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the Wilkinsburg SUN

VOL. 10 NO. 4 December 2016 /January 2017

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

Hillgrove Gives Thanks with Wilkinsburg

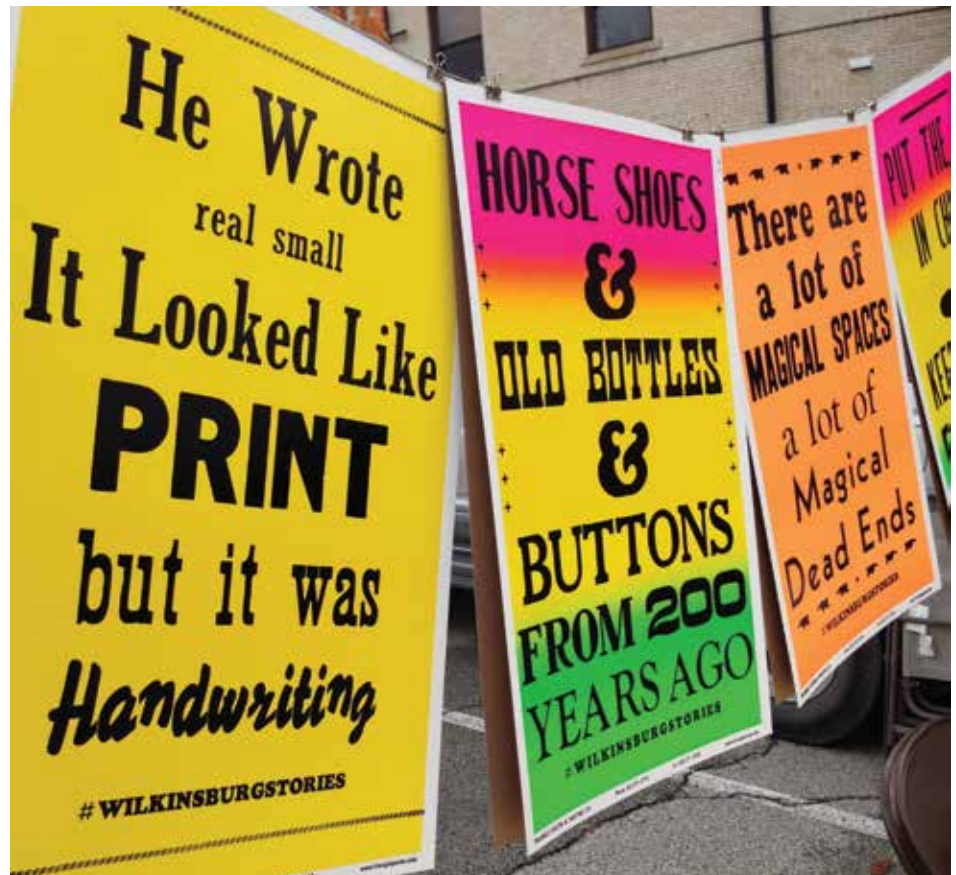
Bill Hillgrove, the lead play-by-play broadcaster for the Steelers and voice of the Pitt Panthers, spoke at this year's Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks breakfast at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) on Swissvale Avenue.

Hillgrove has been married to Rosette Sapienza, a vocal music teacher, since 1965. They have two children. He and his wife lived in Wilkinsburg at 706 Wood Street when they were first married.

He recounted memories of Wilkinsburg and told some funny stories about working with Myron Cope and Paul Long. He ended by saying that "Wilkinsburg was a vibrant community and I'd like to see it vibrant again."

The choir from Pittsburgh Urban Christian School in Wilkinsburg sang with the SignShine choir from the WPSD.

A portion of the proceeds were donated to the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry.



The Wilkinsburg Arts Commission chose artist Manya Mankiewicz to complete the Celebrate Wilkinsburg project by creating a public art piece reflective of the Wilkinsburg Stories (#wilkinsburgstories) that were recorded over the past year for the project. Mankiewicz curated quotes from the Wilkinsburg Stories and letterpress printed them on posters which were given away at Wilkinsburg Open Market. She says her posters aim to "re-contextualize and distribute snippets of Wilkinsburg's oral histories to spark curiosity and evoke content." Celebrate Wilkinsburg is a project of Wilkinsburg Arts Commission, Sprout, and CORO.



