CMU URBAN LABORATORY

The area around Hamnett Place will be seeing some improvements next year, thanks to an innovative university program that has chosen Wilkinsburg to be its focus.

Carnegie Mellon University’s Urban Laboratory is “a year long participatory design process aimed at strengthening a positive vision of the future for Wilkinsburg.”

Architect and CMU professor John Folan is the coordinator of the Urban Lab project, which has done work in other Pittsburgh neighborhoods, most recently in Hazelwood, the Brighton Road Corridor on the North Side and the Herron Avenue Corridor, Uptown.

The lab, a project of a team of 12 CMU urban design students, works with residents to identify and prioritize needs, and involves the community in a project that leaves behind a tangible benefit.

The first meeting, on September 17, focused on establishing understanding and setting goals for the community at large. The 31 residents who attended broke into three focus groups to come up with a list of issues and objectives of critical importance in strengthening a positive vision of the future.

At the October 14 public meeting, students presented the findings of the September focus group, and again broke into three groups for further discussion. One of the prevalent requests was for some kind of community gathering place, such as a town hall, or an open performance space. Also discussed were ideas as varied as turning a vacant property into a greenhouse and seed farm for home gardens; revamping the Whitney Avenue tunnel, improving lighting and adding murals or other public art.

At the next public meeting, which will be Saturday, December 6, the group, with input from residents and other interested parties, will select a project that they will work on for the next two semesters, hopefully completing it by the end of August 2009. The group will work with the Institute for Ecological Innovation, an organization that promotes sustainable planning strategies.

Folan stresses the practical application of the lab’s findings. “A lot of Wilkinsburg residents are suffering from ‘plan fatigue,’” he says. “They’ve heard a lot of ideas, but their outcomes are not readily apparent. We are going to come up with an idea, one concrete thing, and we will leave something behind.”

You can keep tabs on the Urban Lab project, including minutes of the discussion meetings, a detailed list of issues and objectives and opportunities for input at www.wilkinsburgdesign.blogspot.com.

Carnegie Mellon University’s Urban Lab, an urban design project for 12 CMU students, will unfold over the next three semesters in Wilkinsburg as students seek public input for a community project and then work to bring the project to completion. Next public meeting is Saturday, December 6.
FIRE PREVENTION

Wilkinsburg Fire Department wants to remind citizens to Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Detector Battery. The Wilkinsburg Fire Dept. urges citizens to test their smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector batteries and change them when changing their clocks back to standard time. The time change occurs this year on Sunday, November 2.

Although smoke alarms are present in 96 percent of American homes, 19 percent do not work, mostly because of dead or missing batteries. This means roughly 25 million homes are at risk because of nonworking smoke alarms and another 4.5 million homes are at risk due to no smoke alarms. In the U.S., roughly 80 percent of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Half of the home fire deaths resulted from fires in the small percentage of homes (5 percent) without any smoke alarms.

THE WILKINSBURG SHADE TREE COMMITTEE is commissioned by borough council and is charged with ensuring the proper maintenance of Wilkinsburg’s public trees. Responsibilities include coordinating volunteer tree care and planting events and participating in monthly committee meetings. Tree expertise is not required to participate. Please contact Joan King at jskcolorclay@hotmail.com if you would like to apply.

TOYS-4-TOTS

The Wilkinsburg Mayor’s office and the Wilkinsburg Police Department are working with Toys-4-Tots Christmas Program. On November 3, the registration forms will be available at the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Street. Toys-4-Tots applies only to children up to 12 years old. Deadline for registration is November 15 at the Borough Building by 3 P.M. If you have applied through any other agencies for the Toys-4-Toys Program, please do not apply through the Wilkinsburg Mayor’s office or the Wilkinsburg Police Department. Also, if you have children 13 through 18 who are in school, there will be Christmas Giveaway Forms, please fill out and return to the borough building by 3 P.M., November 15. This is a new program.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW NOVEMBER 9-23

The second art display in the “Art for the Neighborhood” series at South Avenue United Methodist Church opens Sunday afternoon, November 9, at 12:30 P.M. Photography of Christine and Bob Patterson will be on display each afternoon from 1-3:30 P.M. until Nov. 23, except for Nov. 19. The display is not available on November 19. These two professional photographers have shown their work at various sites in our area and we are honored to display their work in Wilkinsburg.

