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the Wilkinsburg

SUN

VOL. 10 NO. 3 November 2016

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

Wilkinsburg Receives Grant to Improve Car and Bike Traffic

Wilkinsburg was recently awarded \$203,703 in grants to convert Wood Street into a two-way street and install a bike lane on Ross Avenue.

Wood Street is part of Wilkinsburg's business district, perpendicular to Penn. Making it two-way will open up the businesses and services there to drivers on Penn.

Ross Avenue, where the bike lane will be added, is an important connector that

Wood Street today is presently one-way, northbound to Penn Avenue, so drivers on Penn cannot simply turn to access the shops and services located on this stretch.



Cover photos by Jason Cohn



The campaign to restore the train station has begun. Read more about it and the press conference on page 4.

is not as highly trafficked as Penn. It runs from Ardmore Boulevard to the borough building, where a busway entrance and the soon-to-be-renovated train station is across the street. The underpass on South, which is a gateway to Edgewood and Point Breeze, is just around the corner.

These improvements are aimed to improve neighborhood, shopper and bicycle connectivity.

This grant was among four worth \$6.17 million for Allegheny County from PennDOT's Multimodal Transportation Fund, announced by Governor Tom Wolf and Transportation Secretary Leslie Richards. The fund considers applications and awards monies to communities that need assistance with transportation improvements.

Borough Manager Donn Henderson said that the Wood Street and Ross Avenue projects may take approximately eighteen months to two years to complete.

BILL HILGROVE TO SPEAK AT 52ND WILKINSBURG GIVES THANKS BREAKFAST. SEE PAGE 7.

Thanksgiving Giveaway

The Bible Chapel is hosting a Thanksgiving Give-A-Way, Saturday, November 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at their Wilkinsburg Campus, 754 Ross Avenue

Enjoy free food, music and activities. Boxed food, toiletries and cosmetics will be distributed for free.

Open House

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School (PUCS) is hosting an admissions open house on Thursday, November 3, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Located on Center Avenue in Wilkinsburg, two blocks off Penn Avenue, PUCS is known for its commitment to equip students to thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually. They use an integrated approach to curriculum in small class sizes for students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

For more information or a personal tour, call 412.244.1779 or write office@pucs.org.

Hilltop Block Watch Christmas Party

Hilltop Block Watch is having their 3rd annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 3, 12-3pm, Eastridge Library, 1900 Graham Boulevard in Wilkinsburg.

Party goers should bring a dish to share and wear a crazy, awesome, or weird Christmas sweater. A trophy and prize will be awarded for a winning sweater. There will be dancers to entertain and songs to sing.

There is an optional grab bag. Those who want to participate, bring a \$10 gift to exchange. The community is invited. For further information, call Linda at 412.880.8253.

Nominate a Wilkinsburg Heroine

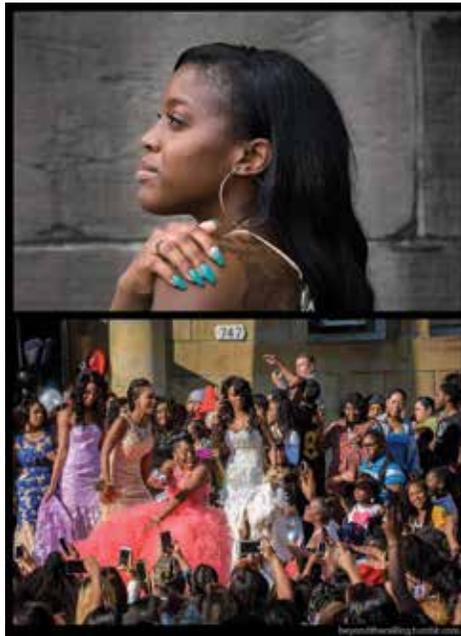
Public art can celebrate people and places.

In September, Allegheny Clean Ways received a \$10,000 Lowe's grant to help Wilkinsburg re-mediate blighted areas on Stoner Way., which runs parallel to Penn Ave. in the business district.

The goals for this grant include the cleanup of five dumping sites on Stoner Way and addressing the unsightly graffiti

and dumpsters that litter the alley at Wood St. and Stoner Way.

Doing this will turn a negative into a positive, right in the heart of the



Wilkinsburg business district. Where there is now graffiti, the plan is to continue a public art project by Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Martha Rial, called Beyond the Ceiling.

Beyond the Ceiling is a large-scale portrait series of local women who defy the odds and lead by example. Martha's goal is to continue this project leading up to the 100th anniversary of women receiving the right to vote.