Bill Hillgrove with Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce President Yvonne James.

Six Ways to Support the Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project

- 1 Donate.
- 2 Pledge ongoing support.
- 3 Host a fundraiser.
- 4 Show your support.
- 5 Support local businesses.
- 6 Volunteer.

See story on page 4.

Wilkinsburg Christmas Parade

The Wilkinsburg Christmas parade is on Saturday, December 10, according to the mayor's office. This year's theme is "It's a Season of Giving." The grand marshal for this year's parade is Karen Payne-Powell, recently retired school board member.

The lineup begins at 10 a.m. at the Department of Public Works garage at the intersection of Park Avenue and Montier Street. The procession will start at 11 a.m.

The parade will feature Santa Claus, Obama HS marching band, Westinghouse HS marching band, police cars, fire trucks.

The parade will end with a drum-off with the marching bands in front of Wilkinsburg High School building at 747 Wallace Avenue.

The parade is sponsored by Mayor John Thompson and Wilkinsburg borough council. To get involved with the parade this year, call Barbara Thompson at 412.812.9613.

Santa's Open House

On Saturday, December 10, following the community's Christmas parade, the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg will be open from 1-4 p.m. for Santa's Open House. Free photographs with Santa Claus will be taken for the first 50 families. (Photographs are then printed professionally and mailed to the family within the week.)

Free food and carnival games and prizes will be provided throughout the afternoon. The New to You shop will be open from 2-3 p.m. Then at 3:30 p.m. the children of the church will present a play about the birth of Jesus.

The church is located at 748 Wallace Avenue across the street from where the parade will end.

Live Nativity Presentations

During this advent season, St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Wilkinsburg will be offering two live nativity presentations.

The first will be a morning worship service featuring a unique enactment of the Christmas story drawn from the gospels of Luke and Matthew on Sunday, December 18 at 11 a.m. The second presentation will

be the following Saturday on December 24 at 11 a.m. All are welcome!

For more information, please call 412.371.2800. The church is located at 1409 Montier Street. Rev. Dr. Helen M. Burton is the pastor.

Upward Basketball Camp in January



The Bible Chapel and Pittsburgh Urban Christian School are offering their 2nd annual Upward Basketball Camp for children in grades K-8th.

This faith-based basketball camp will teach kids basketball fundamentals and life skills each week that will carry over into school and the community.

The camp will take place on Saturday mornings from January 14-February 18 at PUCS' gymnasium at 809 Center Street.

The cost is \$35 which includes a camp t-shirt and basketball to take home at the end of the camp.

Scholarships are available if needed and requested. Registration ends December 30. Forms can be picked up at PUCS or The Bible Chapel at 754 Ross Ave. Email Dave DiDonato at ddidonato@biblechapel.org for mor information.

Overnight Shelter Services

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services and Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation Safety Net announced that, for the first time, the Winter Shelter for individuals who are experiencing homelessness (formerly known as the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter) will be open every night regardless of the weather.

The shelter will remain open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night through March 15. In previous years, the shelter opened only on especially cold nights.

The men's Winter Shelter is at the Smithfield United Church of Christ at 620 Smithfield Street, downtown. The women's shelter is in a different location in Uptown Pittsburgh this year. The location of the women's shelter is known only to persons served and service providers.

Brian Matous, winter shelter team leader for Pittsburgh Mercy's Operation

Safety Net, said, "Last winter, we assisted 499 individuals."

According to Matous, "Many of the individuals we serve at the shelter have multiple, complex needs." Shelter participants receive overnight accommodations, a hot meal coordinated by Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank member agencies, a shower, winter clothing, access to health and human services, as well as assistance with applications to housing and other vital benefit programs.



