A Piece of History Reestablished

“Frank Conrad: His Life and Legacy,” a slide presentation by the Wilkinsburg Historical Society, will honor one of Wilkinsburg’s most famous citizens.

Conrad was born May 4, 1874, in Pittsburgh’s East End and spent his early years attending Sterrett School. He left school during seventh grade to become a bench-hand at Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company. Despite his limited formal education, Conrad’s brilliant mind, mechanical aptitude and creative ability enabled him to launch an amazing career with Westinghouse.

Although he is best known for pioneer radio broadcasts from his Wilkinsburg garage, he was also a prolific inventor, earning his first patent at the age of twenty-three. Conrad amassed over 200 patents relating to automobile carburetors and ignitions, vacuum tubes, wireless receiving sets, short-wave antennas, electric clocks, refrigerator and air conditioning systems.

One acclaimed moment in Conrad’s career was his guidance in creating a 100-watt transmitter at the Westinghouse plant in East Pittsburgh to broadcast the election results of the Harding-Cox presidential election on November 2, 1920. This

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31.
The costume parade will start at 5 p.m. Parents are to bring their children to the Borough building vestibule.

An officer will be there to greet parents and children and lead the parade on its route. At 5:30 p.m., all the ghouls, ghosts and goblins will return to the Borough Library Meeting Room on the 3rd floor to continue the festivities until the bewitching hour of 8 p.m.

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Community Is Invited to Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

A ribbon cutting for the Ferguson Playground at South Avenue and Center Street is scheduled for October 17 at noon. After the KaBOOM! build day and the investment of the Borough, the playground is finally finished.

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board welcome all to the ceremony.

“We’re happy to introduce our latest accomplishment in improving Wilkinsburg Parks and acknowledge those who helped bring this project to realization,” said Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, president of Wilkinsburg Borough Council.

“The ribbon-cutting ceremony for

New Program for Youth

A new youth program called SATURDAY (“Simply teaching The yoUt h moR al Decent vAlues todaY”) is being offered for ages 8–18 at the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg at 748 Wallace Avenue.

The program is, like its name, on Saturdays. Game time (basketball or board games) is between 4 and 5:30 p.m. and a movie and discussion time is offered from 6-8:30. The program is free, but registration is required. For additional information, call Frank Tillman, 412.377.3069.

Ferguson Playground marks the launch of a new era of public play in Wilkinsburg,” said Johnson.

Patrick Shattuck, Ward 2 Council Member and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair said, “Wilkinsburg is a unique community full of optimism and opportunity. Nowhere is our enthusiasm more apparent than on our playgrounds. Wilkinsburg has a renewed focus on our families and our children and has made great investments in insuring that the playgrounds and fields across the Borough are safe, attractive, well-tended and well-used.”

The Ferguson Playground is being finished this month by Sports and Recreation Associates. The playground was begun in January thanks to Heinz Endowments, KaBOOM!, the Wilkinsburg Borough and over 200 hard-working community volunteers.

Whitney Park Planning

A community meeting on the master plan for Whitney Park is planned for October 16, 6 p.m. The meeting will start at the park and move to Mifflin Avenue Methodist Church for a conversation with architect Lami Grubb.

Residents should bring their ideas of what they’d like to see for this second largest park in Wilkinsburg.

The Allegheny County Vacant Property Recovery Program is working in Wilkinsburg.

Where wishes become affordable homes.

For more information visit www.wilkinsburgcdc.org/vprp

Fill out an application today—you could be living happily ever after—tomorrow

Sign up to receive The Sun by email at http://eepurl.com/v0iBP and friend us on Facebook.
UPCOMING MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/8</td>
<td>7 A.M.</td>
<td>Borough Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/14</td>
<td>9:30 A.M.</td>
<td>Library Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/15</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Council Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>5:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Parks &amp; Recreation Advisory Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
<td>CACDC</td>
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<td>10/22</td>
<td>6 P.M.</td>
<td>Shade Tree Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>5 P.M.</td>
<td>KIDS' HALLOWEEN PARTY</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/5</td>
<td>6:30 P.M.</td>
<td>Budget Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>6 P.M.</td>
<td>Planning Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/12</td>
<td>6 P.M.</td>
<td>Municipal Authority</td>
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All meetings will take place in the Wilkinsburg Borough Building, 605 Ross Avenue.

