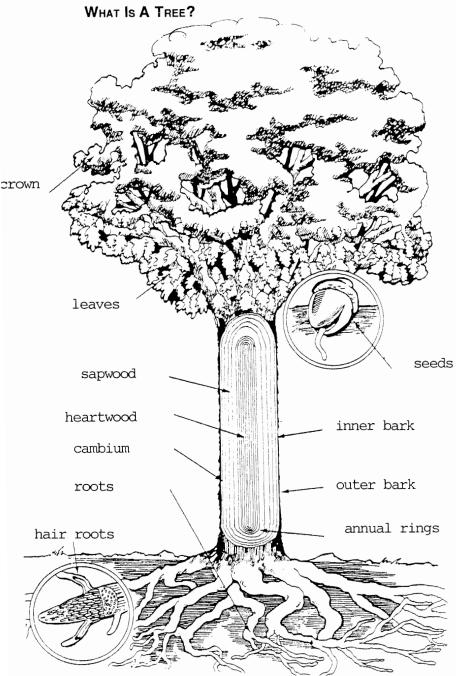


Southmont Borough

Kindred Spirit

Volume 9 Spring 96



LET IT LIE

Tired of the back breaking job of bagging grass clippings? Sick of lugging endless bags of clipping to the curb each week? Next time you rev up the mower, simply let the grass lie on the freshly cut lawn. By letting it lie the grass will serve as a natural fertilizer and a moisture retentive mulch. Water, Bug and Disease Despite our best efforts trees under stress fall victim to insect and disease attacks. Keep trees watered during dry spells. Cousult an expert if insects and disease damage begin to appear.

What Is a Tree?

Crown: The topmost part of the tree made up of leaves, twigs and branches. Trees grow taller and have a wider spread of branches every year because of the growth of new twigs.

Leaves: Leaves use carbon dioxide from the air, water from the soil and sunlight to make food for the tree. Oxygen left over after the food is produced is given off into the air for people and animals to breathe.

Sapwood: Water and dissolved minerals (sap) pass from the roots to the crown through these cells. Food for seed production and new growth is also stored here.

Heartwood: Dead cells that once were sapwood. The hardest part of the tree, heartwood provides strength for the tree and makes it stand upright.

Cambium: Cells that grow to create a new layer of bark on the outside of the tree and a new layer of sapwood on the inside of the tree every year.

Roots: Holds the tree in the ground. They take up water and nutrients from the soil to send up to the branches and leaves. Roots never stop growing while the tree is alive. They become twisted because they grow around rocks and or boulders.

Root Hairs: Water and nutrients enter the roots through billions of tiny root hairs that twist and wind among the smallest particles of soil

Seeds: New trees grow from seeds that fall to the ground and sprout when weather and soil conditions are right.

Inner Bark: Food made in the leaves travels through these cells to the branches, trunk and roots for growth and storage.

Outer Bark: Protects the tree from fire, insects, disease, animals and weather. Becomes thick and scaly as the tree ages.

Annual Rings: A set of dark and light growth rings is added for each year of the trees life.



Permits help make sure everyone knows the rules and best practices **before** doing tree work

Borough Happenings

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Borough Happenings!!

We have finally emerged from the white stuff and are beginning to see the green, green growth again. What a happy sight. It certainly was a loooooong winter. We have finally completed the collection of leaves left over from the Fall, cleaned up the anti-skid and gravel, from the winter, and now finally we can concentrate on Spring and Summer projects. Road patching and paving, crack sealing and building storm water catch basins, along with the routine grass cutting, building maintenance, weed control, tree trimming, maintenance at parks, same chores as the residents. This is what we have been waiting for. ENJOY! With the sun shine everyone wants to get out to walk and to

enjoy their neighborhoods. We want to remind animal owners that your pet must be on leash or under control. Owners are responsible for animals that urinate or defecate on others property and you must clean up immediately. Failure to comply may lead to a fine of up to \$300.00.

National Night Out

Victim Services is planning this year's Night Out activities for August 6, 1996. Residents will be asked to turn their porch lights on as a visible demonstration of crime prevention solidarity, police/community partnerships and your neighborhood camaraderie. Along with the display of porch lights a variety of events and activities will be scheduled in connection with the

Victim Services Night Out event. Please watch for advertisements with this years scheduled events. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Victim Services located within the limits of Southmont Borough provides services to victims of many different types of crimes, rape, and domestic abuse. Help show this Communities support for their work, turn on your porch lights August 6th.

