



Archives

OCTOBER
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WILKINSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER VOLUME 28, ISSUE 8

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address plaque is installed at Wilkinsburg's Lincoln Plaza.

The entire Gettysburg Address is featured in raised bronze letters. Visitors can read the words of Lincoln, resolving "that these dead shall not have died in vain", "That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom" and "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

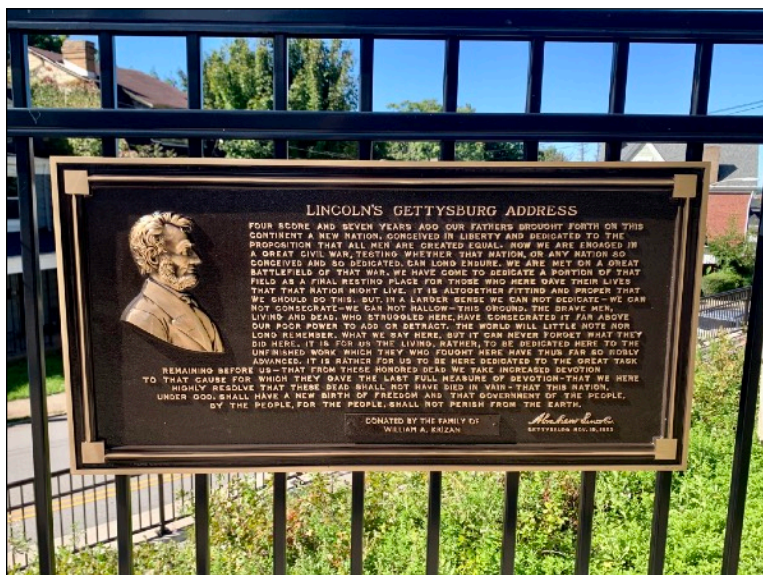
This exquisite plaque was a gift to the Historical Society from the family of William A. Krizan.



The Wilkinsburg Lincoln Plaza is on the hilly intersection of the Lincoln Highway (Ardmore Blvd.) and the William Penn Highway (Penn Ave.) This monument site features the bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, titled "Forever Free", holding a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln presented the proclamation, freeing slaves in the south, on January 1, 1863 during the Civil War.

Less than a year later on November 19, 1863 President Lincoln went to Gettysburg to dedicate a national military cemetery. His 272-word, two-minute speech is one of the most powerful presentations ever uttered by an American President. The Gettysburg Address plaque has recently been added to the Lincoln Plaza.

This large, beautiful bronze plaque was given to the Wilkinsburg Historical Society by the family of William Krizan. It has been mounted on the railing of the Lincoln Plaza, overlooking the Wilkinsburg portion of the original 1913 alignment of the Lincoln Highway. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was a speech given by Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863 at the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery (now Gettysburg National Cemetery) to commemorate those Union soldiers who died at the Battle of Gettysburg.



Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce has moved to a new location, 305 S. Trenton Ave.

The Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce

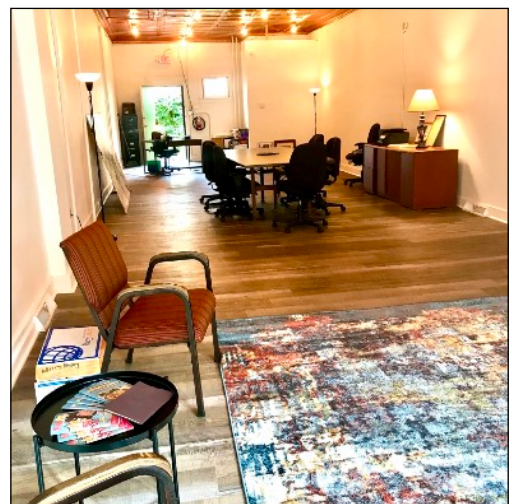
Starting in 1893 with seven members, the 2022 Chamber now hosts 75 diverse businesses, organizations and individuals. Together, they support and promote programs and services that benefit Wilkesburg citizens and the community, stimulate economic development, and foster impactful community partnerships.

