



Archives

NOVEMBER
2022

WILKINSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 28, ISSUE 9

Happy Thanksgiving to all readers of the Wilkinsburg Historical Society *Archives*. The people of Wilkinsburg have a long history of supporting worthy programs and organizations. Several options to participate are included in this issue.



Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks Breakfast

This is the 58th year of the community breakfast but was held virtually on 2020 and 2021. It is hosted by the Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce the week before Thanksgiving. WPSD is a chamber member and graciously shares their campus for this annual event. It formerly was held in different venues but moved to WPSD more than 20 years ago. The guest speaker is someone with a connection to the community and this year features Joseph Maluchnik, Superintendent of the Wilkinsburg School District. The main purpose of the breakfast is to bring our community together to give thanks.

Proceeds are donated toward a program that benefits the community. This year it is the produce distribution at the Wilkinsburg Thursday Market.

Please see flyer on next page. Reservations are appreciated but not required.



Kregar family legacy continues a mission to provide new shoes for Wilkinsburg school children. The Kregar family has brought Samaritan's Feet to the students via a November event.

Your contribution will directly benefit Wilkinsburg school children.



Kregar's was a popular bakery/deli at 900 Wood Street for over 60 years, owned by Edward Kregar. The Kregars were deeply committed to the Wilkinsburg community. The Kregar family has brought a mission to Wilkinsburg, known as Samaritan's Feet. This was featured in last month's newsletter, but some readers have requested a physical address to mail a check to benefit the shoe program for Wilkinsburg children. Here is the address to support Scott Lewis' project to provide a pair of shoes for every child in Wilkinsburg schools. **It is important to note "Event ID 21139, Scott Lewis Fundraiser, Wilkinsburg PA Shoe Locker"**. The address to mail a check is:

Samaritan's Feet International, Attn: Finance, P.O. Box 78992, Charlotte, NC 28271

Online giving is available with: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/scott-lewis21?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=scott-lewis21&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=822e275af90a4b9db39bc5b74b7482ba



58TH ANNUAL

WILKINSBURG GIVES THANKS

Thursday, November 17th 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

We are pleased to announce that **Joe Maluchnik, Ed.D., Superintendent of the Wilkinsburg Borough School District**, will be the guest speaker for the first in-person *Wilkinsburg Gives Thanks Breakfast* since 2019.

This holiday season tradition, will be held on the campus of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) located at 300 E. Swissvale Ave.

COST FOR BREAKFAST IS \$10/PERSON. Reservations are appreciated. Payment for individual tickets will be accepted in advance or at the door.

Become a sponsor for the event.

Show your support of our community while raising awareness of your business to Breakfast attendees and the community at large. Participation opportunities are attached.

For more information email Wilkinsburg.pa.chamber@gmail.com

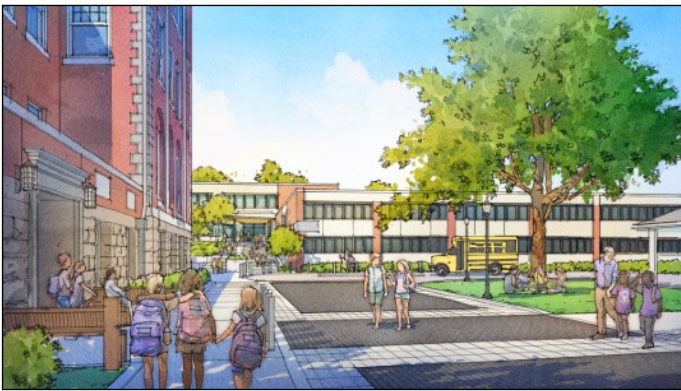
Proceeds from the Breakfast will support produce distribution at the 2023 Wilkinsburg Thursday Market.

*Wilkinsburg Chamber of Commerce
305 S. Trenton Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA 15221*

Phase 1 photos showing the WPSD construction projects are underway.



A new 'student walk' and 'education courtyard' will enhance student experience. The Deaf friendly design has open sight lines which promotes visual communication and encourages conversation.



