

Archives

October
2026

Wilkinsburg Historical Society Newsletter
Volume 32, issue 8

A great surprise box of Wilkinsburg historical artifacts was recently gifted to the Society! Sincere thanks to Bob Wilshire, his wife Tina Merlino Wilshire (WHS 1964) and Tina's brother Chuck Merlino (WHS 1973). Bob attended Wilkinsburg schools for 11 years until his parents moved to Monroeville, thus his 1962 diploma is from Gateway. As Bob and all WHS students know, "Once a Tiger, you're a Tiger For Life". Below are some of the items they had saved for over 50 years. Additionally they gave numerous copies of the *Spotlight,* the Junior High newsletter as well as copies of the *Hi-Ways,* the school newspaper for the Wilkinsburg High School. An example of the Oct.1967 *Spotlight* is on the second page of this issue of *Archives*. It means so much that these items were saved and then donated to the Society. Some of these relics will be featured in future issues of the *Archives*. We hope that others will share any Wilkinsburg items with the Wilkinsburg Historical Society and save these wonderful memories.



The *Spotlight* was the award-winning newsletter created by the Wilkinsburg Junior High School. This issue was produced October 23, 1967, fifty-nine years ago this month.

SPOTLIGHT

Volume 37, Number 2 | WILKINSBURG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL | Monday, October 23, 1967

Art Show

Babs Byrnes, 8-214; Cindy James, 8-202; James Phillips, 8-212; Rich Shook, 9-312; and Sandy Warren, 8-306, were chosen by Mrs. Nixdorf to exhibit their art in an art show at Horne's, East Hills. This show started on Saturday, October 7, and will end on Wednesday, November 1.

Babs and Cindy both have ceramic heads in the show, whereas James, Rich, and Sandy have Paris-craft animals in the show. All schools in Eastern Allegheny County have been invited to participate in the exhibit.

Meet Mrs. Kreimer

Last issue, we thought (really, we do think sometimes) that the write-up on Mrs. Kreimer went to the printer. It didn't. Here it is, one issue late.

Mrs. Kreimer, 204, replaces Mr. Patchel, who is now supervisor of science in the Wilkinsburg schools. Mrs. Kreimer attended Miami University in Ohio but received her bachelor's degree from Ohio State University where her major was comprehensive science. In college, she was a member of a sorority. Before coming here, she taught in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Mrs. Kreimer enjoys skating, swimming, water skiing, and horseback riding.

This makes nine, not eight new teachers. (We also can't count.)

Red Letter Days

October 22—Report cards.

November 2—Last football game of the season against Scott Junior High School.

November 3—Campaign speeches for ninth grade officer elections.

November 8—Open House.

November 10—Ninth grade elections.

November 14—Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra will perform for us at the high school.



Timmy Fisher



Jerry Ashbaugh



Dhana Jones



Mary Porter

S. C. Representatives Elected

September 28 marked the elections of the Student Council homeroom representatives. Leading the Student Council in its meetings and activities are the president, Timmy Fisher, 9-317; the vice-president, Jerry Ashbaugh, 9-317; the secretary, Dhana Jones, 9-301; and the treasurer, Mary Porter, 8-215. The representatives and alternates, respectively, for each homeroom are as follows:

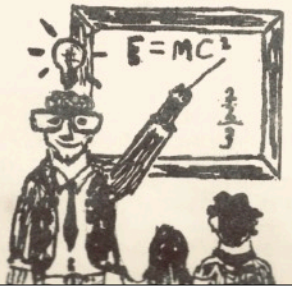
Seventh Grade—101, Donald Cwynar, Taft Griffin; 102, Valerie Hairston, Terry Montgomery; 114, Janice Wetzel, Doug las Flaherty; 115, Monica Pukas, Jeff Fraker; 116, Mike Harrity, Nona Tate; 117, Samuel Lewis, Le Moyne Williams; 206, Samuel Wiley, Terry Hinkle; 208, Lynn Hetzel, Thomas Tuite; 211, John Griffith, Richard Carswell.

Eighth Grade—210, Brian Pile, Cecile Dorsey; 202, Robert Cargo, Pat Greco; 205; Robert Jones, Nadine Kertis; 207, Bobby Angelo, Philip Thomas; 212, Dan Ferrari, Ann Porter; 213, Charles Dennison, Dorothy Power; 214, Lee Gray, Ruth Dunham; 215, Debbie Woods Charles Isenberg; 216, Drena Johnson, Joan Sternberger; 306, Edna Frazier, Sandy Warren.

