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the Wilkinsburg SUN

VOL. 17 NO. 1 September 2023

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

UpstreamPgh Celebrates the Completion of Latest Green Project with a Party

UpstreamPgh invites you and yours to their first-ever UpstreamPgh Block Party, Saturday, September 16 from 2-6 p.m. at Harold Young Sr. Parklet, 739 Penn Ave.

The party is free, but donations are welcome.

This celebration marks the successful completion of the Wilkinsburg Stormwater Resiliency Project, UpstreamPgh's latest Green Stormwater Infrastructure installation, which will manage roughly 2,000,000 gallons of stormwater annually!

The project is a testament to their collective commitment to safeguard the local environment and foster community resilience in the face of climate change.

Highlights will include:

Ceremony: Remarks and ribbon cutting with officials and project leaders

Live DJ: Spinning tunes all afternoon

Hot Bites: Food truck on site from local favorite Nancy's Revival starting at 3 p.m.

Lawn Games: Friendly competition with friends old and new

Families Welcome: There's plenty of space to spread out and enjoy the parklet!

Community Learning: Gain insight into the pivotal role that projects like this play in maintaining the cleanliness of our streams and rivers while enhancing community climate resilience.

RSVP at www.upstreampgh.org/events/blockparty_wsrp_91523. For further information, email ryan@upstreampgh.org.

Sacred Spaces Tour Returns Sept. 9



In partnership with Preservation Pittsburgh, Center for Civic Arts is presenting the 2023 Music in Sacred Spaces Tour on September 9.

Tour goers can explore the City of Churches, a.k.a. historic Wilkinsburg from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and enjoy a closing ceremony at 5:30-8 p.m. at Mulberry Presbyterian Church, 710 Mulberry Street.

The tour will feature transcendent experiences found in soaring architectural spaces, stained glass, organ music, a cappella singing, and improvisational dance by Shana Simmons Dancers who accompany church musicians in a mix of historic and contemporary performances.

Photographers are encouraged to upload their favorite photographs of the tour to be considered for a \$100 best photograph prize.

Churches on the tour include:

- Covenant Fellowship Reformed Presbyterian Church (c. 1909)
- Ethnan Temple, 7th Day Adventist (c. 1883),
- Mulberry Community Church (c. 1915)

- Mulberry Second Presbyterian (c. 1905). Now Center for Civic Arts
- South Avenue Methodist (c. 1909)
- St. Mark A.M.E. (c. 1912)
- St. Mary Magdalene Parish/St. James (c. 1928)
- St Stephen's Episcopal Church (c. 1882)

Donations of any amount accepted.

Tour donations will establish the first emergency repair fund for churches on the tour.

The Sacred Spaces Tour is sponsored by UPMC. The Center for Civic Arts is a Wilkinsburg-based nonprofit whose mission is to invest in and preserve cultural assets that in turn foster community revitalization. The center is located at 710 Mulberry Street in Wilkinsburg. Preservation Pittsburgh is a community-based advocacy organization that believes everyone deserves a voice in preserving our city. For more information, visit www.preservationpgh.org.

For more information about the tour, visit <https://www.facebook.com/centerforcivicarts>.

photo: Andy Li, wikimedia commons



Little Amal walks in Brighton, England.

Little Amal to Walk in Wilkinsburg

On September 21 at 5 p.m., Little Amal, the internationally celebrated 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl, will walk in Whitney Park as part of her epic 6,000-mile journey across the United States this fall.

There will be food vendors and music.

Her two-month U.S. trek will span more than 35 cities and towns for 100+ events.

Since she began her journey from the Syrian border, Little Amal has represented the millions of children who have become refugees, many separated from their families. Her message to the world is "Don't forget about us."

Whitney Park is located at 915 Wilkins Avenue in Wilkinsburg.

Forge Fest Returns

The Community Forge announced that Forge Fest returns on Saturday, September 30. The fest celebrates the community of Wilkinsburg and will include a live DJ, kids activities, food in the afternoon, live band, dancing, and local vendors after the sun sets.

Wilkinsburg Youth Council kicks off the day with a 5K run/walk against violence!

The 5K starts at 10 a.m. at Community Forge at 1256 Franklin Avenue. For more information, write hello@forge.community.

Fun Community Events at Eastridge

Come to Eastridge, 1900 Graham Blvd., on September 8, 7 p.m., to enjoy an intimate evening of Jazz.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. for this event. And, September 15 is movie night at Eastridge! Mark your calendars to come check out a movie thriller on their full sized screen.