The portrait of Remy McIntyre, seen above, is the first of this series. Remy is the 2016 valedictorian for the final graduating class of Wilkinsburg High School.

You can celebrate the women you know by nominating a Wilkinsburg woman who has, in some way, led by example by sending a nominee's name and a way to contact you. Include a brief story of how the nominee defied the odds to do something great. One nominee will be chosen to be honored by a large-scale photo portrait by Martha Rial.

Send your nominations by November 30 to Jody Guy, guyarts211@gmail.com

For more information, visit beyondtheceiling.tumblr.com

Community Discussion

All are invited to join a discussion about fostering teens in Wilkinsburg on November 10, 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, 748 Wallace Avenue. See an open letter from the mayor about this on page 7.

the *Wilkinsburg*
Sun

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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 412.680.1381. 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.

Sign up to receive *The Sun* by email at eepurl.com/v0iBP and friend us on Facebook.

Meet the Borough: Moses Workman

Similar to how an orchestra must always be mindful of seemingly cacophonous musical elements working together, Moses Workman is faced with various interests and goals that he is constantly balancing in order to make his mark. Serving as the clerk secretary for the Borough of Wilkinsburg, Moses' "typical" day is never that typical.

It can range from answering calls for the Department of Public Works to speaking to residents about problems in their neighborhoods, or from recording meeting minutes for Borough council meetings to working on revitalizing the current website.

Work Ethic

He cares deeply for the work that he



does and finds no trouble coming to work early and leaving late, in an effort to increase borough transparency and communication with the community it serves. Although he prefers being a background guy, he still finds time to interface with local residents who share concerns for the overall vitality of the borough.

When asked about what he wishes residents knew, he responded, "We face a lot of challenges everyday and it's not always easy getting things to where you want them to be. However, people in charge in the Borough are well aware of these issues and are constantly working to rectify them."

He then talked about how important it is to try to see things from multiple perspectives. Resident concerns about potholes or trees that may be posing a danger are all valid and important and he, along with the Borough, care deeply about resolving these issues but are sometimes faced with limited funding and resources that hinders their efficacy.

His Vision

His vision for Wilkinsburg's future includes an increased resident count, an upward trend of home ownership, and a transformed perception of Wilkinsburg in media outlets. He wants the positive image of Wilkinsburg to be its stamp to outside communities because that has been his experience—a deep sense of community and a positive place to live. "Wilkinsburg is much more than a news story," he said.

Beyond this job, he's a full-time husband and father, who helps his two kids get ready for school and drops them off before work begins. Apart from the many roles he must balance, he enjoys playing Xbox, watching anime, and listening to a wide variety of music including hip hop, R&B, reggae, pop, jazz and funk. Additionally, he does on-call IT work for two companies and is helping build out a website for another startup in the greater Pittsburgh area. When he's not tending to all of his other responsibilities, he is an Uber driver. His life is an orchestra, and he has found a way to make all of the elements fit together.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

11/1 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor
11/2 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Work Session, 2nd floor
11/8 (Tues.)	9 A.M.	Wilkinsburg Municipal Authority, 1st floor
11/8 (Tues.)	9 A.M.	Commercial & Industrial Development Authority, 2nd floor
11/8 (Tues.)	NOON	Public Safety Forum, 2nd floor
11/8 (Tues.)	1 P.M.	Social Media & Promotions Committee, 1st floor
11/9 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Council Legislative Session, 2nd floor
11/10 (Thurs.)	10 A.M.	Constituent & Community Relations, 2nd floor
11/11 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
11/14 (Mon.)	6 P.M.	Library Board, 2nd floor
11/17 (Thurs.)	9 A.M.	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 1st floor
11/17 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Community Art & Civic Design Commission, 2nd floor
11/21 (Mon.)	4 P.M.	Public Safety Forum, 1st floor
11/23 (Wed.)	5:30 P.M.	Blight Committee, 1st floor
11/23 (Wed.)	7 P.M.	Capital Planning Committee, 1st floor
11/24 (Thurs.)	5 P.M.	Public Safety Forum, 2nd floor
11/24 (Thurs.)	6:30 P.M.	Special Events Committee, 2nd floor
11/25 (Fri.)	9 A.M.	Policy & Procedure Committee, 1st floor
11/28 (Mon.)	5:30 P.M.	Joint Tax Committee, 2nd floor
12/6 (Tues.)	6 P.M.	Planning Commission, 2nd floor

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

Get On Board! WCDC Kicks Off Train Station Campaign



Left: Co-chair of the campaign, Councilwoman Marita Garrett, addresses the community at the site of the train station for the kick-off event. Above: Councilman Patrick Shattuck, WCDC Board President Bernie Wetzel and Ralph Yearick, Train Station Restoration Project Co-Chair. Wetzel said, "Make no mistake: People will come to see this building."