Ninth Grade—301, Gail Adams, Tony Spagnola; 303, Joanne Bellante, Nancy Dorsey; 307, Gladys Foley, Ernest Graves; 308, Shirley Overton, Terry Shaffer; 309, Sharon Early, Jeannine Varuola; 312, Rocky Ghafoor, Marilyn O'Leary; 313, Debbie Edward, Bill Heller; 314, Dwain Thomas, Toni Mitchell; 315, Tony Jackson, Edward Smith; 316, Russell Jones, Glenn Myers; 317, Ralph Tolino, Gary Burling.

Open House

Open House has been planned for the Junior High School on Wednesday night, November 8, in honor of American Education Week. The program will start at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium where a few opening speeches will be given, including one from either Dr. Potter or Mr. Krepps. Following the speeches, the parents will procede to homerooms and then follow your schedule. About 300 people are expected.



Who's The Coach?

We, the **Spotlight** staff, blushingly (except for one of us who just can't seem to blush at anything) admit we made a mistake about the basketball coach. We said Mr. Mauro was the coach, but he isn't; the basketball coach will be named at a later date. Sorry about that.

CLUB NEWS

Y-Teen time is almost here. For those who don't know about them, here are some of the things they do: they have parties, dances, and speakers on different subjects. Last year, eighth and ninth grade officers were elected. They are as follows:

Eighth Grade—Carol D'Andrea, president; Melanie Smith, vice-president; Marsha Klemm, secretary; and Claudia DeRiso, treasurer.

Ninth Grade—Cheryl Edmonds, president; Terry Shaffer, vice-president; Lillian DeLimbo, secretary; and Meryl Rectanus, treasurer.

Honor Society

This year, Honor Society has Ralph Tolino, 317, as its president; Jennifer Loynd, 308, as vice-president; Debbie Harrity, 308, as secretary; and Timmy Fisher, 317, as treasurer.

The group has decided to hold a semi-formal dance in the cafeteria on Friday night, October 27. This will be an anyone-ask-anyone, but at least one-half of the couple must belong to Honor Society. Tickets are 50 cents per couple.

Coming up early in November will be the nominations by the teachers for new Honor Society members in both eighth and ninth grades. These nominations will be made on the basis of citizenship, character, leadership, scholarship, and service. Induction for new members will take place shortly afterwards.

— Last Week Was Special —

Raymond P.Shafer, Governor of Pennsylvania, has officially proclaimed October 15-21, 1967, as Pennsylvania Conservation Education Week. In his proclamation, Governor Shafer stated, "Most of our citizens now live and work in urban areas . . . making it more difficult for them to learn about these resources from experience and contact."

With conservation becoming more and more important with the growing population, Governor Shafer urges "every student, parent, teacher, administrator, school board member, the Department of Public Instruction, all other state agencies and every citizen of the Commonwealth to their utmost to encourage and accomplish the establishment and development of a program of conservation education in our schools."

Wilkinsburg Historical Society recently participated in local resource fairs



Saturday, September 19 was **WQED's "Be My Neighbor Day" in Wilkinsburg** with Fred Rogers' Daniel Tiger. Sponsored by WQED and PNC Grow Up Great, this free event was held at three locations in Wilkinsburg:
1. Civically/FreeStore at 1001 Wood Street and 619 Penn Avenue
2. Wilkinsburg Public Library 605 Ross Avenue in the Borough Building
3. Wilkinsburg Train Station, 901 Hay Street
The theme was History to Hope, with the Historical Society sharing Wilkinsburg history and information about the Historic Lincoln Highway. Many organizations were represented which featured crafts and educational information. The goal was to connect local families and celebrate the neighborhood legacy of Fred Rogers.



WPSD, Western PA School for the Deaf, in neighboring Edgewood, featured their annual **Community Block Party Saturday, September 26.** The Historical Society had a patriotic theme to celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S.A. (Our flag-themed corn hole game can be seen in the background.) The Pgh Zoo brought many baby animals for a petting zoo, including a kangaroo. Face painting, balloon artist and many fun activities were there for all the young people in attendance.



WCDC (Wilkinsburg Community Development Corporation) hosted **Celebration At The Station** on Sunday **October 4** at the historic Wilkinsburg Train Station. The Wilkinsburg Historical Society participated as part of the resource fair. Many artists, vendors, craftspeople, non-profit organizations and businesses presented table displays with information, samples and activities including a petting zoo and free hot dogs, This is in tandem with the **Workshop PGH Fall Fest** in Taylor Park with shuttlebus transportation between the two.

