



FROM UNDER THE SHADE TREE or What Is "The Arlington Street Seven"?

Are the shade trees on your street declining and have they lost the beauty of earlier years? Or is your street devoid of trees, bare in appearance compared to some of the other tree-lined streets of our area? Read on to discover what free programs are available to solve this problem!

The fifty Flowering Crabapple trees planted during the 1990 Municipal Tree Restoration Program (MTRP) are green, healthy and growing! They are on Menoher Blvd., Orchard St., Thoburn St., and Leila St. and are beginning to have an effect on the landscapes where they were planted. The 1992 MTRP has added fifty Callery Pear trees to the Borough on Palliser St., Edwards St., Harshberger St., and Mabel St. Be sure to watch for their first full bloom of profuse white flowers this spring. We will continue to apply for trees under this program in our endeavor to have all of the Southmont Borough streets tree-lined with the right tree in the right places.

As you recall, the April newsletter announced the receipt of the AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL challenge grant. The grant program is a President Bush initiative, administered and managed by the state of Pennsylvania. The grant will help to pay for the replacement of the diseased and dying Maple trees on the north side of Leila Street from Thoburn to Olive Streets. Those trees will be removed this fall and replaced with "Campestris" Hedge Maple trees. This species of Maple tree will reach a height of 40 feet and, therefore, will not interfere with the overhead utility lines.

Southmont Borough has been awarded two more grants under the AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL program. A mini grant for \$94.00 will provide the Shade Tree Information Center in the municipal building with books and pamphlets with information on the care of our Borough trees.

The third grant, the AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL special grant, was procured with the cooperation of some Arlington Street residents. John Ponas of Arlington Street was instrumental in contacting the residents and in applying for the grant under the civic organization name of "The Arlington Street Seven." (Not to be confused with "The Chicago Seven"!) The \$2,000.00 grant will pay for the removal of the diseased and dying Maple trees on the right side of the street and the planting of Serviceberry trees for replacements. Hats off to John and "The Arlington Street Seven" for their part in the reforestation of Southmont Borough Streets.

The AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL grant program is still well funded. The money is available to residents who are willing to organize and submit a request for funds. The application process is very easy! The Shade Tree Commission will assist you in the organization, planning and application preparation. If you are interested in planting free trees on your street, please call Jeff Kloss at 255-6378 or Donna Zellers at 255-3521 for more information. □

Donna Zellers

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Want to make an investment for the future that is sure to grow? For your future and for the future of Southmont Borough, invest some time to beautify our area. Join Southmont Borough's Shade Tree Advisory Committee. Present members are Jack Green, Ellen Hoffman, Ed Kittka, Mary Ann Kory, and Cookie Middleton. This Committee works with the Shade Tree Commission, composed of Jeff Kloss, Tom Lewis, and Donna Zellers. We could use your help on various subcommittees: Newsletter, America the Beautiful grants, MTRP, Sponsored Trees, Parks, and Beautification. Call the Borough Secretary at 255-3104 to make a small investment of time to increase the natural beauty of Southmont Borough for all our futures.

Mary Ann Kory



"You can gauge a country's wealth, it's real wealth, by its tree cover"

Richard St. Barbe Baker

Borough Happenings

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BUILDING AND ZONING REQUIREMENTS

Southmont Borough has enacted Ordinance No. 359 and Ordinance No. 314. Ordinance 359 requires a Building Permit for any permanent improvement to your property. This includes such things as fences, additions to the residence, additional buildings, etc. A building permit is not required for routine repairs, however. If you have any questions please call the office or the Zoning Officer. Ordinance 314, the BOCA Basic Property Maintenance Code, requires the owner to maintain his property in such a manner that it is not an eyesore or infringes on other property owners rights. It is unlawful for anyone to store abandoned or junked vehicles, place garbage, rubbish or other debris on property within the Borough. In addition, all areas shall be kept free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 10 inches.

A call to the Borough Office 255-3104 or to F. R. Pullen, Zoning Administrator, will answer any questions you may have. An applicant must allow at least one week for the permit to be issued. Failure to obtain a permit can result in the filing of a Civil Suit against the property owner.

RECYCLING UP-DATE

Southmont Borough has submitted a Recycling Program grant application to the Department of Environmental Resources. The deadline for the grant was June 30, 1992. The grant funding would be used for the initial development of the recycling program, for education of the residents, and for equipment such as containers for each household, a mobile type recycling trailer unit, and a brush chipper. This proposed "drop-off" recycling trailer unit will provide for the separation of recyclable materials such as clear and colored glass, plastics/bottles, jugs and jars, and co-mingled metal cans. As soon as we have any news on the grant application we will inform the residents.

DO YOU CARRY A POOPER-SCOOPER???

Southmont Borough enacted Ordinance No. 389 in January 1992, governing the owner's responsibility of animals which are not kept under leash and who soil on streets, public ways, parks, and private property. Whether during the day or night, all animals must be kept under control of the owner or attendant of such animal. Failure to comply with the provisions of Ordinance No. 389 could lead to a fine of up to \$300.00. So for all of us who love our pets and for those who don't, please be aware of Ordinance No. 389.

