Annual Historical Society Dinner to be held Monday, November 20 at Bella Luna Trattoria restaurant in Monroeville, 6:30 PM.

BRING A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR TO BE A PART OF THE EVENING EVENT AS WE ENJOY THE FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR!
NO PRE-ORDER NEEDED, JUST COME AS YOU ARE AT 6:30 PM

The final 2017 meeting of the Wilkinsburg Historical Society will be held on Monday, November 20, 2017 at the Bella Luna Trattoria restaurant in Monroeville. This dinner meeting will feature a loop slide presentation of the photo images taken from the recent Captured::Pittsburgh/Preservation Pittsburgh photo-walk in Wilkinsburg. We will also be showing slides of all the events in Wilkinsburg that the Historical Society has been involved with this year.

For the Historical Society dinner meeting, WE WILL BE ORDERING INDIVIDUALLY FROM THE MENU, SO YOU CAN CHOOSE WHATEVER YOU WOULD LIKE TO EAT AND BRING YOUR OWN FORM OF PAYMENT. THE BELLA LUNA IS LOCATED AT 5060 WILLIAM PENN HWY, MONROEVILLE, PA 15146, (on Route 22 between Pool City and Pat Catan), in the Murrysview Shopping Center. More information about the restaurant can be found on their website yourbellaluna.com The Historical Society members, guests and interested others will be gathering at 6:30 PM and we will be ordering dinners by 7:00 PM.

This evening meeting will include a brief recap of the activities and accomplishments of 2017 and a time for questions about the Society and plans for the future.

Sampling of images taken this year, including Two-Way Street Fest, Chamber of Commerce Renaissance, Captured::Pittsburgh Photo-Walk
Meet Me at the Station, September 30 gala benefitting WCDC was a night to remember!

The century old train station was open for the evening so that attendees could tour and learn about the planned restorations.

A huge tent was erected in the middle of Ross Avenue in front of the Municipal Building. It was the central area for gala activity.

Music was provided by Jazz Pianist Tom Roberts, and by the Allegheny City Ragtime Orchestra.

240 gala attendees enjoyed music, live painting by Norman Brown, silent films, performances by Attack Theatre and more!

Hors D’oeuvres were created by Madeleine Bakery & Bistro, the newest food establishment in Wilkinsburg.

Over fifty raffle baskets and silent auction items were artfully displayed.

WCDC Executive director Tracey Evans welcomed everyone to the Gala.
Captured::Pittsburgh and Preservation Pittsburgh collaborated for Photo-walk 2017 to take images of some of Wilkinsburg’s beautiful, historic religious structures.

On Saturday, September 30, 2017 a group of seventy-seven photographers gathered at the historic South Avenue United Methodist Church to begin their tour of Wilkinsburg with cameras in hand. With over 25 historic religious structures in the Borough, the Captured:: Pittsburgh /Preservation Pittsburgh tour needed to limit the area to a walkable route in the Penn Avenue /Wood Street district. The buildings included were: South Avenue United Methodist, Mulberry Presbyterian Church, St. James Roman Catholic, Mulberry Community Church, Covenant Church of Pittsburgh (Joseph Garlington Ministries), Ethnan Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church, Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, Dunamis Baptist Church, St. Mark AME Zion Church, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, El Bethel Temple, and PUCS (Pittsburgh Urban Christian School in the former Lutheran Church).

Captured::Pittsburgh and Preservation Pittsburgh hosted all the photographers for lunch in the beautiful PUCS auditorium, in the former Calvary Lutheran Church. Shown is the route taken.
October 5, 1887 - The official birthday of the Borough of Wilkinsburg

October has always been special for the people of Wilkinsburg, as it is the official birthday month of the Borough. It was exactly 130 years ago, on October 5, 1887 that Wilkinsburg was officially incorporated as a Borough. Prior to incorporation the town had no official government and was quite rural. The people who lived and worked in the village wanted an official governing body so that they could obtain all the amenities that residents of the City of Pittsburgh enjoyed.