For nearly 130 years, the Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce has worked to bring both the business and community together for economic prosperity. Based in a community that was once a thriving suburb east of Pittsburgh and now strives for revitalization, the Chamber promotes positive change and growth through collaboration with businesses, organizations, residents, and civic leaders.

Today's Chamber provides connections to local and regional development organizations, access to educational workshops and participation in community activities and meetings.



These seven men are the founding fathers of today's Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce. The group was initially organized as "Wilkesburg Board of Trade" under a charter granted by Common Pleas Court Number 3 of Allegheny County, February 28, 1893 with 36 residents of the Borough as subscribers. Their name was changed to Wilkesburg Businessmen's Association, and then Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce.



Left image shows the new location of the Chamber of Commerce at 305 S. Trenton Ave. Pgh, PA 15221. Right image is an interior view. This century-old building was originally an A&P food market, then a drug store and later a signage business. It now has a bright new future as the headquarters for the Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce.

Greater Wilkinsburg Community Advancement Association

The following information has been provided to the Wilkinsburg Historical Society by Vicki Cherney, Executive Director & Thursday Market Manager of the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Wanting to lend greater support to the Wilkinsburg Community, the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce created the Greater Wilkinsburg Community Advancement Association (GWCAA), a 501c3, in 2019. The GWCAA opens the door for greater partnerships and collaboration on community programs outside the normal purview of a traditional chamber of commerce. With close connections to the Chamber, the Association leans on Chamber member support and leverages existing Chamber events, sponsorships, and partnerships.

The GWCAA provides farm-fresh produce to the community on a “pay what you can” basis at the 16-week Wilkinsburg Thursday Market, Community Conversations, Business District beautification projects, and community celebrations.

The GWCAA believes that the creation of impactful and inclusive community empowered partnerships will result in the creation of programs and services that benefit Wilkinsburg citizens and stimulate equitable economic development providing opportunities for work, education and a healthy family life.



The Wilkinsburg Thursday Market is a continuation of our commitment to build and sustain community partnerships, provide resources to new and expanding businesses, serve as a leader in the greater Wilkinsburg business community, and act as a catalyst for new development projects, all while working with the GWCAA to offer farm-fresh, healthy food choices on a “pay what you can” basis. The Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce has hosted the Market in Wilkinsburg since 1976.

Upcoming events of the Chamber of Commerce:

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|-----------------------------|---|
| October 12,
5:00-6:30 pm | After Hours Networking: Local Pet, 702 Trenton Avenue |
| October 13
4:00-6:00 pm | Fall Fest at the Thursday Market , Harold Young Parklet, 739 Penn Ave. |
| November 3
5:00-6:30 pm | Grand Opening of the Wilkinsburg Chamber/GWCAA Office
305 South Trenton Avenue, |
| November 17
8:30-9:30 am | Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks Community Breakfast
at WPSD campus 300 East Swissvale Avenue |
| December 1 | Holiday After Hours Networking (Location TBA) |

WPSD (Western PA School for the Deaf) Community Block Party was amazing!

The tradition of a fun, festival event was initially begun in the fall of 2006 with a grant from Jay Costa's office. After a few years, WPSD took it over and it became an annual event every mid-September. WPSD is also host to Commitment to the Community meetings during the year to improve community wide communication and share positive happenings and discuss concerns and issues.



The Wilkesburg Historical Society had an informational table and corn-hole game. The Indian dance troupe, Ghungroo entertained the crowd with colorful rhythmic dance. Here is their link which further describes the group:

<https://www.Pittsburghzoo.org/bio-ghungroo/>



Left image shows some goats from the Barnyard Petting Zoo & Pony Rides, LLC. The right image shows animal exhibits from the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. Other events were face painting from P.G.H. Party Creations, Balloon art from Mike the Balloon Guy & Company, lawn fishing from the Edgewood Cub Scout Pack 23, & children's games by Boomerang Entertainment.

Organizations who participated included WQED, Wilkesburg Chamber of Commerce, Wilkesburg Sun, Forest Hills Rotary Club, CC Mellor Library, Hosanna House, Community Forge, local Police and Fire Departments (Edgewood, Swissvale & Wilkesburg).