LIGHT UP NIGHT At 6 P.M., Friday, November 28. Residents are asked to participate in the kickoff to the holiday season by making sure their porch lights are on at 6 P.M.

CHRISTMAS PARADE The parade begins at 11 A.M., Saturday, December 6. Parade will start from Graham Field, Penn Avenue and proceed south down Penn Avenue to Wood Street, Wood Street to Wallace Avenue. Participants should meet at Graham Field at 10 A.M. for line up. After the parade, refreshments will be provided at Dunamis Baptist Church, 751 Wallace Avenue.

For more information about these events, contact the mayor’s office, 412-244-2920.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

Call 412-853-0388
email: aksales@wilkinsburgsun.com
Wilkinsburg Borough Council

Mayor John Thompson
412.244.2920
mayorjt@choiceonemail.com

1ST WARD
BLACKRIDGE
TURNER SCHOOL
HUNTER PARK AREA
Barbara Ervin
Chair, Public Property Committee
412.244.4939 ext. 314

Eugenia Moore
Council President
412.371.5337

Paige Trice
Representative to the Council of Governments

2ND WARD
BEACON HILL
PRINCETON PARK
JOHNSTON SCHOOL AREA

Jason Cohn
Council Vice President, and Chair, Finance Committee
412.244.4536
jscene@gmail.com

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
Chair, Parks, Recreation and the Arts
412.867.5882
vanjohn719@msn.com

Barbara Nicholas
Chair, Personnel Committee
412.638.3390
barbnicholas@comcast.net

3RD WARD
HIGH SCHOOL
KELLY SCHOOL
REGENT SQUARE AREA

Carl Lewis
Chair, Public Safety
412.403.2910
cdlewiss@hotmail.com

Denise Edwards
412.244.4195
dwinebr696@aol.com

Tracey Evans
Chair, Economic Development
412.244.9588
c.evans@verizon.net

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

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Borough Manager
412-244-2900 ext 101

Borough Receptionist
412-244-2900 ext 101

Finance Dept.
412-244-2948

Code Enforcement
412-244-2923

Public Works Dept.
412-244-2934

Police Dept. Emergency
911

Police Non-Emergency
412-473-3056

Police Hotline (Complaint line)
412-244-4300

Police Chief
412-244-2915

Fire Emergency
911

Fire Chief
412-244-2931

Mayor’s Office
412-224-2920

Berkheimer Tax Administrator
866-227-4716

Adult Library
412-244-2940

Children’s Library
412-244-2944

Eastridge Library
412-342-0056

ABANDONED STRUCTURES

Glenn Engineering, Wilkinsburg’s borough engineering firm, has just completed a study of abandoned structures in the borough. A total of 663 vacant structures were evaluated and prioritized based on their structural condition, security, tax status and use for illicit activities. Council intends to use this study to prioritize demolition sites and also to consider options for rehabilitation of structures abandoned, but rehab-able.

Council just recently authorized an application for a CITF (Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund) grant from Allegheny County in the amount of $110,000 to demolish 12 structures which are in a partial state of collapse. Council has also applied for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of $168,000 to demolish 21 structures. If approved, this work would commence in 2009.

Council has authorized the filing of an application for a CITF grant in the amount of $140,000 for the repaving of Graham Blvd. from Gaywood through the intersection with Laketon Road, Laketon Road from Graham to Douglass and Douglass Drive from Laketon to Robinson Boulevard. This route would be a primary access route for the new Wal Mart/Lowe’s development at the former East Hills Shopping Center site.