Trees in the Borough

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

Joyce Kilmer wrote those words in 1913, long before people recognized the value of an urban tree canopy. Today, we know that trees provide shade and act as windbreaks, decreasing energy consumption.

They purify the air by cleansing pollutants, producing oxygen, and absorbing carbon dioxide. Trees improve our quality of life through a multitude of psychological and social benefits. Healthy trees increase property values.

In a recent National Geographic article, Pittsburgh is included as one of the “Nine Cities that Love Their Trees,” with 42% tree cover. Pittsburgh’s urban forest, expanded with the planting of 20,000 trees in recent years, removes 532 tons of air pollution every year, meaning we can all breathe a little easier!

The Borough administrative offices receive frequent requests for tree maintenance and removal. While the Borough is responsible for maintaining trees on Borough property, such as in the parks, trees on private property are the responsibility of the property owner.

This includes trees planted between the sidewalk and curb, per the Borough ordinance that provides “the cost of planting, transplanting, or removing any shade trees in and along the streets and highways in the borough shall be paid for by the owner of the real estate abutting the area where the work is done.”

The Borough’s Department of Public Works will prune or remove trees that pose an immediate danger to public safety, while Duquesne Light Company handles trees that are interfering with power lines.

Any disputes between property owners are handled between the owners—the Borough will not intervene—and if the owners cannot resolve the issue privately, a complaint can be filed by either party with Magisterial District Judge Kim Hoots.

Would you like to do more to help the trees that help Wilkinsburg? See the websites for TreePittsburgh (www.treepittsburgh.org); TreeVitalize (www.treevitalize.net) or take the training to become a “Tree Tender,” where you’ll learn everything from tree biology, to proper planting and pruning (www.waterandlife.org/219/become-a-tree-tender).

Community Clean-Up Encourages Residents to Participate, Use Dumpsters

In conjunction with “Pitt Makes a Difference Day” on Saturday, October 18, when Wilkinsburg will host about 40 university students to help clean up, the Borough is hosting a fall Community Clean-Up.

Residents are encouraged to get out and clean up around their neighborhood, and deposit the trash in dumpsters, which will be located at:

- Stoner Way at Coal Street
- Princeton Boulevard near Graham Field
- DPW garage at 1230 Park Avenue

If you are unable to get to any of these locations on October 18, please contact DPW at 412.244.2934 and staff will come to you!

Wanted: Landscape Architect for Borough

The Wilkinsburg Civic Arts and Community Design Commission has an opening for a landscape architect. Wilkinsburg residency is preferred, but not required.

The Commission meets on the third Thursday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, to review designs and approve new and renovated structures, landscapes, works of art, and monuments on all public property, and on all private property designated for commercial use.

Interested parties should contact the Borough offices at 412.244.2900 to request a Talent Bank Application.
Historical Marker Ceremony Honors Frank Conrad

In 1916, Frank Conrad, an electrical engineer and radio broadcasting pioneer, initiated one of the world’s first radio broadcasts from his Wilkinsburg garage. Through his early radio work, Conrad became responsible for founding KDKA, the first licensed broadcast station in the world. In addition to his radio broadcasting, Conrad worked as the Assistant Chief Engineer for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh. Conrad received the prestigious Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Edison Medal in 1930 and was awarded more than 200 patents throughout his life. He died in 1941 at the age of 67.

On Friday, October 17, the WCDC will honor the life and achievements of Frank Conrad by dedicating a Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission marker at the corner of South Trenton Avenue and Penn Avenue—adjacent to the former location of Conrad’s garage. The dedication will also celebrate the 95th anniversary of Conrad’s first broadcast out of his Wilkinsburg garage.

David Conrad, an actor and Conrad’s great-grandson, will assist with the dedication ceremony. An Edgewood native, David Conrad has appeared in several films and television series, but is best known for his starring role in the Ghost Whisperer.

All are welcome to attend the dedication ceremony and celebration, which begins at 2 p.m., at Community LIFE, 301 Meade St., in Wilkinsburg. For questions or additional information, please call the WCDC office at 412.727.7855.

WCDC Funding Awarded

This past June, the WCDC completed year one of six in its new Neighborhood Partnership Program (NPP) with corporate sponsors TriState Capital Bank, Keystone Health Plan West, a Highmark Company, and Dollar Bank.