The WCDC kicked off the Wilksburg Train Station Capital Campaign on October 6 with a press conference and Five Point Human Broadcast event at locations throughout the borough. Dozens of community members, business owners, reporters, and government officials attended the event to celebrate the official kick-off of this landmark project.

By the end of this year, the WCDC aims to raise \$3 million to initiate the first phase of restoration and update the building so it is tenant-ready. The initial restoration funding, totaling \$2.5 million, has been secured through grants, pledges, and corporate contributions.

But to fill the gap, the WCDC is asking you, the community, to get on board and support this project by making a tax-deductible contribution today! To donate, visit WilkStation.org, call 412.727.7855, or email marlee@wilksburgcdc.org. Support from you

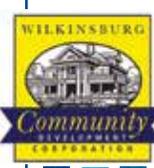
will ensure that the building's historical relevance is preserved for the benefit of Wilksburg's growing community.

The WCDC and partners are committed to supporting an economically viable approach to reusing the train station building. The selected approach will sustain ongoing operations after restoration, capitalize on transit opportunities, and support the community's desire to include public space. Community members envision the space as a vibrant cafe or restaurant, a space for events and gatherings, gallery space, and so much more.

In addition to monetary donations,

if you're interested in supporting the project by becoming a campaign volunteer and/or hosting a house party or other fundraising event, please email marlee@wilksburgcdc.org or call 412.727.7855 to find out how you can get involved.

For general project updates and more, follow the WCDC's Train Station Restoration Project Facebook page at fb.com/WilksburgTrainStation.



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

Save the Dates!

Thursday, November 17, 6 p.m.: WCDC Small Business Workshop Graduation; Hosanna House—807 Wallace Ave.

Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25: WCDC office closed

Saturday, November 26: Small Business Saturday; stay tuned to fb.com/WilksburgCDC for updates

Thursday, December 8, 6 p.m.: WCDC Holiday Party; location TBD

Superintendent Holds Parent-Teacher Sessions During Listen and Learn Tour

In her first 100 days as Superintendent of Wilkinsburg Schools, Dr. Linda Iverson is looking for input from parents, teachers and other community stakeholders about the current and desired state of the Wilkinsburg School District during her Listen and Learn Tour.

She began the tour meeting individually with *all* District leaders and staff to discuss responsibilities, goals and areas needing improvement. Dr. Iverson is also holding separate Parent/Teacher Voices Sessions to give parents and teachers safe opportunities to voice their questions, concerns and suggestions.

“I want to get to know the District inside and out, from top to bottom,” says Dr. Iverson, Superintendent. “And I want every community stakeholder—students, teachers, parents, board members, office staff, custodians, everyone—to know that their voices matter and understand that, in our combined efforts, we are all responsible for the success of our schools and students. Together we can make a *new* Wilkinsburg School District, one that is a world class elementary school system that prepares students in Pre-K through the 6th grade for the 21st century.”

The first Teacher Voice Session was held Friday, October 14, at Turner Elementary School during a teacher professional development day, where teachers at Kelly and Turner participated in a “gallery walk” activity designed to gather and document their opinions on various District issues anonymously. Easels were set up around the room with posters for teachers to mark or write their answers with stickers and Post-it notes.

Questions on the posters included: What are some of the areas that Wilkinsburg Schools can improve? How can we better communicate and engage our parents and community members? What academic resources should we have to promote academic achievement? Where would you like principals to spend most of their time?

When asked about the day’s activities, one of the teachers said, “I think it’s



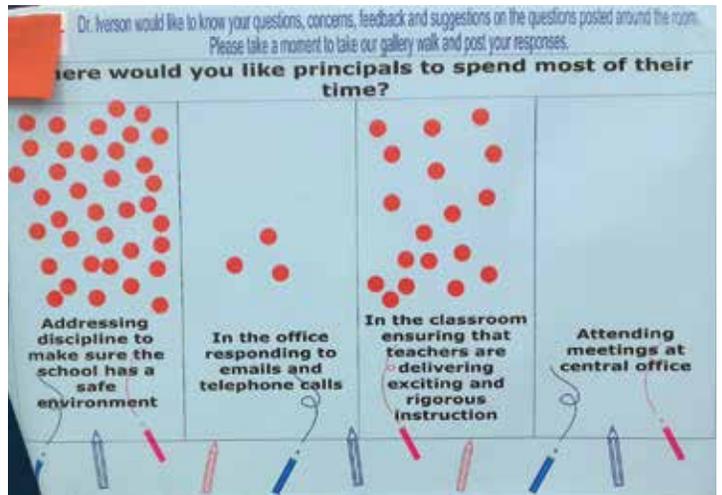
wonderful. It’s a good way to express what everyone thinks and feels.”