Kregar family legacy continues a mission to provide shoes for Wilkinsburg children.



This circa 1908 image shows the Kregars with their motorized vehicle to sell butter, eggs and poultry to the people of Wilkinsburg. They began their business in the early 1890s in the 800 block of Wood Street and also had a horse and buggy to deliver food items to residents. By 1908 their business had grown so they moved to 900 Wood Street, a location they occupied for over half a century. Edward Russell Kregar and his son, Edward Jr. expanded the business to include an extensive bakery. They were also immersed in various community affairs in Wilkinsburg.

Kregar descendants Scott (Lisa) Lewis and Sue Sloan have provided the following information about the Kregars, their own way of honoring the family legacy and giving back to the Wilkinsburg community.

“Edward R. was our great grandfather and Edward Jr. was our grandfather. The store/family was famous for their ham salad and nut bread. For years after the store closed, people asked for the recipes. My sister actually worked in the building when it was later a Savings and Loan.” (1962 image)



“After my mother passed away, my family decided to honor our mother and father in the community we grew up in, Wilkinsburg, PA, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Our family has been a part of the Wilkinsburg community for many years. Kregar’s store (mom’s family) was a staple in the community. To continue the family’s legacy, we worked with Samaritan’s Feet to establish a Shoe Locker at one of only two schools left in Wilkinsburg today. Samaritan’s Feet is a Charlotte based charity I have supported for quite some time and actually served at some of their Back to School Bashes. The organization was founded by Manny and Tracie Ohonme. See their mission below:

MISSION: Samaritan’s Feet serves and inspires hope in children by providing shoes as the foundation to a spiritual and healthy life resulting in the advancement of education and economic opportunities.

VISION: A world with zero shoeless children.

They have recently started serving seniors as well. Lisa and I personally know Manny and Tracie and they are wonderful people, humbly serving others locally and globally. Please visit Samaritan’s Feet’s website to learn of Manny’s story growing up in Africa and how he came to be blessed with a pair of tennis shoes and started the long journey to answering God’s call and starting Samaritan’s Feet.”

Kregar family legacy continues a mission to provide shoes for Wilkinsburg children. (continued from previous page)

Samaritan's Feet website

<https://www.samaritansfeet.org/about-us/>

Shoe Locker

URL: <https://new.samaritansfeet.org/get-involved/sponsor/shoe-lockers/>

You can donate to our JustGiving page by clicking here: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/scott-lewis21?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=scott-lewis21&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=822e275af90a4b9db39bc5b74b7482ba.

The Shoe Locker morphed into a Shoe Carnival at Turner Intermediate School in Wilkinsburg last year. Every child at the school got a new pair of shoes, socks and a hygiene bag. It was a blessing to be a part of the carnival and coordinate the funding. We are now working to have the Shoe Carnival be an annual event. This year we will be providing a pair of shoes for every student in both Wilkinsburg schools, Turner Intermediate and Kelly Elementary. The rest of the students in Wilkinsburg now attend City of Pittsburgh schools.

We would be honored if you would partner with us and help with the funding needed for the Shoe Carnival and provide a blessing to the children. This year's Shoe Carnival is November 16th.

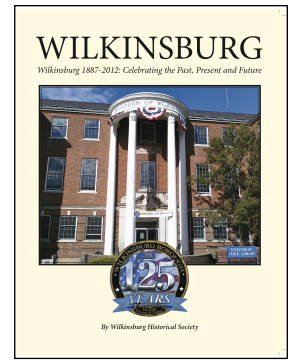
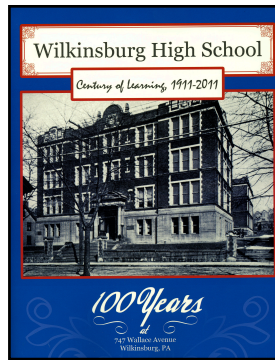
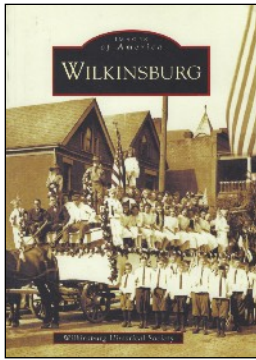
Thank you,

Scott and Lisa Lewis
Sue Sloan



Today, through the efforts of Samaritan's Feet and its partners, millions of people have been served around the world with a pair of shoes and message of hope.

