



Wilkins Township

Community Newsletter

110 Peffer Road, Turtle Creek, PA 15145 • (412) 824-6650

www.wilkins township.com

contact@wilkins township.com

Spring 2022

Tax Increase Benefits Volunteer Fire Departments

The Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners approved a 2022 General Fund municipal budget totaling \$6,009,200 that includes a ½ mill property tax increase. The millage increase will add \$5 in real estate tax for every \$10,000 in property assessed value.

The rate increase from 5.674 to 6.174 mills will generate an extra \$175,000 to \$200,000 in new revenue. That additional revenue will be placed into a restricted account for the purpose of purchasing fire apparatus and equipment for the Township's two volunteer fire departments.

Tax bills will be mailed no later than March 1, 2022. The discount period (a 2% savings) will run two months from the date that bills are mailed. The penalty (10%) for unpaid taxes will begin four months after the bills are mailed.

Meet the New Township Tax Collector Michelle Criner

Michelle Criner had no aspirations to become Wilkins Township's tax collector. But when no one else showed an interest in running for the office, Criner knew she had the talents needed to fill the post.

Unopposed in the general election, Criner won and subsequently resigned her position as Township commissioner, which she held for 12 years, on Dec. 31, 2021. She was sworn in on Jan. 4, 2022, filling the vacancy created when long-time Tax Collector George Porado decided not to seek re-election after 42 years in office.

"As a commissioner, I was on the finance committee, so I'm pretty good with numbers," said Criner, who works as an administrative assistant in the Construction Department at the University of Pittsburgh. "It's out of my comfort zone because it's something new to learn. I have big shoes to fill."

The biggest difference residents will see between Porado and Criner is a change in the payment method.

"George had people come to his house to make payments," Criner explained. "Because the office needs to be compliant with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), I can't do that."

Also, because of COVID-19 safety and insurance requirements, Criner has chosen to collect all real estate taxes via U.S. mail. Taxes can be paid by mailing checks to: Michelle Criner, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 17240, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Criner was born and raised in the Two-Hill section of Wilkins Township. She has lived in Eastmont for the last 34 years. She is secretary of the Century Club of Wilkins Township and serves on the advisory board of Tri-COG Land Bank, which refurbishes abandoned homes to put them back on the tax rolls.

The Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation honoring Porado at its Jan. 4 meeting, in gratitude for his years of service.

Old Eastmont School Site will be Home to Heritage Heights

In December 2021, the Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners approved construction of Heritage Heights, an age-targeted residential development on the former site of Eastmont School at the intersection of Jefferson Heights Road and Dunbar Drive. The site is one of the few in the Township available for redevelopment.

Bungalow Group, in concert with Suncrest Homes, has an agreement to purchase the property from Woodland Hills School District. An intergovernmental cooperation agreement between Penn Hills and Wilkins stipulates that the zoning and land development will be led by Wilkins' zoning and subdivision/land development ordinances.

The site consists of an 8.9-acre parcel in Wilkins and another .94-acre parcel in Penn Hills. The development will include six single-family detached homes and 20 duplex options for persons aged 55 and older. Of the proposed lots, 17 are completely in Wilkins while the rest are partially in both municipalities.

Because the development includes smaller lots, there will be a larger amount of open space.

The plan includes a two-way, horseshoe-shaped road that begins and ends on Jefferson Heights Road. Because it falls short of the required distance between the two road entrances onto Jefferson Heights, the Commissioners granted a variance to allow construction. Modifications were also needed for the required 6,250-square-foot lot size on four lots because of topographical challenges.

A Homeowners Association (HOA) will be responsible for the maintenance of the common open spaces and stormwater management facility, including a proposed infiltration system and the private roof leader systems.

Five of the properties have already been sold, pending approval of the plan by the Township. The developer builds homes to suit the purchasers but will also build model homes if lots are not sold. The plan is expected to be completed within four years.

Will Wilkins Township and Churchill Merge Police Departments?

