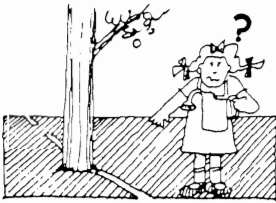


TREE-SIDEWALK CONFLICT

Southmont Borough residents can take pride in our "Urban Forest". However, there are occasions where tree roots and sidewalks compete for the same space. A plant as large as a tree needs an extensive root system for anchorage and feeding. Species with a tendency to heave sidewalks should be planted well back from paved areas. Tree roots often extend out from the trunk, as far as two or three times the height of the tree.

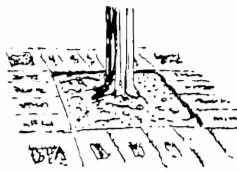
If the tree already exists, minor cutting into the offending roots by a professional might work, but too much cutting could kill the tree or make it susceptible to uprooting due to weakened anchorage. Residents are reminded that written approval from the Southmont Borough Shade Tree Commission is necessary prior to cutting or trimming tree roots and branches, or to remove any Borough tree. A better solution may be to alter the pavement by curving around trees or using expansion joints between sidewalk segments in areas where major sidewalk heavals have occurred or could occur. Installation of root barriers between new plants and sidewalks can reduce sidewalk heaval.

To Kill a Tree



Cover or pave the area above tree roots, or cut them when making changes in grade.

To Save a Tree



Maintain the original ground level around trees. If paving is necessary, use material that lets air and water through.

For minor heavals, angling sidewalk sections or properly installing a cement ramp to reduce tripping hazards between sections can be effective at a low cost to the property owner. Remember to use cement not macadam. An amendment to our Sidewalk Ordinance has been approved with specifics on sidewalks and the responsibilities of property owners. Sidewalks will now be required to accompany any new construction if the area is geography feasible for the placement of a sidewalk. The Street Committee will be making yearly scheduled sidewalk inspections throughout the Borough. Residents will be notified if corrections are necessary. Reasonable attention and care will allow all residents to enjoy the trees, as well as, safe and sightly sidewalks.

WINTER TIPS FOR TREES

Not surprisingly, bark damage and the breakage of young trees caused by cars sliding into them is a common occurrence in urban areas. Traffic barriers, proper curb, and planting trees out of the reach of bumper and tailgate overhang can help to reduce loss of trees, especially in the winter. Try using sand on sidewalks rather than harmful chemicals to melt the ice near tree root areas.

To Kill A Tree



Use chemicals to kill weeds over root zones. Use liberal amounts of salt on sidewalks near trees

To Save a Tree



Avoid using herbicides or weed-killing lawn fertilizers in the root zone, which may be an area with a diameter up to 2 times the height of the tree. When chemical herbicides are absolutely necessary, use only safe chemicals and follow label directions carefully. Use sand or gravel for icy walks near root zones.

STREET TREE EVALUATION

At the request of the Shade Tree Commission, Mr. Robert D. Crusan, a certified arborist with Keystone Arbor Care, Inc., did an inspection of twelve street trees in the Borough. Mr. Crusan evaluated structural stability and hazard potential. The trees were inspected by examination of the root flares, trunk and crown. All of the trees were examined from the ground. Unless expressed otherwise, this inspection was limited to visual examination of accessible components without climbing, dissection, excavation or probing. Three of the trees were evaluated by drilling. As a result of these examinations Mr. Crusan recommends removal of eight trees for safety concerns. Four other trees do not show visible symptoms to pose an unreasonable risk at the present time. This does not preclude the possible breakage during a storm. He further recommends that these trees be monitored regularly to be aware of any changes in conditions. The evaluations were conducted on trees along Diamond Blvd., Palliser Street and Violet Street.

There are five basic types of maintenance pruning. Fine pruning, Standard pruning, Hazard reduction pruning, Crown reduction pruning and Crown elevation are the five classifications for pruning. An experienced plant care professional should be consulted for proper pruning. Mr. William Krupa, Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, has taken the recommendations under advisement and will most likely remove the designated trees when weather permits.

COMMUNITY COSTS FOR TREE CARE

After extensive studies of urban forestry in cities of all sizes concluded that, "a forester, or at least someone acting in a similar capacity, greatly increases the likelihood of favorable tree management in a city". It has been found that cities typically devote less than half of one percent of their budgets to tree care. Whereas the need for adequate funding to protect the public treasure of urban trees is actually twice that amount. Southmont Borough is spending approximately three quarters of one percent for tree care.

The urban forestry program is one of the best investments a community can make...to increase the lives of trees ...to prevent the loss of money spent for planting stock...to prevent property damage and personal injury...to increase property values... and to give residents all the joy and practical benefits that come from abundant, healthy trees.