Most of the people of Wilkinsburg wanted a municipal government that could raise money through taxes to provide street paving, street lights, public water supply, sewage, garbage collection, police protection, fire department, and a Council to have a forum for community concerns. Some residents did not want these services, liked their rural living and did not want to have government involvement. It took three tries with lawyers petitioning Allegheny County courts before the third attempt was successful and a charter was granted incorporating the town as the Borough of Wilkinsburg.

This October 1912 image shows Wood Street, looking north toward Ross Avenue and Penn Avenue. The buildings were adorned with festive decorations to celebrate Wilkinsburg’s 25th birthday. Also, this image shows automobiles, horse-drawn carriages and trolleys all moving on Wood Street.

In 1937 Wilkinsburg celebrated fifty years as a Borough. The celebration was six days long, from October 3 to October 9, 1937. These images show special bronze pins given to honor residents who had lived in Wilkinsburg since the day of incorporation in 1887. These had a blank space on the back side for engraving the name of the resident. It says, “Presented to _____ in recognition of 50 years of residence” The front side of the medal shows Dumpling Hall, the home built by Dunning McNair around 1787, and later the home of James Kelly.
Forsythe Log House was located on Penn Avenue for over a century. **Friday, November 3** lecture will explain the significance and mystery of this East Liberty landmark.

---

“The Forsythe Log House: The Mystery of an East End Landmark” will be the topic of the Friday, November 3 speaker series presented by Mr. George Clark, Vice-President of the East Liberty Valley Historical Society. This talk will begin at 7:30 pm in the East Liberty Presbyterian Church, 116 Highland Avenue, Room 234. It is free to the public. This should be of special interest to Wilkinsburgers, as the log home was originally built on Penn Avenue in Wilkinsburg. Come enjoy the lecture with our neighboring East Liberty Valley Historical Society.

---

The Wilkinsburg Historical Society presented a table display on September 16 at the Community Block Party hosted by the WPSD, (Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf.) The well attended event featured table displays by many Wilkinsburg and Edgewood organizations. Participation in community events helps to give the public an awareness of our existence. This image shows Society president Anne Elise Morris and husband/treasurer Tim Morris. In the background is the display presented by the WCDC

Many thanks to the Wilkinsburg Historical Society members and other volunteers who have spent time this spring, summer and fall keeping Point park beautiful. This triangle of land on Penn Avenue is where the Lincoln statue has stood for over a century. Thanks to volunteers for planting flowers, cutting the grass, weeding, trimming the hedges and adding flags to the area around the Lincoln statue.
Wilkinsburg Historical Society has a website!
The Wilkinsburg Historical Society has a website to share more information about the history of Wilkinsburg. To visit the site:  wilkinsburghistory.wordpress.com

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

We meet at 7:30 PM on the third Monday of months March, June, August and November usually at the South Avenue United Methodist Church in Wilkinsburg. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!
The Archives

Wilkinsburg Historical Society newsletter is published monthly, March through November.

The Archives

Historical Society newsletter is published monthly, March through November.

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 (for out of towners who usually can’t attend meetings)
Please keep your membership dues up to date.

Wilkinsburg Historical Society is involved with preservation projects in the area. Donations are appreciated. Please send to:  Wilkinsburg Historical Society, P.O. Box 17252, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Our email address is  wilkinsburghistorical@gmail.com

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

This image shows the October 2017 issue of the Wilkinsburg Sun, an eight page FREE publication for the Wilkinsburg community. Local residents can pick up a paper copy at the local libraries, the Municipal building, Wilkinsburg churches and other places.
The Sun is available to read online,  wilkinsburgsun.wordpress.com
You may sign up to receive the Sun by email at:
http;//eepurl.com/v0iBP

The Sun is the best way to learn what is happening in Wilkinsburg. The October issue is full of information about family farming in Wilkinsburg, the WCDC Vacant Properties week (which includes the October 31 Haunted Walking Tour of some of South Avenue’s historic, but vacant homes), School District information about status of the Wilkinsburg School system, the Chamber of Commerce wrap-up of the Wilkinsburg Renaissance: Moving Businesses Forward Reception and much more.
Don’t miss out, so pick it up, sign up or read online.

The Wilkinsburg Sun is a community newsletter about the GOOD news in Wilkinsburg. The newsletter is published 10 times a year and the print editions can be found at various locations, including the libraries, the Borough Building and the WCDC.