Borough Thoughts

This past winter has reminded us that someone else is in charge and they decide what amount of winter we should have. After 6+ months of winter we have finally begun to see the (sun) light at the end of the tunnel.... Most of the winter clean up is done. We are asking that you remember not to put grass or brush clippings in the streets, as they clog up the storm sewer lines. The sewer lines were cleaned out during May to prevent overflows and all the streets have been swept during May. Lets keep Southmont beautiful.

From the Fire Chief

With the summer season in the air, fire personnel are busily engaged in the planning of the 24th annual Southmont Borough Volunteer Fire Company 's Jubilee. We hope everyone came out and enjoyed the festivities, the scheduled events, and had a chance to meet some old friends. As always, we wish you all a safe and happy summer season and we thank you for your continued support.

TREE AND FIRE SAFETY

When landscaping we should give some thought to fire safety around our homes when tree planning. Keep your home and neighborhood safe by breaking up solid areas of evergreens,

keep trees regularly pruned and well watered. Clear areas of leaves and old branches. Do not allow trees and shrubs to become a shield around your home. Allow for visability for your protection and safety reasons.

MAYOR'S DESK

Residents should make sure your street address numbers are all clearly marked and visable for emergency personnel. Remember not to allow shrubs to become overgrown and cover up the numbers, causing a valuable loss of time during any emergency responses.

RECYCLING NEWS

The Recycling Committee is happy to inform the residents that our program is working well and participating residents have recycled 26 plus tons of materials in 1995. The first quarter of 1996 residents have recycled 19,449 lbs. of materials, that is about 2000 more lbs. than the same time in 1995. The more we recycle the more credit we receive on our garbage contract. Remember, 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. 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. Residents have been crushing the plastic, which is great.

We scheduled two newspaper recycling days this Spring on a trial basis. If the volume is good we could possibly schedule other days. The first collection April 27, 1996 was about 1020 lbs. The second collection was May 25, 1996, with just 660 lbs. If any further collections are scheduled they will be advertised in the Tribune, on the back page.

Some residents had questions on how to dispose of old paint. First you could call churches, nursing homes, schools, scout groups and other civic groups and donate the leftover paint. Leftover latex paint can be air dried and disposed of through the regular trash. To speed up drying of the paint, add cat box filler or shredded newspaper. These materials will absorb the paint and, once dry, may be disposed of normally. Solvent based paints should not be discard in the trash as they are potentially dangerous. Hope this tip is helpful.

DIAMOND PLAYGROUND/WHRC NEWS

Playgound activities and programs are being scheduled for the 1996 summer season. Gretchen Long and Jennifer Bennett will be returning from last year as Playground Instructors.

There will be an evening playground program this year beginning June 24th thru June 28th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Christy Gotto will be the instructor.

At the roller blade courts, hockey leagues for grades 1 thru 8 will begin June 25, 1996. the instructor will be Eric Boyd. Players from the Johnstown Chiefs will assist in the league and will provide two tournments with clinics.

If you have any questions about sign-ups or time please call the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission at 539-1877.

More Facts

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ARBOR DAY SALUTE

Arbor Day 1996 was celebrated April 20th, on Palliser Street and Edward Street. Trees were planted on Palliser Street thru an Urban and Forestry Community Special Grant which was applied for by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Frey. Residents and children of Palliser Street helped in the planting. The trees that were planted on Edward Street are in anticipation of another Urban and Forestry Community Grant that Mr. Richard Mock made application for as the Edward Street Beautification Project. In kind services were provided by the Borough employees. Mr. William Krupa, Shade Tree Commissioner has grant applications for Urban and Community Special Grant Program, if Forestry residents are interested.

TREE WOUNDS

If trees are wounded, remove injured bark with a sharp knife. Make cuts as shallowaspossible. Forminganelongated ellipse is not necessary. Make all margins rounded: do not point tips. Do not enlarge the wound and do not paint. Do everything possible to maintain health-water, fertilize and prune. If there are cavities do not clean so thoroughly that the boundary between the decayed wood and sound wood is broken. Fill with nonabrasive materials.