Did you know that Allegheny County is comprised of 130 individual communities and, of those, 109 have their own police department? In fact, Allegheny County has more individual police agencies than many other STATES!


For some time now, police mergers and regionalization have been the topic of discussion among many boroughs, townships, and municipalities. At its core, the overall primary intent behind regionalization is to provide better and more effective police services to the residents of the communities being served while simultaneously cutting expenditures and costs of these services, subsequently saving taxpayers their hard-earned money. Regionalization also provides opportunities for officers within those agencies to grow, and to either be promoted and/or move into specialized positions so that they may be best utilized by concentrating their efforts in areas of law enforcement to which they gravitate.

Lastly and just as importantly, regionalization creates the perfect environment from which the most professional, highly trained, and effective police agency can emerge. Examples of this can be seen across the United States and right here, close to home in Pennsylvania, including the Northern Regional Police Department in Wexford, which serves Pine Township, Marshall Township, Richland Township and Bradford Woods; and the Southwest Regional Police Department based in Belle Vernon, serving Belle Vernon, Newell, Coal Center, Port Marion and Madison.

Wilkins Township has been engaged in police merger discussions with our neighbor, Churchill Borough. As of June 2021, both communities have been participating in a regionalization study that is being headed by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

The results of the study are now available and the respective elected officials and chiefs of police are closely evaluating the data to determine if a merger would in fact work and be in the best interest of all involved. If so, steps can then be taken to further the process and move us that much closer to the creation and implementation of a brand-new law enforcement entity that would serve the residents of Wilkins Township and Churchill effectively, efficiently and professionally.

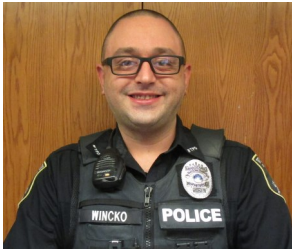
*Contributed by Ronald M. Akerley,
Churchill Borough Chief of Police*

<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> 2022 Wilkins Township Schedule of Meetings Board of Commissioners (Approved November 8, 2021) </div> </div>		
Month	Regular Meeting	2nd Stated Meeting
January	01/04/22	01/31/22
February	02/14/22	02/28/22
March	03/14/22	03/28/22
April	04/11/22	04/25/22
May	05/09/22	As needed ¹
June	06/13/22	As needed
July	07/11/22	As needed
August	08/08/22	As needed
September	09/12/22	09/26/22
October	10/10/22	10/24/22 ²
November	11/14/22	11/28/22
December	12/12/22	As needed

¹ The Second Stated Meeting falls on 05/30/22, Memorial Day.

² The Second stated meeting falls on 10/31/22, Halloween night.

Wilkins Township's Newest Police Officer



Joseph Wincko worked his first shift as a Wilkins Township police officer on Monday, Nov. 8, 2021. Officer Wincko was hired to fill a vacancy in the department. Many of you might recognize Officer Wincko, as he

previously worked for the Turtle Creek Police Department.

Wincko was highly recommended by his former supervisors and colleagues, all of whom commented on his hard work, professionalism, and his ability and desire to communicate well with others. He is currently completing his field training and is doing a great job so far.

Wincko loves the community-involvement aspect of law enforcement, and really enjoys the interaction with people. Please join us in welcoming him to our Wilkins community and, if you have the chance, say hello and have a quick conversation with Officer Wincko!

Clean-Up Wilkins!



Join us on Saturday, **April 30** for our annual Clean-Up Wilkins day.

All are welcome to meet us at 9 a.m. at the Community Center for a quick breakfast before we go to various areas of the Township to clean. At noon, we will meet back at the Community Center for pizza and prizes.

Both of our fire departments come out to help, as do the Wilkins Elks. This is a great project for young people who need volunteer or project hours. Gloves, safety vests, water and bags will be provided.

Please consider joining us as we have a fun time keeping Wilkins Township streets beautiful!