OUTDOOR FIRES

A reminder to all residents that a permit must be obtained in order to burn paper, rubbish, or other material or substances of any kind. The permit fee is \$1.00 for a one day permit. Permits are available January 1st, thru August 31st only. All fires must be contained; there is no open burning. All wood and charcoal fires in fireplaces used for the purposes of a cookout or a barbecue shall be exempt.

Ellen Hoffman

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The Borough of Southmont and the Southmont Volunteer Fire Company have issued new emergency number stickers. The new phone stickers have the 9-1-1 emergency service number; and also lists non-emergency numbers for the 9-1-1 center, 1-800-281-1680, the Southmont Police Department, 255-3104; the Southmont Fire Department, 255-2633; and the Hilltop Ambulance Association, 255-7777. The Fire Company hopes that you use these non-emergency numbers when you have business with these departments. Two phone stickers have been distributed to every household with the Fire Company Turkey Raffle mailing. If you fail to receive your stickers or need some additional stickers, please contact the Borough Office or the Fire Company.

The SVFC will have two fund raising events to close out 1992. First will be our annual Turkey Raffle held in November and the second fund raiser is our Annual Lottery Calendar Sales Drive going on now through the end of the year. Last year's calendar sales went well, but we need additional support from Borough residents in either purchasing or selling the calendars. The Lottery Calendars pay out close to \$12,000 in prizes for the year. They are reasonably priced and make ideal gifts for friends and relatives. The calendar numbers gives the holder a chance of winning money every day of the year in 1993. The cost is only \$25. If you wish to purchase a calendar, or if you can help sell some, please notify any SVFD personnel or call Ron Kautz at 255-2631.

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The Shade Tree Commission and

Advisory Board wish to say thank you to the Southmont Volunteer Fire Department, for their caring hand in the success of the growth and survival of the new trees. The Fire Department has always provided equipment and personnel to water the new trees. Thanks again for all your help.

More Facts

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TREE SPONSORSHIP

Interest in the Borough's tree sponsorship program continues to grow. In its first year five sponsors donated money for new Borough trees. This year, the second for the program, eight sponsors made donations: Mrs. Grant M. Strum, dedicated to Olive Ann Dunbar; Mrs. K. Korn's Peterson, dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Korn's; Mr. and Mrs. John Ponas, dedicated to Marcia Ponas Warrick; William and Paulette Carstensen, Jr., dedicated to W. J. Carstensen; Dr. and Mrs. John C. Cwik, dedicated to Victor Kist; Mrs. Robert Boyts Neff and children, dedicated to Dr. Robert Boyts Neff; Dr. Robert Swanson Neff and Miss Ann Elizabeth Neff, dedicated to Dr. Robert Boyts Neff; and Margaret S. Mayer, dedicated to James Ellis Mayer.

The eight new trees provided by the sponsors will be planted along Wonder Street bordering the Southmont ball field. A tree species named Zelkovia has been selected because it possesses the graceful form of the American Elm, but is resistant to the Dutch Elm disease.

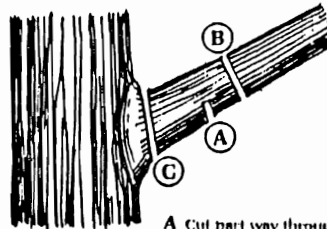
If you are interested in helping to improve Southmont Borough's urban forest in this way, please complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail it to the Borough office with your check for \$100.

Jeff Kloss

COMMON TREE MYTHS

Trees are remarkable living organisms that have a great effect upon our environment. Unfortunately, many people, including some well educated, do not really understand how trees work. We need to learn how a tree functions if we are to care for it properly. Myth #1 - The proper way to prune a branch is to either leave a stub or make a flush cut.

Even some television garden shows are still confused about this. For many years people normally left branch stubs of varying lengths paying no attention to placement of pruning cuts. Then we thought we were getting smart and decided the cuts should be made as close as possible to the remaining branch to enhance the healing process. The problem was that nobody took the time to see how the tree would react. The most recent research shows that a wound will heal faster and result in little or no internal decay if the pruning cut is made as close as possible to the outer edge of the branch collar. A branch collar is found at the base of every branch and is thicker than the rest of the branch. On some trees it forms a visible line and on others it can be easily felt with your hand. Flush cuts and stubs will only cause more problems for the tree.



Because of its weight a large limb could tear loose during pruning, stripping bark and creating jagged edges that invite insects and disease. That won't happen if you follow these steps:

A Cut part way through the branch from beneath at a point one or two feet from the trunk.

B Make a second cut on the top of the branch, several inches out from the first cut. This should allow the length of the limb to fall from its own weight and be safely removed.

C Complete the job by making a final cut next to the trunk, just outside the branch collar, with the lower edge further away from the trunk than at the top.

Myth #2 - A tree wound must be painted or covered for it to heal.

Damage to the bark of a tree can lead to infection by disease or insects. A tree has a unique mechanism for isolating damaged tissues from healthy ones. When pruning a branch, the best treatment for the resulting wound is to make the pruning cut at the proper location. A "wound dressing" of paint, tar, or other substance does not protect the tree or speed the healing process. Some of these products actually cause more damage by interfering with the chemical barrier zones that form naturally around the wound. Accidental bark wounds caused by wandering cars or storms may be best treated by branch pruning or simply removing the rough edges from the wounded area. A smooth even surface of wood is more easily covered by yearly layers of bark tissue.



More tree myths will follow in future issues.

Mark Maser