



## RESIDENTS: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Borough of Southmont will be inspecting sidewalks for property owners who have allowed the trees abutting their sidewalk to become overgrown and have allowed low hanging limbs to obstruct the pedestrian sidewalks, roadways and alleys. You may be asked to trim the trees to have a clearance of no less than seven feet above the surface of the sidewalk and twelve feet above the surface of the roadway. Periodically we send letters to residents who have allowed the shrub, brush and or trees to impinge or encroach the sidewalks, alleys and streets.

Our recently passed Ordinance No. 420 clearly spells out the specific guidelines of trimming along the sidewalks, roadways and alleys. If you have any questions please call the Borough Office or Shade Tree Commissioner, Bill Krupa. Violators will be fined up to \$600.00.

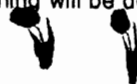


Action by officials is sometimes needed on private property for purposes of public safety.

## PRUNING:

Probably the most common pruning need is to remove dead or hazardous limbs. Another is to remove objectionable limbs, such as one that may be growing too close to the chimney or your favorite picture window. Remove a few of the lowest limbs each year until a desired height is achieved. This is called "crown lifting". Usually this is done when the tree is maturing and the limbs are small, but it can be done with neglected older trees. Sometimes it is necessary to provide more growing room for limbs with narrow branching angles. Sometimes it is necessary to control the height and width of a tree. When this is done it should be done in a way that will enable the tree to retain its natural shape. Careful selection of branches and pruning them at the junction or the trunk or another large branch, **NOT BY TOPPING**.....

The point is --- have a reason to prune. There is nothing magical about pruning and while some trees need pruning every few years, others can do with no pruning at all. In fact, if someone suggests that you prune your tree, be sure to get a clear explanation of why, and then how the pruning will be done to address the specific reasons.

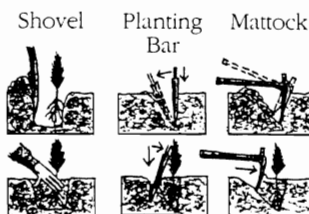


## Bare Root Planting

This time of the year we plant seedlings. Yes, we like to speed up the planting, make a slit, stick the seedling in and fill up the hole. However, new research underscores how important it is to take time to make sure the roots are not crowded into J, L, or U shapes. Researchers found that 77 percent of deformed trees had J or L shaped roots. Trees with nice straight trunks had nice straight tap roots. Trees with J or L shaped roots are usually 7 percent shorter in height and 9 percent smaller in diameter.



## Planting Seedlings Correctly with a:



We think the lesson from this is to take the time to make sure the planting hole is large enough, plant so the seedling is at the same depth it was in the nursery.

## Fertilize: Spring or Fall?

This is a tough question to answer because there are so many variables involved. However, if you have a good reason to fertilize (such as a known deficiency in the soil, the need for rapid growth of a young tree, better leaf color, etc.) late summer or early fall is often the best time to do it, especially if you use a liquid form of nitrogen. If you use a granular form, it will need some help from rain or watering to dissolve and work into the soil. The reason fall fertilizing works well is that conditions such as warm soil temperature and slowed top growth this time of the year makes it more efficient to have fertilizer absorbed by the roots and stored in the tree. Be careful, fertilizing too late in the fall may prolong the growth into the first freeze. The freeze will kill tender new shoots, whereas it usually has no ill effect on growth that has "hardened off" for the year. In regions like ours, it is best to fertilize in late summer rather than wait until the fall.

## Tree Miracles

The world of trees provides a never-ending source of amazement. Consider the bristlecone pines of California's White mountains. One of these old trees has been living there for 4,767 years. Some of the trees that we can see and enjoy today were alive in our mountains when the pharaohs were building pyramids!

We need only to look at the trees in our own back yard or along the streets of Southmont to see more miracles. Each leaf is a miniature factory that takes carbon dioxide out of the air and converts it into sugars for tree growth and oxygen that we breathe. Scientists have calculated that all over the globe carbon dioxide is filtered through leaves over a three year period. Incalculable amounts of carbon and other potential pollutants are also bound up in the woody tissue of trees, helping to keep our air clean. Trees cool our air, too. Water is pulled from the soil and transported, one cell at a time, to the tip of each twig and into the leaves, an amazing feat in its own right. From there transpiration releases water into the air, cooling our municipality as much as 12 degrees more than nearby neighborhoods without trees.

## STROKE SCREENING

Once again, Southmont Borough will sponsor a Stroke Screening program. It will be June 13, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. It is free and provided by UPMC Lee Hospital. Blood screening is done to make participants aware of cholesterol levels. Please call the Borough Office 255-3104 and sign up for the test. Do this for yourself.

