



## Tree Sponsorship

Last year Southmont Borough initiated a program to enable residents to enhance the beauty and environmental quality of our community through new tree sponsorships. In the first year, five sponsors donated enough money to purchase 12 trees which were planted on the triangle along Menoher Blvd., adjacent to the Beth Sholom Synagog. Mr. and Mrs. Russel R. Alkire, Jr. and family sponsored the trees in memory of Ross R. Alkire.

Other trees were donated by: Helen G. Colosimo, dedicated to Leonard D. Colosimo; Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Ghezzi, dedicated to Gloria Ghezzi Davis; Judith A. Wolfe, dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. A. Morris Wolfe; Mrs. Katharine K. Peterson, dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. C.K. Kornis.

If you are interested in helping to improve Southmont Borough's urban forest in this way, please complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail it to the borough office with your check for \$100.

## Choosing the Right Tree

According to professional foresters, the following criteria are important when choosing new or replacement trees: appearance, disease resistance, suitability for the climate, type of root system (to avoid damaging sidewalks) and height and shape (to avoid interfering with utility lines). The Commission has prepared a list of trees especially suited for planting under utility wires and along streets. Before planting a tree *along the borough right-of-way*, please contact the Shade Tree Commission for advice and approval. This list and other pamphlets on tree planting and care are available at the Borough Office, 148 Wonder Street.

## Arbor Day 1992

Southmont Borough's third annual **ARBOR DAY** celebration will be held on **April 25** at the Municiple Building on Wonder Street at **10:00 a.m.**

The Bureau of Forestry Forester, Mark Maser, will present the **TREE CITY USA** award (it is the second year Southmont has received this national recognition) and the **TREE CITY USA GROWTH** award. Southmont is the recipient of a Tree City USA Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the following activity areas:

- in Education and Public Relations for publications and publicity, and
- in Partnerships for external funding.

The Growth Award was created to recognize environmental improvement and higher levels of tree care in Tree City USA communities.

To become a Tree City USA, a community must meet four standards: A tree board or department, a city tree ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance

"An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement—a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years," John Rosenow, The National Arbor Day Foundation's executive director, said.

On **ARBOR DAY 1992** we will plant a tree in an open space in the treelawn area in front of the Municipal Building. Please join us!

## America the Beautiful Grant Awarded to Southmont Borough

The Urban and Community Forestry Council has approved Southmont's grant application for \$1,000.00 to replace the diseased and dying trees on Leila Street. The Challenge Grant requires a 50% match of funds which is being provided by Penelec in the removal of the declining trees. The trees on the north side of Leila street from Thoburn Street to Olive Street will be removed in the fall and will be replaced with Queen Elizabeth Hedge Maple trees.

The Southmont Borough Shade Tree Commission is constantly seeking grant funds to assist in the renewal of our urban forest. You too may acquire grant money through the Penn Relief Program. The program is a statewide public/private partnership of conservation organizations which recognize the important role trees can play in alleviating some of the environmental problems we face today. Matching grants of up to \$50 each for 3 trees are currently available to any citizen group wishing to purchase trees to be planted on public property. The tree lawn area in front of your house is public property and, therefore, qualifies for this grant. A citizen group could be your family or a group of neighbors who join together as a group to enhance the environment. Grant applications are available in the Borough Municipal Building. Your Shade Tree Commissioners will be happy to help you to complete the application.

# More Facts

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## Southmont Municipal Trees Inventory

An inventory of Southmont Borough's municipal trees was conducted during the summer of 1991. Municipal trees are those growing between the street and sidewalk, or in the right-of-way of a public road.

The inventory, a project of the Municipal Tree Restoration Program of Penn State, was funded by the Pennsylvania Electric Company. Its purpose was to determine the quantity, species and condition of all municipal trees in the borough. The results of the inventory will be used by the Shade Tree Commission to develop a reforestation plan for Southmont.

Generally, the survey indicated that there are 829 municipal trees in the borough, planting spaces available for 439 more, and the total value of our street tree forest is estimated to be \$1,863,083.00

<u>Species of Trees (33):</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Norway Maple	378	45
Red, Silver and Sugar Maple	167	20
Other species (29)	284	35
<u>Condition of Trees:</u>		
Good	352	42
Fair	264	32
Poor	197	24
Dead or Dying	16	2

## The Right Way to Plant a Tree

1. Choose a spot where the tree's roots and branches will have enough room to grow to a mature size.
2. Dig the hole the same depth as the tree's root ball and 5 times as wide as the root ball.
3. Remove the root ball from its container, or if wrapped in burlap, remove all wires and ropes. Peel back and cut away the burlap after placing the tree in the hole.
4. Backfill with soil and add water to help it settle.
5. Remove protective tree wrap from the trunk.
6. Add 3 inches of hardwood bark mulch to the planting area.
7. Do not add fertilizer to the soil until after the first year of growth.
8. Do not use stakes and support wires unless the tree is very large or in an extremely windy location.
9. Do not build a water-holding berm of soil around the tree.
10. Make sure the tree receives at least one inch of water each week during the growing season.



## BACKYARD COMPOSTING

As we plant trees in Southmont Borough, we must face the reality that there will be an increased number of twigs, branches and leaves to dispose of at times.

Composting is the most practical and convenient way to handle your yard wastes. It can be easier and cheaper than bagging these wastes. Compost also improves your soil and the plants growing in it. If you have a garden, a lawn, trees, shrubs, or even planter boxes, you have a use for compost. By using compost you return organic matter to the soil in a usable form. Organic matter in the soil improves plant growth by helping to break up heavy clay soils and by adding essential nutrients to any soil. Improving your soil is the first step toward improving the health of your plants, and healthy plants clean our air and conserve our soil, making our community a healthier place in which to live.

Simple containers for yard wastes can be made out of a circle of wire mesh, a square of wood and wire, circles of hardware cloth, or old wooden pallets. Place the holding unit where it is most convenient. As weeds, grass clippings, leaves and harvest remains from garden plants are collected, they can be dropped into the unit. Chopping or shredding wastes, alternating high-carbon and high-nitrogen materials, and keeping up good moisture and aeration will all speed the process.

This is the simplest method for yard wastes. The unit can be portable, moving to wherever needed in the garden or yard. This method can take from 6 months to 2 years to compost organic materials.

For more information about composting, stop in the Municipal Building and pick up a brochure from the Shade Tree Information Center.