This designer's image shows Phase 2 overview of the new recreation space and relocation of the Children's Village.

Many thanks to Sarah Bartlebaugh, Public Affairs Manager at WPSD, for providing all of this great information about the construction projects on campus. Now everyone can share in the excitement as each phase is completed!

Phase 1 of WPSD reconfigurations includes the education courtyard and a rerouting of school bus traffic through the campus to a single location for student drop off and pick up. The buses will be able to park single file to wait for the students at the end of the school day. This design is safer for students and efficiently moves the buses through the campus.



For more than 150 years, the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (WPSD) has had a tradition of innovation and ingenuity as the school seeks to position itself as the premier center for the education and empowerment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing students in western Pennsylvania and beyond. In recent months, the school has embarked on a significant investment to ensure the safety of students, improve the community, and enhance the beauty of the campus.

Guided by the vision of the Master Plan for the school, WPSD started construction on the first phase, this past summer. This project will make several considerable enhancements to campus that will be enjoyed by students and the community.

First, a new 'student walk' will be created through the heart of campus. The walk becomes a 'main street' at the school and a destination for students to socialize, discuss homework, or share a smile. During the school day, the walk creates a route for students to easily travel between buildings. The wide avenue also creates a Deaf friendly space that supports visual communication and encourages conversations about things like math or which movie to watch on the weekend.

At the intersection of this new thoroughfare, students will enjoy the outdoor education courtyard. With its meandering path and destinations for conversations and study, the courtyard becomes an outdoor classroom to prepare for an exam or review notes with a classmate. Similar to the student walk, the courtyard is designed to be a deaf friendly space that provides open sight lines and promotes visual communication. Along with the benefits it offers to students, the student walk will serve another important purpose on campus.

Because of the growing student population, the campus is filled with considerable bus traffic in the morning and afternoons as students are dropped off to start the school day and picked up at the end of the day to travel home. Instead of the current pattern, which places buses in a tight circle and creates congestion, the student walk reroutes buses in the same direction through the interior of the campus to a single destination for students to be dropped off and picked up. At the end of the day, buses will be able to park in a single file, while waiting for students. This particular design improves the safety of students and provides for the efficient movement of buses through campus.

In addition to investing in its students, WPSD desires to be a responsible partner in Edgewood and the neighboring communities. The student walk also invests in these communities by reducing traffic congestion on neighborhood streets. Buses now enter and exit campus at different locations, reducing congestion at key intersections in Edgewood. In the afternoons, buses which arrive at different times, will be able to park on campus while waiting for students as opposed to the streets in the neighborhood.

One final feature of the project is the creation of a new parking lot for teachers, staff, parents and visitors. The new lot provides more than enough parking for everyone traveling to the school and opens up more parking spaces around the school for residents and visitors to Edgewood. Collectively, these features will reduce congestion and improve safety in the surrounding neighborhoods. A critical, yet invisible, component of the new parking lot is the extensive storm water management system located underneath the new parking lot. This structure captures and manages the rain water runoff from the lot to help reduce flooding of locations downstream and the erosion of local tributaries.

Beginning next summer, the school will start another key investment on campus. This exciting project will become an extension of the current Children's Center and will be geared toward recreation, socialization and education of the littlest learners. The project will include relocating the existing Children's Village and the construction of a new recreation space, accessible to all students. Simply stated, the vision is to create new opportunities for our young students to run, play and grow during the school day.

Established in 2007, the Children's Village is a place where students from the Children's Center can play and learn as they walk down main street and enjoy any one of the many buildings. Teachers have implemented a curriculum that uses each building as a teaching destination with specific goals for preschool, kindergarten, first grade and second grade classes.

By relocating the Village to the front of the Children's Center, this benefits both students and staff. Our students will continue to enjoy a fully-accessible recreation space that offers new socialization opportunities involving play, adventure and making friends. For staff, the configuration allows for easier supervision and monitoring of children. It also improves student and staff safety by eliminating the need to move students along a route that is also used by a variety of vehicles. While preserving the Children's Village, the project will offer two new exciting opportunities for the school's little learners.

