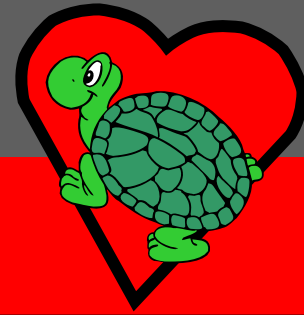


From the Heart of Turtle Creek...

Prom at TCHS



We love our town, and love to share our stories about life here. The Creeker invites you to share your memories in this occasional feature, From the Heart of Turtle Creek. Send us your story, and we may feature it in upcoming editions.

The Creeker has been wanting to run a feature on Turtle Creek High School proms, waiting for our spring issue to remind Creekers of what our grandparents enjoyed here in the 50's. The topic has become especially poignant this year with so many rites of passage put on hold for this year's graduating seniors. With hopes that their year-end celebrations are merely delayed, we offer this look back at prom some sixty (!) years ago.



Dancing is a constant through the years, with popular local bands in the 50s

Prom originated with 'promenade', the grand march of guests at the start of a formal ball. Originating in Ivy League colleges, by the start of the 20th century they became customary in high schools.

By the '30s the event included a banquet and dancing to local bands. With the rise of teen culture and rising affluence of the '50s, proms moved from gymnasiums to country clubs. After a decline during the Viet Nam era, the '80s saw even more glam, with limos and tuxedos becoming the norm.

Thanks to Betty Jane Hamill for these pictures of the TCHS prom of 1953



Note the various ways the Prom court wear their flowers: as a sash, at the waist, and very carefully placed on a strapless bodice.



Light refreshments like punch gave way to full dinners by the 1950s, as seen in this picture from 1953.

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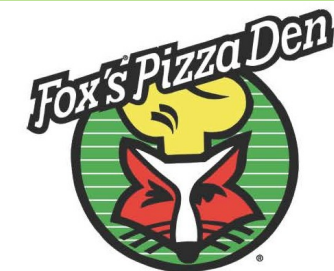
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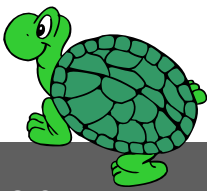
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Fifth Spring for Turtle Creek Home Plate Garden

This is the fifth spring planting season for Turtle Creek’s Home Plate Community Vegetable Garden. Started in 2016 with a two-year grant from Grow Allegheny, work continues under the sponsorship of the Turtle Creek Development Corporation. Already cold season crops such as beets, lettuce, and spinach are in the ground, with peas and potatoes soon to follow.

The garden occupies what had been an underutilized soft ball field in Hamilton Park at the corner of Hamilton Ave. and Kenyon Street. Each season has seen improvements, such as irrigation, some raised beds, a garden shed, and steadily healthier soil, making the garden volunteer’s work a little easier. The produce is offered to the public for donations both at the Human Services Center on Penn Avenue and at the garden on Saturdays. (Days and times for this season to be announced.)

Volunteers put in long hours and reap friendship, exercise, and the joy of growing their own veggies. Where else can you combine the satisfaction of working with your neighbors with the pleasure of tasting the season’s first vine-ripened tomato? Stop by any Saturday morning to see what’s growing on or for more information email tchomeplate@gmail.com.



Renovated Dickson Preparatory STEAM Academy to Open for 2020-2021 School Year



Woodland Hills School District students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be greeted at the newly renovated Dickson Preparatory STEAM Academy for the 2020-2021 school year. (The acronym STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).

The building, located at 7301 Schoyer Avenue in Swissvale, was built in 1928. The full-building renovation includes: a new secure vestibule at the main lobby (complete with a security office, ballistic glass and bullet-proof walls), new classrooms and learning labs, a new music suite, a gym/auditorium hybrid facility, a STEAM center, rehabilitated and reinstalled lockers, a full health suite, a welcoming cafeteria that is overlooked by an enclosed mezzanine (and outdoor seating), a new full-service kitchen, a media center that includes studio space, gathering areas, technology features, and more.

In addition to dedicated space for special education and a resource room, there are also now rooms available for small group meetings, social workers and other needs. Classrooms are located on the second and third floors, and all have been updated. With a nearly, 100-year-old building, other needs were also addressed, including updates to HVAC and asbestos remediation, LED-lighting throughout and many other functional updates. Improvements were made outside as well. A parking lot was added that will ensure that there is adequate access, asphalt paving, a cafeteria patio for outdoor seating, a front plaza for outdoor educational use, and new sidewalks. “The school is beautiful inside and out. I believe the greatest excitement will be in the area of STEAM,” says James Harris, Superintendent.

Jamie Glasser, School Board President, adds “We want students to feel like school is their second home, and a place that is where their curiosity is fed and nurtured. The newly renovated building will afford them all of those opportunities and more. Students will be very excited. The building has great spaces that will allow them to explore new interests and facilities that will allow them to learn. This project is part of our ongoing efforts to make sure that our students have the best possible resources to create educational opportunities. Dickson will be a welcoming place for students and their families, and parents should feel welcome to visit the school as we host events so that they can see what resources their children will have,” adds Glasser.

Woodland Hills worked with Reynolds Construction and Core Architects on the project. Mike Arnold, Vice President of Reynolds Construction, says that Dickson is a beautiful building, a “classic piece,” and adds that the renovations work very well with it. Reynolds has worked with the district for six years, and conducted education sessions for students that were interested in architecture and construction.

“The District recognized the need for a state-of-the-art Intermediate School and evaluated options at Dickson, and at the current Intermediate Building (on Evans Street in Swissvale). Dickson was last renovated in the mid-1990s, while the current Intermediate had not been renovated at any point. The costs to renovate Dickson and position it to serve students for the next 30 or 40 years was less than to renovate the current building. In addition, Dickson’s location in the heart of Swissvale was a determining factor,” says Glasser. She adds, “We’re committed to improving our facilities so that they are more sustainable, more efficient and up-to-date so that they can serve our children for decades to come. The effort and funds invested here will serve all of us well for many, many years to come.”

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