WHAT’S REALLY GOING ON WITH WEED AND SEED?

Wilkinsburg’s Weed and Seed program was placed on probation in October, 2008, by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency due to the program’s noncompliance with state regulations. The program’s funding was suspended at that time.

In December 2008, the borough received an extension for the program to meet the state guidelines, and after a reorganization plan was submitted in February, the state restored the funding. The borough continues to work toward ensuring compliance with all the state requirements. In the meantime, the program is being guided with the assistance of consultant Stef Chatman Weed and Seed Site Coordinator in Erie, and by interim administrator Gail Mitchell, who formerly worked for STRENGTH Inc. in Wilkinsburg. AID Team meetings, which are open to the public, will be advertised on the borough Web site at www.wilkinsburgpa.gov and in The Sun.

The Pennsylvania Weed and Seed program is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. A collaborative venture among community stakeholders, law enforcement, faith-based and community-based organizations, the program’s mission is two-fold: to “weed” neighborhoods of guns, drugs, problem areas and violent offenders, and to “seed” communities through economic and social programs that address the root causes of crime, such as unemployment, poverty, illiteracy and skills training. Wilkinsburg is continued on page 6
REDD UP  from page 1

It may not be the editorial opinion of the Wilkinsburg Sun that people who pick up trash are doing the Lord’s work, and people who drop it should be pummeled pretty hard, but just the same, think twice before you toss something onto the street. And if you want to help make your town a better looking place, read below to find out how.

The Redd Up event, sponsored by the Beautification Committee and W.I.S.D.O.M. (Wilkinsburg In Service Doing Obama’s Mission) is a response to our new president’s call for individual citizens to perform community service rather than wait for services to come to us. Unfortunately, although most of us take pride in our borough, not everyone values clean streets and, whether litter comes from residents or visitors, young or old, it’s a community effort to create and maintain a clean, healthy environment.

Aside from Redd Up and other scheduled cleanups, block captains are needed to organize and patrol their own areas. Cleaning supplies are available from the borough. There are no organized zones at this point, but you might consider adopting a block or organizing your whole neighborhood.

For more information about Redd Up Wilkinsburg April 25 or becoming a block captain, please contact Glenn Freund at glennwrite@comcast.net.

If you have a cleanup already scheduled and are looking for volunteers, send your information to editor@wilkinsburgsun.com and we will help get the word out.

A MOVE FOR MULBERRY SENIOR CITIZENS

Look for the Mulberry Senior Citizens in its new location at the Wilkins School Community Center, 7604 Charleston Avenue in the Regent Square section of Swissvale, on the lower floor at the rear of the building. Just half a block from S. Braddock Avenue, close to a number of bus lines, the center is open Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M., with senior activities on Tuesday and Thursday.

Formerly located in the Mulberry Presbyterian Church at South Avenue and Mulberry Street, the center is a nonprofit Christian-based activities center, offering seniors age 55 and older social and spiritual enrichment. Programs include Tuesday morning Bible Study, the Mulberry Senior Chorus, health services, Silver & Fit exercise program, presented in partnership with New Life Lady Fitness in Swissvale, acrylic art classes, fresh hot meals prepared on site on Tuesday and Thursday, seasonal tax assistance available through our VITA volunteers, occasional guest speakers on subjects of interest to seniors, occasional parties and trips, and our Monday morning volunteer outreach program.

Call 412-241-7560 for more information or stop by to visit.

SOUTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH presents Its THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT
733 South Avenue Free admission Saturday, April 11, 2009 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. Crafts • Story time • Snack Egg hunt Families with children aged 2-12 are invited Questions? Call 412-371-7421
THE WILKINSBURG PLAN

The Wilkinsburg Plan will be producing a flurry of activity in the borough over the next few weeks. This 10-year comprehensive plan will determine future land use and development objectives within the borough, as well as a strategy for revitalizing the Wilkinsburg business district. As key stakeholders in the future of Wilkinsburg, borough residents, and business and civic leaders are invited to join borough officials in a series of neighborhood meetings and workshops to assist in the planning process.

During the month of April, six neighborhood meetings will be conducted at various locations throughout the borough. Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will end at 8 p.m. Meeting activities will be designed to gather input from neighborhood residents in areas such as housing, streets and highways, transportation, parks and open space, economic development, land use, and community facilities. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting that is most convenient for them, based on location and meeting time. The six neighborhood meetings will be held as follows:

**April 7 – 6:30 P.M.**
Wilkinsburg High School
747 Wallace Avenue
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

**April 8 – 6:30 P.M.**
Three Rivers Center for Independent Living
900 Rebecca Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221-2938

**April 16 – 6:30 P.M.**
Turner Elementary School
1833 Laketon Road
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

**April 17 – 6:30 P.M.**
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
(Gymnasium)
905 Mifflin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

