

inside

BOROUGH	3
WCDC	4
SCHOOL DISTRICT	5
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	6
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	7

the Wilkinsburg

SUN

VOL. 3 NO. 11 September 2010

A FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETER BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS ABOUT WILKINSBURG

Church and Borough Partner Again for Clean-Up Day

Covenant Fellowship Reformed Presbyterian Church held its 4th annual Neighborhood Cleanup Day on August 7. Twenty four homes were boarded up and over 30 properties were cleaned up. The Borough donated 100 sheets of plywood and Waste Management donated two dumpsters to the project. Nearly 50 volunteers showed up for the day-long event.

continued on page 2

HOLLYWOOD STREET

For a brief period this summer, Wilkinsburg was transformed into Trenton, New Jersey. The change was just temporary, though, as part of the filming of *One for the Money*, a movie starring Katherine Heigl, John Leguizamo and Daniel Sunjata. Parts of Wood Street and South Avenue were closed down to permit the film crews to work.

continued on page 2

.....
Congratulations to Dirk VandenBerg, a Wilkinsburg resident, on his photographic collage "City Without Art?". His work was selected for the 100th Annual Exhibition of the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh, which is on display in the Heinz Galleries at the Carnegie Museum of Art through September 19, 2010.



Vivid colors, inspiring messages and a flower bed have transformed 706 Whitney from a blighted property to an artistic expression of hope and expectation.

Art All Around

It's no longer just the 700 block of Whitney Avenue. Beginning last month, that block became the Whitney Avenue Art Gallery (WAAG), where blighted properties have been transformed into a temporary outdoor art exhibit. Ten abandoned houses on Whitney Avenue are the canvases, and the theme is "Houses in Waiting." Artists led workshops helping residents develop ideas for each house, which were then painted onto plywood that was cut out to board up the windows.

The project was conceived by artist and Wilkinsburg resident Lazae LaSpina. Ernest Bey of Wilkinsburg's MAD DADS, led the youth workshops, while Kate Joranson, an exhibiting artist at the Mattress Factory, led the adults. The art gallery is intended to act as a placeholder while interest is generated

for a wide spectrum of homebuyers to invest in the neighborhood and take advantage of Wilkinsburg's property tax abatement program.

LaSpina would like to thank the Whitney Avenue Neighborhood Group for their tireless efforts in landscaping the formerly overgrown yards with generous donations from Soergel Orchards and Garden Center and Garden Dreams Urban Farm and Nursery. Funding came from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, Wilkinsburg Weed and Seed Initiative, Wilkinsburg Municipal Authority and Wilkinsburg Commercial and Industrial Development Authority.

For more information on the project, visit <http://waag.weebly.com>.