HELP TREES STAY HEALTHY

Before you fertilize or consider treatments for microelement problems, have a soil test done. Your trees may require soil acidification. Fertilizers add elements essential for healthy growth. Fertilizers are not tree food. How and when to fertilize any woody plant depends so much on the soil conditions and the health of the plant itself. Trees get their energy from the sun. Leaves and needles trap energy in a molecule of sugar. Sugar is food for trees. Keep leaves and needles healthy with treatments and keep soil free of compaction so roots can get water and essential elements. If you do fertilize it may be best to use low nitrogen, organic materials. After planting your trees you may want to mulch around the base. Do not smother trees with mulch. Mulch should be three to four inches deep. Any deeper than four inches may cause roots to grow upward creating a shallow root

Keep mulch away from the trunk to prevent the bark from being damaged by rodents or excess moisture.

WINTER STORM DAMAGE

During the past few years, severe winter weather has taken its toll on our trees and landscaping. Depending on conditions, damage can range from minor damage to complete loss of a tree or shrub. Often, a fallen or leaning tree has limbs that are under pressure from the weight of the tree. This is dangerous because the pressure on these branches can cause the tree to shift when attempting to move or cut them. Ice storms cause severe damage to landscape plantings particularly if accompanied by strong winds. Especially in our area when evergreens or trees have not lost their leaves. The weight of the snow and ice can completely destroy trees and shrubs, or damage them to the point that they are disfigured or hazardous. Ice and wet snow accumulate in excess of ten times the weight of the limb. To avoid ice and snow damage simply shake off the plant as it accumulates. If done soon enough it can minimize the damage. If ice damage is severe heavy pruning to repair the plant structure may be in order. Trees can be pruned to re-establish a healthy canopy in as little as one growing season. Preventative maintenance, pruning, cabling, and bracing can prevent damage caused by ice and snow. Tie multiple branched shrubs in the fall with natural or jute string.

Extreme cold temperatures are damaging to trees and shrubs. Be aware of the site conditions where a plant is to be grown and plant only native species to our weather conditions. Root systems are damaged by cold temperatures in cases where soil drainage is inadequate and trees are shallow rooted. The root systems of evergreen species are prone to cold injury. In conclusion, although it is impossible to prevent all winter related injury to landscaping and trees, damage can be minimized by careful site analysis, species selection and preventative maintenance. Plantingtherighttree and shrub and maintaining plant vigor and health will help ensure winter survival.

Tree City U.S.A.

Once again Southmont Borough has received the Tree City U.S.A. award. Because of the beautiful tree lined streets Southmont has received this award 6 years in a row. We are achieving our goals.

TREE SPONSORSHIP

We wish to thank three additional families for their contributions to continue improving our tree lawn areas in Southmont Borough. We will be dedicating a tree in honor of Mr. Louis M. Stevens from Mr. James Cartwright, another honoring Mr. Bernard Ghezzi dedicated by Mrs. Ghezzi and Clarese Peterson has dedicated three trees in honor of Katharine and Andrew Peterson.

A generous supporter of the Sponsor-a -Tree Program, Mrs. Betty Alkire past away recently and thru the thoughtfulness of her husband Mr. Russ Alkire, contributions in her memory were received by the Shade Tree Commission. Mr. Krupa, Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission will schedule the planting of a Remembrance Tree for Mrs. Betty Alkire. The tree will replace a red maple that lines the Wonder Street side of the Municipal Building. Several other trees will be planted in memory of Mrs. Alkire. The Shade Tree Commission wishes to thank the Alkire Family and contributors for their generosity.

How to REPAIR TORN BARK

Torn or stripped bark is the result of limbs being violently broken by wind or branches falling from above. Carefully use a chisel or sharp knife to smooth ragged edges of dead or dying bark. Remove the bark to the point at which it is attached to the tree. Try not to expose any more inner bark. Shaping the tear into an ellipse has more aesthetic value than effect on wound closure, round the ends to prevent dieback of the cambium at these points. Keep the wound as narrow as possible to hasten wound closing.



Just because tomorrow is another day no reason to waste today.