Fire Department News



Wilkins VFC #1

Selfless Acts of Service

Someone calls 911. There is an emergency situation in the Township or a neighboring community. The county dispatch operator gathers the information and initiates the process of alerting the membership. The siren at the station is activated. An alert, with details of the alarm, is transmitted to each member via multiple electronic devices. Being an unpaid, all volunteer organization, no one is permanently stationed at the building, so members respond there from wherever they are at that moment. A senior officer responds directly to the scene to evaluate the situation and coordinate the response. Within minutes, the available members have arrived at the station, changed into their protective bunker gear, and the appropriate pieces of apparatus are crewed and en route to the site of the emergency.

Who are these individuals who respond, no matter the time, or the day, or the situation they are about to encounter? They are your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, or perhaps even relatives. They are Gen Zers, Millennials, Gen Xers and Baby Boomers. They are both men and women. Yes, we have active female members and have had for many years. The service time for some can be measured in months, others in decades. Some joined as members in their teens while others later in their adult life. For their full-time jobs, they are a truck driver, a facilities manager, patient services representative, a diesel technician, EMTs, coordinators for medical transport services, an EEG technician, a funeral director, building maintenance engineers, a 911 dispatcher and many other professions. Even a few retirees have chosen to spend their newfound free time as part of this group.

How did so many from different age groups, genders, vocations and life experiences find their paths all leading to the same destination? What is that unbreakable thread that binds this group together? The answer is as you might expect. While often initially being drawn to the fire service by friends or family members, what keeps them serving year after year, responding over and over, no matter their personal circumstances at that moment, is the commitment to make a difference in people's lives by helping those fellow citizens who are perhaps experiencing the worst day of their lives. To help those, who at that

moment, are relatively helpless. To respond when called upon to deal with an emergency situation that demands their level of training and expertise.

Most certainly, it is the pride they take in serving their community in this manner and their commitment to one another. A brotherhood and sisterhood of mutual respect that allows this multifaceted group to become a cohesive unit.

Would you like to be part of this group and serve your community by helping others? All it will cost you is time and the return on that investment will be immeasurable. While our greatest need is for active firefighters, there are many other levels of membership, and your talents and skills would be of great benefit. Talk to any member, stop by the station any Thursday evening or complete an application on our website, www.wilkins302.com. We will take it from there.

Meat and Money Raffle

The upcoming dates for the drawing will be Valentine's Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. For only \$5 per ticket, you can win steaks, chops, hot sausage, ribs, chicken breasts and legs, kielbasa and more. Add to all that \$500 in cash. Each ticket gives you two chances to win, and the winning number will be taken from the first 7 p.m. Pick Three. For tickets or more information, please contact Gerry Meyer at 412-596-4472. Venmo is available.

Fund Drive

You will soon receive our request for your support to our 2022 fund drive. This year will again be a combined drive of the two volunteer fire departments (#1 and #3) serving the Township and all proceeds will equally benefit both organizations. As in the past, your donations will be used to support the day-to-day operations of our organization and to provide our volunteers with the protective gear and training so important to their safety. We appreciate very much your past support and hope you will be able to do so again this year.



CPR and First Aid Classes

If you belong to a group interested in obtaining professional CPR and first aid training, please contact us at CPR@wilkins302.com and one of our certified trainers will get in touch with you to arrange a class.



Wilkins #3 VFC

In 2021, our company responded to 285 calls in the Township and the surrounding communities. In 2020, we responded to 277 calls. Some were structure fires and others involved flooding, carbon monoxide, auto accidents, evacuations of buildings and any other emergencies that you can think of. Visit our website for more information at <http://wilkinstwp303.com>. This year, Wilkins #3 will be celebrating 100 years of dedicated service! So, check on our website for upcoming festivities!

In this new year, we would like to thank all our volunteers for their years of dedication to our fire company as well as ALL volunteer fire companies!

Mark Your calendars!

We **will** have a Fish Fry! Our Lenten Fish fry starts on Friday, March 4 and continues every Friday through April 15. It will probably be a drive-up service only! And we will have a limited menu due to the current pandemic.