Annual Community Block Party

On Saturday, September 23, the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) will host its annual Community Block Party from 1-4 p.m. The party is free and open to the public. It takes place on the WPSD campus at the corner of Walnut Street and Swissvale Avenue in Edgewood.

For the whole family, the event includes games and activities for the kids, a petting zoo, food, and more.

Free vendor space is available to local businesses and organizations.

For more information, please contact Sarah Bartlebaugh at 412.244.4207 or sbartlebaugh@wpsd.org.

Please follow the WPSD on their website and Facebook for updates on the day.

Business Help

Are you thinking about starting a new business? Hoping to expand or improve your current business? Apply now for WCDC's CORE FOUR 8-week business workshop series.

The workshop begins September 20. Visit wilkinsburgedc.org/what-we-do/business-resources to learn more and sign up.



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The Wilkinsburg Sun is a free, monthly community newsletter published by the volunteer Wilkinsburg Community Newsletter Board, with the support of the Wilkinsburg Borough, the Wilkinsburg School District, the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce, and the Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation. *The Sun* is printed by Knepper Press. 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.

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Wilkinsburg Health and Wellness Fair Returns

Mark your calendars! Everyone is welcome to Harold Young Sr. Parklet, 739 Penn Avenue, on September 23 to take part in the 2nd Annual Wilkinsburg



resources for life style and financial health, including health products with Ready Nutrition, child ID, Chase Bank professionals to answer your financial

health and planning questions, and much, much more.

There will be something for all ages as the popular Kids Zone returns, featuring

Pogopalooza.

Like last year’s event, the Health Fair celebrates the role of the performing arts in overall wellness and health.

Enjoy cool sounds with Antoinette Manganas Band and Friends from 1–3 p.m. and the ever-popular FLOW Band from 4–6 p.m. Food and beverages can be purchased from nearby Perfection restaurant.

Thanks to Wilkinsburg Borough Council Special Events Committee, UPMC, Hosanna House, Chase Bank, Wilkinsburg Library, Wilkinsburg Police Department and all the many volunteers who helped bring this wonderful event to the Wilkinsburg community again this year! If you want to volunteer or have questions, please contact Linda Atkins @ LAtkins@wilkinsburgpa.gov.

Health and Wellness Fair.

The Health Fair will start at 11 a.m. and run until 6 p.m. All activities are free.

The event will include participation from doctors, nurses, and other professionals to answer your questions about physical, mental, and financial health. The festival is open to all and designed to provide walk-up access to services for single adults, children, and families. There is truly something of value for everyone.

Taylor Way will be closed to traffic to celebrate Open Street Wilkinsburg. Bring your bikes and enjoy. Picnics are welcome in the Center Street lot.

Some highlights of the event include: “Ask the Doctor” and “Ask the Pharmacist” stations, mammograms (pre-registration required; health insurance not required), vision and hearing testing, a dermatology specialist, the heart and vascular team doctors and nurses, men’s prostate health professionals, and the Science Van.

For more information or to make a mammogram appointment contact 412.641.8996 or mageeoutreach@upmc.edu.

The event also includes wellness

Garbage Cans over 35 Gallons Are Prohibited

The Borough is reminding residents that per the Borough’s contract with the City of Pittsburgh for garbage collection services, the maximum size of any garbage can or receptacle placed on the curb for residential pick up is 35 gallons.

Receptacles that are larger than 35 gallons will not be collected by City garbage crews.

Crews encountering oversized receptacles will provide a first notice by pasting a sticker on the receptacle, informing the resident that the receptacle is too large and must be replaced or result in a suspension of trash pickup.



Upon a second instance of non-compliance, Pittsburgh crews will issue a second notice of noncompliance via a door hanger. If the noncompliant receptacle remains in use after this second notice, the resident will be contacted by the Borough Code Enforcement Department.

Should use of the noncompliant receptacle persist, the City of Pittsburgh will cease picking up garbage for the noncompliant address, and the resident will still be responsible for proper removal of their garbage.

Failure to remove garbage from the curb will result in a fine and/or fee should the Borough be compelled to remove the trash.

Please contact the Department of Public Works with any questions at 412.244.2959.

Join the WCDC for a Gala at the Train Station



JON TAI

September's Dream City Magic Gala features extraordinary local talent.

