



PARK REVITALIZATION A PRIORITY

Did you know that Southmont Borough has several park areas within its boundaries? Most of us are aware of the largest park along Diamond Blvd., the State Street park area where the ball field and tennis courts are located and the park on Gardner, that was given to the Borough in 1951/68 and 1970 by the Waters/Thomas family. There is also park area along Helen Street that joins the Gardner Street area. There are also small parcels of public land at several locations. One is located at the triangle of Southmont Blvd. and Langhorne Street that could be made into a nice parklet. Other park development could be done along Southmont Blvd., near the Elim Street boundary.

There is no revenue for maintaining these parks other than the Borough's general fund and operating budget. In order to improve the conditions of our parks, we have recruited the assistance of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

In an "adopt a park" effort, Boy South Troop 217 has undertaken the project of caring for Helen Street park. The troop will first clear and trim away brush and debris, repair the rotten benches and erect signs identifying the area as a borough park and naming it Helen Park. Girl Scout Service Unit 8, which includes troops from the Daisy Girls Scout level to the Senior Girl Scout level are willing to take care of the Diamond Blvd. park area and the ball field/tennis court area.

If one of the above mentioned parcels of land is near your residence, you may be interested in forming a community group to enhance the care of that area. Depending on the size and location of the parcel, trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other beautifying flora could be planted. There are America the Beautiful grants available for the purchase of the greenery if the project qualifies. If you are interested in this volunteer effort to beautify your Borough and increase the community spirit, please contact one of your Shade Tree Commissioners.



And the Wind said: "May you be as strong as the Oak, yet flexible as the Birch; may you stand tall as the Redwood, live gracefully as the Willow; and may you always bear fruit all your days on this Earth."

ARBOR DAY 1993

Cub Scout Den 3 (Pack 217) and Brownie Troop 149 will lead Southmont borough's Arbor Day on **Friday, April 23, 1993 at 5:00 p.m., at the Municipal Building** on Wonder Street. The Cub Scouts, led by Ken Fetsko and Dennis Mowery, have prepared a skit in honor of Arbor Day. The Brownies, led by Linda Galks, Julie Sheehan, Lucy Lusk and Kathy Parseghian, will entertain us with poems and songs. Following the opening exercises and program, all will participate in the planting of 23 trees on Arlington Street, trees which were purchased under the America the Beautiful grant. Our Service Forester, Mark Maser, will be there to instruct us as to the proper methods of tree planting and care. Later, you will be able to use those skills in planting **the free evergreen seedlings** that will be distributed on that day. Please plan to support the youth of Southmont Borough by joining us (with shovel if you are able to help with the planting) on what promises to be the best Arbor Day ever in Southmont.



THERE'S NOTHIN' TO IT!

Borough Happenings

Spring 1993 Vol. 4



RECYCLING Up-Date 1993

Southmont Borough has finally received some word on the Recycling Program grant application submitted to the Department of Environmental Resources, in June of 1992. Although the application included recycling "bins" or containers for use in every residential household, the DER felt that it could not award the grant because of the request for these containers. However, thanks to Representative Yewcic and a letter written eliminating our request for the bins, we are still being considered for the grant. A mobile type recycling trailer unit, and a brush chipper would be our initial purchases from the grant funding. The 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.

Since the Borough of Southmont does collect leaves and Christmas trees, they could now be mulched in the wood chipper. The leaves and wood chips would be used for mulch around the trees and shrubs in the Borough and would also be available for resident's use.

The Recycling Committee is working on details for the "drop-off" recycling trailer unit to be stationed at the Municipal Building. When the unit is full, it can be hauled to the recycling center by Borough employees for disposal. This will decrease the volume in our weekly waste stream and help to keep the garbage hauling contract costs down.

The importance of the resident's participation must be stressed. Instructions will be distributed to all residents. In order to make the program work, guidelines will have to be strictly enforced. Thorough rinsing of each glass, bottle, jug or jar must be done, since one improperly recycled item could result in contamination of the entire container. That would only mean that the recycling effort of so many would be worthless.

We will be distributing information to all residents when the final word has been received and the planning has been completed. We ask all residents to please make this proposed "drop-off recycling center" a shining example for the neighboring communities.



Our apologies to Margaret Bowers of 602 Harshberger Street, whose name was omitted from the list of Tree Sponsors in the last issue of The Kindred Spirit. Mrs. Bower's donation was in memory of Floyd D. Bowers. Special thanks for her contribution to Southmont's urban forest.



The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself.
Franklin D. Roosevelt

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The Southmont Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank the Borough residents who cleared the snow from the hydrants during the "Blizzard of 93". The severity of the storm kept our personnel from clearing the hydrants until Sunday night. We are grateful and appreciated that so many hydrants were already cleared.

Looking back, we responded to 137 emergency calls, with no property loss in the borough. Personnel also attended 437 non-emergency activities for the year. Our members attended 310 sessions of State certified Fire Schools, totaling over 1340 hours. These sessions included Essentials of Fire Fighting, Advanced Fire Fighting, Structural Burns, Fire Fighter Safety, and Hazardous Materials Operations. Five of our members completed the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course. Most of our members are trained in American Red Cross Advanced First Aid and CPR. We have three members who have passed a national Fire Fighter II Examination, and one Fire Fighter III.