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Please submit all articles and calendar events to: editor@wilkinburgsun.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@wilkinburgsun.com, or call 412.680.1381. 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.

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Meet the Borough: Amanda Ford

Rain or shine (or snow), you can find Amanda Ford working at her desk or walking around the Borough, striving to make Wilkesburg better, day by day. Her resilient work ethic and positive attitude is what makes her a caring and energetic assistant borough manager.

She spends her days at the borough interacting with residents and supporting the borough manager and council with important decisions that affect the entire community. The relationships she has forged with community members and the team spirit that she feels when she works with other borough employees is what motivates her to continue to serve.

Ford loves Wilkesburg and wishes that more residents could attend monthly scheduled council meetings and become

more involved in awareness of the day-to-day decisions that are made on their behalf.

She views community input as vital to any government or entity which holds the interests of residents to be of utmost importance. Internally, some of Ford's responsibilities include participating in budget analysis and preparation, administering employee benefit plans, and assisting departments in developing and conducting employee training and development programs, just to name a few.

Her vision for the borough is to see it prosper with economic development, fine dining, social entertainment and for it to be a healthy and livable community.

Outside of work, Ford enjoys working at the Swissvale Police Department as a part-time police officer, continuing

her work in public service in a different capacity. She also works as many Steelers and Pitt games as possible.

Ultimately, she says her dream is to retire at the age of 56 and spend her days watching the CBS show *The Young and the Restless*, while sitting on her front porch smiling and greeting those who walk by on their way to work. —Manjot Singh

Expect Enforcement of Public Loitering Law

According to a borough spokesperson, the council has advised the police department to more actively enforce the loitering ordinance, which prohibits lingering in a public place without a legitimate business or purpose. Loitering can result in fines of up to \$300.

The loitering ordinance is found in section 194 of the borough code. It says that: "No person shall loiter in a public place in such manner as to: 1) Create or cause to be created a danger of a breach of the peace; 2) Create or cause to be created any annoyance to any person or persons; 3) Obstruct the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles; 4) Obstruct, molest or interfere with any person lawfully in any public place...."

Diamond Fills Council Vacancy

Evan Diamond was appointed to fill a vacant council seat and sworn into office in November.

Diamond, the produce manager for The East End Food Coop in Point Breeze, bought a house here in January 2013 without much consideration to the community, according to the borough website. The neighborhood offered what he and his wife Nicole were looking for: affordability, garden space and quiet, without sacrificing proximity to an urban center. Since that time, Evan has been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of his neighbors and has been pulled into the community in ways that he never imagined.

His appointment fills the vacancy left when Councilwoman Kate Grannemann moved out of the borough.

UPCOMING MEETINGS		
12/6 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
12/7 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor
12/8 (Thurs.)	10 A.M.	Constituent & Community Relations, 2nd floor
12/9 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
12/12 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Finance Committee, 1st floor
12/12 (Mon.)	6 P.M.	Library Board, 2nd floor
12/13 (Tues.)	1 P.M.	Social Media & Promotions Committee, 1st floor
12/13 (Tues.)	NOON	Public Safety Forum, 2nd floor
12/14 (Wed.)	6:30 P.M.	Shade Tree Advisory Committee, 2nd floor
12/14 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Legislative Session, 2nd floor
12/15 (Thurs.)	5:30 P.M.	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 1st floor
12/15 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Community Art & Civic Design Commission, 2nd floor
12/19 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Public Safety Committee, 1st floor
12/22 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Special Events Committee, 2nd floor
12/23 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
12/26 (Mon.)	5:30 P.M.	Joint Tax Committee, 2nd floor
12/28 (Wed.)	5:30 P.M.	Blight Committee, 1st floor
12/28 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Capital Planning Committee, 1st floor

All meetings will take place in Wilkesburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Ave.

January borough meeting dates were not available at press time. Please check the borough website as they become available.

Get On Board! Six Ways to Support the Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project

Last month, the WCDC announced that the WCDC Holding Co. selected MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni Architects & Planners to renovate the historic Wilkinsburg Train Station building! Work on the building began on November 7, including ivy & vine removal on the building's exterior. For project updates, photos, and more, be sure to like the Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project Facebook page—fb.com/WilkinsburgTrainStation.

