



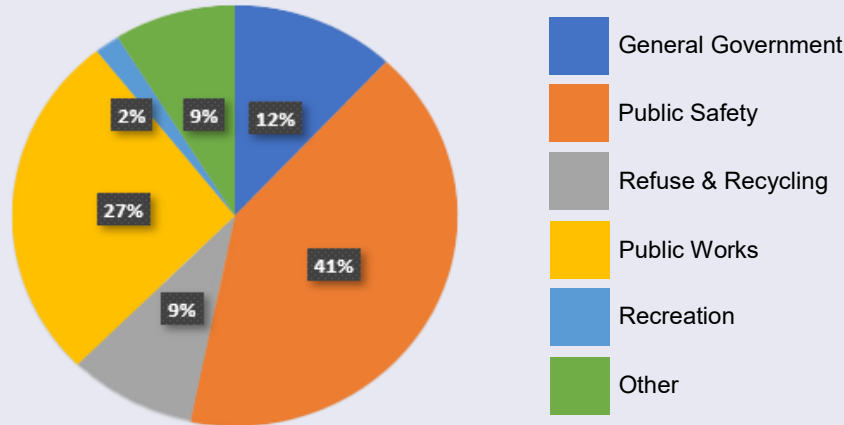
Wilkins Township Community Newsletter

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

www.wilkins township.com

contact@wilkins township.com

Spring 2023



Wilkins Township 2023 Budget

No Property Tax Hike for 2023

The Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners approved a 2023 General Fund municipal budget totaling \$6,554,400 that holds the property tax millage rate at 5.674. Tax bills will be mailed out in early March.

Expenditures for 2023 are further defined in the pie chart above. Public Safety expenditures include police, fire, emergency services and code enforcement. General Government includes administration, planning, legal and engineering, and insurance premium expenses. Other expenses include interfund transfers for specific projects.

For more information on the 2023 budget, please visit the Township website or contact the Township Manager.



Wilkins Township Schedule of Meetings Board of Commissioners 2023 (Approved November 7, 2022)

Month	Regular Meeting	2nd Stated Meeting
January	01/09/23	01/30/23
February	02/13/23	02/27/23
March	03/13/23	03/27/23
April	04/10/23	04/24/23
May	05/08/23	As needed ¹
June	06/12/23	As needed
July	07/10/23	As needed
August	08/14/23	As needed
September	09/11/23	09/25/23
October	10/09/23	10/30/23
November	11/13/23	11/25/23
December	12/11/23	As needed

All meetings will begin at 7:00 P.M., unless otherwise advertised. All meetings may also be accessed through Zoom. The Zoom link is posted on our website, wilkins township.com, prior to every meeting.

¹ The Second Stated Meeting falls on 05/29/23, Memorial Day

**Change your clocks!
Sunday, March 12, 2023**



**Spring
forward**

Get Public Safety Alerts on Savvy Citizen

As you all probably know, Wilkins Township utilizes the Savvy Citizen mass notification system to keep our residents, businesses and visitors informed, safe and engaged in the community. Text messages and/or emails are pushed out to everyone who registers, alerting them to community events and Township news.

The Police Department also uses this system to notify the public of any public safety concern, usually road closures due to accidents and fires, recent frauds and scams, and patterns of nuisance crimes, such as car break-ins. There are times, though, when these notifications are much more serious, and are a warning to the public during an in-progress incident that potentially creates a substantial risk to your safety. These messages can include direction from the Police Department to stay away from a certain area or to stay inside your home or business in a "lockdown" situation.

Know that we will provide as much detailed information as we can during notifications of this nature, but at times, the warnings can be vague for a number of law enforcement reasons.

When the situation is over, we will send a second notification advising that it is safe to return to your normal routine. We realize that these types of messages can be very scary to the community, and not knowing all the facts can cause a great deal of anxiety, but our main concern is for the safety and well-being of everyone involved. Again, there are times

when we will not be able to provide specifics as to the incident we are dealing with, but the alert will tell you what you can and/or cannot do to help your Police Department keep you, and all involved, safe.