**April 22 – 6:30 P.M.**
Blackridge Civic Center
1020 Beulah Road
Churchill, PA 15235

[To be Determined]
Beacon Hill Community Center

Check the Wilkinsburg Borough Web Site at www.wilkinsburgpa.gov, or call the borough office, 412-244-2900 ext. 101 for the date.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Ext.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borough Manager</td>
<td>412-244-2900</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>Borough Receptionist</td>
<td>412-244-2900</td>
<td>101</td>
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<td>Finance Dept.</td>
<td>412-244-2948</td>
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<td>Code Enforcement</td>
<td>412-244-2923</td>
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<td>Public Works Dept.</td>
<td>412-244-2934</td>
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<td>Police Dept. Emergency</td>
<td>911</td>
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<td>Police Non-Emergency</td>
<td>412-473-3056</td>
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<td>Police Hotline (Complaint line)</td>
<td>412-244-4300</td>
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<td>Police Chief</td>
<td>412-244-2915</td>
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<td>Fire Emergency</td>
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<td>Fire Chief</td>
<td>412-244-2931</td>
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<td>Mayor’s Office</td>
<td>412-224-2920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berkheimer Tax Administrator</td>
<td>866-227-4716</td>
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<td>Adult Library</td>
<td>412-244-2940</td>
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<td>Children’s Library</td>
<td>412-244-2944</td>
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<td>Eastridge Library</td>
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TENANT REGISTRATION

The Wilkinsburg Code Enforcement Office reminds owners of apartment buildings and other rental units to be sure to send an updated tenant list to the borough by the end of April. Owners need to provide the borough with the name and address of each person living in their buildings, along with the date they began their tenancy. This is to ensure that public safety agencies have an accurate listing of all borough residents, and, of course, to make sure nobody gets skipped during tax time.

Tenant registration forms are available at the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, or can be downloaded from the borough Web site, at www.wilkinsburgpa.gov/uploads/TRForm.pdf.

There is no longer a fee assessed with the submission of this information, but failure to comply with this requirement can result in a citation and/or fine of up to $1,000 per day for each day you are not in compliance.

This information is due in the Borough Office no later than April 30, 2009. The information may be submitted on the enclosed form or electronically in an Excel or text delimited format to wilkinsburgmanager@choiceonemail.com.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please feel free to contact the Wilkinsburg Code Enforcement Office at 412-244-2900 ext. 101.

Saturday, May 2, 10-11:30 A.M.

WILKINSBURG BASEBALL ASSOCIATION OPENING DAY PARADE

Parade begins at the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Avenue

Problems with trash pick-up?
Call 412-244-2923

APRIL MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Council planning meeting</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
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<td>Wilkinsburg Planning Commission</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>6 P.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Council legislative meeting</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
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www.wilkinsburgsun.com
Main Street Fund Application

Imagine delivering a homework assignment that’s almost 600 pages long and made up of over 100 documents. That impressive piece of work is the Main Street funding application delivered in March to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation.

“It really does seem huge, but it documents how much work all the committees have done and how many people have participated in the process,” comments WCDC Board Secretary, Tracey Evans, who spearheaded compiling the application.

“The WCDC is proud of all the hard work put into preparing this application,” noted WCDC President and Wilkinsburg Mayor John Thompson. “We aimed to put together the best, most compelling application possible. The whole Borough should be proud; we had the active, broad participation that the State looks for in a successful Main Street application.”

A range of required documents are included, from official Internal Revenue Service paperwork, to the minutes from 133 public meetings dating back to the original 2006 Main Street Community Meeting. All of these materials are designed to help State officials evaluate Wilkinsburg’s eligibility, ability and capacity to ensure that a Pennsylvania Main Street grant would be a sound investment in a successful Main Street program.

The WCDC waits to learn if their application will be one of the select few approved in the 2009/2010 budget year. But the process of preparing the application has already made a valuable contribution to Wilkinsburg and the WCDC. As Evans expressed, “By following the guidelines set up by the state, we’ve developed a five year plan for the business district and an organization that can get the work done!”

With the application completed, the WCDC can focus on getting started on the first steps. We look forward to working with you and encourage everyone’s input and participation in improving our Business District.

New Partnership

As a part of our work to provide support to our Wilkinsburg based businesses, WCDC is pleased to announce our partnership with The University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center (SBDC). SBDC supports businesses ranging from start-ups to growing enterprises to multi-generational family companies. Working with technology firms, lifestyle businesses, retailers, manufacturers, franchises, and agricultural companies, the SBDC offers powerful market research, custom-fit educational programming, one-on-one consulting and strategic planning to strengthen and expand businesses, all at low or no cost. It also provides information technology consulting to help small businesses reduce costs, increase efficiency and enhance services through a more effective use of technology. Interested businesses should contact SBDC Director Ray Vargo at 412.648.1542 or rvargo@katz.pitt.edu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WCDC APRIL MEETINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2 Economic Restructuring Committee</strong></td>
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Thanks to our New Supporters:
- Pittsburgh Dry Cleaners & Furnishers, Inc.
- Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce
- Grove Engineering
- Bonne Beur
- Larry Bradbery
- Kiwanis Club of Wilkinsburg
- Rotary Club of Wilkinsburg
WHO NEEDS HOME DEPOT WHEN YOU LIVE IN WILKINSBURG?

