

# WILKINS TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1821

Winter 2009

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### Wilkins Township Light Up Night 2008

Light up night was a huge success this year. There were so many neat things to do. The children were able to do coloring pages and reindeer crafts. Thanks to Snowball the strolling puppet that stopped and chatted with all the children that attended. Thanks to Debbie Huffman who read Christmas stories to the children that were able to sit still. A Special thanks goes out to all the children that patiently waited in line to have artist Ms



Manuela Kuchta do

their face caricature. With all the cold we even had a lighted hayride for all that braved the weather and then had hot chocolate to warm up again. A very special thank you goes out to Santa because he made the sure that every child that attended got their picture taken and received a special gift from him. The Recreation Advisory Board would like to thank Mr. Bob Skrbn who donated the Christmas tree for this event it was beautiful. Thank you to every one that came and who volunteered their time that helped make it the best Light Up Night yet! See you next year. ■



*Joy Voeltzel Secretary Recreation Advisory Board*

## Baseball-Softball Sign-Ups

The registration dates and times for the 2009 baseball and softball season are:

January 30th from 6-8pm    January 31st from 1-3pm    February 6th from 6-8pm    February 8th from 1-3 pm

Location: The Italian Club, Old Rodi Road, Wilkins Township

2009 Fees are:    Tee Ball - \$25.00    7 & 8 - \$ 35.00    9 & 10, 11&12 - \$55.00    Pony - \$ 70.00

There is a \$10.00 discount per child for multiple children registering.

The Township is looking to grow participation in baseball and softball, so please join in on the fun. Our goal is to field at least one team for every age group. Come out and meet the new President and board members at the registration or at our next board meeting on January 8th 2009 @ 7:00pm at the Italian Club. All parents are welcome.

If you have any questions or want further information, please contact the new president of the association, Jim Murray at 412-823-8577 or via email [jimmurr@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmurr@hotmail.com). ■





# Lunch with Peter Cottontail



It's that time of year again when Peter Cottontail will be visiting the children of Wilkins Township. He plans on hopping in on Saturday March 28th at 12 p.m. at the new Community Center behind the Municipal Building. You can also have lunch and 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 residents' children 10 and under.  
Anyone over 10 years of age there will be a charge of \$ 3.00 per person.  
See you there!

Please mail this form to make reservation for your family by March 9th, 2009, to the Attn: Recreation Advisory Board 110 Peffer Road Turtle Creek, Pa 15145

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Adults 10 and over attending: \_\_\_\_\_



THERE WILL BE NO REGISTRATION FORMS ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE.  
PLEASE INCLUDE PHONE NUMBER FOR CANCELLATION.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Joy Voeltzel secretary of the Recreation Advisory Board at 412-824-4523 or via email at joyvoeltzel@yahoo.com.

Would you like to receive . . .

from the Wilkins Township's Recreation Advisory Board's events that are planned for the children and reservations forms via email?

Please email Joy Voeltzel the secretary of the Recreation Advisory Board at **HYPERLINK "mailto:joyvoeltzel@yahoo.com" joyvoeltzel@yahoo.com**

and let her know that your family would like to be put on the email data base listing for all Wilkins Township events. You can receive your reservations forms for the Lunch with Peter Cotton Tail, Pumpkin Patch Party, Light Up Night and The Summer Festival and any other events planned. This will insure that you have your family reserved early and save a stamp!

# Fertilizer - Pets Clean Water



**You fertilize** the lawn. Then it rains. The rain washes the fertilizer along the curb, into the storm drain, and directly into our creeks and rivers all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen needed by fish to survive. So if you fertilize, please follow directions and use sparingly.

## Clean Water is Important to all of us.

It's up to all of us to make it happen. In recent years sources of water pollution like industrial wastes from factories have been greatly reduced. Now, more than 60 percent of water pollution comes from things like cars leaking oil, fertilizers from farms and gardens, and failing septic tanks. All these sources add up to a big pollution problem. But each of us can do small things to help clean up our water too—and that adds up to a pollution solution!

### Why do we need clean water?

Having clean water is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean water provides recreation, commercial opportunities, fish habitat, drinking water and adds beauty to our landscape. All of us benefit from clean water—and all of us have a role in getting and keeping our lakes, rivers, marine and ground waters clean.

### What's the problem with fertilizer?

Fertilizer isn't a problem if it's used carefully. If you use too much fertilizer or apply it at the wrong time, it can easily wash off your lawn or garden into storm drains and then flow untreated into lakes or streams. Just like in your garden, fertilizer in lakes and streams makes plants grow. In water bodies, extra fertilizer can mean extra algae and aquatic plant growth. Too much algae harms water quality and makes boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant. As algae decay, they use up oxygen in the water that fish and other wildlife need.