Our student population, particularly between the ages of 3 years old and 6 years old, is growing! The school needs additional space for students to exercise and play. The current playground is too small. The project proposes to install a larger playground that gives children the chance to run, climb, swing, and spin. The space would be designed to provide opportunities for play to all students regardless of their mobility or physical abilities. In addition to the expanded playground, lawn mounds will be a part of the new play area. This unique feature gives students of all abilities the opportunity to play to their fullest extent. Lawn mounds encourage creative play, add visual appeal, and help to build crucial sensory and motor skills.

Construction will start as soon as the students leave next June for summer vacation. Plans are underway to finalize the design, select equipment, and receive input from teachers and staff. The vision that drives us is the desire to offer a school to Deaf and Hard of Hearing students that is second to none. What does all of this mean for our students? It all adds up to a lot more fun during the school day. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and our website to remain current with this exciting initiative.

WPSD is building brighter futures for every student that walks through its doors and is excited about the positive impacts the school is making in students' lives. The need to build more capacity for students is a testament to the increasing demand for its programs and services. At the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, we are built on tradition but are always looking towards the future. Our kids ALWAYS come first!

Wilkinsburg's Lincoln's Gettysburg Address bronze plaque will be added to the Lincoln Sculpture Project Map. Dave Wiegers, nationally known Lincoln expert, gave the keynote speech during the July 2021 unveiling of the Lincoln statue, "Forever Free". Dave and his wife Wendy live in Illinois, but plan to briefly visit Wilkinsburg to take photos of the plaque.



Created by David Wiegers and Scott Schroeder, the Lincoln Sculptures Project features a map indicating locations of sculptures of Abraham Lincoln in the United States and around the world. Hundreds of Lincoln sculptures are shown, and TWO of them are in Wilkinsburg! The link to this interactive map is listed below. Users may interact with the map by clicking on an individual icon to access photos and information about each represented sculpture.

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1BmUZfnmpyh_4p2Xxgqi5t3sQtNFCSD4&ll=-3.81666561775622e-14%2C-112.64033154999998&z=1

or use this

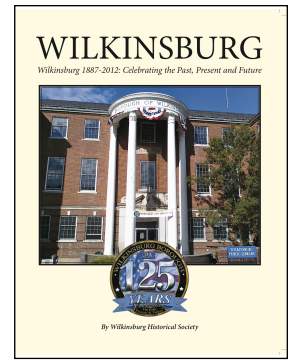
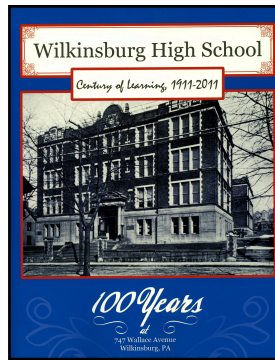
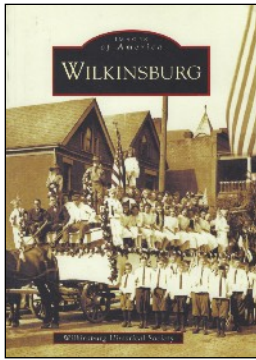
Link to the map is: <https://dbwiegers.zenfolio.com/lincoln-sculpture-map>

Choose Lincoln Sculptures Map from the drop-down menu, then select the link to open map of the world, then zoom in (+ or -) to pinpoint any location

David Wiegers developed and actively manages the map, along with fellow Lincoln historian Scott Schroeder. The map is an ongoing project and updates will be made at regular intervals. For more information, to suggest a sculpture that might be appropriate or to inquire about permission to utilize the copyrighted photo images, contact David at: lincolnsculpturesproject@gmail.com



David Wiegers has created, and manages the Facebook site, *Images of Abraham Lincoln*, featuring sculptures of Mr. Lincoln all over the world. Annually Dave chooses a dozen of his personal photographs of Abe to be featured in a wall calendar. **For 2023 one of the months is a photograph of "Forever Free", Wilkinsburg's statue.** The Historical Society has a limited number of these beautiful calendars for sale, for \$21. **Please send check with your address to:** Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235



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.