

News To You

# WILKINS TOWNSHIP

Spring 2007

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Lunch with Santa

On behalf of Wilkins Township Recreational Advisory Board, we would like to thank Mac's for their mouth watering pizza that was served while waiting to see Santa! We would like to also thank Sedecy Puppets for the entertainment in which they provided. You could hear a pin drop. They had everyone's attention. A huge thank you goes to the Elks club for letting us have our luncheon there this year. Kudos's to Kelly Wilson for all her help and hard work, it was greatly appreciated. Last but not least, Thanks to Santa because without him the party wouldn't have been a success that it was! We had a great time. See you next year.



# NEWSPAPER RECYCLING

Thanks to Wilkins Township residents, the newspaper recycling program is flourishing. As President of the Century Club of Wilkins Township, Commissioner Sylvia J. Martinelli chose Abitibi and the newspaper recycling program as her project for 2007-2008.



Since its inception, the three bins, placed at the Municipal Building, Wilkins Township Fire Co. No. 4 on Frazier Drive and Wilkins Township Fire Co. No. 3 on Powell Street have tallied up a whopping 43.05 tons of paper. This relates to 132.32 cubic yards of landfill space that has been saved due to the recycling efforts of the residents.

Keep up the good work and remember - NO PLASTIC. Please be sure to remove the papers from plastic bags before putting them into the bins.



Wilkins Twp VFC #3 will hold its Annual Fish & Shrimp Dinners starting **Friday 2/23/2007 and every Friday in Lent from 4:00pm to 7:00pm and on Good Friday from 12:00pm to 7:00pm.**

The Firehouse is at located at 109 Powell Street. Across from the Dollar General, off the Greensburg Pike.

On the menu this year we will serve Macaroni & Cheese along with our other favorites, New England clam chowder, and Broccoli & Cheese soup for \$2.75. Deviled Crabs for \$1.25, Fish or Shrimp dinners for \$6.50 which includes a Mountain of Fries & Coleslaw. Fish sandwiches are \$5.00.

Eat at the firehouse with friends and neighbors or take home.

Our Ladies Auxiliary also makes homemade Haluski and Bake goods.

The fire hall is available for your next party, call for reservations early!

For more information call the firehouse at 412-271-4000.



# SPAGHETTI DINNER



The 10th Annual Century Club Spaghetti

Dinner will be held on April 22, 2007. It will be held at the Irene J. Pohl Municipal Building from 2P.M. until 6P.M. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

This includes mouth-watering spaghetti, homemade meatballs, salad, bread, butter, and coffee. There will also be a scrumptious bake sale and fantastic raffle.

Proceeds will benefit the charities of Wilkins Township.

Please join your neighbors for a delicious meal of home-cooking.

## *Join the Blackridge Swim Club for Summer 2007*

Are you looking for a way to stay cool this summer? Join the Blackridge Swim Club (BSC), an outdoor swimming facility located off Beulah Rd. in Churchill. The BSC is offering new members the opportunity to join the BSC for \$150.

BSC facilities include a five-lane, 25-yard lap pool, baby pool, grassy areas and sun deck, vending machines, and rest rooms with hot water showers. Children are invited to join the Barracudas, BSC's competitive swim team.

You can download an application for membership online. For this and more information about the BSC and the Barracudas, visit the BSC web site at [www.blackridge-bca.org/bsc](http://www.blackridge-bca.org/bsc). Or, call Kathy Schenkel at 412-371-8755.





# WILKINS TOWNSHIP BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

As a reminder the last day for registration will be Saturday, February 24th, 2007 at the Irene J. Pohl Building at 110 Peffer Road Turtle Creek from 10a.m. to 1 pm.

**NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 24TH, 2007.**

- T-Ball:.....5-6 years old
- Boys Little League: .....7-12 years old
- Boys Pony League: .....13-14 years old
- Boys Colt League: .....15-16 years old
- Girls Softball: .....7-15 years old

**REGISTRATION FEES**  
 Wilkins Township Residents.....Free  
 Out of Township Fee .....\$35.00

**JUST A REMINDER!**  
 United Way Contributions can be directed to YOUR Fire Company just click on to  
<http://www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org/>  
 Our agency code is 2613



## HERE COMES PETER COTTONTAIL!

It's time of year again when Peter Cottontail will be visiting the children of Wilkins Township. He plans on hopping in on Saturday March 31st at 1 p.m. to 4p.m. at the Elks Club on Beulah Road. You can also have your picture taken with Peter Cottontail and some other great things to do. Please mark your calendars and be ready to have a good time! The event is free to all children 10 and under to Wilkins Township residents. See you there!

Please mail this form to make reservation for your family by March 7th, 2007 to the:

Irene J. Pohl Building  
110 Peffer Road Turtle Creek, Pa 15145  
Attn: Recreational Advisory Board

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name/Age/M or F: \_\_\_\_\_

Childs Name/Age/M or F: \_\_\_\_\_

**THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRATION FORMS ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE. ALL CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER MUST LIVE IN THE TOWNSHIP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVITIES. PLEASE ENCLUDE PHONE NUMBER FOR CANCELLATION.**

# Sewage Overflow Basics and the

## Role of the Homeowner



### Sewage 101

Everyday, we flush the toilet, drain dirty bath water or perhaps pour old cooking oil down the sink drain without thinking about where it goes next.

The wastewater or sewage we generate in our homes travels through a pipe, called a house lateral, that connects your home to the public sewage system.

During dry weather, the sewage is adequately transported to the treatment plant. However, during rainy weather, much of the sewage overflows into our streams and rivers *before* it reaches the treatment plant. These overflows contaminate our local waterways where families swim, boat and fish.

With an average annual rainfall of 45 inches in Allegheny County, the sewage overflow problem has become a critical issue.

### What causes the sewage to overflow?

During wet weather (rain or snow melt), too much stormwater gets

into the separate sanitary sewer system, which is the set of pipes designed to carry only wastewater. The pipes are not able to handle the extra volume of stormwater during rainy weather, so raw sewage overflows into our waterways before reaching the treatment plant. Most newer communities have these separate sanitary sewer systems; the stormwater is carried in a separate system and is discharged directly into our rivers and streams. However, some older communities have combined sewer systems, which carry both waste and stormwater in the same set of pipes. Check with your municipality to find out which type of system your community uses.

### How does the stormwater get into a sanitary sewer system?

A significant part of the overflow problem is linked to improperly connected roof and driveway drains and deteriorating house laterals, which allow stormwater to get into a separate sanitary sewer system.

This inflow results in overloading and overflows. Many communities now test for improper or poor connections with a dye that traces the path of stormwater from your home's drains and rain spouts. Homeowners are responsible for removing improper connections and repairing deteriorated laterals. New technologies can make parts of the repair possible without digging up a homeowner's property.

Stormwater can also enter the sanitary system through cracked or broken pipes. This is called infiltration. Allegheny County suffers from a deteriorated and aging sewer system, which increases the likelihood of infiltration during wet weather.

### Why is the sewage overflow issue important?

These overflows not only violate the federal Clean Water Act, but they cause a host of other problems for communities and the region as a whole.

-over-

- Raw sewage in our waterways causes a public health risk.
- Families in downstream communities may experience chronic basement backups.
- Water quality may be unacceptable for boating, swimming or fishing for many days after it stops raining.
- Children can be exposed to raw sewage from overflowing manholes in the street or by playing in streams and creeks.
- 90% of Allegheny County residents get their drinking water from the three rivers.
- Overflows can kill fish and other river and plant life.
- It impedes economic development because communities can be restricted from tapping into sewers to build new houses or businesses until the problem is corrected.

### **What is being done about the problem?**

Municipal officials from communities in the ALCOSAN (Allegheny County Sanitary Authority) service area have been meeting for more than a year to work on cooperative strategies to solve the problem. (ALCOSAN is the sewage treatment plant for 83 Allegheny County communities.)

The 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program is a non-profit organization committed to helping these municipalities find the most cost-

effective, long-term solution to the sewage overflow crisis. The organization provides federal grant money, explores the latest technologies and encourages inter-municipal cooperation to help solve the problem.

