

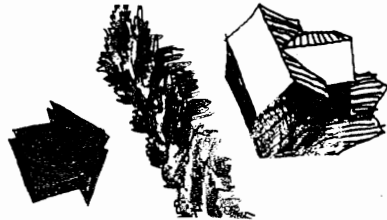


## Save Energy with Trees

Carefully placed trees can provide cooling summer shade, protect your home from chilling winter winds, and maximize energy gains from winter sunlight--cutting annual home energy use by as much as 15 to 35 percent.

**Slow the Wind...**For an average frame house air filtration from wind can cause about 1/3 of the winter heat loss. Heat loss can be significantly reduced by planting a windbreak in the direction from which prevailing winds blow.

Plant evergreen trees close together to create a complete wall against the wind. Choose trees adapted to your region with branches close to the ground.



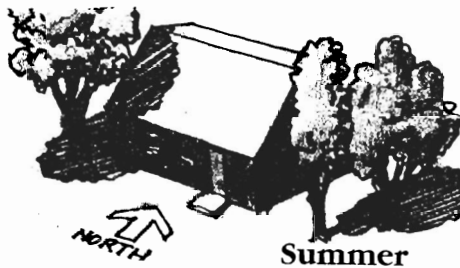
**Where will it land? ...** If you live where blowing snow is a problem, drifts will develop on the downwind side of a windbreak.

Be sure to allow sufficient distance between your windbreak and driveways and walkways.



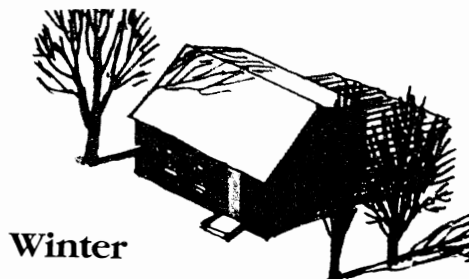
**Work with the Sun?...**Deciduous (broadleaf) trees are nature's energy savers. They shade and cool homes in summer. When leaves fall in the winter, warming sunlight streams through. Best results generally come from trees planted to the east and west of the house, rather than the south. Because the sun is directly overhead at midday in summer, trees on the south will not shade the house unless they are planted very close to it.

Trees planted on the east, west and northwest sides provide the best shade during morning and afternoon in summer, while minimizing unwanted winter shades.



**For quickest shade,...** plant fast growing trees close to the house, as well as slower growing longer lived trees a short distance away. The fast growing trees can be removed after the more durable species have matured.

Trees planted on the south will produce unwanted shade in the winter, when the sun is at a low angle.



## Trees/Energy Savings

Planting a tree today may well mean dollars in your pocket tomorrow. A few well placed trees will provide shade that can reduce summer air conditioning costs up to 15 to 35 percent. In fact, according to the Environmental Protection Agency, if enough shade trees were planted in suburban areas and commercial districts, the "heat Island" effect of cities could be significantly reduced. Heat islands are zones of the landscape that are dominated by buildings and pavement that commonly have air temperatures many degrees higher than areas, such as parks, rural or well-shaded neighborhoods. Heat islands are expanding with the spread of cities and shopping malls. As a result, the temperature difference accounts for an estimated 3 to 8 percent of all urban electric use, costing over \$1 billion yearly. Planting trees to reduce the "heat island" effect not only reduces the cooling costs, it also reduces pollution. Residents should plant trees and shrubs to shade their air conditioning compressor units. It can increase efficiency as much as 10%. If you use an evaporative cooler, this advice doesn't apply. They need sun to operate efficiently.

## Who's Right?"

Many residents question trees on the property between the sidewalk and curbs. The trees lining Southmont Borough are within the street "right-of-way" and are therefore the property of all borough residents and property owners. Owners' of the property that abut the street tree locations maintain these trees. During storms when tree limbs have blown down or have fallen in the streets, borough employees pick up the limbs and branches from the trees lining the streets. In some cases, whole trees have fallen onto the streets or other properties. It is important to open the street up and remove the fallen tree for emergency purposes. These fallen trees become the responsibility of the property owner from which the tree has fallen, and it is their obligation to remove the tree. Periodically, the Shade Tree Commissioner or the Mayor review the trees lining the streets for any dangerous trees that overhang the roadways. Notices are sent to the property owner to have these hazardous conditions removed.

## Something Sweet from Bitter Winter

When the sugar maples stir and spiles spout, the sweet times of maple syrup-making and Spring are close behind.



# Borough Happenings

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## Borough Happenings!!

Winter is over and Spring has sprung. As the trees bud, and the flowers bloom everyone and everything comes alive. Some things that will be happening in the Borough are new drainage construction will be done at the Softball/Soccer Field near the entrance gate. The field usually has been a bit soggy throughout the year and during the Jubilee. The field will not be usable until perhaps the fall after the field is re-leveled and new grass is planted. The Borough Employees will be re-building several catch basins. Due to new DEP guidelines we will be forced to remove our under ground storage tanks. We are in the process of installing a diesel above ground tank, however, we will be purchasing gasoline at a fleet service station.