Shop Small This Season

Though Small Business Saturday is over, the WCDC encourages you to continue supporting small businesses and Wilkinsburg's local economy throughout the holiday season and in the New Year.

Check out Wilkinsburg's small businesses through the WCDC's business directory at wilkinsburgcdc.org/local-businesses. Happy holidays, Wilkinsburg!

Though work on the station has begun, to ensure a successful restoration, the WCDC still needs your help to reach their \$3 million fundraising goal by the end of this year. *Ready to get on board?* Here are six simple ways to get involved:

1. Donate right now. Visit www.WilkStation.org to make a secure contribution online or mail a check to 1001 Wood St. Wilkinsburg, PA 15221, attention WCDC.

2. Pledge ongoing support. Ensure the sustainability of the historic Wilkinsburg Train Station building beyond the initial restoration. Email marlee@wilkinsburgcdc.org to learn how you can make your contribution stretch over multiple years.

3. Host a fundraiser. House parties and other fundraising events are great ways to engage your friends, family members, and neighbors for a good cause. Email marlee@wilkinsburgcdc.org for a house party kit.


4. Show your support. Stop by the WCDC (1001 Wood St.) to pick up your very own Wilkinsburg Train Station Project t-shirt or set of notecards. T-shirts are available in a range of sizes for a donation of \$25. Standard and holiday-themed Train Station notecards are available in sets of 10 for a donation of \$15 per set. All proceeds benefit the

Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project.

5. Support local businesses. Wilkinsburg businesses are actively working to raise funds for the Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project. Through the end of the year, Liam's will be donating a portion of every combo meal sold to the project. Be sure to check out this brand new restaurant at 501 Penn Ave. and support a great cause. In January, Salvatore's (612 Penn Ave.) will be hosting a month-long fundraiser for the project, including a signature drink, the *Locomotive*, drink specials, and guest bartenders.

6. Volunteer. Join a Wilkinsburg Train Station Restoration Project committee. Wilkinsburg alumni, business owners, and anyone interested in supporting this project is welcome to participate on a committee. Email marlee@wilkinsburgcdc.org to learn more.

Stay tuned to the WCDC and Train Station Facebook pages over the coming weeks for more ways to get involved and show your support. You can also sign up for regular email updates from the WCDC at bit.ly/WCDCnews.



To support the WCDC, send a tax-deductible contribution to 1001 Wood St., Wilkinsburg, PA 15221 OR donate online at wilkinsburgcdc.org Thank you!
412.727.7855 • 412.871.3149 (fax)
info@wilkinsburgcdc.org



Save the Dates!

Thursday, December 8, 5:30-8 p.m.: WCDC Holiday Party; RSVP marlee@wilkinsburgcdc.org /412.727.7855
Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26: Happy Holidays—WCDC office closed
Monday, January 2: Happy Holidays—WCDC office closed

Parents Give District Input on Current and Desired State

When parents visited Kelly and Turner Elementary Schools Monday, October 31,

up at the end of the day, attend Halloween festivities or parent conferences—they had the opportunity to weigh in on District-related topics and issues by participating in Superintendent Dr. Linda Iverson’s informal “gallery walk” parent voice sessions.

Gallery walk easels were stationed in the lobbies of both elementary schools with posters for parents to anonymously write their answers with post-it notes.

Parents were strongly encouraged to provide their input on key questions

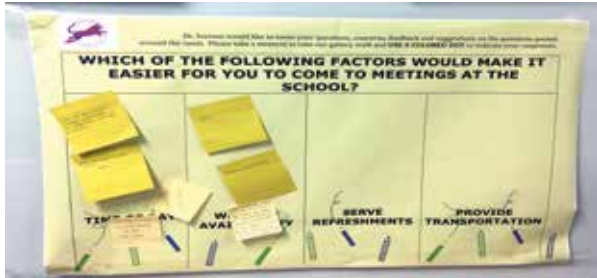
such as:

- What academic opportunities should we have for students both in and outside of school?
- How can we better our communication and involve you more in the school community?
- What are your greatest needs and challenges and what supports can we offer to help?