And it all started with one person giving one child a new pair of shoes.



These are the three books that the **Wilkinsburg Historical Society** wrote and published during the past twelve years. They help to promote and preserve the history of Wilkinsburg and raise funds for the various projects of the Society. All three books are still available to purchase from the Society. Another way to support the activities of the Historical Society.

On the far left is ***“Images of America - Wilkinsburg”***, a 128 page soft-bound book printed by the Arcadia Publishing Company. It includes over 220 black and white photos depicting the history of our town from the early land patents in the late 1700s up to the 75th celebration of Wilkinsburg in 1962. The book is available from the Wilkinsburg Historical Society for \$20.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

The middle book above is ***“Wilkinsburg High School - Century of Learning 1911-2011”***. This book chronicles the history of the local high school from its early start in the late 1880s, the creation of the magnificent structure in 1910, and each decade since with highlights of the events that were important in the lives of the students and the Wilkinsburg community. For over 100 years the Wilkinsburg High School served the Borough of Wilkinsburg students and this book has several hundred photos showing much of this important history. This *Century of Learning* book is available from the Wilkinsburg Historical Society for \$15.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

The book on the far right is ***“Wilkinsburg - 1887-2012, Celebrating the Past, Present and Future”***. This book was produced by the Historical Society in 2012 to recognize the 125th anniversary of Wilkinsburg’s incorporation as a Borough. This soft-bound book has 196 pages and includes chapters on the history of Wilkinsburg, the celebrations from the past, information about Wilkinsburg’s government, and all the events that occurred during the 125th celebration. There are several chapters about the clubs and organizations in Wilkinsburg as well as the churches and worship centers in the Borough. The “future of Wilkinsburg” section recognizes advertisers and sponsors who helped to fund the creation and printing of the book. This book, originally \$15.00, is now available for \$10.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

Make check or money order payable to: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society**

Orders can be mailed to: Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O.Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Images of America - Wilkinsburg (\$20.00 + \$3.00) = \$23.00 Quantity_____ Total _____

Century of Learning 1911-2011 (\$15.00 + \$3.00) = \$18.00 Quantity_____ Total _____

Wilkinsburg 1887-2012 (\$10.00 + \$3.00) = \$13.00 Quantity_____ Total _____

Name_____ Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____



Don't miss out on **The Wilkinsburg Sun**, 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 accepts submitted articles provided they are related to Wilkinsburg and are civic-minded.
<https://wilkinsburgsun.wordpress.com>
 Sign up to receive The Sun by email at:
<http://eepurl.com/v0iBP> and friend The Sun on Facebook.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society has a website, to share more information about the history of Wilkinsburg. wilkinsburghistory.wordpress.com

Mailing address: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

The "Archives" Historical Society newsletter is published monthly, March through November.

We do not publish the Archives during the three Winter months of December, January and February.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society yearly dues for the Wilkinsburg Historical Society are:
 \$20.00 INDIVIDUAL Member, \$35.00 FAMILY Membership
 \$10.00 STUDENT or ASSOCIATE Members Please keep your membership dues up to date.
 Contributions are needed for "Lights for Lincoln", to get LED solar-powered lighting for the Lincoln Plaza area. Abraham Lincoln stands in the dark after sun-down. Your donation can help us illuminate this outstanding area overlooking the Lincoln Highway.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society - Membership application
Help promote the valuable history of Wilkinsburg.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

() \$20 Individual membership

() \$35 Family membership

() \$10 Student or associate membership

() \$_____ Additional donation

Please make check payable to: **Wilkinsburg Historical Society**
PO Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Anytime is a good time to pay your dues for the Wilkinsburg Historical Society. We have many preservation projects going on, and providing displays for Wilkinsburg events. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your membership dues. Please use the address on the form, our PO box.