Important Numbers

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

November Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Planning Commission</td>
<td>6 P.M.</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Building 605 Ross Ave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Council planning meeting</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Building 605 Ross Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough budget work session</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Building 605 Ross Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg School District planning session</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td>718 Wallace Avenue</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Council legislative meeting</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg Borough Building 605 Ross Ave</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Wilkinsburg School District legislative meeting</td>
<td>7 P.M.</td>
<td>718 Wallace Avenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Light-Up Night</td>
<td>6 P.M.</td>
<td>Entire Borough</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.wilkinsburgsun.com 3
WILKINSBURG WELCOMES PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE CONCIERGE CLAIMS CENTER

Anyone who’s ever been in a car accident knows that even a minor fender bender can be a major hassle. But it doesn’t have to be that way thanks to a new Progressive Auto Insurance concierge claims service facility on Brinton Road.

The service is available at no charge to Progressive customers and anyone involved in a claim with a Progressive customer.

Customers can drop off their damaged car at the concierge claims service facility and be on their way in a rental car in about 15 minutes. Progressive then handles the details of the claims repair process, including finding a quality body shop that can get to work on the car quickly. The repairs are guaranteed by both Progressive and the body shop for as long as the customer owns or leases the vehicle.

Without the service, drivers can spend several days managing the process on their own, including arranging for alternate transportation, getting repair estimates and keeping tabs on the status of the repairs.

The center, at 902 Brinton Road, is one of just 54 concierge claims service facilities nationwide.

“Our concierge service is all about convenience,” says David Moore, manager of Progressive’s Pittsburgh area service center. “It’s designed for busy people who don’t have a lot of extra time to spend on the claims and car repair process.

Second Annual Community Block Party A Big Success

The weather may have been chilly but the atmosphere was warm and friendly at the Commitment to Community’s Joint Block Party celebrating Wilkinsburg and Edgewood.

Many of our friends and neighbors came out to celebrate the community and to enjoy the event activities. Mayors from both municipalities came out along with the fire and police departments from both communities. TRCIL (Three Rivers Center for Independent Living) hosted a table and voter registration. WTAE celebrities signed autographs. Edgewood and Wilkinsburg Historical Societies shared the histories of the communities. Edgewood Library had special reading related games for the kids.

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Residents of Wilkinsburg and Edgewood came together for a joint community block party, hosted by the Three Rivers Center for Independent Living on Rebecca Avenue.

Top: Among the tables of vendors and services, residents were able to register to vote in the upcoming election.

Above: Wilkinsburg firefighters brought a truck to the festivities.

“WILKINSBURG GIVES THANKS”

JOIN US FOR
THE 44TH ANNUAL WILKINSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST
Tuesday, November 25, 2008 – 8:00 – 9:00 A.M.
Speaker: Dr. Bruce W. Dixon, Director of Allegheny County Health Department
Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf
300 East Swissvale Avenue
Edgewood, PA 15218
Tickets are $6 per person
RSVP by Wednesday, November 19 by calling 412-242-0234

WILKINSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
www.wilkinsburgchamber.com

WILKINSBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Calendar – November 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Committee/Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fundraising Committee</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>PNC Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Economic Restructuring</td>
<td>6 PM</td>
<td>Western PA School for the Deaf</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Organization Committee</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>PNC Bank</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Promotion Committee</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Borough Building 605 Ross Ave.</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Design Committee</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Borough Building 605 Ross Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Promotion Committee</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Borough Building 605 Ross Ave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>WCDC Annual Meeting</td>
<td>10 AM-12</td>
<td>School Administrative Building</td>
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</table>
Wilkinsburg School District

VH1 Save the Music Awards
$90,000 to Wilkinsburg District

Just under 100 elementary students in the Wilkinsburg School District are the benefactors to a $90,000 grant from the VH1 Save The Music Foundation. The award ignited the district’s music program and restored student interest.

“We are extremely pleased to be the recipients of this grant,” says Wilkinsburg Superintendent of Schools Archie Perrin. “Our staff worked diligently with VH1 and other partners to ensure the grant would come to fulfillment; our district encourages the development of well-rounded students, both academically and through the arts.”

Along with VH1, the grant was generated with the help of Houlihan’s Restaurants and Comcast. Representatives from all three organizations delivered new instruments and coordinated a check presentation ceremony on October 10, 2008. The donation is part of the foundation’s efforts to restore 3 million dollars worth of instrumental music programs nationwide this year.