“We hope that the answers to these questions will help us better engage and serve the families in our District,” said Dr. Iverson. “We are looking into forming PTOs in our schools and a District-wide Parent University, but we also want to hear from the parents about their ideas.”

Parents were informed about the Parent Voice Sessions via robo calls and a one-page flyer that was sent home with every student on Friday, October 28. The flyer can be viewed on the District’s website www.wilkinsburgschools.org.

These parent voice sessions are a part of Dr. Iverson’s first 100 days entry plan and her listen-and-learn tour.

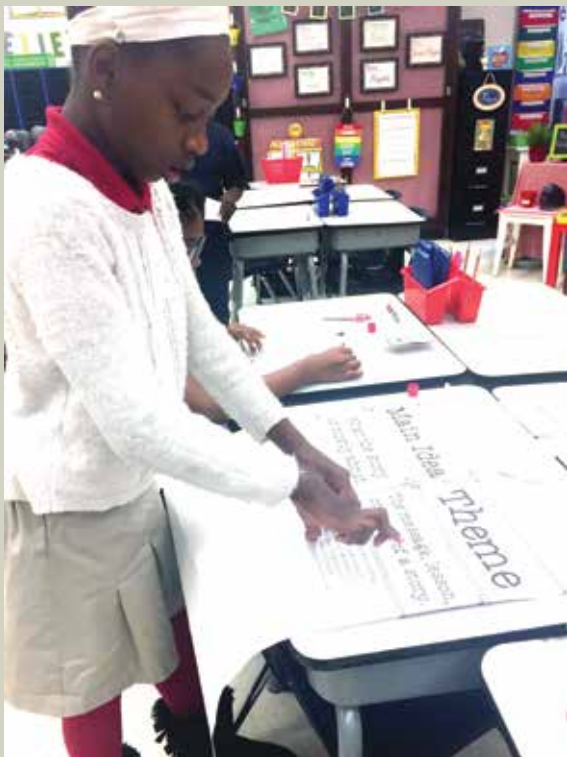


through Friday, November 11—whether to bring their children to school, pick them

SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

12/6 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Board Reorganization Meeting
12/23–1/2	ALL DAY	Winter Break
1/16 (Mon.)	ALL DAY	Martin Luther King Day (no school)
1/23 (Mon.)	ALL DAY	Clerical Day (no school)
1/24 (Tues.)	ALL DAY	Inservice Day (no school)

School Scenes



Left: Students from Ms. Polosky’s 5th grade class worked in groups on a project covering main idea and theme in a story they just read. Above: Tanya Smith, principal of Turner Elementary School, received 200 book bags filled with 5,000 pieces of school supplies from the Great Lakes Regional Chapters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for the students at Kelly and Turner. Right: The teachers and staff at Kelly Elementary School honored Principal Kerry Francis on National Boss Day.





Learning about the borough council chambers from Donn Henderson.

PUCS Students Learn about Wilkesburg Government

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School's 4th and 5th grades have been studying the U.S. government in their current unit. Teacher Sarah Fuller found herself thinking about how she has focused almost exclusively on the federal government so far, but many of the decisions that really affect people's everyday lives happen at the local level.

She started dreaming about different ways she could introduce her students to their local government. Christy Wauzzinski, PUCS' education director, contacted Wilkesburg's Borough Manager Donn Henderson and he set up a walking tour for 29 students.

On November 4, the students learned, through Donn Henderson's perspective, what happens at the fire station, the borough council chambers, the code enforcement office, and the finance offices. They had the opportunity to get a tour of the police precinct with Detective Adams, meet the Chief of Police, Ophelia Coleman, and Lieutenant Michelle Krempasky. Their final stop was at the Port Authority Busway, where Fuller's mother, Liza Fuller, the manager of capital programs, spoke to the students about public transport.