Two months after submitting a 109-page application to the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), the WCDC received confirmation that it was awarded $500,000 for year two of six. These funds support WCDC initiatives: Image and Identity, Business District Revitalization, Green, Clean, and Safe, Youth and Education, and Historic Preservation with partner, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

The NPP is a tax credit program of PA DCED that provides a maximum of $3 million per community, paid over six years. This program offers an 80% tax credit to companies that make contributions to qualifying community development organizations.

Supported activities include: affordable housing, real estate development, social services, crime prevention, education, workforce development, and other community revitalization efforts. To learn more, visit www.newpa.com.

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

The Wilkinsburg garage from where Conrad first broadcast.

WCDC CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/17 (Fri.)</td>
<td>2 P.M.</td>
<td>Frank Conrad Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony, Community LIFE, 301 Meade St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6 (Thurs.)</td>
<td>8:30 A.M.</td>
<td>Business District Safety Meeting, WCDC Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/15 (Sat.)</td>
<td>9 A.M.</td>
<td>WCDC Board Meeting, WCDC office</td>
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Letter from New Acting Superintendent

Greetings!
The 2014-2015 school year is underway. The buildings have been prepped, our staff is rejuvenated, our students have arrived, and expectations have been raised. As the newly appointed superintendent, I am excited about the opportunity to work with our staff and students throughout the new school year.

On opening day with our staff, I began an open and honest conversation regarding the current status of the Wilkinsburg School District and its immediate and long-term future. We reviewed the exciting new developments for our staff and students. Each teacher received a new laptop and an instructional binder to begin the school year on the right foot.

Our new binders will empower our staff to align their instructional practices with the Pennsylvania eligible content as it is reflected on the state assessments. The new laptops will enable them to gather student achievement data and access educational resources provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Education website. Aligning these efforts is the first step in our efforts to improve student achievement.

The Board of Education has also invested time into getting our house in order on the operational front.

Revised policies and procedures, a new commitment to enforcing and implementing current policies, and establishing effective protocols have solidified the foundation to support an effective and efficient organization. Seeing the Wilkinsburg School District through a new lens is a priority, as well.

The District is committed to improving its efforts to communicate “good news” about our students, staff, and programs via our website and local media outlets.

In closing, I would be remiss if I do not address the reality of dwindling educational funding that impacts many school districts across the state, including the Wilkinsburg School District. While our School Board has taken steps to manage our educational needs with limited funding, the fact remains that short- and long-range planning is vital by our leaders to ensure a viable educational experience for our children.

Moving forward, we are excited about improving how we deliver education within our District, and hope to pursue opportunities that serve the best interests of our students and community as a whole.

Sincerely,
Daniel J. Matsook
Wilkinsburg Acting Superintendent

District Welcomes New School Board Director, Urda

Kevin C. Urda was voted in as the new Wilkinsburg School Board Director on Tuesday, September 23, and was given the oath of office by Judge Kim Hoots the next afternoon.

Currently, he is a board member for the Metro Community Health Center (MCHC), which serves Wilkinsburg and neighboring areas, including those who do not have resources to pay for health care.

For several years, he worked with hospitalized children and their families at the Ronald McDonald House and Children’s Hospitals in San Francisco and Pittsburgh.

Currently, Urda is the coordinator of the Hospital Elder Life Program (HELP) at UPMC Shadyside, supporting hospitalized geriatric patients.

He is also presently pursuing a master’s of public health degree at the University of Pittsburgh.
Wilkinsburg Library Calendar

These events are free and open to everyone. Reservations can be made in advance by calling 412.244.2940 and are required as some class sizes are limited.

**Adult Programs**

- **Computer Class**, Wednesdays, Oct 1 and 8, 10 a.m.—Learn or brush up on basic skills.
- **Memoir Writing Workshop**, Thursdays, 10 a.m.—Everyone has a story. This is one’s chance to begin writing down the rich stories of one’s life.
- **Tai Chi Class**, Fridays, Oct 3 and 10, 10 a.m.—Learn low impact exercises with a multitude of health benefits.
- **General Fiction Book Group**, Oct 29, 1 p.m.—Adultery by Paulo Coelho is this month’s selection. Copies are at the circulation desk.
- **Urban Fiction Book Group**, Oct 27, 6 p.m.—Title to be announced.