“Having just celebrated the foundation’s 10th anniversary we are happy to continue our mission by partnering with Houlihan’s,” says Paul Cothran, Executive Director, VH1 Save The Music Foundation. “Their ongoing support helps us to ensure that all students throughout the Wilkinsburg School District receive the benefits of music and continues to raise public awareness about the need for music education programs.”

The bands at Kelly, Johnston and Turner schools received instruments through the donation, including saxophones, flutes, trumpets, trombones, clarinets, and drums. Gloria Horton, a fifth-grade student at Turner says she always wanted to play the saxophone.

“We got to try all the instruments before we had to pick one,” says Horton. “I talked to my mom about playing the saxophone and she says it was a great idea but that I had to work hard to keep my grades up and still practice my music.”

Ten-year-old Deonte Gaston, a fourth-grade student at Johnston Elementary, also wants to learn how to play the saxophone and balance his time with school, music and football. Deonte was still dressed in his football pads and jersey as he practiced the saxophone on the day students got to try different instruments. “I’ve always been interested in music and I like to try new things,” he says.

Music teacher Ray Strobel says there is a direct correlation between music and academic excellence. He explains how students tend to improve their skill levels in English, reading, and math in conjunction with musical training.

“The two elements go hand in hand and the end result is improved academic scores and a continual process of learning,” says Strobel. “We must always find methods of reaching our students and creating new ways to educate—music is another avenue that proves to be effective.”

Above: Music instructor Ray Strobel and 9-year-old Maurice Booker test the trumpet as part of the $90,000 VH1 Save the Music Foundation grant awarded to the Wilkinsburg School District in October.

FUNDRAISING PARTNERSHIP

In tune with its tradition of originality and appreciation for independent music, Houlihan’s, a popular, stylish casual dining restaurant with locations nationwide, formed an ongoing fundraising partnership with the VH1 Save The Music Foundation in Spring 2008 to support instrumental music education programs in public schools throughout the country.

“Houlihan’s is committed to ensuring that students in Wilkinsburg receive the benefits of music education,” says Jen Gulvik, Vice President of Marketing for Houlihan’s. “We look forward to working with VH1 Save The Music for years to come to restore music programs throughout the country. Music is a huge part of our brand identity, and we are passionate about helping the VH1 Save The Music Foundation ensure that Wilkinsburg public school students don’t miss out on the limitless benefits of playing a musical instrument.

For more information log on to www.wilkinsburgschools.org or visit www.vh1savethemusic.com.

At right: Johnston Elementary student Deonte Gaston tries out the saxophone with music instructor Andrew Yalch. Each student got to test their instrument of choice before finalizing their decision. More than 100 students benefited from the VH1 grant.
PITT MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

On Saturday, October 18, around 45 volunteers, including 12 Pitt students who showed up as part of Pitt Make A Difference Day, collected roughly 100 bags of litter as well as numerous large items such as tires and furniture in several areas of the borough.

Penn Avenue: 10 blocks from the Busway all the way up to a block past the Abe Lincoln Statue.

Franklin Avenue: 3 blocks from Ardmore to Swissvale.

Campbell Street: 2 blocks (the whole street)—Stan Garrett—who lives on Campbell got a bunch of local kids to come out and help and even grilled hot dogs for everyone. They pulled tons of weeds, litter and tires from the yards and vacant lots. This was the shining star of the day and Mr. Garrett’s efforts made a huge difference in his neighborhood.

The Linear Park: The entire length from South Avenue to Harmer Station.