I ask that you follow the direction given in these notifications. While our requests during these situations might inconvenience you, they could very well prevent harm to you and your family, neighbors, police officers and other emergency responders.

Recently, during a critical incident in one of our neighborhoods, we sent a Savvy Citizen alert. In an area where we would have normally seen numerous residents outside in their yards or walking their dogs, who would have caused a safety concern for themselves and police officers, everyone stayed inside. I believe our emergency notification had a lot to do with this and enabled us to keep our attention fully focused on the potential threat.

This system works as it was intended, as long as we have the public's cooperation. It has been my experience that the Wilkins Township community strongly supports the Police Department, so I know we can count on your attention and willingness to help.

If you would like to be included in the Savvy Citizen program, go to savvycitizenapp.com.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience. Thank you and be safe.

*Submitted by Randy O. Lamb, Chief of Police,
rlamb@wilkinstownship.com*

Bicycle Rodeo Planned for May 13

The Wilkins Township Police Department will host a Bicycle Rodeo at 10 a.m. on **Saturday, May 13, 2023**. The rodeo will take place at our Community Center, below the Township Building (110 Peffer Rd, Turtle Creek, PA 15145). Community Relations Officers Bob Lehew and Joe Wincko will coordinate the event, assisted by members of the Allegheny County Police Department and the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office.

The rodeo will include a riding skills safety course, helmet safety demonstrations, and bicycle inspections by Pro Bike Shop of Monroeville. To participate, you must bring a bicycle, and be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The Children's Hospital Hard-Head Helmet Program has donated bicycle safety helmets, which will be given out to all participants, and all children can register to win a bicycle! One boy's bike and one girl's bike will be given away at the event!

Wilkins Township's Volunteer Fire Departments and Woodland Hills EMS will also be on hand assisting with this fun and informative event. For more information, call us at 412-824-0032, or contact our community relations officers by email: Officer Bob Lehew at rlehew@wilkinstownship.com, or Officer Joe Wincko at jwincko@wilkinstownship.com. We hope to see you on May 13!



Clean-Up Wilkins!
Saturday, April 29, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Wilkins Community Center
120 Peffer Road



Join us on **Saturday, April 29, 2023** for our annual Clean-Up Wilkins day. All are welcome to meet us at 9 a.m. at the Community Center, 120 Peffer Road, 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 will come out to help, as will the Wilkins Elks and Century Club members.

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 beautiful!

Code Enforcement: Before You Sell Your Home

Wilkins Township Commissioners adopted the “Private Sanitary Sewer Lateral Testing” Ordinance on April 24, 2022. This ordinance requires that any property ready for sale in Wilkins Township must first have video footage of its sanitary sewer lateral taken by an Allegheny County registered plumber of the seller’s choosing. That footage should be submitted to the Township on a flash drive for review by our Public Works Department. The lateral inspection form, completed by the plumber performing the work, must also accompany the flash drive.

The Public Works Department staff reviews the video and enters any deficiencies seen on the footage into a sewer pipe rating computer program called WinCan. Based on the extent of any deficiencies observed, the staff determines whether the lateral passes or fails.

If a lateral fails the inspection, the seller is required to correct whatever caused the failure and then have new video footage taken of the lateral, which is then submitted to the Township for review. A new lateral inspection form must also be completed and submitted along with the new video footage. The seller of the property is responsible for ensuring their lateral passes the inspection prior to the sale. This responsibility cannot be transferred to a buyer.

The reason the Township adopted this ordinance was due to a mandate from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to reduce and/or eliminate any illegal surface or storm water that is infiltrating the Township’s sanitary sewer system, which is treated downstream by ALCOSAN (Allegheny County Sanitary Authority).



Public Works Notes

Yard Waste Dropoff

April 1 through April 30, there will be a Yard Waste drop off container behind the Public Works Garage at the Municipal Building. 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
- No paper recycling bags
- Remove dirt from root balls

Grass Clipping Composting

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

Help Wanted

At this time, we have a few Laborer positions open for full-time employment with our Public Works Department. We are also hiring seasonal help with the Public Works Department for this upcoming summer. Seasonal candidates would be students who have graduated from high school and will be starting or who are currently attending college. Duties would include the following:

- *Park maintenance
- *Road maintenance

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

Individuals interested in full-time or seasonal employment can stop by the municipal office for an application.

