and David Kambowa, free onsite medical consultations, food bags and barbecued lunch. And to climax the program, there will be a Church service on Sunday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m. at 900 Penn Avenue, Wilkinsburg, to celebrate the triumphant resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the grave.

Pastor Gboyega Esan, the resident minister of RCCG, Pittsburgh, will be ministering the word of God. For more detailed information, please feel free to contact us via 412.242.2600 or rccg.pittsburgh@gmail.com.