In early 2004, the Environmental Protection Agency distributed an administrative consent order requiring the ALCOSAN communities to complete specific activities, such as mapping, cleaning and televising the sewer system and making critical repairs. Then communities must complete flow monitoring, which indicates how much wastewater (and in some cases, stormwater) the sewage system is carrying during both dry and wet weather. This information will help communities develop a long-term wet weather control plan, in cooperation with ALCOSAN to sustain rehabilitation efforts into the future.

### **What is my role as a homeowner?**

As a homeowner, you can check with your municipality to find out if your community uses a separate sanitary sewer system. If your community has a separate sanitary system, ask the municipality how you can have your stormwater drains tested to ensure they are not improperly connected to the sewer system. If your storm drains are connected to the sewer system, you may want to consult a professional to correct the problem.

Consider installing a rain barrel in your yard or garden. During wet weather, the barrel collects

stormwater through your home's downspout. During dry weather, a hose connected to the barrel allows water to seep out to water your yard or garden. This helps to control stormwater, which contributes to sewage overflows polluting our waterways.

In addition, homeowners can support their municipality's efforts to repair or replace the public sewage system in order to comply with the EPA order. Fixing the problem in Allegheny County will require a substantial financial investment and while municipalities are seeking the most cost-effective methods for a solution, homeowners can expect higher sewage rates over the coming years. It will take the cooperation and support of many individuals and communities to ensure a solution that will protect our region's water resources.

### **For more information**

Contact your municipality for more specific information about the sewer system in your community or if you are interested in purchasing a rain barrel, call 3 Rivers Wet Weather at 412-578-8375 or visit our web site at [www.3riverswetweather.org](http://www.3riverswetweather.org)



# PUBLIC WORKS NOTES

The snow season is here! Please remember that parking is not permitted in cul-d-sacs and turnarounds. If you park on a narrow street please make sure you leave enough room for the salt truck and snow plow to pass.

A number of residents have portable basketball goals for their children's use. If you have one please remember that they should not be left in the street. They pose a hazard to drivers as well as causing a problem with snow removal. If you want to leave them setup, we suggest you place them in the yard at the curb line with just the rim hanging out over the curb. We appreciate your cooperation!

The Township maintains a composting facility that is located behind the ball field at Linhart Park. There is a large "pile" of composted leaves from last year. It is very nice material and you are free to use it at no charge. Please note that this is limited to resident's use at their homes only and is not available to contractors and landscapers for commercial use.

Township workers are still at work cleaning and video inspecting sewer lines throughout the Township during the winter months. They do carry identification and are required to show it if asked. During the course of the sewer work we are finding a number of 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. The dye testing of downspouts and driveway drains is still underway. Again, while they will need to enter yards, under no circumstances do any of these workers need to enter any homes or businesses. Should someone want to enter your home using the pretext of working for the Township, you should notify 911 immediately.

While snow may be on the ground, we are already making plans for the largest paving program in the history of the Township. Contracts have already been awarded for the reconstruction of Gilmore Drive, Rita Drive and Dunbar Drive between Jefferson Hts. and Kingston Drive. We are in the process of bidding out work to reconstruct Sunset Drive, Sylvia Lane, Wilbur Avenue, Ivy Street, Ridge Street and Mortimer Avenue between Saw Mill and Highland. The Township's Public Works crew will be paving Baker Street, Barnes Avenue, Cherry Way, Highland Avenue between Negley and Mortimer, Upper Mortimer Avenue and Farnsworth Avenue. Work on these projects is expected to begin in April and continue throughout the summer.

In closing we would like to extend our sympathy to Mae Franc, the Township's secretary who recently lost her husband Andy. To Chester Jeznach, the retired foreman of Public Works who lost his wife Pat and to Ida Means who lost her husband John, our retired Township Solicitor. All of these families dedicated their lives to the Township and they have our deepest regrets.