# Borough Happenings

Volume 19  
Spring 2001



## Borough Happenings!

With spring flowers and sunshine comes the projects we all have put aside during the winter months. As residents begin to rake, sweep and clean-up the yard the Borough is also busy. Crack sealing will be done in April. Spring Clean-up is May 16 and 17 with your regular weekly pick up. This year we will be cleaning out the storm sewer lines. We have scheduled the sewer cleaning machine from the City of Johnstown for April 30, May 1 and 2. Paving will be done possibly in May this year. We are scheduling the Street Sweeper and will publish the schedule in the Tribune. If you have gravel and debris on your sidewalk after the streets are swept, sweep

and place the debris out for the garbage collector. Do Not Sweep into Streets. Southmont Borough does not pick up limbs and branches during the year, only during fall brush clean-up and after severe storms. Leaves are picked up in the fall only.

### Mayor's Desk

Borough employees will install new manholes and catch basins in different areas of the Borough. Southmont purchased two flow meters to monitor the infiltration of storm water. This will determine the need for storm line repairs or construction.

**Reminder:** Southmont adopted Ord. #419 prohibiting dogs, cats and other animals from running at large. Fines will be imposed and you will be required to pay \$35.00 to re-coup your animal.

### SUMMER PLAYGROUND NEWS

Get ready for a great summer at Diamond Playground. PARENTS: This is a drop-in program. Beginning June 18 through August 3, 2001. Supervisors are present to monitor the playground area, and to help ensure a safe playing environment for your children. The Hilltop Recreation Commission provides play equipment and games that the children may utilize at their leisure. Playground attendance varies from day to day. Activities are determined by the children present. A weekly craft is provided at \$0.25 per child, to offset the cost of the materials. The Commission organizes three outings during the program. A morning trip is schedule for Stackhouse Park, an afternoon trip to Dairy Queen/Doug's Divot and an afternoon trip to Westmont Bowling Lanes. Kids invited 9 a.m. to Noon. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday thru Friday. JOIN THE FUN.....

## From the Fire Chief's Office

Southmont Borough Volunteer Fire Department will host the 29th annual Jubilee. This year's Jubilee will be held May 28th through June 2, 2001. The Annual Parade will be Thursday, May 31, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. If you know of any groups, that would like to participate in the parade, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts., please call the Fire Department at 255-2633 and we'll sign you up. We will be glad to have you. As many Fire Departments in our area, we are experiencing a great need for new volunteers. Many of our members have left the area due to job opportunities, etc. We have a need for volunteers to serve in many capacity. Volunteers are needed as firefighters, apparatus drivers, fire police, administrative and support personnel.

If you have the time we have the place for you to serve your community. Remember the Volunteer Fire Department is there when you need them, show a little support, volunteer some time so they can be continue to provide you with the fire protection service we all have become accustomed to. Call Southmont Volunteer Fire Department at 255-2633

## RECYCLING NEWS

**While our recycling figures are down slightly for this year, we negotiated a good contract with Waste Management. We continue to receive credit for the volume removed from the wastestream. Last year we received \$1,000 in credit. Residents are urged to recycle more for continued savings. With the higher cost of fuel the garbage fee will go up \$2.00 for 2001. The annual fee will be \$70.00. Newspaper collections will be March 24, June 9, August 11, and October 20, 2001. Spring Clean-up will be done May 16th and 17th in conjunction with your regular garbage pick-up. Batteries, tires, Auto/Truck parts, construction materials or liquids excluded. No appliances with freon can be picked up. To have freon removed call a plumber. All yard and shrub trimmings must be tied in 3' bundles. If you have any questions, please call USA Waste Management at 479-4011. A reminder will be published in the newspaper.**

**We are having a problem with someone putting window glass in the bins for recycling. Each time this happens we must pay extra fees because the glass becomes contaminated. NO WINDOW OR SAFETY GLASS should be placed in these bins. Fines will be imposed if this continues. Recycling hours are 7:00 a.m. to dusk Monday thru Saturday. Closed Thursdays 7 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Use outside bins provided for plastic bags. 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 contaminating and littering. Thanks for participating.**

## CITIZEN INPUT

Borough Council members are always looking for residents who are willing to serve on the various Boards and Commissions that are necessary in the operations of Municipal Government. If you are interested, please call the

Borough Office and leave your name.

## CLIP & SAVE

Newspaper recycling in 2001 will be done on June 9th, August 11th and October 20th, 8 a.m. till Noon only, at the Borough Building. Newspapers must be bundled. Waste Management will be doing the Spring Clean-up collection, 2001 thru 2003. For the year 2001 Spring Clean-up will be May 16th and 17th., with your regular weekly collection. If you have any questions you can call them at 479- 4011. Crack sealing will be done sometime in April 2001. Brush clean-up is done the third week of October. At no time should you rake yard waste and twigs into the street. Bundle twigs and place out with your garbage. **Watch newspaper for schedules.**