We will have fish and shrimp dinners, including fries and coleslaw; fish sandwiches; and shrimp only. Also on the menu is macaroni and cheese. Unfortunately, we **will not** have baked fish or soups because of how long they take to prepare. If restrictions lighten up before the Lenten season is over, we will make every effort to make the changes to our entire menu! Please look up the latest information on our website at <http://wilkinstwp303.com>.

2022 Combination Fund Drive

This past year has certainly presented some unique challenges for so many of us. Change has also come to the fire and rescue service in Wilkins Township, along with financial responsibilities. With the closing of the Eastmont VFC #4 after over six decades of service, that responsibility now resides with the remaining two companies, Wilkins Township VFC #1 and #3. We will be combining our Township donations as we did in 2021.

We plan on sending out our fund drive letter by the end of February. We received only 22% return of all the letters we sent out. We are hoping to have your continued support as in the past years, especially during this COVID-19 health emergency. Hopefully, those who did not respond to our donation request will this year. Just a reminder! **Your donation is 100% tax deductible.**

- continued on pg. 7

Food Trucks Regulated by New Ordinance Provisions

Food trucks have become a \$2 billion industry in the U.S., according to chefstore.com, with most of the growth since 2015. Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners, recognizing the trend, has amended an existing Peddling and Soliciting ordinance to include food trucks.

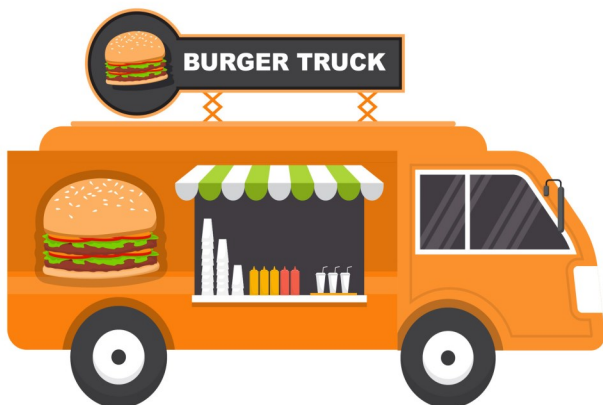
The vehicle or cart is defined as a truck or a trailer hitch unit engaged in the business of cooking, preparing and/or distributing food or beverages in public spaces. The new regulations do not apply to ice cream or water ice trucks.

To maintain or operate a food truck in the Township, the owner/operator must apply for an annual permit that expires each December 31. The owner must apply after the first of a new year and pay an annual application fee. The applicant is required to provide contact information for the business, vehicle information, certification that the truck has passed all inspections required by the state, the types of goods sold, the proposed vending hours, and any other information required by the Township.

The ordinance establishes permitted locations for setup, operating hours, required licenses, customer service requirements, noise and signage regulations, and safety measures.

Those found in violation of the ordinance are subject to fines and court action. The food truck operator must obtain and maintain a general liability insurance policy protecting itself and Wilkins Township from all damages, including property damage, bodily injury and death.

For more information, contact the Township offices at 412-824-0032.



Planning to use a Portable Storage Device? Check This Out First!



Recognizing the need for residents to use bulk storage containers when remodeling or moving, the Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners amended the Township's Streets and Sidewalks ordinance to include provisions for portable on-demand storage devices (commonly known as PODS) and similar containers.

Residents who desire to use a bulk container must first get a permit from the Township. The permit will be valid for 45 days, with some exceptions due to emergency or necessary situations.

Under the new policy, storage containers are not permitted to be placed in or on Township properties, streets or rights-of-way unless the Chief of Police grants an exemption because of undue hardship created by peculiar conditions of the land in question. If an exemption is necessary, the container must comply with township provisions pertaining to dumpsters, including illumination and placement away from crosswalks and intersections.

Bulk containers are permitted only in connection with maintenance, construction and/or moving or relocation activities taking place on the property. The storage devices can be no larger than 12 feet wide, 16 feet long and eight feet high, and must be placed on a stable base. They cannot contain any electrical wiring, lighting or heating elements, or used to store solid waste or construction debris.