Sewer work and problems

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 course of the sewer work, we are still finding man-holes 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.

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, the township main lines, as well as the wastewater treatment plant. Please dispose of these items in a waste can and do not flush in the toilet.

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 directly into our streams and rivers.



WAIDA Board Openings: Volunteers Needed!

The Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners is seeking interested applicants to fill the position on the Wilkins Area Industrial Development Authority (WAIDA). The authority was formed in 1981, under the auspices of Wilkins Township, as an industrial development authority under Pennsylvania's Economic Development Financing Law, formerly the Industrial & Commercial Development Authority Law.

The mission of WAIDA is to foster job retention and creation in the Wilkins area and throughout Allegheny County. WAIDA achieves its mission primarily by issuing industrial development bonds for the benefit of entities in the process of construction, improvement, rehabilitation, revitalization and financing of industrial, commercial, manufacturing and research and development enterprises. In particular, WAIDA offers certain qualified nonprofit organizations, qualified manufacturers and other qualified beneficiaries a method of obtaining attractive interest rates since, under proper circumstances, the interest paid to the holder of bonds issued by WAIDA can be exempt from income taxes. Interested residents should possess a banking or finance background.

To apply, submit a letter and resume to the Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners, 110 Peffer Road, Turtle Creek PA 15145 or email Rebecca Vargo, Township Manager at rvargo@wilkinstownship.com.

Business Route 22 Improvements Slated for Spring 2023

Be prepared for delays and changes in traffic patterns when PennDOT begins construction this spring on the 4.2 miles of William Penn Highway (Business Route 22) between the Churchill interchange of the Parkway East, through Wilkins and just past Route 48 in Monroeville.

The road work will include resurfacing the road surface; upgrading drainage, guide rails and traffic signals; and sidewalk and curb ramps.

Construction is expected to occur throughout the 2023-24 road repair seasons during off-peak hours. Short-term, off-peak lane restrictions may occur. Long-term crossover setups, with around-the-clock single lane traffic in each direction, will be necessary for bridge work at two locations within the project limits when it occurs. Other detours around bridge structures along the road will be implemented as work progresses.

Griswold House Decorating Contest Winners

A special thank you goes out to all the residents who participated in our first Griswold House Decorating Contest. The committee really enjoyed going through the Township and looking at all the beautiful displays and decorations. Let's make 2023 bigger and brighter!

It was a very difficult decision, but the following are the 2022 winners:

First Place

Theis Family on Greensburg Pike



Second Place

Bryant Family on Penhurst Drive



Third Place

Montz and Smith Family
on McMasters Avenue



Fire Department News

Wilkins VFC #1



A Long and Proud Tradition

The current model of firefighting in Pennsylvania was born in Colonial times when members of the community turned out to fight fires in their towns. Many of the founding fathers of our country, including

George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, took up the challenge in their locales. While there were some informal groups of firefighters during this period, it is Benjamin Franklin who is credited with establishing the first volunteer fire service in Philadelphia in 1736. Both companies providing fire and rescue services for the Township are fully volunteer and have been for over 100 years.

While much has changed in firefighting technology, training, equipment and scope of service since then, that model has remained consistent — community volunteers turning out when summoned to fire or rescue emergencies. While all these changes have had a positive impact on the quality and professionalism of the fire/rescue services provided in the Township and surrounding communities, one change is getting dangerously close to crisis level.

The number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania is currently around 38,000. In the 1970s, that number was over 300,000. The numbers in our Township reflect similar declines in membership. All the while, the number of calls has increased significantly throughout the area. The decreasing number of volunteers can result in reduced manpower and slower response times for an emergency situation, as well as placing significantly increased time demands on the existing membership.