For anyone doing home repair or rehab in Wilkinsburg there is no need to drive to Home Depot or Lowe’s for building supplies. Just about anything you can get at one of those big box stores you can get right here. There are a number of suppliers in the borough who can not only provide customers with their needs at prices competitive with those big boxers, but also extensive selections and stock. If you need advice on your project and the product, no one can offer better expertise than the supplier can; he has seen it all and knows all about the product he sells. These suppliers are institutions in Wilkinsburg with many being around longer that most residents of the borough.

Wilkinsburg suppliers carry concrete block, brick, concrete and all masonry needs. You can find wood and steel studs, structural lumber and plywood. They have drywall and complete drywall supplies.

All the lighting and electrical needs that you can ever imagine are sitting right in the middle of the borough’s business district. Furnaces, boilers and all your plumbing needs are stocked in the borough. Doors and complete door hardware are available in Wilkinsburg, as well. You can get a complete kitchen or bath and paint for the entire house with some of the best paints available: all from suppliers in Wilkinsburg.

As there are many individuals rehabbing and repairing much of the wonderful old housing stock that is in the borough, much time can be saved using the neighborhood supplier where they can not only get what materials they need, but also great expertise. At the same time there is a number of larger projects such as Peebles Square residential development and the Penn-Lincoln Hotel renovation that are starting up soon in Wilkinsburg. We look forward to these suppliers being able to supply a portion of the materials to these projects.

W. G. BALPH CO.,
311 Brushton Avenue (Since 1926)

Nestled behind Lifecare Hospital, this plumbing supply house carries a complete line of plumbing supplies from piping and toilets to boilers, furnaces and bathtubs.

DAVIS-FETCH CORP.
743 Ross Avenue (Since 1955)

Next door to Sav-A-Lot on Ross Avenue, Davis-Fetch carries primarily commercial doors and frames and all the related hardware, but can provide residential products, as well.

HOUSTON-STARR CO.
300 Brushton Avenue (Since 1872)

Also located behind Lifecare, Houston-Starr handles kitchen cabinets, sinks, and appliances. They carry both commercial and residential doors and hardware, storm doors, both steel and wood studs and an extensive line of masonry products.

MEADE PRODUCTS
335 Meade Street (Since 1959)

Behind the Rite-Aid Drugstore on Penn Avenue, Meade carries exclusively drywall and plaster products and all sizes and thickness of drywall stucco and plaster materials and tools, as well as steel studs.

PENWOOD PAINT
811 Wood Street (Since 1955)

On Wood Street between Ross and South Avenues, Pennwood is a Benjamin Moore paint retailer offering the highest quality of paints available. The staff there can match any color you can think of and many more that have not been thought of.

STANTON ELECTRIC SUPPLY, INC.
521 Penn Avenue (Since 1954)

Right across the street from Wilkinsburg Beverage, Stanton can provide the best lines of industrial electrical products, as well all needs for the residential customer, including breaker boxes and breakers of any size, wiring, junction boxes and lighting fixtures.

CHAMBER TO SPONSOR BUSINESS EXPO

The Chamber recently announced that it will sponsor a business expo at Hosanna House on Wednesday, April 15 from 5:30-7 PM. The event will feature Wilkinsburg area businesses displaying their products and services. The Chamber invites all area businesses and the public to participate.

Businesses interested in presenting displays should contact the Chamber office at 412-242-0234.

TREE PLANTING

On Saturday, April 4, the Wilkinsburg Citizens’ Advisory Committee on Shade Trees will be hosting tree plantings in various Wilkinsburg neighborhoods. Refreshments and planting tools will be provided; just bring yourself and maybe a friend or two. The plantings will be held from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Any amount of time you can dedicate will help. Register with the committee by e-mailing shadetreecommittee@choiceonemail.net or calling Joan King at 412-241-1398. Tell us the date and hours of your availability. We hope to see you there.

The committee has many exciting projects and can use the help of new committee members and supporting volunteers. Members must be Wilkinsburg residents and must commit to attending monthly meetings. New committee members will be funded by the borough to attend the Tree Tenders class sponsored by Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest. The committee is also seeking volunteers to help plant trees and to help with other duties, including grant writing, education outreach and additional volunteer recruitment. A knowledge of trees is not necessary. E-mail shadetreecommittee@choiceonemail.net for more information.