### Clean Water Tip:

*How can you fertilize and help keep our water clean?*

- Use fertilizers sparingly. Many plants do not need as much fertilizer or need it as often as you might think.
- Don't Fertilize before a rain storm.
- Consider using organic fertilizers; they release nutrients more slowly.
- Use commercially available compost or make your own using garden waste. Mixing compost with your soil means your plants will need less chemical fertilizer and puts your waste to good use. Commercial compost and soil improvements may be available from your local garden store.



**When your pet** goes on the lawn, remember it doesn't just go on the lawn. Rain washes all that pet waste and bacteria into our storm drains. And then pollutes our waterways. So let's all dispose of it properly (in the toilet, unwrapped, or in the garbage, well-wrapped, or in the yard, buried) – not in the gutter or storm-drain.

### What's the problem with pet waste?

It's a health risk to pets and people, especially children. It's a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is full of bacteria that can make people sick. If it's washed into the storm drain and ends up in a lake, stream or marine water, the bacteria ends up in shellfish. People who eat those shellfish can get very sick. The waste produced by Seattle's dogs and cats is about what a city the size of Renton or Kennewick – about 50,000 people—would produce. Unless people take care of it, the waste enter our water with no treatment.

### Clean Water Tip:

*How can you get rid of pet waste and help keep our waters clean?*

- Scoop it up and flush it down the toilet. That's best because then your community sewage treatment plant or your septic system treats the pet waste.

- Place animal feces and littering into double plastic bags, place it outside the refuse container.
- Bury small quantities in your yard where it can decompose slowly. Dig a hole one foot deep. Put three to four inches of waste at the bottom of the hole. Cover the waste with at least eight inches of soil. Bury the waste in several different locations in your yard and keep it away from vegetable gardens. ■



City of Pittsburgh  
Department of Public Works,  
Bureau of Environmental Services,  
3001 Railroad Street,  
Pittsburgh PA 15201.  
412-255-2773 / 412-255-2631

This information's brought to you by the Water Quality Consortium, a group of public agencies working together to reduce nonpoint water pollution through education. Partially funded by a Centennial Clean Water Fund grant from Washington State Department of Ecology

## What's Going On?

Happy New Year and welcome to what promises to be a great 2009 in the Township of Wilkins! As we step forward into the New Year, I am pleased to update you on the following two recreational projects.

**Community Center:** The Community Center (behind the municipal building) is in the final stages of completion and is expected to open before this summer. Funding for this project came from the Department of Community and Economic Development (\$120,000) and the Wilkins Township Industrial Development Authority (\$30,000). Thank you to Representative Paul Costa, Senator Jay Costa and the IDA Board for their help on this important community asset. The Community Center will be used to provide senior, teen and youth activities; police officer training; Recreation Advisory Board events and will also be available to the public for rental. Look for more details in the next edition of the newsletter, or on the Township's website, [HYPERLINK "http://www.wilkinstownship.com"](http://www.wilkinstownship.com) [www.wilkinstownship.com](http://www.wilkinstownship.com).

# FIRE CO. No.3



## 2008 a year at a glance!

Our company responded to 189 calls in our Township and the surrounding communities. Some were structure fires, flooding, carbon monoxide, auto accidents, evacuations of buildings and any other emergencies that you can think of. We purchased new water pumps to pump out basements and flooded areas, new safety vests, and a new deck nozzle for truck 303.

We had several members that celebrated milestone years of service and dedication to the Township and the fire company.

Richard Voeltzel	20 years
Nick Slobodnyak	20 years
William "Gabe" Gabriel	45 years
Fran Colonello	45 years
Hank Maroda	60 years
David Shafer	60 years
Bob Skrbín	60 years

In our banquet hall we purchased comfortable chairs to go around the new tables! We also replaced the hall floor! You can book your reservations for 2009 by calling the firehouse at 412-271-4000

Mark your calendars!  
Lenten fish fry starts on February 27th thru April 10th

We would like to thank all of our friends and neighbors for your support in 2008 and look for your continued support in 2009.

Don't forget when you are out shoveling snow help us out in case of an emergency and clean the snow around the fire hydrants.