We annually ask for your financial support and are grateful for your donations. Now we are seeking the contribution of your time. If you have been looking to become involved with an organization that helps your fellow citizens in a unique and special way, we ask you to consider becoming a member. We have a wide range of membership levels, depending on the amount of time you can give and the type of service in which you want to be involved. You make the determination of whether you want to train to enter a burning building or if you would rather perform some of the many other duties required at the scene. Maybe you would rather provide needed skills outside the traditional firefighter role, such as mechani-

cal or administrative functions. The fire/rescue service is just like any small business, with a variety of tasks and responsibilities that require attention.

All costs associated with your membership are provided for you. Once again, you determine the extent of your involvement and the areas in which you would like to participate. Additional benefits include free classes at Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) through the FireVest scholarship program. You can earn an associate degree in the field of your choice, tuition free, in exchange for your service with the fire department.

While your family and work responsibilities are always the priority, your membership will afford you the opportunity to be involved with a group of individuals who have made service to others an important part of their lives. We are confident you will find the reward for your investment of time immeasurable.

Please feel free to stop by the station any Thursday evening to meet with members to answer your questions and see if this is an opportunity you would like to explore further. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please also check out our website at www.wilkins302.org. You can even fill out an application there.

Officers for 2023 and 2024

Chief - Josh Pasko

Deputy Chief - Jason Davis

Assistant Chief - Tim Marbella

Captain - Mitch Cohen

Lieutenant - Tony Davis

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 the trainers will contact you to arrange a class.

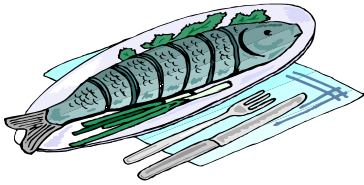
Wilkins VFC #3



In 2022, our company responded to **362 calls** in our Township and the surrounding communities. In 2021, we responded to 285 calls, including structure fires, flooding, carbon monoxide, auto accidents, evacuations of buildings and a variety of other emergencies. For more information, visit our website at www.wilkins303.com.

Mark Your Calendars! We will have a Fish Fry!

Our Lenten Fish fry starts on **Friday, February 24** and continues every Friday through April 7. Our fish vendor will be able



to get our “*Original Legacy Fish*” once again! **Currently, we are planning an eat-in or take-out service! Sorry, no drive-up service due to parking.**

We will have fish and shrimp dinners that include fries and coleslaw, fish sandwiches and shrimp dinners. Also, baked fish will be back! Macaroni and cheese, hush puppies and deviled crabs will be available. And soup, too! Please look up the latest information on our website.

2023 Combination Fund Drive

This past year has certainly presented some unique challenges for so many of us, so, we understand... give what you can afford. Wilkins Township VFC #1 and #3 will continue to combine the funds collected between both fire companies.

Thank you to those who turned in your 2022 donations to our fire companies. We appreciate your past support and your future donations. **Just a reminder, your donation is 100% tax-deductible.**

Give through United Way



United Way contributions can be directed to **YOUR** Fire Company. Visit www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org. **Our agency code is 2613.**

We would like to thank all our friends and neighbors who supported us in 2022 and look for your continued support in 2023.

Winter Care of Fire Hydrants

Don't forget when you are out shoveling snow to help us out in case of an emergency and clean the snow around the fire hydrants that may be on or near your property.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

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! Last year, Wilkins #3 celebrated 100 years of dedicated service! Check our website for more information!



Can you help? Volunteer Today!

We are in **EXTREME** need of firefighters. 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 www.wilkins303.com.

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 Pennsylvania has dwindled from over 300,000 in the 1970s to around 38,000 in 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 age 14.

No matter where you live, how old you are, or what your availability is, we are always open and accepting 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!

Century Club

Yay for spring! The Century Club has some fun events coming up this spring and all are invited to participate. Two important fundraisers are part of our schedule.

We are holding our Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, April 23 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center, drive-up only — look for the signs! On Primary Election Day, Tuesday May 16, we will hold our Bake Sale in the lobby of the Municipal Building, 110 Pfeffer Road.

