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Wilmington takes pride in small-town values

**Clinton-Massie
literature students**
Guest columnists

*“Opportunity is missed by
most because it is dressed in
overalls and looks like work.”*
— Thomas A. Edison

Chasing the sunset, driving through Wilmington down U.S. 22 and State Route 3, one experiences a slow loss of light. The radiant glow of Walmart fades to the glimmer of streetlights down to the expanse of darkness under the moon.

The open fields, vast nature and agricultural aspects are the passions that bind and fuel our community. Every July, people of all ages swarm to the fairground for a week of 4-H festivities, tractor pulls and homegrown goods. Throughout the country, one will find old wooden barns to shelter the midnight births of calves, colts and puppies. All year long, John Deere tractors meander down one-lane roads, lined with cows on the left and corn on the right. And when you're not looking for tractors, you're on watch for deer and other beasts to cross your path. The sun rises with the timely roar of a plane's engine. All citizens of Wilmington have the option to escape the pressures of city life into the peaceful nature of tall grasses and no streetlights.

Wilmington is a place of lenience, where it is convenient to be an individual. The canvas of this town is painted with numerous ethnicities and traditions. These traditions, however, are not limited to the domestic kind, they span to encompass the community and beyond. It is the birthplace of the Banana Split Festival; the home of the Corn Festival, Oktoberfest and Holidazzle; and the seat for fireworks at Denver Park. The streets were swept with broomsticks, cloaks and lightning bolt scars on Main Street in Wizarding Wilmington to celebrate the installments of Harry Potter. These traditions and more fuse Wilmington as one community.

For those in need, we come forth with a helping hand, no matter the task or request. Your Father's Kitchen and Joe's Java provide wholesome entertainment while offering a safe place for hungry and needy hearts. Working adults and local students donate their time and food for the ones in need.

Wilmington is small enough to be a neighborhood, but large enough to encompass everyone's individual interests. Whether you enjoy food, movies or shopping, there's something for you around every corner. The paradox of slowly fading jet engines clashes in a harmonious diversity with its tranquil parks and serene farm lands. From the coasts of the Mediterranean to the strip of shopping plazas, the city of Wilmington contains many desired activities.

Wilmington's set-up leans toward a time before high gas prices, a war on terrorism and a plunging economy. The main strip of Wilmington brings into play the cozy, vintage feel of a close-knit community. The Murphy Theatre has become the reflection of the heart and soul of this town. From the stunning courthouse to the imposing, prolific Wilmington College, all the way to the pick-up games and giggling children at the park, Wilmington presents a unified front that accepts all types of people. With a mural that mirrors the ideals of its citizens, Wilmington takes pride in its small-town values.

*EDITOR'S NOTE — This
guest column was written by
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