Residents must make sure the area in and around the bulk container remains free of all weeds, litter and debris; is kept in neat and clean condition; and is always secure and safe. Any person who violates the ordinance could face a fine not to exceed \$600 per occurrence. Each day that a violation continues will constitute a separate offense.

For more information about securing a permit, contact the Township offices at 412-824-6650, x 22.



Public Works Notes

Yard Waste Drop-Off

A Yard Waste drop-off container will be placed behind the Public Works Garage at the Municipal Building from April 1 to 30. Residents can bring and dispose of yard waste materials as follows:

Acceptable items

Garden and plant debris
Leaves
Shrubs
Tree limbs, diameter of 4 inches or less



Non-acceptable items

Grass clippings
Logs
Whole trees
Building materials of any type



Rules & restrictions

No plastic bags
Paper recycling bags are OK
Remove dirt from root balls



Grass Clipping Composting

Again, this year, there will be a posted area at the Township Leaf Compost Site at Linhart Park where **residents** can drop off grass clippings and **mix** with equal parts of leaf compost (a shovel is provided). Leaf compost is always available to residents and is free of charge.

Sewers and Manholes

Although the bulk of the sewer cleaning and video inspecting is finished, Township workers will be around doing maintenance, follow-up inspections and repairs as needed. Workers do carry identification and are required to show it if asked. During the sewer work, we are still finding manholes in yards that have been covered over by property owners. This practice is not permitted. You should be aware that when these are found they will be uncovered and/or raised to the existing grade. Should someone want to enter your home using the pretext of working for the Township, you should notify 911 immediately.

Don't Flush Sanitary Wipes

We are finding several sanitary sewer problems due to the use of sanitary wipes. These products do not break down in the sewer system and they can and do cause blockages and backups in your sewer lines and the township main lines, as well as the wastewater treat-

ment plant. Please dispose of these items in a waste can and do not flush in the toilet.

Don't Pollute Storm Sewer Drains

Please do not dump any type of fuel, pesticides or any other contaminants into our storm sewer drains. The drains are meant for rainwater only, as they empty into our streams and rivers.

Summer Help Wanted

Currently, there are a few positions open for seasonal help this upcoming summer with the Public Works Department. Eligible candidates would be students who have graduated high school and will be starting college or who are currently attending college.

Duties would include the following:

- Park maintenance
- Cutting roadside weeds and brush
- Sewer maintenance
- Road maintenance
- Line painting
- Storm cleanup

Interested individuals can download an application for employment at www.wilkins-township.com (click on DOCUMENTS>FORMS>WILKINS TOWNSHIP EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION) or stop by the Township office, 110 Peffer Road.

Two-Hill Sanitary Sewer Separation Project

W.A. Petrakis Contracting has begun work on Phase II of a \$2,240,959 project to separate stormwater and sanitary sewage lines where they are still combined in the Two-hill area of Wilkins, the oldest section of the Township. Heavy rains cause overflow into Thompson Run when the stormwater lines are at capacity, bringing along raw sewage.

The state Department of Environmental Protection has ordered the Township and other municipalities to separate the lines to prevent pollution of streams. This is the last area in the township where the two lines are still combined, said Scott Matthews, Public Works manager. Phase I of the project, completed by W.A. Petrakis in 2016, redirected lines in other parts of the Two-hill area. The current project was bid as two separate jobs, both of which the Commissioners awarded to W.A. Petrakis, the lowest responsible bidder.

The existing combined lines will remain to carry stormwater into Thompson Run. The new sanitary sewer lines will connect with the Township's existing system, which then flows into the ALCOSAN system. There are still at least three septic systems on residential properties in that area that will be eliminated by bypassing them with the new pipes.

