



One of the first indications that you are entering Southmont Borough are the Shade Trees lining our streets. Between the "street trees" and Borough Park trees, we presently have a beautiful asset of over 1500 trees. Our forefathers adopted Ordinance No. 69, on July 11, 1927 with the intent of protecting our "treasure" by providing a consistent method for residents to monitor and maintain shade trees with the help of a Shade Tree Commission. Prior to 1927, many trees were planted with little or no thought into how and where they would grow, future development, tree lawn areas, types and species, etc.

Take the time to enjoy "your" trees, which set Southmont apart from most municipalities in this area and throughout Pennsylvania. We are always looking for interested residents to join with the Shade Tree Committee 2 or 3 times a year to update the yearly inspection of the trees and plan future planting. If interested, please contact Bill Krupa, Shade Tree Commissioner at 255-6242

Ordinance No 69. , Commission

As an ongoing responsibility to the residents of the Borough of Southmont, Ordinance No. 69 was written and approved on July 11, 1927. The Shade Tree Commission providing for the appointment of a Shade Tree Commissioner , the care of and preventing injury to the trees on the highways and public parks of the Borough of Southmont and imposing fines and penalties for the violation thereof. The Ordinance states that it is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation without a written permit of the Shade Tree Commission to cut, break, climb, or injure any tree or portion of tree planted or growing in any public highway or public park of the Borough of Southmont or cause, authorize or procure any person to cut, break, climb, or injure any such tree or portion thereof or to injury, misuse or remove any device set for the protection of any tree or plant in any public highway or borough park in the Borough of Southmont. Any person or firm or corporation desiring for any lawful purpose to cut, prune or trim any tree in any public highway or borough park in the Borough of Southmont may apply to the Shade Tree Commissioner and if in the judgement of said Commission the desired cutting, pruning, trimming shall appear necessary and the proposed method and workmanship thereof is such as said Commission approves, the Shade Tree Commission may thereupon issue a written permit for such work, as described.

Ordinance No. 69., Killing or Removal of Trees

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to kill or remove or cause, authorize or procure the death or removal of any tree planted or growing in any public highway or public park of the Borough of Southmont. Any person, firm or corporation desiring for any lawful purpose to take down or remove any tree in any public highway or park of the Borough of Southmont may apply to the Shade Tree Commission and, if in the judgement of said Commission, the desired taking down and removal shall appear necessary, the Shade Tree Commission may thereupon issue a written permit hereof.

Ordinance No. 69., Penalties

Any person, firm, or corporation who shall violate any provision of the Ordinance shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not more that **\$600 plus costs**. Each day in which a violation shall continue shall be deemed a separate offense.

There are Permits available for any Tree Removal and/or Tree Replanting in the Borough office. We ask that if you are not sure if your proposed removal of a tree is relevant to the Borough Ordinance No. 69, please do not hesitate to call the office at 255-3104 for information.



When to Prune

When to prune depends on a large extent of why you prune. Light pruning and the removal of dead wood can be done anytime. Otherwise, here are some guidelines, but recognizing that individual species may differ.



Winter

Pruning during dormancy is the most common practice. It results in a vigorous burst of new growth in the spring and should be used if that is the desired effect. It is usually best to wait until the coldest part of winter has passed. Some species, such as maples, walnuts and birches, may bleed when the sap begins to flow. This is not harmful and will cease when the tree leaves out.



Summer

To direct the growth by slowing the branches you don't want or to "slow " or dwarf the development of a tree or branch, pruning should be done after seasonal growth is complete. The reason for the slowing effect is to reduce the total leaf surface, thereby reducing the amount of food manufactured and sent to the roots for their development and next year's growth of the crown. Another reason to prune in the summer is for corrective purposes. Defective limbs can be seen more easily, or limbs that hang down too far under the weight of leaves



Fall

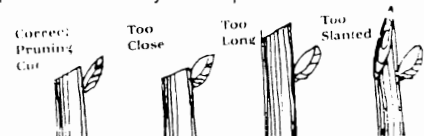
Because decay fungi spread their spores profusely in the fall and healing wounds seems to be slower on fall cuts, this is not a good time to prune. Leave your pruning tools in storage.



Flowering Trees

If your purpose for pruning is to enhance flowering; 1.) For trees or shrubs that bloom in summer or fall on current year's growth (e.g. crape myrtle), prune in winter. 2.) For trees that bloom in spring from buds on one year old wood, (e.g., dogwood and flowering fruit trees), prune when the flowers fade.

Caution: in some areas disease or insect occurrence may be affected by the time of pruning. Check with your local nursery operators for any local problems.



Borough Happenings

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Borough Happenings!!