Jon Tai is a celebrated magician and storyteller, whose mission is to foster connections among people through shared moments of astonishment. He performs magic around the world and has called the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Liberty Magic Theater his home base since its opening in 2019. Learn more at taimagic.com.

Inez is a proud Homewood resident and Pittsburgh native, and self-proclaimed FireShorty™. She is a multi-faceted artistic renaissance woman and a cum laude Berklee College of Music alumna. Following the release of her debut album, *Voicemails and Conversations*, INEZ was named the 2020 Pittsburgh Music Artist of the Year by WYEP. Learn more at inez.us.

For event details, see below.



INEZ



A BENEFIT SUPPORTING THE  **WCDC**
Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation

SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 | 7 PM - 10 PM
WILKINSBURG TRAIN STATION | 901 HAY STREET

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF OUR WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS. WE ARE THRILLED TO OPEN THE HISTORIC WILKINSBURG TRAIN STATION FOR THIS ONE-OF-A-KIND EVENING OF MAGIC, MUSIC & SO MUCH MORE!



YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS:
MAGICIAN & STORYTELLER, JON TAI
MUSICAL GUEST, INEZ



DETAILS & TICKETS:
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MILESTONE

By Kelly Hanna—Public Relations Officer for Wilkinsburg School District

Back to School Safety for Drivers and Students

AAA East Central, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), and the Wilkinsburg School District met to remind pedestrians and motorists to stay safe as students will be on the roads and sidewalks as they return to school.

Safety experts and school staff discussed pedestrian safety, the dangers of speeding, and the importance of braking for buses.

With students and faculty returning to school, there is a greater risk of pedestrian crashes. PennDOT reported that 3,163 pedestrian crashes occurred in Pennsylvania in 2022, with 183 fatalities. In Allegheny County, 306 pedestrian crashes caused 16 people to be killed. There has been an uptick in the past several years where crash fatalities have increased substantially.

Safety is paramount as we drive in vehicles, but special attention is needed while traversing school zones. Motorists are reminded to put the phone down and eliminate all distractions.

Motorists need to slow down when driving near a school, even if school is not in session. Many children use school playgrounds and ball fields after hours,

and caution in these areas will keep our children extra safe.

AAA offered the following advice for motorists:

Ditch distractions—Research shows that glancing away from the road for just two seconds doubles the chances of a crash.

Stay alert—Don't rush into and out of driveways. Pedestrians utilize sidewalks,

Turner Intermediate has a robust AAA School Safety Patroller program with 30 students participating, and the program is run with dedication by Officer Boyce. More than 600,000 AAA School Safety Patrollers are at 31,000 schools across the country. Several of our students were on hand to demonstrate how they protect other students before they cross a street.



PennDOT, AAA dignitaries, and staff from the Wilkinsburg School District.



Officer Boyce and members of the Turner Intermediate Safety Patrol

photos by Kelly Hanna

especially in neighborhoods and around schools. Back up slowly.

Brake for buses—It is against the law to drive around a stopped school bus.

Pay attention to cyclists—Children on bikes can be unpredictable, so be very cautious when you see kids playing on bikes. And be courteous to cyclists who share the road with you.

PennDOT shared tips for pedestrians:

Be visible—Wear clothing that will make you be seen, especially at night. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing a street and stay in well-lit areas.

Follow the rules—Know and follow all traffic rules, signs, and signals.

Use crosswalks—Stay on sidewalks when possible; if a sidewalk is unavailable, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.

School Calendar

AUGUST

Tues. 29, 1st Day of School

SEPTEMBER

Mon. 4, No School—Labor Day

Wed. 20, Early Dismissal for students at 12:45 p.m.

OCTOBER

Mon. 9, No School for Students

Wed. 25, Early Dismissal for students at 12:45 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Thurs. 2, No School for Students

Fri. 3, Parent-Teacher Conferences



A student being interviewed by the press

What Is Happening at the Library?

Adult Programs at Main Branch

Matinee—The Flash, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2 p.m., council chambers, 2nd floor.

Connecting Seniors, Sept. 7, 10 a.m.—11 a.m.—Online meeting. Find the link on the library's website.

Nature Walk, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1-3 p.m.

Crochet Corner, Tuesdays, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.—3rd floor.

Career Link, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 10 a.m.—3:30 p.m.—3rd floor.

Adult Programs at Eastridge (1900 Graham Blvd.)