## "Pepe' Le Phew" and Friends.

Another suggestion for keeping our friends away from your home is to treat your lawn for "grubs". Our "smelly buddies" dig up your lawn looking for the grubs. Have your lawn treated or visit the local hardware for the proper chemicals to treat the lawn area yourself. Remember, if you have bird feeders, please keep the area around the feeder cleaned up, you don't want to feed any rodents, as well as the birds.

## From the Mayor's Desk

Newly elected Mayor Lary Koval began immediately with the appointment as a deputy on the Emergency Operations Agency and appointment to the Police Commission. He also is a member of the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission. Mayor Koval started his busy schedule by preparing for the Diamond Playground opening for the 1998 season. He can usually be found raking, seeding and re-applying mulch materials around the trees at the Playground. If that's not enough, he will proclaim June as Stroke Prevention Month. With this proclamation, a Public Service program sponsored by the UPMC-Lee SPARC team will provide stroke screening tests to residents at the Borough building on June 18, 1998, between the hours of 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The SPARC team will do the stroke screening tests, at no cost to you. Everyone is invited. The test will consist of a patient history, blood pressure and pulse test, cholesterol screening and a one on one review of the tests. A follow-up letter will be sent to each participant after the laboratory results are done.



## From the Fire Chief's Office

The Southmont Volunteer Fire Co. announces it's upcoming expansion. Hopefully, ground will be broken in the summer on the new equipment bays. The new bays will be attached to the current station, with the driveway facing Thoburn Street. The current station provides little room between trucks. Those who visited the department know how little room there is between trucks. The new bays will allow truck doors to open without hitting the walls and storage space necessary for equipment. With such a project comes expense. Watch your mail for more information on fund raising efforts. This year's Jubilee will be May 25th thru May 30th. The parade will be on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. Watch for details in the local newspaper. Any resident who

wishes to contribute their expertise in this field, please contact Rich Reed, Fire Company President, at 255-2633.

## Recreation News

The Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission has named a new executive director, Mr. Clifford Kitner. Ms. Julie Sythe had resigned to accept a position in Arizona. We will all miss Julie, and extend a welcome to Mr. Kitner who began his duties preparing the 1998 summer brochures. They are expected to be mailed early in May. The 1998 Summer Playground schedule will begin June 15th thru August 7th. The Borough and the Recreation Commission is in the process of

renovating the Soccer/Ballfield. A new storage shed is being built with the help of Greater Johnstown High School students Building Trades & Maintenance Class.

## RECYCLING NEWS

**WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE RECYCLE???** Last years recycled material volume was 57,552 pounds or 28.77 tons. This gave the Borough a credit of approximately \$900.00 from the garbage contract. You recycled 10,512 #'s of mixed paper, 15,440 #'s of colored glass. The three year contract and the voluntary recycling program has enabled you, the residents, to receive the reduced garbage collection fee for the year 1998. The annual Spring Clean-up will be April 29 and April 30, 1998 in conjunction with your regular pick-up. It will be advertised. The first newspaper collection date was scheduled for March 28, 1998 at 8:00 a.m. until Noon. The other newspaper dates are June 7th, August 8th and October 17th. Please watch for the newspaper and Spring clean-up schedules.

The recycling center is open from 7:00 a.m. to dusk Monday thru Saturday. Thursdays we are closed from 7 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., to take the recyclable materials to the Total Recycling center in Boswell. Reminder everyone, do not include plastic bags in the individual bins. Use the outside bins provided. All glass must be separated. Rinse cans and plastics. Compress plastics. **NO light bulbs, mirrors, drinking glass, cups, dishes and window or safety glass or wire hangers.** Ordinance 389 provides for fines of up to \$300.00 for littering or placing unspecified items into the recycling bins. These items cause the entire load to be contaminated resulting in unnecessary additional costs. Thanks for your participation and cooperation.

## CLIP & SAVE

As part of our on going programs and services, employees will be crack sealing the streets in April, which helps to preserve our streets. Newspaper recycling in 1998 will be March 28th, June 6th, August 8th, and October 17th, from 8 a.m. till Noon only, at the Borough Building. Street sweeping will begin the week of April 20. Southern Alleghenies will do Spring Clean-up collection on April 29 and 30th in conjunction with your weekly garbage collection. SPARC Stroke Screening June 18, 1998 at the Borough Building. Brush clean-up will be done in October.

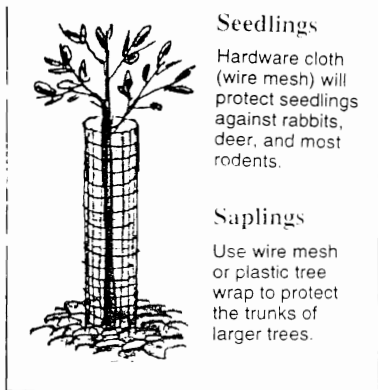
Watch newspaper for schedules.