The 1999 Budget has been completed. No change in mills this year, but some new happenings in the Borough. The retaining wall along Southmont Blvd. will be completed in 1998. This construction was necessary, as the sidewalk and street were sinking. Council decided that this \$60,000 project should be done in lieu of some street paving in 1998. Most streets are in good condition, according to our semi-annual inspections. Mostly the main arteries in the Borough will be paved in 1999. In 1998 a new "backhoe" was purchased and also a new 1998 truck was purchased. Both items are planned for in each budget year. The two underground fuel tanks were removed, according to the DEP new guidelines. With winter upon us, we are preparing, the same as the residents, for the blustery days and nights. Leaf collection will continue until the snow falls.

Question Asked?

How do you dispose of old paint? To dispose of it properly, add "UNSCENTED" clay cat litter to the paint. Stir until it is thick. Leave the lid off and let it dry. Now dispose of the paint in the regular trash pick up.

From the Mayor's Desk

Mayor Lary Koval will again proclaim June as Stroke Prevention Month. A Public Service program by the UPMC-Lee SPARC team will provide stroke screening tests at the Borough building sometime in June. The SPARC team will do the stroke screening tests, at no cost to you. A follow-up letter is sent to each participant after the laboratory results are done. More on this in the Spring. Once again, the Diamond Playground was the most attended playground of the WHRC. Local residents spent a day sprucing up the playground in the Spring. Mayor Koval extend our thanks to them. Borough Council pledged monies for the annual maintenance and upkeep of the grounds. The WHRC will purchase a load of wood mulch to resurface the play area. Importantly, the younger residents are enjoying the Diamond Playground. Winter's approaching, Mayor Koval reminds you that the property owner is responsible for keeping overhanging brush and shrubs clear of streets, alleys and sidewalks, according to the BOCA Code and Ordinance No. 409.

Ordinance 374 provides the animal owners responsibility is to keep animals under restraint and not allow the animal to urinate or defecate on any other property without removing it from place of deposit. **Fines are up to \$300.00.**

Animals must be on leash.

From the Fire Chief 's Office

On November 8, 1998, the Fire Company held Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremonies to dedicate the new fire station. Mayor Lary Koval, Council Members, County and State officials were on hand as the Fire Chief, Board Officers and General Contractor, Jerry Murray cut the ribbon dedicating the new 2 bay structure. Southmont residents were on hand to participate in the ceremony. Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Butler's Garage, State Street Deli, Easy Grade Car Wash, Numero Uno Ristorante, and Em's Subs donated door prizes. The Fire Company reminds residents that there will be no Turkey Raffle this year, as all efforts are on the fund drive. As of this writing donations received are at \$8,000 from residents and only 2 businesses have contributed to date. The Fire Company reminds the residents that regardless of your donation, they are there when you need them. Businesses are asked to include the Fire Department in their annual budget. Fire protection is not free- it is expensive. Donations are your part in making a fire department work for your community. We thank those who have contributed, and remind others that donations are accepted any time. Reminder, if you haven't changed your smoke alarms to date, now is the time to do it. Also, check your holiday decorations for unsafe wiring, check your flue before the season begins and use caution in all of your Holiday festivities. Have a Safe Holiday. New

RECYCLING NEWS

WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE RECYCLE??? Only a small percentage of residents recycle. If all residents participate in voluntary recycling we will be able to continue with the reduced rate in your garbage fees. Current annual fee is \$68.00. The three year contract with USA Waste of PA. (formerly Southern Alleghenies) will expire in 2000. Continuing the recycling program has enabled us to reduce collection fees the past two years and again in 1999. Southmont has one drop off center, on Dell Street, and that is where your volume credit is received. For each pound of volume taken from our collector's wastestream, we receive credit, thereby reducing the annual fee we have to charge the residents for weekly garbage collection. It's quite simple, the more you recycle, the better our reduction is. Remember, the bins provided by the Borough to each household, are to remain with that address for recycling purposes. The Borough still provides the annual Spring Clean-up to the residents.

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. Reminder, use the outside bins provided for plastic bags. 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 continued participation and cooperation.

members are always welcome, please call the Fire Company at 255-2633

CLIP & SAVE

On going programs and services. Crack sealing will be done in April, to preserve our streets. Street sweeping usually done in late April or early May. Newspaper recycling in 1999 will be March 27th, June 5th, August 7th, and October 23rd, from 8 a.m. till Noon only, at the Borough Building. Must be bundled. USA Waste of PA will do the 1999 Spring Clean-up collection May 19th and 20th in conjunction with your weekly garbage collection. Stroke Screening, June 1999 at the Borough Building. Brush clean-up, October. Please park your vehicles off streets during winter plowing, when possible. Watch newspaper for schedules.