WCDC Celebrates Third Business Workshop Class Graduation

In November, the WCDC and partners had the opportunity to celebrate the third class of WCDC business planning workshop graduates. In total, 17 entrepreneurs graduated from the Fall 2016 Business Planning Workshop.

The workshop, which was developed last fall by WCDC Business Development Specialist, Gordon Manker, follows the CORE FOUR Business Planning Course® approach, which is geared toward both aspiring and existing business owners.

The course focuses on four fundamental elements of business planning:

- business success,
- meeting the needs of the marketplace,



WCDC Business Planning Workshop Fall 2016 graduates

- business cash flow needs, and
- how the business will operate.

Since beginning this program last year, the WCDC has helped over 50 existing and aspiring business owners achieve their goals. They look forward to continuing to work with these entrepreneurs as they continue to grow and thrive.

If you're an entrepreneur or you just want to learn more about the WCDC's business support programs and upcoming opportunities, call 412.727.7855 or email gordon@wilkesburgcdc.org.

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Stoner Way Gets a Facelift

Myrna Newman from Allegheny CleanWays and Jody Guy from Wilkinsburg Community Art and Civic Design Commission recently raised \$10,000 from Lowe's to clean up Stoner Way in Wilkinsburg.

Stoner Way runs parallel to Penn Avenue and ends at Wood Street near the police station. It was named after the owner of the first post office in Wilkinsburg. The Stoner post office and general store was located on Penn Avenue and was facing the direction of Stoner Way.

Bob Ziller and Martha Rial are both contributing public art to the Stoner Way project, and Allegheny CleanWays is cleaning up the blight and adding urban planters and solar street lights.

The Ziller project will be a wall of portraits honoring Wilkinsburg musicians, and Martha will continue her Glass Ceiling photo portraits featured in last month's *Wilkinsburg Sun*. A date has not been set for the public art install.

The clean up was November 16 to 22. All the work, including the public art, will be completed by the end of December. Together, in partnership with the Wilkinsburg Borough Manager Donn Henderson, the Wilkinsburg DPW, and residents living there, Newman and Guy are turning Stoner Way into a safer place to walk and live.



On November 12, friends of Whitney Park held their annual fall clean-up, raking leaves and clearing invasive weeds and bushes from the playground and ball field fence. DPW assisted by spending a morning the previous week clearing and cutting. Volunteers collected and stacked the debris from that effort into large piles for DPW to pick up. Assistance was also provided by friends from Nine Mile Run, Hilltop Block Watch, and Parks and Recreation.

New Member Spotlight



Abigail Salisbury started her law practice in Wilkinsburg in January 2015, with the goal of providing affordable, customized legal services for nonprofits and small businesses.

After hearing from board members and business owners that they could not find lawyers to work with them or could not afford high hourly fees, she decided to open a law practice that would fulfill those unmet legal needs.

She works to offer legal services in a casual, personalized manner that is more accessible to many people than the traditional law firm experience.

You can learn more about Abigail's practice, Salisbury Legal, LLC, at www.asalisbury.org.

Light Night and Business After Hours

Drinks, snacks, and good cheer will be had at Kenyon Jewelers on Penn Avenue from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on December 6. Join in on the caroling and holiday decoration light up in the Penn Avenue Parklet at 6-6:30 p.m.



Early Bird Special

Receive a 10% discount when renewing or joining by December 31, 2016. Checks and credit and debit cards accepted.

