

KINDRED SPIRIT

Southmont Borough



Volume 25
Spring/Summer 04

Message from Council President, Kevin L. Pile

Winter and Spring Maintenance

By the time you receive this newsletter the snow has finally stopped. 2004 started by "hammering" the region with snow and rain. The Street Crew worked diligently to keep the Borough streets opened.

The winter weather has taken a toll on the Borough streets. The Street Commissioner has scheduled to seal crack the streets the last week of April and the first two weeks of May. Paving of the streets are scheduled for the middle of the summer.

The street sweeper is scheduled to be in the borough the week of April 19th.

Cost of Cable

The cost of cable has been increasing over the last several years. To help Southmont residents, the Borough Council has requested Charter Communications to lower the franchise fee from 5% to 2%. This should save each per scribe between \$1.00 and \$2.00 per month.

When It Rains, It Drains

At the beginning of March each household received a pamphlet titled "When It Rains, It Drains." Under the Federal Storm Water Management Program the borough was required to distribute these. The Borough has been testing our sanitary and storm sewer systems for infiltration. We are asking each resident to read this pamphlet. If you have

any questions call the Borough office.

Community Arts Center

Since 1993 Southmont Borough has supported the Community Arts Center of Cambria County. Our commitment is to help promote the value of the arts to our community. Schedule time to visit the Art Center and this summer support the free Summer Concerts on the Green Series. The Arts Center offers a strong cultural program to our region.

MULCH: Too Much of a Good Thing. The proper choice and application of mulch can dramatically improve the overall health and vitality of trees and other landscape plants. Two basic mulch choices are inorganic and organic. Inorganic mulches do not decompose, do not need replenished often. Organic mulches have more effect on soil, they decompose. Over-mulching can: Promote excessive soil moisture & subsequent root rot; cause inner bark tissue death of above ground stem flares; prevent moisture penetration into the soil; promote nutrient deficiencies and imbalances. Mulch is used for weed control and to protect the base. Control weeds they rob moisture from the soil, do not build mulch too close to base of tree. Mulching can enhance the beauty of your home.

Basic Tree Needs for Growth and Survival

Trees, like all living organisms, require certain conditions to establish, grow, and survive. These basic requirements include an appropriate amount of fertile soil, enough space for root and canopy growth, air for both roots and leaves, an appropriate amount of water, suitable sunlight and temperature conditions, and protection from disease, insects, and injury.

Trees depend on soil for many things: nutrients, air, water, stability, root protection from temperature extremes, and a natural recycling system. Most tree species prefer neutral or slightly acidic soils. Soils that are composed of relatively large and stable aggregates are most desirable for plant growth. Compacted soil is a poor medium for root growth because the tightly packed particles resist root penetration, slow the passage of water and nutrients, and inhibit the free movement of oxygen and carbon dioxide. Organic materials increase aeration, provide nutrients, and enhance the water holding capacity of soils. It is important to retain the natural mulch under native trees and to properly apply mulch around planted trees.

If a tree doesn't have enough space, both above and below ground, it won't thrive. Continued on page 3 inside.



Highlights/2004

Newspaper Recycling April 3, June 5, Aug 14, Oct 16, from 8 a.m. till Noon at the Borough Building Garage.

Spring Clean-up May 19th & 20th, with regular pick-up.

April 27, 2004 Primary Election

Arbor Day -May 1, 2004

Fall Brush Clean-up is scheduled for the third week in October, every year.

Leaf Collection/at curb side October thru November 30.

RECYCLING or Lack Of

Recycling is easy and it works! Reduce waste and improve the environment. Think of the Future . (our children & grandchildren) . . . Think of the Savings. . . . If you need a bin or if you have any questions stop at the Borough office or call 255-3104; Southmont participates in Drop-Off Recycling. Continued on page 2.

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Borough Happenings!



For sixteen years, Judy Czynnik served the Borough of Southmont with efficiency and courtesy. Now, since she has retired, I am the new Borough Manager my name is Loretta Spak. I would like to extend my greetings to all the residents of Southmont Borough - and to let you know that I am looking forward to getting to know you, and planning to serve you as Borough Manager to the very best of my ability.

Please stop in the Borough office to say "HELLO" so we can get acquainted - I'll look forward to meeting you!

NOTICE: In 1999 the Uniformed Construction Code Act No 45 was signed. The UCC takes effect in July, it will regulate every new building and almost all aspects of commercial and home remodeling and repair projects. The ultimate goal of the UCC is to create a safer, healthier built environment for all residents in Pennsylvania.



For any Southmont resident considering additions or new construction on property. Please check with Borough office for advice on how to proceed.

Hilltop Recreation

Pepsi Pitch, Hit & Run Contest. This is a free national program for ages 7 - 14 the chance to showcase their baseball abilities and a chance to compete at PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates and possibly the chance to compete at the Major League All-Star game in Houston, Texas. Sunday, April 25, 2004 (starting at 2:00 p.m.) at Engh Field. For more information, please call the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission at 539-1877. U-5 Soccer at the Mound. The Recreation Commission is sponsoring a U-5 soccer league



Fire Company News

We are moving our Annual Jubilee to Aug. 16th thru Aug. 21st this year; due to the unfavorable weather the past few years, we thought a change may be in order. The parade will be held on Thursday, August 19th. We invite any organizations wishing to participate in the parade to phone the fire company at 255-2633, we will inform you of the parade details.



We thank you for your support of our Holiday and Spring Cash Raffles. All donations received are used to serve you and your community. As always, we are continually in need of volunteers. Anyone over 16 years of age is eligible. Phone us



Reminder

Residents are reminded that you are to have your garbage out early the morning of pickup or late the previous night. Please place garbage in cans with lids, as the birds, crows, and /or rodents get into the bags. Any garbage left lying around after the "critters" tear open the bags is your responsibility. Please clean up around your garbage area. Thank you for keeping Southmont a neat place to live.