We are also participating in Clean Up Wilkins on Saturday April 29, meeting at the Community Center at 9 a.m. for donuts before heading out to pick up trash. Pizza and prizes will follow at noon as we share the craziest things found. Vests, gloves and bags will be provided.

We are continuing to collect plastic including grocery bags with boxes at Kuhn's, the Municipal Building lobby and the Wilkins Elks, 718 Beulah Road. To date, we've donated two recycled-material benches to the Township and are hoping for two more in 2023. We get a bench for every 500 pounds of plastic collected.

Ladies of the Township are invited to come to our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. It is a great way to meet new people and learn new things. The money we raise goes to our Volunteer Fire Departments, Meals for Friends, C.C. Mellor Library and the local Food Pantry. Last year, we donated a total of \$1,950.



Brunch with the Bunny!



Once again, Peter Cottontail will be visiting the children of Wilkins Township. He plans on hopping in at **11 a.m. Saturday, March 25** at the Community Center, located behind the Municipal Building. Besides eating brunch and getting pictures taken with the bunny, we have other fun activities planned. We ask that parents please bring their cameras/phones for the photos.

Please mark your calendars and be ready to have a good time! The event is free to all residents' children **10** and under. We hope to see you there! **Please return this reservation form by Friday, March 16, 2023, to:**

Wilkins Township
Attn: Recreation Advisory Board
110 Pfeffer Road,
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Family Name _____	Phone Number _____
Address _____	
Child's Name _____	Age _____ Male or Female _____
Child's Name _____	Age _____ Male or Female _____
Child's Name _____	Age _____ Male or Female _____
Child's Name _____	Age _____ Male or Female _____
Email address _____	

THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRATION FORMS ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE. PLEASE INCLUDE PHONE NUMBER IN CASE THERE IS A CANCELLATION.

Only 2 adults per family may attend due to capacity of building.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Joy Vowelize of the Recreation Advisory Board at 412-758-3149 or via email at joyvoeltzel@yahoo.com. Doors open at 11 a.m. Sorry, no early entry.

Perfect Part-time Opportunity! Cook Needed for Meals for Friends

Meals for Friends, based out of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Eastmont, is offering a part-time opportunity to cook meals for approximately 40 clients who cannot cook for themselves. The cook also directs volunteers in the preparation of meals.

Hours are 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and 8 to 10 a.m. every other Thursday. Pay is \$15 per hour, with some paid time-off benefits. Feel good about yourself by helping to feed others. Fun, team-oriented environment. Also, volunteer opportunities exist for food prep workers and drivers. If interested, call Mary at 412-244-6444.



Tips from the Tax Collector

The 2023 Wilkins Township property tax bills will be mailed out in March 2023. As you may have seen previously, the good news is there will be **NO** tax increase in property taxes from Wilkins Township! The **discount period** to pay the taxes will end **April 30, 2023**. There will be in person hours at the Wilkins Township Municipal Building on the following dates:

April 18 & April 20	6 to 8 p.m.
April 22	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
April 25 & April 27	6 to 8 p.m.
April 29	10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Payments can also be dropped in the drop box located in the lobby of the Municipal Building.

Please include your phone number on the coupon or check in the event there is an error with your payment. Please do not staple your check to the envelope. Remember no cash payments are accepted. Checks or money orders only. Remember to sign your check. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like to have a receipt.

Taxes not paid by December 31, 2023 will be turned over to the delinquent tax agency. If you are buying, selling, refinancing your home, or if the mortgage has been paid off contact, the Allegheny County Real Estate Division at 412 350-4100. Updating the recorded information starts with Allegheny County.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Tax Collector Michelle Criner, at 412-824-6860 or mcriner@wilkins township.com. Thank you all for your kind words and continued support.

C.C. Mellor Library News



Update Your Home Library at the Annual Book Sale



C.C. Mellor Library Annual Book Sale

Does your book collection need a boost? Ready to swap out the old and make way for the new? C.C. Mellor (CCM) Library's annual book sale will take place March 4 through March 7. You'll find everything from coffee table books to cookbooks, history to mystery, literary fiction to picture books and everything in between, plus DVDs, music and more. Thousands of books, most priced at \$2 or under, will be looking for new homes, so you won't want to miss it! All proceeds benefit the library.