The contractor will start on Larimer Avenue and work uphill. The area where the work will take place along roads, through backyards and up hills includes:

- McMasters Avenue from Semmens Street to Rebecca Avenue
- Thompson Street from Semmens Street to Rebecca Avenue
- Rebecca to the dead end of Thompson
- All of Rebecca Avenue
- Three or four houses on Negley Avenue
- From the Highland Avenue/Clugston Avenue split to Mortimer Avenue
- Mortimer Avenue from Spur Road to Highland Avenue.

Matthews reminds residents that all work will be done outside. No contractor should request access to private homes. Residents are encouraged to call 911 if someone attempts to access a home or is working directly on their property without permission of the township.

Work was scheduled to start in early 2022, pending a highway occupancy permit needed for work along Larimer Avenue. The project is expected to be completed by June 30, weather permitting.

Funding for the project totaling \$1,265,959 comes from two ALCOSAN GROW grants, a Community Develop-

ment Block Grant (CDBG), the Commonwealth Financing Authority and the American Rescue Plan Act. The township's \$975,000 contribution includes Combined Sewer Funds and an Emergency Contingency Fund Loan.

Fire Department continued from pg. 4

We Are in EXTREME Need of Firefighters

Have you ever thought to yourself, "I want to help, but don't know how" or "I always wanted to be a firefighter but just haven't taken that step yet?" Well, what are you waiting for?

Did you know the number of volunteer firefighters in PA has dwindled from over 300,000 in the 1970s to around 38,000 as of the last couple years? Every fire department needs new members, and we need them bad. Nobody is too old or too young. Young men and women can join our department at 14 years old.

No matter where you live, how old you are or what your availability is, we are always open and accepting of new members. Don't feel comfortable running into a burning building? That's ok, you don't have to. We can always use support on the fire scene with tools, air bottles, salvage, etc. All training is free to members, and nothing comes out of the members' pockets. We respond to a variety of different incidents and calls, and we do weekly in-house trainings.

This year, Wilkins Township Volunteer Fire Company #3 will be starting a new initiative to build membership. If you would like to join or have any questions, we would love to talk to you. Give us a call at 412-271-4000 and leave a message for Assistant Chief Brandon Sauter. We look forward to hearing from you!

Other Ways You Can Help



- United Way contributions can be directed to **your** fire company. Just go to <https://uwsdpa.org>. Our agency code is **2613**. We would like to thank all our friends and neighbors who supported us in 2021 and look for your continued support in 2022.

- Help us out in case of an emergency. Don't forget when you are out shoveling snow to please clean the snow around the fire hydrants that may be on or near your property. Thank you!
- Do you shop online? Amazon gives back to our fire company. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support your Wilkins Township Station #303 by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.
- Please consider joining the fire department as a firefighter! We pay all expenses including gear and training. Remember Wilkins Township is 100% volunteer! Check out our website at <http://wilkinstwp303.com/>.

Century Club of Wilkins Township

Spring is the time for renewal. This spring, we have a few interesting items to share with our members. We will be enjoying a speaker from an animal shelter, among other programs. This year, we are also holding our annual spaghetti dinner drive-up in April. Look for the signs and join us for a delicious meal.

We will be continuing our bag recycling project. By the end of April, we should have enough to add a beautiful bench that is made from Trex Recycling. If all goes well, we will continue this project through the summer. We are grateful for the support from the public. We are joining the township in a cleanup, which will be advertised through the township.

We continue to support our usual programs, like the Turtle Creek Food Pantry, our local firefighters, veterans who are hospitalized, the school nurse and Meals for Friends. To continue these and other programs, we are always looking for women who would like to come for a couple of hours once a month and enjoy the company of these devoted members. We serve light refreshments and lots of smiles. If you would like to join us, we meet at 7 p.m. at the Community Center on the second Tuesday of each month, from September through May. If you are tired of sitting in front of the TV and need a night out, then consider joining us and see what we are all about.

Meals for Friends

Meals for Friends has a few openings for new clients. Meals for Friends prepares and delivers delicious, appealing comfort food to senior and disabled members of the community who live in Wilkins

Township, Churchill, Forest Hills, Chalfant, most of Penn Hills and part of Turtle Creek.