Hilltop Recreation Continued

to accommodate all preschoolers with birth dates between February 1, 1999 to December 1, 1999. Times and days to be announced. Summer Roller Hockey Leagues

Roller Hockey is coming back to the Southmont Courts for ages 7- 18. Leagues beginning in June. Please call the recreation commission at 539-1877. Volunteer coaches needed.



Altoona Curve Bus Trip

July game to be determined. For information, call the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission at 539-1877.

at 255-2633 to learn how to be of service to your community. The Fire Company wish you all a safe and happy summer and look forward to seeing you at the Jubilee.

From the Mayor's Desk

Residence should be aware of the new stop signs at State St. & at Leon St. Also be aware of change at Keppler & State Street - it is now a complete stop no longer right turn. Stop bars will be painted at area stop signs as soon as weather permits. As always Southmont concerns are for safety of residence and children. Be careful! *Gerry*



"Critter" Tips: Once again the formula for deterring skunks and other critters is 8oz. of castor oil, 8oz. of dish detergent and 1 gallon of water. Simply spray where the skunk trails are. A few drops of bleach in your trash bag keeps birds and animals away. To solidify paint use clay cat litter.

Please clean-up after your pets, violations and fines will be imposed.

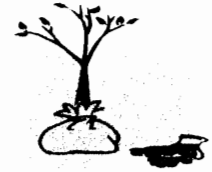
RECYCLING or Lack Of Continued

The recycling trailer is located on the Dell Street side of the Municipal Building. Open Monday thru Saturday dawn to dusk. Closed Thursday till 11:00 a.m. We take glass; plastic bottles, jugs and jars; cans.

Southmont recycling is very low. We receive credit for the volume recycled and this keeps **your cost down**. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions to improve this program, please call the Borough office at 255-3104 so that we can make our program more successful. **If you don't recycle please start, if you do, please continue. It benefits everyone! Encourage others!!**

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* Basic Tree Needs Continued

The amount of soil available for root growth and function is one of the most important factors in tree growth. Roots help anchor a tree in the soil, but they are also essential for absorbing nutrients and water, and storing carbohydrates.



An improper amount of water, either too much or too little, can inhibit the growth of the entire tree by limiting the roots' ability to both anchor the tree and absorb nutrients.

Sunshine provides heat and the energy that drives the process of photosynthesis. Photosynthesis provides sugars to fuel all of a tree's

physiological process, which include the maintenance of existing live tissues, water and nutrient uptake and transport, defense against decay, flower and seed production, and bud, leaf, and wood development. Some trees need full sun to grow, some do well in shade, and others can tolerate a range of light conditions.

Extreme heat and cold, as well as rapid temperature changes, cause stress, die-back, and even death in trees. A tree's ability to withstand extreme temperatures is known as its "hardiness." It is important to match a tree's hardiness with the

planting location.

The best defense a tree has against disease and insects is a good offense—that is, good health and structure.

"Topping" and other improper pruning practices damage and kill many trees. Hitting tree trunks with your lawn mower or weed whacker can, over time, cause damage.



Southmont Borough Council wishes all residents to have a very Happy and Safe Summer!



Selecting, Planting, and Caring for Backyard Trees

It is important to remember one simple rule when planting trees: Plant the right tree in the right place. Do you want trees to provide shade, create a windbreak, establish privacy, create wildlife habitat, or add natural beauty?

If you choose the right tree to meet your objectives, but plant it in the wrong place, you have wasted your time, energy, and money.

Ultimately, the right tree planted on the

right site lives longer, grows to be larger and more beautiful, and needs less maintenance. Buy a high-quality tree. It is important to buy a tree with good form and structure, healthy new growth, a healthy root system, and leaves of a good size and color. Girdling is like strangulation; it can kill the tree. If you see a containerized tree with roots circling the top of the container, choose another tree.

When you are selecting young trees, look for the following traits:

1. Look for limb spacing typical of the species. A tree with limbs that are evenly spaced along the trunk generally

has better structure than one with limbs growing too close together.

2. Look for the presence of a dominant leader or main trunk, which is the basis of a strong framework.
3. Check the angle of attachment between trunk and limbs. Limbs that have a wide angle of attachment are stronger than those with sharp angles of attachments.

By following these suggestions you will have more beautiful, large trees in your yard. If you have questions regarding tree planting, contact your county Penn state Cooperative Extension office, or your local Shade Tree Commission.



SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Spring is HERE!!!

Planning has been going on for our annual ARBOR DAY celebration, which will be held on Saturday, **MAY 1, 2004** at 10:00 a.m. in front of 417 Orchard Street. A Norway maple tree will be planted and dedicated in recognition of Judy Czynnik's service to Southmont Borough.

Council, the Mayor, and the Shade Tree committee invite each of you to join in the tribute to Judy and the presentation by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry for our 14th year as a "Tree City USA" community. Although we will plant the one tree as a group, at least twelve more new trees will be planted on Thoburn, Diamond, Arlington, Leila and Leon streets. Our "urban forest" continues to grow with your generosity and care!!! Take the time for a peaceful walk through "our

neighborhood" and enjoy the beautiful scenery we have been blessed with.

This past year contributions were made dedicating a tree to Joanne Geiser by James Geiser and contributions were received from Mark Pasquerilla. Dorothy Glass contributed to the Urban Forest. Contributions made over \$100.00 are engraved on our dedication board. See the back page for more details.