**Children’s Program**

- **Crafternoon**, Oct 7, 3, 4 p.m.—Explore your “crafty” side. Ages 7 and up.
- **Star Wars Reads**, Oct 11, 2 p.m.—Come dressed as your favorite Star Wars character, play trivia and make cool crafts.

**Blessings in a Backpack**

Thanks to Blessings in a Backpack, Kelly Elementary students were each given satchels filled with ready-to-eat foods such as crackers, cereal, granola bars and juice boxes to enjoy over a recent weekend. Backpack volunteers, along with Wilkinsburg Mayor John A. Thompson assisted with the packing and distribution of goodies. For more information, go to www.blessingsinabackpack.org.
Wilkinsburg Chamber Hosts Annual Meeting

On September 23, over 50 Chamber members and friends met at the Wallace Event Center at Hosanna House for the Wilkinsburg Chamber’s annual membership meeting. Food and drinks were provided by Al’s Fish and Chicken, Soul Food Connection and Wilkinsburg Beverage Company. A floral arrangement provided by James Floral was given as a door prize. The event was well attended by a variety of business people, local residents and representatives of community and church organizations.

The Chamber gave updates on its strategic plan and new mission statement. The mission of the Wilkinsburg Chamber is to “ensure the growth, prosperity and sustainability of businesses in Wilkinsburg and surrounding communities.” The new Chamber website was also introduced. Chamber Secretary Jennifer Salmans gave an update on the 2015 liquor license campaign by the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation.

Chamber members were given the opportunity to provide suggestions for what they would like the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce to achieve. Chamber members gave a number of responses including helping youth find jobs and internships, being a “collaborative center” to help local nonprofit organizations work together, hosting more networking opportunities, and being more active in local government.

Overall, the event was a great time for Chamber members to network, enjoy local cuisine, and learn about recent Chamber activities. If you are not a Chamber member but would like to join, an application is available at www.wilkinsburgchamber.com. Membership is open to any business, non-profit or individual.

General Chamber Meeting

Chamber members will meet on Thursday, October 16th at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers (2nd floor of the Borough Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA 15221).
New Exhibit at Wilkinsburg's Art Gallery

Percolate Art Space, the local Wilkinsburg art gallery, is offering a multi-artist, nature-themed exhibit called "Reverence" on Sundays from 12-4 p.m. The closing event of 'Reverence' is on Sat. 18 from 2-4 p.m. It is a free event.

According to gallery manager, Moshe Sherman, the central installation is in response to the trees that were removed in Frick Park to make way for the new Frick Environmental Center. Clif McGill and Water Sandausky have documented the process of tree removal and have assembled a sculptural and photographic art piece in honor of the fallen trees.

Also featured in the show are Eva Barinas, an eco-artist, utilizing mixed media, including dead bugs and Marty Depasse, a skilled wood carver currently living and working in Elk County, Pa. He has on display numerous pieces from walking sticks to giant pumpkins to Native American inspired works, all carved from salvaged wood.

Percolate is located at 317 Trenton Ave. For more information, call 412.327.5719

Wilkinsburg Toy Drive

The annual Wilkinsburg Toy Drive is collecting new toys and gifts for children ages 2-18, with an emphasis on the 12-18 age group. Starting October 27, bring toys to several drop off points (TBA), including the police department at the Borough Building. The drive continues through November 27.

The Pennsylvania Jaguars, semi-pro football team, is one of the main sponsors. Registration for families will be available in the Borough Building, or you can contact Vanessa Johnson at vmcj@pajags.com for a registration form. Watch the Wilkinsburg Sun's Facebook page and the November issue for more information.

SOCIETY HONORS CONRAD from page 1

The story of Frank Conrad will be presented at 7:30 pm Monday, October 20 at the South Avenue United Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg. Please use the left rear Ross Avenue entrance. All interested persons are encouraged to come and enjoy the free presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

Call 412-244-1779 to register!

ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

October 17—9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
November 3—6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Pittsburgh Urban Christian School

Educating the servant leaders of tomorrow in a culturally and racially diverse environment. 412-244-1779 809 Center Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 EITC/OST/C Approved School

K-8th