Meals for Friends is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that is primarily run by volunteers. This independent, community-managed program operates out of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Eastmont. Meals are freshly prepared on-site each day of service.

For more information on receiving meals or volunteering to help prepare or deliver them, please call 412-824-2400. If no one answers, leave a message and your message will be promptly returned.

C.C. Mellor Memorial Library

Our Spring Art Auction is Back!

We're hosting a silent auction to benefit children's programming at the library! You can contribute by donating a piece of art you've made or by bidding on others' creations, or both. Donations will be accepted March 21-26, so start crafting your masterpiece now! The silent auction will be open for bidding in the CCM Edgewood Children's Room April 1-30. Winners will be contacted the first week of May. All proceeds benefit library programming for children.

Featured Adult Programs:

JOURNALING CLUB

Always wanted to keep a journal, but have a hard time staying consistent? You're not the only one! Join our journaling club to try out fun prompts and practice new styles. The group meets on Zoom on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. See our website for the Zoom info.

BOOK CLUBS

CCM hosts a wide variety of book clubs for readers of all tastes. Please check our website for up-to-date meeting location information as guidance regarding coronavirus safety continues to change.

Drop Dead Book Club

Mystery lovers unite, first Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m.

Fourth Tuesday Book Club

For readers of wide-ranging tastes, fourth Tuesday of each month, 1 p.m.

Century Book Club Read books from each decade of the 20th and 21st centuries, third Wednesday of each month, 7 p.m.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

CCM is home to several community groups. Please check our website for current meeting location information.

Clutterers Anonymous

Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Knitters

Mondays, second and fourth at 6:00 p.m.

Conversation Salon

Second Monday of each month at 10a.m. to 12 p.m.

Meets outside at Westinghouse Lodge.

Squirrel Hill Poetry Workshop

Every other Saturday at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Programs at CCM Edgewood:

Family Art Afternoon

Saturdays from 1 to 3 p.m. Every week we'll have a different project that will work for a variety of ages!

Family Storytime

Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Edgewood Club.

Every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Westinghouse Lodge in Forest Hills.

Makerspace Mondays

Build, tinker, make and create with a new technique every week!

Homeschool Book Club

Homeschool book club is back! Our *Chapter Chat* readers (geared toward ages 5-8) will try a new first chapter book series every month, while *Novel Ideas* (geared toward ages 9-12) will tackle middle-grade reads. At each meeting, we'll chat about the book, play fun games and make cool projects. Books are available at the children's desk or at the previous month's meeting. For a list of books, visit <https://ccmellorlibrary.org/childrens-programs/homeschool-book-club/>.

Second Friday of every month, September through May. *Chapter Chat* at 2 p.m., *Novel Ideas* at 3 p.m.

Teen Group

Teen Group is our laidback time each week to catch up and have fun. Play games, make projects, hang out and meet new friends. Visit <https://ccmellorlibrary.org/teen-programs/> for our list of activities. Every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. For ages 12 to 18.

Teen Book Club

Teen Book Club is also meeting in-person. Visit <https://ccmellorlibrary.org/teen-programs/> for the list of books. Third Monday of each month at 5 p.m.

COMPLETE PROGRAM LISTING

For a complete listing of upcoming programs and events, visit <https://ccmellorlibrary.org/programs-events/>. For all the latest news, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @ccmellorlibrary.

CAEC Offers Award for High School Seniors

Each year, the Churchill Area Environmental Council (CAEC), along with its member municipalities (Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills, and Wilkins), sponsors a graduation award for a high school senior living in the Woodland Hills School District (WHSD). Applicants for this monetary award must complete a project that makes an active, tangible contribution to environmental conservation, education, legislation, or research, particularly within the school district or the communities it serves. You can access the application at http://www.churchillborough.com/downloads/environmental-council/2020_21_CAEC_Graduation%20Award%20Application_Fillable.pdf.