Another talked about needing positive change and that “Dr. Iverson has a vision. We are hopeful about her leadership.”

At the end of her first 100 days, Superintendent Dr. Iverson will publish a summary of findings, observations and trends that surfaced during her Listen and Learn Tour and Parent/Teacher Voice Sessions.

Dates and times for future

sessions will be announced on the District website wilkinsburgschools.org as well as the [facebook.com/WilkinsburgSD](https://www.facebook.com/WilkinsburgSD) and twitter.com/WilkinsburgSD pages.



SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR

11/11 (Fri.)	ALL DAY	Clerical Day (no students)
11/15 (Tues.)	5:30 P.M.	Board Finance Committee
11/15 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Planning Session
11/22 (Tues.)	7 P.M.	Legislative Session
11/24-25 (Thurs.-Fri.)		Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)

Shade Trees: A Call for Volunteers



On Saturday, November 19, volunteers are needed to help plant trees in Wilkinsburg and Pittsburgh's Park Place neighborhood. Volunteers should meet the planting coordinators on Tuscarora Avenue between Peebles St. and East End Ave. by 9 a.m. The planting will wrap up around noon. Dress appropriately for the weather and wear closed-toed shoes and pants. This is a rain-or-shine event with refreshments provided. Email Jared@ninemilerun.org for more information.

The borough's Shade Tree Committee adopts programs meant to preserve and increase Wilkinsburg's urban forest. The monthly meetings, usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers, are open to the public, and residents are welcome to attend. Because of Thanksgiving, the next meeting is December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

The committee is currently seeking residents to fill the open seats on the committee. Any interested residents should attend several meetings to understand the committee's work. Residents can also learn more about what the group does at the committee's page on wilkinsburgpa.gov/shadetreecommittee.

The committee frequently partners with Nine Mile Run Watershed Association on tree-planting grants through TreeVitalize Pittsburgh.

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Wilkinsburg Public Library November Calendar

The following library programs and events are free and open to everyone. Reservations can be made in advance at the circulation desk or by calling 412.244.2940.

Adult Programs

Oriental Brush Art, Mondays, Nov 7 and 14, 10 a.m.—Discover or continue your skill at this amazing art form. Registration required.

You're a Poet! Mondays, Nov 7 and 14, 5:30 p.m.—In-class writing exercises and discussion directed by Laurie and Jane. Registration requested.

You Can Paint! Wednesdays, Nov 2, 9, and 16, 10 a.m.—Paul returns to guide you in creating your next oil painting masterpiece. Registration required.

Basic Computer Skills, Wednesday, Nov 2, 10:30 a.m.—Introduction to computers. Registration required.

General Book Discussion Group, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 1 p.m.—Title to be selected. Everyone invited.

Crochet with Frankie, Mondays, 2 p.m.—Beginners and experienced crocheters welcomed. Bring your materials.

Eastridge Coffee and Coloring, Tuesdays, 9 a.m.—A relaxing start to the day with adult coloring and a warm beverage.

Eastridge Chess, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 6 p.m., and 2nd and 4th Saturdays, 11 a.m.—All ages welcome.

Eastridge Sit and Stitch, Fridays, 1 p.m.—Knit, embroider, quilt etc. It's an afternoon of stitching!

Eastridge Crochet, Saturdays, 11 a.m.—Join Frankie to get tips and help with your projects.

Children's Programs

Video Games, Tuesdays, 3 p.m.—Come play Wii and Xbox One. Ages 10 and up.

Eastridge Homeschool Discovery, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.—Topical discussions, activities, and various resources to enhance your child's learning. Grades K-5.

Eastridge Family Storytime, Thursdays, 11 a.m.—Read stories, play games and sing songs. For babies thru preschoolers with an adult.

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**A Letter from Mayor
John Thompson**

When people ask me what I love about Wilkinsburg, I am quick to point out our diversity, our history and our caring for each other.

It's this last point that struck a nerve when I recently learned about an important need right here. Each year, in Wilkinsburg, about 25 teens are in need of foster families.

These are 25 teens who come from Wilkinsburg, pass us by on the sidewalks, frequent our shops, go to school with our kids. These are 25 teens who are part of our community fabric, but may have to leave their friends, their school, their only supports, as their families go through a tough time.