Friday, March 3 - Preview night, \$20 admission fee. Dealers welcome.

Saturday, March 4 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, March 5 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, March 6 - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (fill a grocery bag for \$6)

Tuesday, March 7 - 10 a.m. to noon (fill a grocery bag for \$6)

Interested in volunteering? Email Sharon Parrish at parrishs@ccmellorlibrary.org or call the library at 412-731-0909.

Resource Specialist Available

CCM's resource specialist is here to help. Thanks to a partnership between Allegheny County Library Association and the University of Pittsburgh, master's student Cassie Gaffney is interning at CCM Edgewood through the end of April as a resource special-

ist. She can help people fill out applications, make phone calls, set up appointments, apply for food stamps, find shelter vacancies, conduct job and housing searches, and find other information and resources. Cassie will host open hours on the second floor at CCM Edgewood on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m. She'll also be available by appointment. Email her at gaaffneyc@aclarlibraries.org.

Spring Plant Swap

Propagation projects gone overboard? In need of something green to nurture? Bring some sprouts, cuttings or whole plants and swap with friends and neighbors at CCM Edgewood on **Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** There will also be small pots and acrylic paints to decorate. It's a drop-in event, so come any time from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. No registration required.

Medicare Questions?

Get the scoop on Medicare! This free educational class will cover how and when to enroll, working past age 65 and delaying Part B, what Medicare does and does not cover, your expected costs, Supplemental versus Advantage insurance, Rx drugs and the "donut hole." Join us at CCM Forest Hills, 4400 Greensburg Pike, at **1 p.m. on April 22.**

Kick off your summer with C.C. Mellor on **June 6, 2023.** Mark your calendar now for our second annual Block Party to celebrate the start of summer at Westinghouse Lodge in Forest Hills! Last year's party included a visit from the Forest Hills Fire Department, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, glass blowers, Dad's Pub & Grub food truck, the ice cream truck and a whole bunch of fun, family activities. We tie-dyed shirts, made buttons and jewelry, did other crafts, played games and had a full day of family fun! This year's event will take place on Tuesday, June 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. We can't wait to see you there!

Our full slate of programming continues through the spring, and programs include Family Storytime; Baby Talk; Pajama Storytime; Makerspace Mondays; Teen Group; Tween Club; Homeschool Book Club; Picture Book Book Club; our adult book clubs; Relaxation, Meditation & Mindfulness; Conversation Salon at CCM Forest Hills; and Forest Hills Social Hour. Be sure to follow us on www.facebook.com/CCMellorLibrary and www.instagram.com/ccmellorlibrary and check our website www.ccmellorlibrary.org for the latest events and news!

Tinkergarten

Local community member Carley Young is teaching Tinkergarten classes on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. at Lions Park. Carley has an education background and has really been enjoying exploring Lions Park with local families this winter. The play-based outdoor curriculum guides parents on how to support an active, engaging, outdoor learning lifestyle for their family. Classes are limited to 15 families.

If you have any questions, please contact Carley Young at 352-346-0783 or carley.young@mail.Tinkergarten.com. For additional information, please visit www.tinkergarten.com/class.



WHEMS Subscription Drive Starts in February



Woodland Hills EMS will start our yearly subscription fund drive in February 2023. Residents will receive a mailer with information on how to subscribe, the benefits of becoming a subscriber, and how your subscription helps both you and the service. WHEMS has been the community-based EMS service in Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills, and Wilkins Township for the last 20 years. We look forward to serving our communities for the next 20 and beyond. We cannot do this without your help!

Over the past three years, many things have happened to affect our service and other EMS services in the area. High deductible plans through the Affordable Care Act, lowered insurance payments, COVID-19 related costs, and patients simply failing to pay their invoices have stretched our budget. In the past three years, we have seen five additional EMS services in Southwest Pa. close their doors. This has increased response times, treatment delays, and staffing shortages. Please help us continue to provide the service and commitment to the area that we strive to meet.