### *Just a reminder!*

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



## Wilkins Clean-up

This second annual event will be held on Saturday April 25, 2009. Any one wishing to join the energetic group of residents who were with us last year, please meet at the Community Center at 9am for a continental breakfast, sponsored by the Wilkins Senior Citizens. After a morning of picking – up litter from our roadways, the group will meet back at the center for a pizza lunch from the Century Club.

Last year we had over 50 people involved. We hope to have a greater number this year. If you are interested in donating to the event please contact us. The Century Club and its members are the coordinators for the event. ■



## Members Still Needed

All Wilkins Township Fire Companies are looking for new members.

There are so many different tasks to be taken care of. (Fund raising, administrative help, cleaning the trucks, responding to calls, etc.) Most people think if you join the fire service you have to respond to fire a call; that is an untrue statement. Each company has different divisions of membership to suit your volunteerism. Every job with the fire company is very important. We can't do one without the other. Any interested parties please stop in and check us out! Also residents can check out our new membership recruitment site **HYPERLINK "<http://WWW.GETONTHE TRUCK.ORG>"** [WWW.GETONTHE TRUCK.ORG](http://WWW.GETONTHE TRUCK.ORG). The website was designed for all of the Fire Departments in the Woodland Hills School District to help with membership and any questions one may have about joining the Fire Department. 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 practices or call one of the stations below. ■

**Wilkins Twp. # 1**  
412-829-0530  
835 Railroad Street

**Wilkins Twp. # 3**  
412-271-4000  
109 Powell Street

**Wilkins Twp. # 4**  
412-823-2322  
205 Frazier Drive



## The Pumpkin Patch Party 2008

The Pumpkin Patch Party was held at the Wilkins Primary School on Saturday October 25th and was an enjoyable event. Even the rain couldn't dampen the children's spirit. Our Thanks to Dennis Bowman who came and put on a great show with Chester Drawers for all to see, and then Dennis showed us how storms are brewed. The kids just loved it and had a great time and the costumes were adorable. Thanks to the Road Crew, we even got in a few hayrides. Thank you to all the parents who came and made it a huge success. "Kudos's" to everyone who volunteered their time in making the Pumpkin Patch Party a fun day! The Recreation Advisory Board hopes to see you at next year's party. ■



## Improving Public Records Access

My name is Peter McCarthy and I am the Records Management Intern for the summer of 2008. I obtained this internship through the Local Government Academy. I am originally from the Philadelphia area, but I am currently a Master's student at Carnegie Mellon University. As a recipient of the Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service, I am required to complete a summer internship with the government at the federal, state, or local level. Looking to stay in the Pittsburgh area and contribute to the local government, I chose Wilkins Township for my summer internship. As the Records Management Intern, one of my goals for the summer was

to make public records more accessible in compliance with Pennsylvania's Right-To-Know Law. I have done this in two ways.



The first is the microfilming of Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, resolutions, and ordinances. By doing so, the public will be able to access all minutes, resolutions, and ordinances on record with the aid of the microfilm reader located in the Irene J. Pohl Municipal Building. Additionally, the microfilm reader is capable of printing images from the microfilm. Currently, minutes from 1901 to 1975

have been microfilmed and are available to the public. The rest of the records are currently being microfilmed and they should become available to the public in the near future.

The second way I have improved access to public records is through the purchase of a document scanner. With this document scanner, it is possible to scan certain public records that have been requested and email them to the requestor rather than charging for copies, paying for postage, and sending them through the mail. ■

Whats going on? continued

**Lions Park:** The Township was recently notified that funding in the amount of \$25,000 has been awarded to develop a Master Site Plan for Lions Park. Lions Park has been a work in process for several years. The first phase of development included filling in the ravine by the playground to expand the site. Future projects include rerouting the entrance to the park from Miller Street to Greensburg Pike and working with a consultant to determine what recreational equipment and surfaces should be made available and how they will be placed on the site.

For more information about what is new in Wilkins, please visit the Township's website, or attend one of the Commissioners' Meetings. The Wilkins Township Board of Commissioners meets the second and last Monday of each month, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Irene J. Pohl Municipal Building, 110 Peffer Road, Turtle Creek, PA 15145. For directions or more information, please feel free to contact us: 412-824-6650.

#### 2009 Budget

The Board of Commissioners adopted the 2009 budget on December 8, 2008. Budgeted revenues and expenditures for 2009 are: \$5,281,800. The millage rate (4.513) remains unchanged. The 2009 Budget is available for further review on the website, or by request at the Manager's Office. Prior years' budgets are available on-line as well.