Thank You to Chamber Members

Triangle Poster & Printing Co., Nancy's East End Diner, Hosanna House, Second United Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg, The Wilkinsburg Sun, Kerr engineered sales company, Metro Community Health Center, Wilkinsburg Community Ministry, Amore Management Company, Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance—Chris Ashley, Western PA School for the Deaf, Pittsburgh Dry Cleaners & Furrier, Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation, Vision Towards Peace Counseling Services, Wilkinsburg Christian Housing, Community Hearing, Stanton Industrial Electric Supply, South Avenue United Methodist Church, ACHIEVA, Western & Southern Life Insurance—Kyle Ross, Compass Self Storage, Rocky Enterprises, Admintrinsic, Pennwood Paints & Supply, St. James Roman Catholic Church, Thomas Home Child Care, The Real McKoy Creative, MD Autoworks, Enrich Products Inc., Giant Eagle Frankstown Rd., Mansmann Foundation, Trash2Treasure, Abracadabra Cleaning Services, CP Development, Impact Redevelopment, John Irwin, James B. Richard Services, Kenyon Jewelers, Ralph Yearick, Pittsburgh Urban Christian School, Eastern Area Prehospital Service, Davis-Fetch Corp. of Pennsylvania, WTAE, BPI Inc., James Floral, Bridges to the Desired Future, Dennis Bossick, Fulton Building and Remodeling, Abator Information Services, NBT Holdings LLC, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Jody Guy, Pamela Macklin, Pete & Vicki Smith, South Hills Bible Chapel, Community Life, Covenant Church of Pittsburgh, Bryn Mawr Apartments/ McKinney Properties, People's Natural Gas Co., Donn Henderson, and the Wilkinsburg Borough.

Greater Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce

1001 Wood St., Wilkinsburg 15221 • 412.242.0234 • info@wilkinsburgchamber.com



Boys and Girls Club of Wilkinsburg Enters New Era, Partners with Hosanna House

Recently, the Boys & Girls Club (B&GC) of Wilkinsburg entered into a partnership with Hosanna House to strengthen and improve its services to Wilkinsburg youth.

Mike Hepler, CEO and president of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Pennsylvania, said, "The direct and immediate benefits of this partnership to our members include high-quality Monday-to-Friday after-school program with the best of what Hosanna House offers for young people ages K to [age] 13. Transportation [will be] provided from Turner and Kelly Elementary Schools daily. In addition, planning is underway to increase services to the teen population."

"Another major benefit of this partnership is a full nine-week summer day camp program (Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) at Camp Sherwood," said Hepler.

Because the B&GC is aware that the primary concern of Wilkinsburg parents is affordability, as part of the agreement, those B&GC parents who qualify for scholarship subsidy and registration in the new program will not incur monthly fees exceeding the current \$12. A safety net of scholarship funds will be in place beyond the first year of this partnership.

Hosanna House will make available at least 50 slots for B&GC youth memberships in the current state-certified after-school program. In addition, a minimum of 50 camper slots will be made available during summer's Camp Sherwood.

Make Wilkinsburg Lovely

Ten Best Practices for Winter Landscaping

Nine Mile Run Watershed Association offers the following to prepare your yard for the upcoming spring and set your plants up for success:

- 1 Mulch your garden and tree beds to insulate them over the winter.
- 2 Use fallen leaves as organic mulch in your garden. If there are large amounts of leaves, shred and compost them.
- 3 Cover the stems of thin-barked, young trees in sunny areas with a light colored wrap to avoid sunscald and frost cracks.
- 4 Keep pruning to a minimum. (Note: Pruning perennial plants can differ by species.)
- 5 Divide perennial plants and replant to promote growth in the spring.
- 6 Prune oak trees during this time to avoid oak wilt infection.
- 7 Water young evergreens during warm and dry periods—they can experience drought stress even in the winter.
- 8 Cover evergreen shrubs or trees that are susceptible to street salt.
- 9 Be thoughtful with your ice melting salt use and avoid over-application in root areas of your favorite trees and shrubs. Shovel snow early and often to reduce the need for salt.
- 10 Inspect deciduous trees as broken branches will be more easily observed at this time.



Ardmore Boulevard Update: At the time of printing, the borough reported that four structures had been demolished on the Dell Way side of Ardmore Boulevard. Eight more structures are to be demolished in this first phase. Eric Parish, director of code enforcement, said, "A noticeable difference will be seen when the locations of the structures are graded and seeded."



THE BIBLE CHAPEL
Christmas SERVICES
December 24, 5:00 p.m.
December 25, 10:45 a.m.
754 Ross Avenue, Wilkinsburg
Visit Biblechapel.org or call 724-941-8990 for more information.

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