Currently, WHEMS receives small per capita payments from Braddock Hills, Churchill, Forest Hills, and Wilkins Township. This per capita payment is less than 2% of our operating budget. Our subscription drive helps, but with less than 23% of the residents participating, it affects purchasing of supplies, fuel, and training. Currently, Chalfant Borough is the only Borough that has entered into an agreement with Woodland Hills EMS where for a 0.5 mill property tax, Woodland Hills accepts any payments from insurance billing as full payment for all residents. WHEMS will also write off any treatment/no transport, lift assists, and community assist calls. If you face the need to call for help, this program helps remove any worries of additional costs associated in getting the care you need. Entering its third year, the

program is highly popular with both residents and community leaders.

Woodland Hills EMS recognizes the needs and issues facing not only ourselves, but the community as a whole. If you are having a problem paying for services, please contact Chief Frank Mastandrea at 412-351-9111. We are always willing to work with patients so that medical bills do not overwhelm families' budgets. If you have any questions regarding the subscription program or would like any additional information on how the EMS Services Tax works, please call the station at the number listed above.

Submitted by Frank Mastandrea, WHEMS Chief

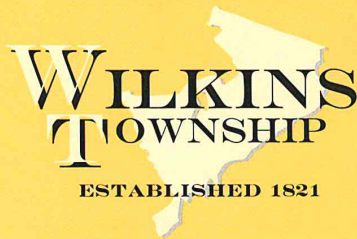
Churchill Wilkins Rotary Supports Rainbow Kitchen, Collects Winter Coats



The Churchill Wilkins Rotary donated 60 turkeys and more than 700 food items to the Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead to feed over 350 for the holidays. The Rotary also gave Rainbow Kitchen a check for \$1,000 to continue its good work in helping to feed those in the community who need extra help during the holidays and throughout the year.

The food items included yams, green beans, corn, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, turkey gravy, fruit cocktail, jellied cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling and brownie mix.

The food drive had a great start with new community support provided by Terry Lewis, Manager at the Wilkins Township Shop 'n Save, who donated 15 cases of assorted food. The Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club purchased 60, 14–16-pound turkeys from Kuhn's Market on Beulah Road with the assistance of Bob Bechtell, Meat Department Manager. Dr. Mike Szoko, Churchill Vision and Laser Center, coordinated the order and pick-up to complete the meals that fed over 240–360 people.



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT #5592

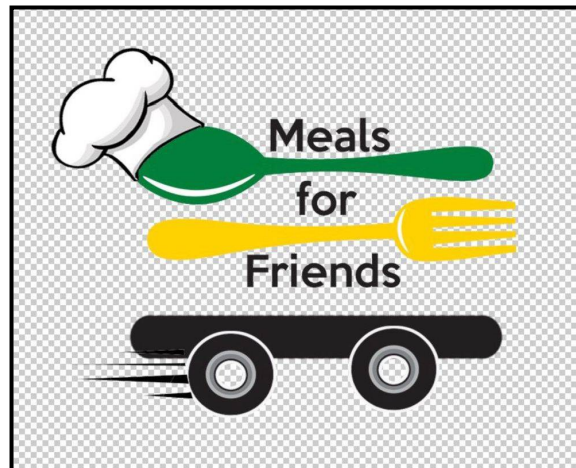
Wilkins Township
110 Pepper Road
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Board of Commissioners:

Sylvia Martinelli, President
Joseph Costa, Vice President
Michael Boyd, Commissioner
Brittney Pepper, Commissioner
Mark Wells, Commissioner

Check out our website at:
www.wilkins township.com

Meals for Friends Seeks Volunteers



Meals for Friends is looking for volunteers to help prepare delicious, appealing comfort food and deliver it to senior and disabled citizens who live in Wilkins Township, Churchill, Forest Hills, Chalfant, most of Penn Hills and Turtle Creek.

The program is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that is primarily volunteer run. This independent, community run operation is in 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.