Tuesday, April 7, Wilkinsburg Municipal Authority and Wilkinsburg Commercial and Industrial Authority meeting, 6 P.M., Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Avenue

Saturday, April 25. Earth Day Wilkinsburg Redd Up Day 9 A.M. to noon. Genesis of Pittsburgh will be holding its 17th Annual Riverside Run, 9 A.M.,

Saturday, April 25, at Heinz Field, Gate A. There is a 10K and 5K race with cash awards for top 3 finishers For more information, call 412-766-2693.

Tuesday, May 12, Wilkinsburg Municipal Authority and Wilkinsburg Commercial and Industrial Authority Mtg. 6 P.M., Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Avenue

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETINGS

Chamber Meetings-open to all Chamber Members.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING:
Every First Thursday, Noon Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Ave.
Council Chambers, Second Floor

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:
Every Third Thursday Metro Family Practice 901 – B West Street
one of 15 communities statewide with a Weed and Seed program. McKeesport and New Kensington are other Pittsburgh area Weed and Seed sites.

According to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the following criteria must be met in order for a Weed and Seed site to continue to receive funding:

Create and maintain a community Assistance for Impact Development (AID) team that includes key nonprofit, government and private sector organizations. At least 30 percent of the AID team must be Wilkinsburg residents. A city or county elected official or designee must serve on the AID team, and the team must have a full-time coordinator. The AID team works with a Target Area Local Leadership (TALL) team, a group of residents from the community who are engaged in the community revitalization process. The teams are tasked with developing neighborhood improvement programs, which are funded through a combination of grants: Quality of Life grants may be used to supplement up to half of the salary of the AID team coordinator; they can also be used to fund community cleanups, community policing and crime prevention initiatives. Delinquency prevention grants are also available to applicants under the Weed and Seed program.

Beginning with the 2009-2010 program year, in July of 2009, sites will compete for funding and other eligible communities, in addition to the 15 current sites, will be given the opportunity to apply for and receive funding.
“That was just what we did,” he says. “Everyone played something, or sang. We didn’t have any TV; we just entertained ourselves.”

While a few of Young’s students have gone on to play music for a living, most of them come away from Jazz Workshops with a love for something they may not have gotten an exposure to anywhere else.

“There’s a lot of kids who just aren’t into sports,” he says. “You learn music, you learn another way to look at things, another way of thinking.”

He tells the story of a recent student, a lady in her 70s who wanted to learn how to play the bass so she could play along to gospel music on the radio.

“Age doesn’t matter,” he says with a smile. “Just bring your mind with you.”

In 2003, Young worked with Beverly McCoy, who was then on council, to come up with another reason for people to come together.

“I went to a meeting,” he says, “and I said ‘What better thing can you do on a sunny afternoon, than bring your lounge chair to the park and listen to some music?’” Hard to find fault with that logic. Thus was born Jazz in the Park, which has been a successful program ever since. This year, Wilkinsburg has pledged $5,000 to the program to bring musicians to the parklet on Penn Avenue. After a lifetime in the jazz community, Young knows just about everybody who plays anything, anywhere in between these three rivers. Names like Al Dowe, Etta Cox and Gene Ludwig, just to name a few, have graced the Penn Avenue stage on Tuesday nights in the summer, as a favor to a lifelong friend.

“Well, they sure don’t do it for the money,” Young says with a laugh. Earlier this year, Young was honored by B.N.Y. Mellon Jazz, sponsors of the Mellon Jazz Festival, with its Community Award. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to jazz in southwestern Pennsylvania. Previous winners of the award are Walt Harper, Joe Negri, the Manchester Craftsman’s Guild and WDUB radio.

For Young, it’s been a labor of love all the way.

“I just love what I’m doing, I love being around creative people, I love bringing people together to get a dialogue going about arts and culture. I want to help put Wilkinsburg back on the map.”
Music can get a lot done. It can soothe the soul, spark a romance, feed the heart. It can even help keep a library open. "Back in 1973, they were talking about closing down the Homewood branch of the library, because no one was going there," says Harold Young, founder of Jazz Workshops. Young approached the library administration and got permission to use some of the rooms to teach music. The inaugural Jazz Workshop had eight students.

From that beginning, Jazz Workshops has been a fixture in the Pittsburgh music community for more than three decades. Classes are open to anyone who wants to learn to play, from age three on up, still every Saturday at the Homewood Carnegie Library. "Not only did they not close it down, but we started giving the classes, doing some concerts on the steps of the library, traffic picked up...they've had three renovations since then," he says with pride. "And the auditorium? It's my baby."

An accomplished saxophonist who also has a master's degree in social work, Young, 73, grew up playing music in his home in the Hill District.

continued on page 7