# Wilkins Township Fire Department News

All Wilkins Township Fire Companies are looking for new members. There are so many different tasks to be taken care of. (Fundraising, administrative help, cleaning the trucks, responding to calls, etc.) Most people think if you join the Fire Department you have to respond to fire a call; that is an untrue statement. Each company has different classes of membership to suit your volunteerism. Every job with the fire department is very important; we can't do one without the other. Any interested parties stop in and check us out! If you would like any information regarding membership or have any other questions, please contact one of the Fire Stations or stop in on a Thursday night between 7pm and 9pm during our practice night.

<b>Wilkins Twp. # 1</b>	<b>412-829-0530</b>	<b>835 Railroad Street</b>
<b>Wilkins Twp. # 3</b>	<b>412-271-4000</b>	<b>109 Powell Street</b>
<b>Wilkins Twp. # 4</b>	<b>412-823-2322</b>	<b>205 Frazier Drive</b>

## DID YOU KNOW????

To outfit a single Firefighter completely in protective clothing cost approximately \$2500 per firefighter. This includes the helmet, protective jacket, protective pants, protective head covering, boots and gloves.

## As a reminder to all residents.

If you have Fire Hydrants in your yards or on the road close to your home, please shovel the snow around them in heavy snows. In the event of an emergency fire departments will have easy access to them. The Wilkins Township Volunteer Fire Companies annual fund drive for 2007 has begun. Please as in the past be as generous as you can to support your local fire department. We are counting on you as you can count on us! We Thank You for your support.

## Wilkins Township Fire Department 2007 Line Officers

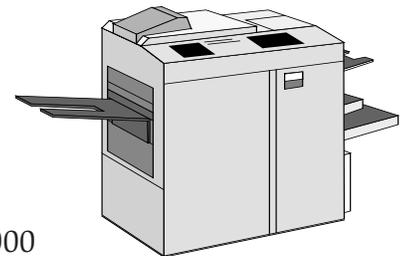
	<b><u>Wilkins # 301</u></b>	<b><u>Wilkins # 303</u></b>	<b><u>Wilkins # 304</u></b>
<b>Chief:</b>	Paul Romanelli	Ron Bair	Bill McElheny
<b>Asst. Chief:</b>	Jason Petri	Ed Bruener	Mary Beth Bowler
<b>Captain:</b>	Darren Hill	Nick Slobodnyak	Brian Onderick
<b>1st Lieutenant:</b>	Stephanie Kucic	Dan Romanelli	Carl Walzer
<b>2nd Lieutenant:</b>	John Karavlan	Kevin Lichtenfels	Donna Onderick

## Wilkins # 3 Want ads

We are in the need of office equipment!

- Looking for a functioning Laser Jet Printer.
- Also in the need of a Quality copier.

If you know of any used office equipment please contact us at 412-271-4000



We are also looking for someone with Artistic abilities to assist us with the Plaque program that we initiated. We have a wall in the entrance to our banquet hall that we would like to design to recognize the residents and business that have supported our Plaque program. Any ideas would be greatly appreciated! Give us a call at 412-271-4000.



PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TURTLE CREEK, PA  
PERMIT NO. 170

Wilkins Township  
Recreation Advisory Board  
110 Peffer Road  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

Patty Stewart, President  
Richard Voeltzel, Vice President  
Joy Voeltzel, Secretary  
William Stewart, Treasurer  
Joe Costa  
Beth Humberston  
Richard E. Wise

Check out our web site at:  
[www.wilkins township.com](http://www.wilkins township.com)

## VACANCIES ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

The Board of Commissioners is seeking interested Township residents to fill the following open positions. Township residents should submit a letter of interest to:

Rebecca Bradley  
Township Manager  
110 Peffer Road  
Turtle Creek, PA 15145

no later than February 28, 2007

**Wilkins Township Recreation Advisory  
Board Member - 2 year term**

**Wilkins Township Planning Commission  
- 1 year term**

## PLEASE HELP THE WOODLAND HILLS MARCHING BAND AND IMAGE STUDENTS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT AT THE SAME TIME!

Bring your recyclable paper to the bright green and yellow recycling bin located in the parking lot of the Administration Building of the Woodland Hills School District, 2430 Greensburg Pike, in Churchill. Recyclable paper includes: newspaper, computer paper, magazines, glossy paper, office paper, shredded paper. Cardboard, telephone books and plastic are NOT accepted.