## Tree City USA Tips

Many residents call and ask about the type of plants to use for landscaping around their homes. They compliment the various trees planted along the streets in Southmont Borough. We look for the arrival of Spring in robins and crocuses. The creamy white blossoms of the serviceberry tree (*Amelanchier* spp.) is yet another sign of Spring. Flowers often appear mid April, before many other flowering trees, making them quite conspicuous. There are about a dozen species native to the United States, ranging from low-spreading shrubs to tall trees. Blooming late in the spring or early summer. These flowering shrubs or trees provide a site for early pollinating insects. The insects attract resident birds. Besides being an excellent source of food for wildlife, serviceberries make excellent additions to the landscaping. In addition to the early flowering blossoms and dark fruits, serviceberries have brilliant fall colors of yellow and orange that deepen to red. **\*\*\*\*\* Remember that you must have permits to cut or remove any tree along Borough streets. Penalties and fines can be up to \$600.00.**



## GYSPY MOTH CONTROL

This is the time to destroy the egg masses before gypsy moth caterpillars start to hatch in early May. All the eggs from a gypsy moth female are laid together in one mass that is typically teardrop shaped and about 1 1/2 inches long. The eggs are covered by the buff-yellow hairs of the female so the egg mass looks like it's made of felt the color of a manila envelope. Egg masses can be found in the crevices in bark, on the underside of branches, on the underside of patio furniture, in playground equipment, among firewood, and even on the crannies of house siding or rock walls.

Scrape egg masses into a jar, then kill the eggs by either microwaving them for two minutes or by adding some corn or soybean oil to the jar. You can seal the top of the jar and throw the jar in the trash.



## Why NOT to "TOP" Trees

There are eight good reasons not to top your trees.

1.) **Starvation:** Topping removes so much of the crown that it upsets an older tree's crown to root ratio and temporarily cuts off its food making ability.

2.) **Shock:** A tree's crown (umbrella) shields the tree from direct rays of the sun. Remove this protection and the remaining bark tissue (skin) is exposed to scalding.

3.) **Insects and Disease:** The large stubs of a topped tree have a difficult time forming callus. The tree's natural defense systems are highly vulnerable to insect invasion and the spores of decaying fungi.

4.) **Weak limbs:** At best, the wood of a new limb that sprouts after a large limb has been topped is more weakly attached. If rot exists or develops at the severed end of the limb, the weight of the limb becomes a dangerous situation.

5.) **Rapid new growth:** The goal of topping is usually to control height of a tree. After topping, the new "Sprouts" are far more numerous and they elongate so rapidly that the tree returns to its original height in a very short time.

6.) **Tree Death:** Some species do not respond to topping and do not sprout rapidly after such severe pruning. The reduced foliage will lead to the death of the tree.

7.) **Ugliness:** A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with regrowth it never regains the grace and character of its species.

8.) **Costs:** To a worker with a saw, topping a tree is much easier than applying the skill and judgement needed for good pruning. However, the true costs can be hidden. These include: reduced property value, removal and replacement if the tree dies, the risk of liability from weakened branches and increased future maintenance.

These are just a few of the reasons we stress that the topping of trees will destroy the beauty of our tree lined streets, while reducing the overall beauty of the area. Letters, along with a copy of Ordinance #69, will be sent to residents who continue TOP trees in the Borough Right of Way. Violation of Ordinance #69 will lead to fines. Please help keep Southmont's trees beautiful.

## TREE SPONSORSHIP

Spring and Summer are especially colorful and lively due to the thoughtfulness of residents who have contributed to the "landscaping" of Southmont borough. This past year contributions were received from Michael and Sheila Moses, dedicating a tree in the name of Ann Brustle, and Gentile, Wiener, Catanese & Vulcan also sponsored a tree. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Glass and Mr. D. Richard Akers contributed to the Southmont Urban Forest. Contribution over \$100.00 are added to our Shade Tree Contribution Plaque displayed in the Municipal Building. Contributions provide a lasting memory and a visible reminder of your caring for family or friends, living or deceased. Thanks for all your support.

## ARBOR DAY "2001" \*\*

The Arbor Day celebration for the year 2001 will be held on May 5th at 10:00 a.m. The Arbor Day celebration will be held along Diamond Blvd., above the Playground area. This year a tree will be planted in honor of Mr. Fred Pullen and Michael Butler. Mr. Pullen retired as Zoning Officer after 20 years of service to the Borough. Mr. Butler has served the Community for many, many years as Fire Chief. Mr. Butler will be leaving the area, to accept a position as Assistant Director of the York County Fire School. Other trees planted on Arbor Day and throughout the year are paid for by the Borough and residents who contribute to the Sponsor a Tree program. Southmont Borough will once again be honored with the Tree City USA award for the 11th year.

Girl Scout Troop #20 will be providing the Arbor Day ceremonies. We hope to see you there. New members to our Shade Tree programs are always welcome. Please call the Borough office and leave your name and number. Mr. Krupa will be in touch with you.



Intelligence is like a river:  
the deeper it is,  
the less noise it makes.  
Happy Spring/Summer