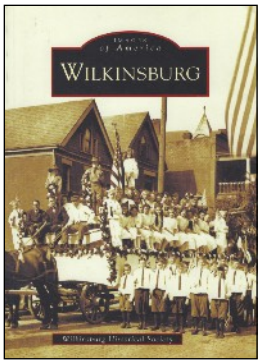


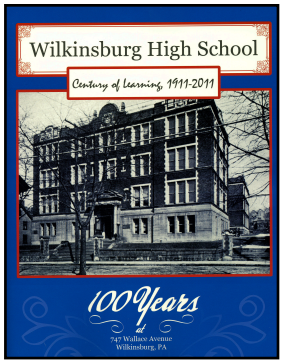
Blessings in a Backpack is a national non-profit with a local program in our Wilkinsburg Schools. Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes community volunteers, donors, and partners to provide kid-friendly, ready-to-eat weekend food for school-aged children who might otherwise go hungry when school meals are not available.

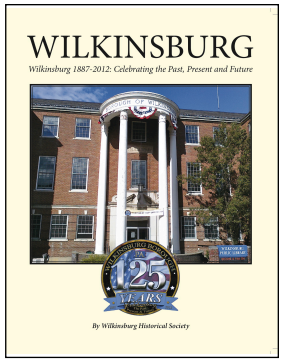
This program helps ensure school-aged children have kid-friendly, ready-to-eat food on weekends when school meals are unavailable. In Wilkinsburg, the program has served students for 14 years continuing the legacy of longtime coordinator, Linda Lafferty, and now provides weekend food bags for approximately 500 children each week at Kelly Primary and Turner Intermediate schools. The program costs about $43,200 for the 36-week school year, or just $2.40 per student per week. So far, $9,000 has been raised, leaving $34,200 still needed for 2026–2027.

Every gift helps finish the work and feed local children.
Donations may be sent to Blessings in a Backpack National Headquarters in Louisville, KY, designated for the Wilkinsburg, PA Program.

Blessings in a Backpack
6100 Dutchman's Lane, Suite 603
Louisville, KY 40205
Memo Line on Check: Wilkinsburg, PA Program







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 _____



the Wilkinsburg Sun

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VOL. 20 NO. 2 October 2026 — A Free Community Newsletter Bringing You Good News About Wilkinsburg

Ribbon Cutting for Supportive Housing

On September 25, Rising Tide Partners hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for 16 units of permanent supportive housing at 908 Center Street in Wilkinsburg.

The apartments are intended to provide housing for homeless people who are leaving emergency shelters.

Two of the units will accommodate mobility, hearing or vision impaired.

The building was fully renovated by Rising Tide Partners with the Shape Development Group, LLC.

This project was funded in part by Allegheny County Economic Development and Cfbank.

WILKINSBURG POLICE

New Police Chief Christopher Duncan with officers after his appointment September 18. See story, page 3.

International Church: Flows As a Living Spring in Wilkinsburg

Leadership and guests celebrate the ICCG Living Spring International Pittsburgh Church dedication.

Months after a May dedication and fund raising event, the Redeemed Christian Church of God (Living Spring International Pittsburgh) on Penn Avenue is a fully equipped, concurrently vertex featuring a 300-seat auditorium and worship center, welcoming lounge and lobby, conference rooms, a media and technical hub, two green rooms, a nursing mothers' room, family, men's and women's restrooms, and state-of-the-art audio, video, and lighting (AVL) systems.

Through the financial sacrifices of one month's wages from the congregation, $1.2 million from the church savings, and an approximate $1,700,500 commitment from ABK Unlimited, $3 million was raised to purchase, renovate, and convert the old Collision Center at 904 Penn Avenue as an expansion of the adjacent church at 900 Penn Avenue.

The newly renovated building is fully handicapped accessible and has a safe parking infrastructure. The facility expanded from 11,000 square feet to 21,000 square foot. Parking capabilities increased from one to four lots on Ross Avenue and one on Penn Avenue.

An international concept, the Redeemed Christian Church of God was established in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1952. Since then, it has expanded to over 185 countries. Along with Living Spring Pittsburgh Church, the organization's local affiliates include churches on the South Side, Erie, Indiana, Morgantown, and Charleston, West Virginia. Plans are underway to start a branch in Greensburg

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Fall Fest, October 26—page 7

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 usually 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 improved 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.