Crochet Corner, Sept. 9 and 23, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Tea & Inspiration, Sept. 16, 11 a.m.—12:30 p.m.—Theme: Justice.

Tea, treats, and conversation with neighbors.

Book Club, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m.—Carrie Soto Is Back.

Children's Department

September is library card sign up month! A library card is elemental.

Receive a Disney Elemental button when you register this month.

Sierra's Activity, Tuesdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m. Interactive and creative activities, including STEM, cooking, and art for youth.

Sept. 5: Book Cover Day—B.Y.O.Books!

Sept. 12: Toilet Paper Roll Pencil Holder (kits at Eastridge)

Sept. 19: Create a Bookmark (kits at Eastridge)

Sept. 26: Homemade Clay

Lego® Club, Wednesdays, 3:30–5:30 p.m.—Build, create, and have fun.

Around the World Taste Testing, Thursday, Sept. 7, 3:30–5:30 p.m.—

British snacks. Taste snacks from a different country and rate them.

*Children's Cinema—Enjoy new-release film on the big screen while enjoying a bag of popcorn. Saturday Sept. 9, 12 p.m.: Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (2023). Friday Sept. 22, 4 p.m.: *Spy Kids: Armageddon**

Ceramic Painting, Sept. 16, all day—Paint ceramic piece to take home.



The Summer Recreation program at Ferguson Park, sponsored by Borough council and school board, ended August 11 with face painting and pizza by Salvatore's Pizza House. Activities over the Summer included science programs from Pitt, CMU, ALCOSAN; a fire truck and county police horse visit; participatory dance from Attack Theatre; pogo from XPOGO; and more. Special thanks to donors Wilkinsburg Beverage, CSMckee, and Salvatore's.

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Building Stronger Neighborhoods Together



Got a small business (or an idea for one)? Get help with your financing needs. Let us connect you with flexible options for start-up costs, working capital, equipment, vehicles, leasehold improvements and more.



Contact Rich Newell to learn more.

412-322-0290 ext. 101
Newell@ncd-fund.org



Contact Stefani Smith to learn more.

412-322-0290 ext. 118
Smith@ncd-fund.org



Contact Us

Reach out at info@ncd-fund.org • Visit us at ncd-fund.org

The Wilkinsburg Chamber Invites You

The Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce invites you to save the date for these great community events. All are free and open to the public.



**FALL FEST
AT THE
THURSDAY
MARKET**

FOOD * FUN * MUSIC

Thursday, October 12th
4:00 - 6:00 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
HAROLD YOUNG, SR. PARKLET, WILKINSBURG

PRESENTED BY THE GREATER WILKINSBURG
COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION

Saturday, September 16, starting at 2 p.m.— Upstream Pittsburgh Block Party in the Harold Young Sr. Parklet.

Saturday, September 23, 11 a.m.—6 p.m.—Wilkinsburg Wellness & Health Fair in the Harold Young Sr. Parklet.

Wednesday, September 27, 5-7 p.m.—Chamber of Commerce After Hours Mixer hosted at iM Critical Data Center Campus, Brinton Rd.

Thursday, October 12, 4-6 p.m.—Fall Fest at the Market in Harold Young Sr. Parklet.

Want to know more? Email Wilkinsburg.pa.chamber@gmail.com.

The Thursday Market's Open!

The Market is open at Harold Young Senior Parklet every Thursday from 4-6 p.m.

"Pay What You Can" continues at the GWCAA table with fresh locally grown produce from Triple B Farms and The Small Farmer. Grow Pittsburgh is on hand every week offering their own produce grown at the Braddock Farm.

The Thursday Market has artists and makers, community organizations and non-profits, guest musicians and fabulous baked goods.

A big thank you to Heinz Endowments for funding the GWCAA produce tables, and to the many individuals who support the Market through private donations.

Special thanks also goes to Market Sponsors: UPMC, Community Life, WDCD, Ellsworth Equities, East End Food Co-op and Regent Square Rental.



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WILKINSBURG WALKING ROUTE

Join us this Fall!



September 9 | 11a to 12p
Walk with the Mayor of
Wilkinsburg and his family!
Park Avenue Playground | 1349 Park Avenue

October 28 | Noon
Trunk or Treat 2023 in collaboration
with Mayor Comans
718 Wallace Avenue



REGISTER: BIT.LY/HBZWR23

This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$1,122,899 with 85 percentage financed with nongovernmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



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