Entries must be received by March 15 of the student's senior year. Projects may be done during any high school year. All high school seniors living in the WHSD are eligible. No preference is given to residents of any municipality in the school district.

Know What's Happening! Sign up for Savvy Citizen



Do you want to receive important notifications about what's happening in the township? Be sure to sign up for the Savvy Citizen app.

Savvy Citizen notifies you of the incidents and government-sponsored happenings and events. Events are populated by Township officials and notifications go out to subscribers. To learn more or subscribe, visit <https://www.savvycitizenapp.com/Citizen>.

Spring Ahead



At 2 a.m. **Sunday, March 13**, it's time to spring ahead into Daylight Savings Time.

Be sure to mark your calendar and turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!

Bicentennial Celebration Ends with a Bang!

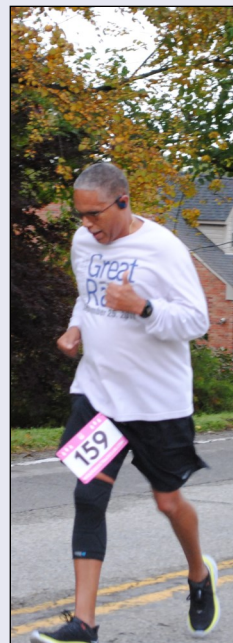
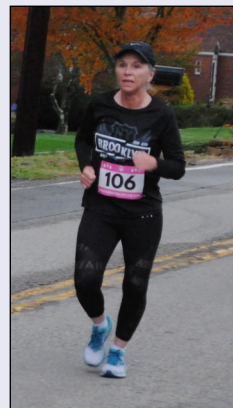
Wilkins Township's Bicentennial Celebration kicked off with a parade in September 2021 and extended into October and November with other activities.

The Wilkins Township 2021 Bicentennial & Halloween Run-Walk on Oct. 30 drew 75 participants, some in costumes, for the in-person and virtual events. The race started and finished at Wilkins Elementary STEAM Academy and wound through the scenic Penhurst neighborhood. Proceeds benefitted the Township's two volunteer fire departments. The race honored the memory of Wilkins resident Fred Hornung, who had participated in all previous community races prior to his passing at age 91 in February 2020.

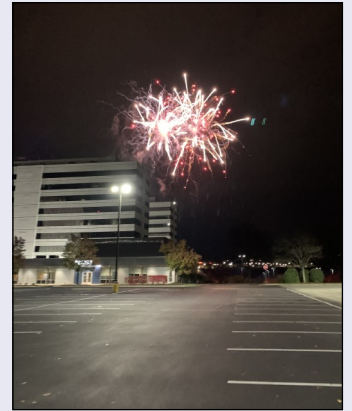
The grand finale of the Bicentennial Celebration took place on Nov. 13 with the burial of a time capsule at the Wilkins Township Municipal Building. The event included the unveiling of two plaques—one to honor the service of Wilkins Township #4 (Eastmont) Volunteer Fire Department, which disbanded in 2020 after serving the township for seven decades, and another dedicated to mark the Bicentennial Year. As dusk fell on Nov. 13, a beautiful Bicentennial fireworks display lit up the skies above Penn Center.

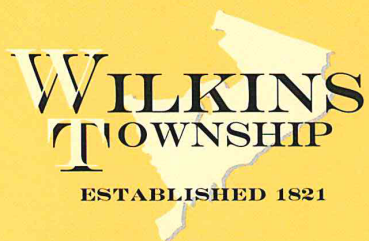
Many thanks to the Wilkins Township Bicentennial Committee for its dedication and hard work to make the 200th anniversary of the Township's founding a special one.

Wilkins Township 2021 Bicentennial and Halloween Run-Walk



Time Capsule Burial and Plaque Dedication





Wilkins Township
110 Pepper Road
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Board of Commissioners:
Sylvia Martinelli, President
Joseph Costa, Vice President
Michael Boyd, Commissioner
Mark Wells, Commissioner

Check out our website at:
www.wilkinstownship.com

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