#### At A Glance:

##### Revenues

Real Estate Taxes:	\$ 1,519,000
Act 511 Taxes:	\$ 1,366,400
Licenses & Permits:	\$ 90,000
Fines & Forfeits:	\$ 56,500
Beginning Balance:	\$ 1,155,000*
Grants:	\$ 140,000
Public Safety:	\$ 54,000
Other Revenues:	\$ 900,900
Total Revenues:	\$ 5,281,800

##### Expenditures

General Government:	\$ 750,200
Public Safety:	\$ 1,926,500
Sanitation/Refuse:	\$ 399,200
Public Works:	\$ 1,180,400
Recreation:	\$ 59,200
Debt Service:	\$ 0
Intergovernmental:	\$ 6,000
Refunds:	\$ 960,300
Total Expenditures:	\$ 5,281,800

\*Escrow for refund (\$ 950,000)



Catch the  
Reading Bug!

C.C. Mellor  
Memorial Library

1 Pennwood Avenue • Edgewood, Pa 15218 • 412-731-0909  
HYPERLINK "<http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org>" [www.ccmellorlibrary.org](http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org)

#### New Library Hours:

Starting January 2, the library will have new hours of operation:

Monday-Thursday: 10am-8pm

Friday: 10am-5pm

Saturday: 9am-4pm

Sunday: CLOSED

#### Programs for Children:

Looking for something to do during the cold days of winter? Look no further! We have programs planned for children of all ages, both during the week and on weekends. A complete list of programming is available on our webpage (HYPERLINK "<http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org>" [www.ccmellorlibrary.org](http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org))

Story hour returns January 6 – Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings at 10:30 and Wednesday afternoons at 1:30.

Saturday, February 7, 11:00 – Valentine's Day crafts

Saturday, March 28, 1:00 – Wii gaming at the library

All events are free, but many require preregistration. Call the library for further information.

#### Mr. Rogers Quilts Revealed:

The quilting group that meets weekly at the library has been hard at work on two special quilts they created in conjunction with last year's One book, one community selection, I'm proud of you: My friendship with Fred Rogers by Tim Madigan. Bring the whole family to the library Saturday, January 31 from 1pm-3pm for activities and, of course, the unveiling of the two quilts. One quilt will be raffled off to help support the library. Please won't you be our neighbor and join us for this special event.

#### Annual Book Sale:

The Annual Book Sale is back and bigger than ever. We have a huge assortment of books and audio visual materials that would love to find a new home with you! Stop by and add something to your personal library.

Saturday, March 21: 9am-5pm

Sunday, March 22: 9am-5pm

Monday, March 23: 3pm-8pm\*

Tuesday, March 24: 3pm-8pm\*

\*bag sale days – fill a bag that the library provides with your favorites for only \$5! ■

# TOWNSHIP OF WILKINS RECYCLING CALENDAR

## HOLIDAYS OBSERVED ARE:

NEW YEAR'S DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, JULY 4TH, LABOR DAY, THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS.

PICK-UP WILL BE DELAYED ONE (1) DAY AS A RESULT OF THESE HOLIDAYS.

### January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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### March

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### April

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### May

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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31						

### June

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### July

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### August

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30	31					

### September

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### July

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### August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30					

### September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

RECYCLING IS PICKED UP BI-WEEKLY ON THE DAY OF THE WEEK THAT IS SCHEDULED FOR REFUSE  
PICK UP RECYCLING DAYS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

# WILKINS TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1821

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  
Beth Humberston  
Elizabeth Kostandinu  
Slyvia Martinelli  
Alyce Katsur  
Margo Epstein

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

## Wilkins Shining Seniors



The Wilkins Township Senior Citizens are pleased to announce a busier schedule this year. Each meeting will challenge your mind and/or body. We will have thought provoking as well as entertaining meetings each month. Our trips are always fun and exciting. Please join us to make new friends and hold on to the seasoned ones. Meetings days are the third Thursday of each month at 1pm. For more information call Sylvia Martinelli at 412-823-8696. ■

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

## Spaghetti Dinner

The Century Club of Wilkins Township cordially invites all residents and non-residents to the annual Spaghetti Dinner. The event will take place at the Municipal Building (or new community center) on Sunday March 22, 2009. As of this news release, the price has not been set; however, everyone knows it will be the MOST delicious spaghetti in town for the MOST reasonable price. The event begins at 2:00 and will close at 6pm. Take out dinners are available as well as mouth watering desserts.

Membership in the Century Club is available to all women of Wilkins Township regardless of age. We welcome all newcomers to any meeting. Meetings are at 7pm the second Tuesday of each month at the Municipal Building. ■