There are many things we can do as a community for these young people—from becoming a foster family to providing support. I am open to learning more, and I hope you will join me in a very important conversation.

Community Discussion

About fostering teens in Wilkinsburg
November 10, 6:30-8 p.m.

Christian Church of Wilkinsburg
748 Wallace Avenue

We'll hear from teens, meet families and the people who support them, and identify ways that we can come together to help our own young people.

My hope is that every young person in our community succeeds and, one day, can come back and make an impact in the neighborhood that shaped them.

I look forward to seeing you.

John Thompson
Mayor

Free Home Buying Workshop

The Pittsburgh Housing Development Association is hosting a free home buying workshop on Monday, November 14, at 6 p.m. at the Landmarks Housing Resource Center at 744 Rebecca Avenue in Wilkinsburg. The workshop includes information about credit counseling, grant money, affordable mortgages, programs to help public housing residents, and a free credit report. To register, call 412.242.2700.

52nd Annual Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks Breakfast

Join the Chamber for the 52nd annual Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks Breakfast on Wed., Nov. 16, at 8 a.m. at the Western PA School for the Deaf. Enjoy a wonderful breakfast while listening to music led by Jimmy Sapienza and to keynote speaker Bill Hillgrove.



A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Wilkinsburg Community Ministry. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. RSVP now at www.eventbrite.com/e/52nd-wilkinsburg-gives-thanks-breakfast-tickets-28668091032

Light Night and Business After Hours at Kenyon Jewelers

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 caroling and decoration to light up the Penn Avenue Parklet at 6 p.m.

Early Bird Special

Renew or join the Chamber of Commerce by December 31 to receive a 10% discount on 2017 dues.

Be a Part of the Revitalization

Donations are being accepted to hire a part-time central business district clean team to maintain the appearance of our CBD. Email info@wilkinsburgchamber to donate.

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



Rotary Club of Wilkinsburg Donates to Flood Relief in Louisiana and Connellsville

The Rotary Club of Wilkinsburg responded to the recent devastating floods in Louisiana and Connellsville, Pa., by making monetary donations to assist in the relief efforts. The monies will be used to support efforts being undertaken by local Rotary clubs in the areas impacted by the flooding.

The Rotary clubs in the areas devastated by the floods reached out to their fellow Rotarians, seeking assistance in their relief efforts. Pam Moore, District Governor for Rotary District 7330, which includes the Connellsville club, stated, "While most families' immediate needs, such as food, clothing, and cleaning

supplies, are being met, the greatest need at this time is monetary donations to help the hardest-hit families with furnace repairs, water heaters, and so on." The Wilkinsburg Rotary Club responded by sending a monetary donation to Connellsville Community Ministries, which is spearheading relief efforts in that area. A similar donation was also made to the relief efforts in Louisiana.

The Wilkinsburg Rotary Club, which was chartered in 1922 and is the second oldest Rotary club in Allegheny County, has been actively involved in developing and supporting community service projects locally, nationally, and

abroad since its founding. Wilkinsburg Treasurer and Secretary, Rita Platt, stated, "Wherever the need, whatever we can do, whether in the Wilkinsburg area or beyond; we want to help. This is why we are Rotary members."

As a service organization, the Wilkinsburg Rotary Club is always looking for new members to get involved in its humanitarian missions and community projects. To learn more about becoming a member, please contact Clark Walter at 412.848.7556 or cjwalter1@verizon.net.

Rotary connects 1.2 million members in over 200 countries to impact lives at both the local and international levels.

Percolate Gallery Transitions Managers

Carolyn Pierotti, current vice president of the Pittsburgh Society of Artists, and the owner of Purple Room Fine Art, an art consulting business, will be the new manager of Percolate Art Space in Wilkinsburg beginning in January.

Artist Bob Ziller, a Wilkinsburg resident, who had been invited to manage the gallery last April by former director Moshe Sherman, is happy to pass the torch to Pierotti, an enthusiastic supporter of local artists. Ziller, who is now focusing on several public art projects, says that Pierotti, who he had previously featured in a three-person show, contacted him while looking for a venue for a Women and Sexism in the Arts exhibit which she is curating. It occurred to him that he should simply ask her to run the gallery, unaware that she had been actively seeking a permanent gallery space for her business.

"Carolyn is a perfect fit here," said Ziller. "She's a strong advocate for the arts, and she's been immersed in the arts community both as an artist and as an arts administrator."

Pierotti said, "I am thrilled with this opportunity and look forward to bringing quality exhibitions and programming to the community."

Percolate is located at 317 S. Trenton Avenue.