More Facts

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Keys to Good Pruning

Prune early in the life of the tree so wounds are small and so growth goes where you want it. Begin visual inspections at the top of the tree and work down. Identify the best leaders and lateral branches before you begin and remove defective parts before pruning the form. Don't worry about protecting pruning cuts. For aesthetics, you may feel better painting large wounds with a neutral-color tree paint, but evidence is that it does not prevent or reduce decay. Keep your tools sharp. One-hand pruning shears with curved blades work best on young trees. Make safety a number one priority. For high branches use a pole pruner. Some have both a saw and shears on the same tool. When you are simply shortening a small branch make the cut at a lateral bud or another lateral branch. Favor a bud that will produce a branch that will grow in a desired direction. All cuts should be sharp and clean and made at a slight angle about 1/4 inch beyond the bud. Remember, don't leave stubs. Prevent bark tearing, and no need to paint the wounds, a callus will form completely around correct cuts.

Pruning Dead Wood

It is usually impractical to remove every twig that may die, but dead limbs and the jagged stubs of limbs broken in a storm should definitely be removed. The first reason is for safety. The wood in dead limbs loses its flexibility and is likely to snap off under force of wind, snow and ice. The other reason is tree health. A tree has a marvelous way of forming a chemical barrier between dead tissue and living tissue. When a limb is sawed off properly, the tree responds with its protective layer and woundwood soon grows and eventually seals the exposed area. After a storm, don't be too hasty in removing a damaged tree. There may be some jagged limbs or a broken top. Any loose limbs should be taken out of the tree promptly. Storms tend to bring out the "guy with a chainsaw and a pickup truck" and little else in mind than making some extra money. Contact a legitimate arborist with a good reputation before sacrificing a tree, when skillful pruning could save that tree.

THOUGHTS

*What ever you want to do,
do it now. There are only
so many tomorrows*

Mature Pruning

Mature trees should be pruned for specific reasons and in a manner that protects and preserves the tree's natural form. Pruning should focus on maintaining tree structure, shape, health and safety. Some recommended types of pruning are as follows:

Crown Cleaning-removes dead, dying, diseased, crowded, low branches or water sprouts.

Crown Thinning-selectively remove branches to increase light penetration, air movements and reduce weight of heavy limbs.

Crown reduction-reduces the size and spread of crowns using thinning cuts, resulting in fewer sprouts than heading or stub cuts. Maintains structural integrity of tree.

Crown Restoration - improves the structure and appearance of trees that have been storm damaged or deformed.

Remember: in nature trees grow in groups with full crowns. DO NOT TOP TREES, it is a crime against nature.

Trees and Dinosaurs

The dinosaurs, after living on earth for a very long time, suddenly became extinct in a relatively short geological time. That we know. But why, is still a major question. We may never know for sure, but it is possible that the coming of the great woods forests with tall tough trees with lots of lignin, may have played a significant role in the exodus of the dinosaurs. The trees that formed the coal fields were more like soft, tall horsetails. The woody tough, giant trees came later. It would be impossible for even the largest and strongest dinosaur to run through a forest thicket of giant trees.

Trees as we know them today came with many associates. The tough, woody tree system represented a new and better survival concept for natural living systems. Living and dead parts were connected. There was no waste. The system used energy efficiently. It is our responsibility to make the best decisions to maintain this system or we may meet the same fate as the dinosaurs.

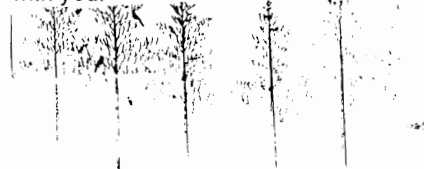


TREE SPONSORSHIP

The Shade Tree Commission continues with their Sponsor a Tree Program. Names to be added to our plaque are Elizabeth Mayer and Michael Kane in memory of Margaret Parrish, and Mr. & Mrs. William L. Carstensen Jr., in memory of Arnold Carstensen. Dedicating a tree is a wonderful way to remember a loved one and will give great pleasure for many years. Thank you all, who continue to make our program a success.

ARBOR DAY "99"

Southmont Borough's Arbor Day celebration for 1999 will be April 24, 1999. The 1999 Arbor Day celebration will be dedicated to a member of the Shade Tree Advisory Board who recently passed away. A tree will be planted in memory of Dr. Ellen Dana Hoffman formerly of 212 Leila Street. Dr. Hoffman had been on the Shade Tree Advisory Board since 1993. Dr. Hoffman held a doctorate in communications at the University of Pittsburgh. She participated in all of the past Arbor Day celebrations and will be truly missed by the Commission. The location of the 1999 Arbor Day celebration has not yet been decided. It will be announced in the local newspaper. Mr. Bill Krupa, Shade Tree Commissioner is accepting names of individuals who would be interested in becoming a member of the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. Anyone willing to serve on this Committee just call the Borough office and leave your name and number. Mr. Krupa will be in touch with you.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

**A mistake at least
proves that
somebody stopped
talking long enough
to do something.**