Borough Happenings

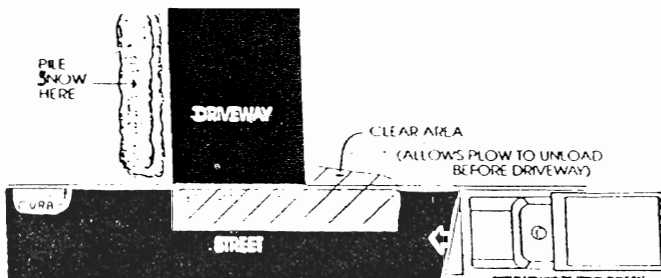
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BOROUGH HAPPENINGS!!

Southmont Borough has been able to refrain from increasing property taxes. The millage has been the same since 1986. Just to update you on the "Happenings", we have completed the DER Corrective Action Plan, on the storm infiltration into the sanitary lines that flow into the City of Johnstown's Sewer Treatment plant. Residents removed their downspouts from the sanitary line and the Borough made extensive corrections to several sanitary lines and constructed a major storm sewer line. All very costly projects and done over a period of the past 5 years. While making mandated corrections, we purchased a larger truck for the heavier duties, like the snows we are experiencing, established a recycling program, installed a new playground, provided a handicapped ramp, along with a new heating system and new windows at the Borough building. A retaining wall was constructed and we installed a calcium chloride system for salt used in winter road maintenance. We strive to continue with improvements, but wish to maintain our tax base.

WINTER TIPS..

The Borough Public Works Department makes every effort to keep roads passable, by following a Winter Maintenance schedule. By following guidelines as shown, plowing or shoveling snow to the right side of the driveway as you are facing the street, will help prevent the snow from being pushed back into your driveway. Do not push snow onto the roads at any time, this causes hazardous driving conditions for everyone.



FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Winter is upon us once again. For the fire service, this means an increase in residential fires and we can always count on flue fires occurring. By using a little common sense you can prevent becoming a "statistic" during the winter season. Clean and inspect your chimneys yearly. Burn only seasoned wood. Don't burn green wood or trash. Woodstoves should be installed 36" from combustible surfaces. Never use a liquid to start a fire. Burn fires hot for about 15 to 30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup. This is the leading cause of flue fires. Never use charcoal indoors, this gives off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide. Be sure your fireplace is out before going to bed. Never close the damper with hot ashes, this could cause the fire

to heat up again and force toxic carbon monoxide into the house.

We all hope you have fire detectors in your home and remember to replace your batteries when you turned back your clocks. Many residents are installing carbon monoxide detectors in their homes. Your fire department has equipment to check your home for carbon monoxide. Because carbon monoxide is tasteless and odorless it often goes undetected, until its too late. Be safe not sorry.

Southmont Borough Fire Dept. wishes you all a Happy Holiday

season, with a reminder to be careful with your holiday decorations. Check for frayed insulation, damaged cords, etc. Watch for overloaded electrical systems. Make it a safe Holiday Season. As always, we Thank You for your continued support.

RECYCLING NEWS

Southmont Borough provided a voluntary recycling center in June 1994. After one full year we are pleased to report that the center is doing well and has earned credit of \$658.00. This is a savings to the residents. The Borough has provided bins to the residents to make the recycling program a bit easier. Some residents have not followed the recycling procedure. Do not include your plastic bags in the individual bins. Place them in the outside bins provided. Also, colored glass must be separated from clear glass. And **NO light bulbs, mirrors, drinking glass, cups, dishes and window or safety glass.** Any of the mentioned items cause contamination, and result in cost penalties for the Borough. This is also true for the cans and plastics when they are not rinsed properly. Plastic should be crushed. Our program benefits all households in the Borough, with the decreased garbage collection fee. However, only a portion of the households in the Borough are recycling and we ask that everyone make an effort to continue to help in keeping the lower garbage fees by RECYCLING.

Many residents called about **NEWSPAPER RECYCLING.** We are planning a newspaper recycling program early in the Spring of 1996. A trial program will start in March, with two collections dates each month for dropping off tied newspaper bundles. After volumes are determined future schedules will be set up.

Start saving newspapers now. **RECYCLING PAYS**, please participate in our programs. Our programs can only be as good as the people who participate. Thanks to those who do, and thanks to those who are going to try harder.

PLAYGROUND UP-DATE

The new Diamond Playground opened on May 20, 1995, on schedule and has been a very successful endeavor on the part of the Playground Committee, volunteers and many contributing friends. The Committee Larry Koval, Kathy Parseghian, Kathy Crissafulli, Susie Brett, and Joe Polantz want to thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped make the Diamond Playground area truly a beautiful site. The Playground was visited by many children this summer. A Donors Plaque will be installed in the Spring on the huge rock, near the new water fountain. The Plaque is on display at the Municipal Building if anyone wishes to see it. Thanks again everyone.