# More Facts

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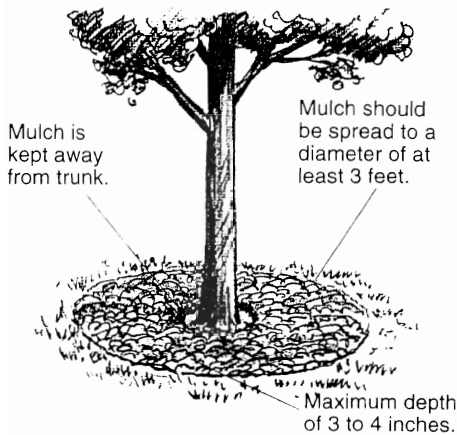
## Protect Your Trees

There are a number of animals which will browse on vegetation. Deer, rabbits, mice and etc.... The most likley are the deer and rabbits. Deer have no front incisor teeth on their upper jaw. The deer-cut will have a frayed edge on one side. A double row of incisors on the upper front jaws of a rabbit will produce a cleanly severed twig cut. Enclose your young trees or shrub for protection.



## Mulch Your Trees

The single best thing you can do for trees is to try to duplicate the mulch which nature provides in the forest. Apply about 4" (no more) of composted wood chips, leaves or other organic matter around the base of the tree. Circle the tree at least three feet in diameter. Keep mulch away from the bark. Mulch conserves moisture, cools the soil, and prevents erosion.



## Inspect Your Property

As the spring and summer months progress, tree leaves, branches and limbs begin to obscure driveways, sidewalks and hinder the visibility of traffic. Inspect your property and clean up any overgrown shrub and or trees that might be causing problems for the many neighbors who like to walk and drive thru our area. Remember, it is the property owners responsibility to keep their area free of any hazardous limbs or shrub overhanging into the street or sidewalks. Also, remember to have your house numbers visible from the street.

### Permits Required

BEFORE you prune, trim, or remove any tree in the Borough Right of Way, you MUST obtain a permit. The permit is FREE, but necessary to insure proper attention is given to "our" shared treasure.

**Don't Top Tree** This story has been told before, however, topping causes all kinds of problems from the creation of weak sucker wood to potentially fatal introduction of rot and disease.

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

Southmont Borough's Arbor Day celebration will be April 25, 1998. Bill Krupa, Shade Tree Commissioner reported. This years celebration will be held at the corner of Thoburn and Mabel Streets. Five trees will be planted. The Shade Tree Commission members are doing an inventory of the shade trees lining the streets of Southmont. The 1998 Arbor Day celebrations marks the 7th year Southmont Borough has participated in this National annual event.

The Shade Tree Committee is looking for several new interested residents who have concerns for the trees surrounding the Southmont Borough streets and in our urban forests. If you are interested, please call the Borough Office and Mr. Krupa will be happy to sign you up as a much needed member.

### What a Great Lady!

We offer our deepest sympathy to the Eileen Middleton family, on the passing of their mother, "Cookie".

She will be remembered for her dedication to the "urban forest" and her help as a member of the Shade Tree Committee. A tree will be planted in her memory at the 1998 Arbor Day celebration.

## TREE SPONSORSHIP

The Shade Tree Commission continues with their Sponsor a Tree Program. Dedicating a tree in a loved ones memory will give great pleasure for many years. Names are added to our Shade Tree Plaque. Ms. Ann Elizabeth Neff and Dr. Robert Swanson Neff have dedicated a tree in memory of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Boyts Neff. Thank you all who continue to make our program successful.

## HOME GROWN: RAMPS

Wild leeks sprout from the rich soil of the forest floor in early April, before the leaves open on the trees. "Ramps" as they are called by the "mountain folks" are the first green thing to grow in the woods. The plant roots belongs to the lily family and are closely related to garlic. Ramps, the sweetest of the wild onions, are a delicacy to local folks. The shiny leaves grow in pairs, appearing in colonies on dark moist woods floors. The leaves spice up a salad and the white bulbs makes a great onion soup. Folk tales report the Cherokees ate the leaves for colds, croup and as a spring tonic. Ramps are also a folk remedy against cancer, much like the garlic remedy. Some even cut and rub the bulb on insect bites.

## A Sweet Discovery

Early spring, sap buckets appear on sugar maple trees through out Pennsylvania. The sap, which contains water, is cooked until most of water is evaporated, leaving a sticky, tasty, and wonderful maple syrup. There is an Iroquios legend about the discovery of maple sugar. According to legend, Chief Woksis came home from hunting and hurled his tomahawk into a maple tree next to his lodge. When he pulled the tomahawk from the tree it left a long gash. His wife had left a clay pot beneath the tree and in the spring it filled with the liquid watery sap. She used the liquid to cook venison that night and found the meat to be sweeter and very flavorful. Hence, the flavorful maple syrup.

The minute you settle  
for less  
than you deserve, you  
get even  
less than you settled  
for.