The 1983 Pierce engine was refurbished last year, and modifications have brought our engine into compliance with the National Fire Protection Agency's guidelines and increased the value of our unit.

We spent almost \$10,000 on new equipment last year, to improve our fire fighting ability. This was all possible through your generous contributions and Borough efforts. The Jubilee will be held May 30 through June 4. If you can volunteer in any capacity, please call the station at 255-2633.



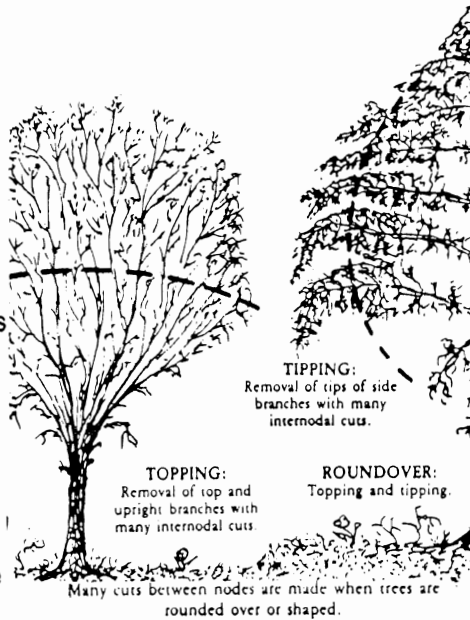
Don't **TIP** or **TOP** That Tree!

At some point in a tree's lifetime, the decision may be made to prune the tree. While early pruning of young shade trees is essential to promote the natural form and future growth of the tree, some pruning may be necessary to keep a tree healthy and beautiful throughout its growth. However, care must be used to take advantage of and accentuate the natural tendencies of a tree. The characteristics of tree crowns and thus the form and shape of trees varies among species as much as leaf shapes and bark patterns. Therefore, when pruning a tree, never **top** or **tip** a tree to shape it or to reduce its size. Rather, prune properly to enhance the natural shape and beauty of the tree. We've all seen the results of unnatural shaping or "tipping" of branches resulting in what is sometimes referred to as "mall trees", that cute little lollipop effect that results when a beautiful, graceful, flowing Maple tree is carved into a ball atop a stem. Another example of improper pruning is evident when older trees are pruned to reduce their size by "topping" the tree. Although this is sometimes necessary when the tree is infringing on a structure or overhead utility lines, today's informed arborists are planting the right tree in the right place to avoid the necessity to over prune a large tree later on. Improper pruning or topping also results when residents become uneasy with the size of a large mature tree and think that pruning it to a smaller size will be safer to people and property. Initially, this may be the case, however, improperly pruned trees will develop new and rapid growth that is weaker than the original branches and may be a

threat in the future.

If you are hiring an expert, insist that they do not **top** or **tip** your tree. Or if you are pruning the tree yourself, use a good pruning book that has pictures and drawings that clearly show how to develop a strong terminal leader and well balanced laterals, as well as how to achieve a desire overall form and habit. By the way, deadwood in trees is usually a natural process. Trees shed branches just as they shed leaves and needles. Always prune deadwood from healthy trees to prevent insects and fungi from entering the healthy bark of the tree through the rotted deadwood. With a little time and proper care, your tree can be a source of beauty and pleasure for many years.

DO NOT TOP OR TIP!



Benefits from Planting Trees

Reduce energy costs. The annual energy savings resulting from properly-placed plants around your home may be as high as 25%.

Less Carbon dioxide and more Oxygen. Trees remove carbon dioxide and add oxygen to the air. (this will help decrease global carbon dioxide levels, and help reduce the "greenhouse effect")

Clean Air. Trees remove dust and other pollutants from the air and make it healthier to breathe.

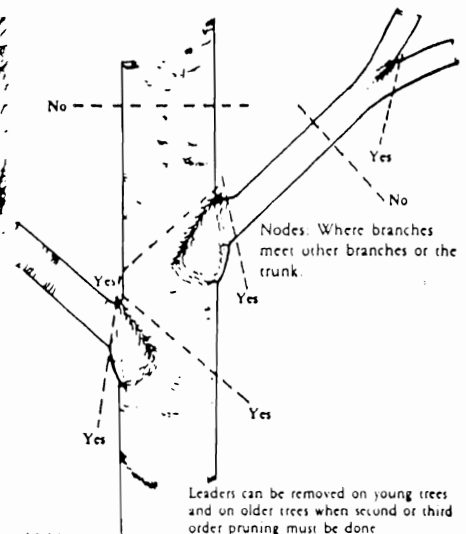
Clean Water. Trees and other plants reduce the amount of water flowing into the city's sewer, curbing the overflow at sewage treatment plants.

Property values. Trees and other landscaping can increase property values 5 to 20%.

Privacy. Trees screen unwanted views and noises.

Wildlife. Trees provide food and shelter for birds and other animals.

CUT AT NODES



Leaders can be removed on young trees and on older trees when second or third order pruning must be done. Making cuts between nodes leads to excessive sprouting, and to cracks and rot. Cracks and rot are major causes of branch and trunk failure.

DID YOU KNOW ???

That the U.S. is blessed with an incredible diversity of trees - four times the number of species found in all of Europe.