More Facts

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ARBOR DAY SALUTE

Arbor Day was celebrated April 29th, at Southmont's Recycling Center. Several trees and shrubs were planted around the center. We wish to thank Kathy Howanek, Leader of Brownie Troop #77 and Brownies Emily Howanek, Emily Bodie, Emily Karcher, Laurie Crisafulli and Leah Warmkessel, for the program they presented. It was nice to have the Brownies participate in our program. Thanks again.

PEST CONTROL

One lesson growers must learn is there are no "Magic Bullets" for pests. Pests eventually build resistance to any control not applied as part of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. For consistent pest control IPM gets to the root of the problem rather than treating with chemicals. IPM around your home by soil testing. Lime to maintain soil pH between 6.5 and 7.0. Plant disease resistant varieties, such as flowering crab apples which are resistant to foliage diseases. Plant turf grasses resistant to rust, leaf blights, etc.

Provide natural control, plant herbs and flowers that repel insect pests. Mulch to control weeds and plant cover crops for weed control and conserve nutrients. Plant perennial flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. If you must use chemicals select a pest specific, low toxicity pesticide. Use biological based pesticides and spot treat problem areas whenever possible. Remember these tips when you are selecting and planting in fall or spring. Always read and follow label directions.

SELECTING TREES

Remember when you are selecting trees for your landscaping, test your soil condition to be sure they are suitable. If you have any doubts, test the pH with a simple soil testing kit. A pH of 7 is natural; a pH of 1 is the most highly acid designation, while 14 is the most alkaline. As an example, when some trees are planted in alkaline soils, it could suffer from iron chlorosis, the yellowing of otherwise healthy leaves. Iron chlorosis is the result of iron being unavailable to the tree roots. You would need to add iron sulfates or chelated iron.

If you take the time to test the soil before you choose your trees or shrubs, you will provide the proper landscaping beauty you want to achieve for all seasons.

CITY LIFE TOUGH FOR TREES

Perhaps trees are the Rodney Dangerfield of the plant world. Instead of the respect they deserve for hundreds of benefits freely provided, they are too often treated like yesterday's newspaper. At best, well-meaning home owners forget that a tree is a fragile system of living tissue. The life of a tree is so tenuous that naturalist Enos Mills marveled that any can even survive. Existence depends wholly on paper-thin leaves, a sheath of microscopic cambium cells protected only by the wooden armor of bark, and a mat of roots absorbing the chemicals of life or death-within inches of the soil's surface. Little wonder trees in the center city live an average of only seven years. American Forest reports that all urban trees average about 32 years. The same trees can be expected to live about 150 years in their natural habitat.

MULCHING HELPS

Mulching--the placing of bark, wood chips, decorative gravel or other materials on the soil around trees--can greatly enhance the tree's health, if not piled to deeply (approximately 2 inches depth is recommended) Mulching helps to retain moisture, control weeds and grass, reduce erosion, improve appearance, prevent soil compaction, keep lawn mowers away and simplify maintenance. Remember not to mulch too close to the trunks of trees, you can make a "well" area around the trunk. Southmont Borough does have a pile of mulch in the Borough Park for use by the residents. Residents can pick up the mulch when they need it.

TREE SPONSORSHIP

We wish to thank three additional families for their donations to continue improving our urban forest. We will be planting a tree in honor of Lawrence & Mollie Kellar, from the Buffenmyer Family, and Mr. & Mrs. Wm. L. Carstensen Jr. wish to have a tree planted in honor of Carsten Ingver Carstensen. Celia & Martin Max wish to plant a tree in memory of Mr. William Gordon. The donations pay for the cost of the tree and their names will be added to the Borough plaque in the Council Chambers. Thank you.

ROOT PROTECTION

Root zones of trees need to be recognized as being important and protected from damage. The majority of tree health problems can be traced to below ground causes. It is essential to preserve the existence of root zones. Root damage can be prevented by tunneling rather than trenching.



✓ Root Protection

Root zones of trees need to be recognized as important and protected from damage

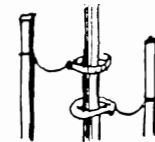


✓ Underground Work Specifications

Root damage can be prevented by replacing trenching with tunneling

TREE PROTECTION

It may be necessary to stake young trees, be sure to allow room for normal sway in the wind. This aids root development and strengthens the trunk. Cover wires with rubber or plastic to protect bark, and remove all wires after one year. Keep all vines away from trees. Cut existing vines into sections and carefully peel them from the tree's bark. Keep soil pores open with mulching or by landscaping with flowers or low shrubs in the spring.



**Soil: We can't grow without it
Water: We can't live without it**

**Make every day Earth Day
and make a difference.**