Below is a photo from the event. Thanks to everyone who helped, including Linda Law who made bag lunches for all volunteers, Chris Miller of Wilkinsburg Beverage who donated water (once again!) for everyone, and Deb Rose and Brian Trovara who delivered lunches to everyone. Thanks to Boris Weinstein of Citizens Against Litter for helping to arrange our assistance from Pitt. And of course thanks to Terry Milani of Pitt and all the Pitt students who helped make the day a success.
GEOLGY TOUR
Sunday, November 2, 1-3:30 P.M.
Meet at the Biddle Street parking lot on Braddock Avenue
One of our most popular seasonal walks; sign up early! Join
Albert Kollar, Collections Manager of Invertebrate Paleontology at
the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for this unique trip back
in time to when Braddock Avenue was the Monongahela River
and Pennsylvania was close to the equator. Using the rocks and
formations in Frick Park, participants will learn about important
geological and paleontological periods. Please register with Lisa
at lisa@ninemilerun.org or by calling 412-371-8779 ext. 15.

URBAN ECOSTEWARD PLANTING TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP
Saturday, November 8, 9 A.M. - NOON
Meet at the bike track/police parking lot in Highland Park.
Learn how to plant trees and herbs for long term success,
fo focusing on where to plant, how to prepare the site and how to
tend plantings in their first year. Please register by writing jeff@
ninemilerun.org or by calling 412-371-8779 ext. 14.

WILKINSBURG TREE PLANTING
Saturday, November 8, 9 A.M. - NOON
Wallace Avenue in Wilkinsburg between Coal and Wood streets.
Join the Wilkinsburg Shade Tree Committee, the Nine Mile Run
Watershed Association and your neighbors for this special fall
tree planting. Trees enhance our communities by absorbing
stormwater runoff, reducing heating and cooling costs for
residents and businesses, increasing property values, and
diminishing air pollution. We provide all tools and supplies.
Breakfast will also be provided. Register by writing jeff@
ninemilerun.org or by calling 412-371-8779 ext. 14.

WINTER TREE IDENTIFICATION
Saturday, December 13, 10 A.M. - NOON
Frick Park, Biddle Street parking lot.
Don your winter woolies to learn how to identify trees and
shrubs by their bark, branching and buds. Please register by
writing jeff@ninemilerun.org or by calling 412-371-8779 ext. 14.
**ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON**

The Wilkinsburg Rotary Club will be holding its Annual Spaghetti Luncheon on Election Day, Tuesday November 4, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M., at South Avenue Methodist Church. The proceeds from this event support The Wilkinsburg Boys and Girls Club, The Wilkinsburg Community Ministry and The Mission Outreach of South Avenue Women’s Ministries. Meals are served Eat In or Take Out. Tickets are available at the door on the day of the luncheon or from any Wilkinsburg Rotarian. For more information, call Clark Walter at 412-848-7556, South Avenue UMC at 412-371-7421. Tickets are $7.

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**MAD DADS**

The Garden Dreams Urban Farm where the Harvest Festival was held.

At left: George Spencer of the MAD Dads and Hamnett Place resident Brandon.

**WILKINSBURG FIRE FIGHTERS FIGHT FOR MDA**

Members of the Pittsburgh chapter of MAD Dads came together with the Garden Dreams Urban Farm to host a Harvest Festival. The festival is the latest in a series of events MAD Dads has been having in the Hamnett Place neighborhood, dating back to the spring of last year, when the group was invited into the neighborhood by some Whitney Avenue residents. A Father’s Day picnic in June 2007 was a success, as was the one this past year, says chapter president George Spencer. This spring, at an event at Three Rivers Center for Independent Living, Spencer and Mindy Schwartz of Garden Dreams made plans for the Harvest Festival. Along with music, food and entertainment, attendees came away with free tomato plants, courtesy of Garden Dreams.

Spencer says the MAD Dads will continue to have a presence in the neighborhood. Next up on the calendar is a night of Christmas caroling, scheduled to begin at 6 P.M. on Saturday, December 13. For more information, call 412-371-9188.

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**PITTSBURGH’S #1 JEWELRY REPAIR SHOP**

KENYON LIGHTNING FAST JEWELRY REPAIR

711 Penn Avenue
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
412.731.6063

**$5.00 OFF COUPON**

On any Jewelry Repair or Service of $20.00 or more

KENYON JEWELERS

Expires 12/31/08 • One coupon per customer

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8 Wilkinsburg Sun | November 2008