

# KINDRED SPIRIT



*Message from the Borough President,  
Kevin L. Pile*

## **Special points of interest:**

- Newspaper Recycling June 4, Aug. 13, Oct. 15, from 8 a.m. till Noon at the Borough Building Garage.
- Arbor Day—May 7, 2005
- Spring Clean-up May 18th & 19th, with regular pick-up.

## **Fall Items**

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

November 8, 2005 Municipal Election.

Leaf Collection/at curb side October thru November 30th.

## **“SLOW DOWN FOR CHILDREN THIS SPRING!”**

All Borough residents should slow down this spring as kids make their way outside to play in our neighborhoods after a long winter. **Remember all Borough streets have a 25 mile per hour speed limit**, but often people fail to recognize that limit. Residents with concerns about speeding in their neighborhoods should contact the West Hills Regional Police. Before you decide that you must hurry to get to your destination, please remember the safety of our children. No one wants to see a child injured due



A common thread that runs through the fabric of America is our love for wildlife. Whether it is a squirrel in the park or a hovering hawk hunting the edges of a golf course, wildlife is a valued resource most Americans want to protect and enjoy.

to carelessness of a speeding driver.

**Dog walkers** please be considerate and pick up after your dogs. With the nice weather, residents are out enjoying nice leisurely walks through their neighborhood.....please pick up any waste so no surprises end up on shoes and in homes. Southmont Borough has Ordinance #448 prohibiting the harboring of an animal nuisance. If this ordinance is not being followed, please contact the West Hills Regional Police.

**Congratulations** to the Westmont Hilltoppers girl's basketball team for going to

the State Finals—you gals did a great job!!!!!!

There are **two board openings**. There is an opening on the Planning Commission and on the Shade Tree Advisory Board. If interested, please contact the Borough Office at 255-3104.

**Municipal Primary** is May 17th.

The **Borough Office** will be closed May 30th, July 4th and September 5th for the Holidays. The office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office 255-3104.

## *Trees for Wildlife*

With a little planning, the benefits we usually expect from trees can easily be multiplied to also benefit wildlife. For example, when planting for ornamental purposes, by knowing which trees attract birds you might plant a flowering dogwood or when planting

for quick shade, male-boxelder being favored instead of hybrid poplars, the boxelder being favored by at least five species of birds, the poplar by none. You can directly affect the variety and quality of wildlife around your home and in the community.



# Shade Tree Commission

It's the time of year when April showers bring May flowers along with the beautiful blossoms and trees throughout the streets of Southmont Borough. On Saturday, May 7th at 10:00 a.m., we will celebrate Arbor Day by planting two trees at the corner of Leon and Violet Streets. The planting will be in remembrance of Thomas and Michael Bidelman who were longtime residents of our Borough and in appreciation for the numerous years of service by Mr. Neil Quinn, former Tax Collector and Mr. William Carstensen Jr., a founding and current member of Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Come and join in on the planting and "Tree City USA" presentation.

Trees are vital to our community health. Tree filled neighborhoods tend to be safer and more sociable. They tend to reduce stress, inspire positive attitudes and fill us with a sense of pride. Trees are important to human health. Did you know 100 (one hundred) trees remove 5 tons of CO2 and 1,000 pounds of pollutants per year from

the air we breathe? Southmont Borough has thousands of trees!! Trees help save the environment by catching up to as much as 1,000 gallons of rain-water per year costing less money for stormwater control. Trees can save a homeowner up to 30% of an-

Quality of life depends on tree benefits.

**Arbor Day Celebration  
Saturday, May 7th at  
10:00 A.M. at the  
corner of Leon and  
Violet Streets.**

- Benefits depend on healthy trees.
- Healthy trees require quality care.
- Quality care depends on **you.**

Throughout this Spring, over 30 trees will be planted on Olive Street, Diamond Boulevard, Leila Street, Weaver Court, Palliser Street, Gardner Street, Leon Street, Arlington Street, to mention a few. The cost will be covered by residents planting replacement trees, shade tree budget, and donations made to the Southmont Borough Shade Tree Program. The benefits are for all residents and visitors to our Borough. Take an hour or so to walk through "our urban forest treasure" !!



annual air conditioning costs or 10—25% of winter heating costs when properly located and planted. Trees add to the value and beauty of our homes. The center for Urban Forest Research estimates the pay back on 100 trees over a 40 year period at \$140,000 when considering benefits (energy, air quality, runoff, real estate) versus costs (planting, pruning, removal/disposal, irrigation, sidewalk repair, litter, legal-administration).

The Bottom Line:



# Storm Sewer System

To follow-up last year's direct mailing of the PaDEP brochure "When It Rains, It Drains," Southmont is beginning a series of articles to emphasize activities that can assist in protecting the water resources of the area; this article focuses on springtime issues. Washing of cars - PaDep recommends commercial car washes as the best way, the wash water will be treated and/or recycled. Untreated wash water carries soap scum, oils and dirt into the storm sewers & subsequently into the waterways. If you

wash your car at home, try to locate an area where the water will run off into grass or a gravel area that will help filter out these contaminants before they reach the storm sewers. Yard work - excessive fertilizer can wash out of your yard with storm runoff and into the storm sewers & waterways. This causes algae to grow, which uses up oxygen that aquatic life need to survive.

Much of the watershed in Southmont is comprised of urbanized storm

sewers & a flood protection channel, the receiving waters of the Stonycreek River have been seeing progressive improvement as a result of other cleanup efforts. Public participation in controlling urban contaminants will aid the progress of this improvement and the overall quality of life of the region.

To learn more about what you can do to protect our water resources, please visit the links provided in the "storm sewer" section of the Borough website at <http://www.southmontborough.com/info.html>.



## Southmont *MAY STOP* The Recycling Program

It's a shame when the actions of a few ruin the program (benefits) for all. Southmont may stop the recycling program due to items found in the recycling trailer on a continual basis. The recycling trailer is for recyclable items such as **clear** glass, plastic and cans. It is not a trash receptacle.

People are using the trailer as a trash dumpster. We are constantly finding (on a daily basis) dog waste, hypo needles (not covered and/or tips not broken off), quart cans of used oil, mixing of plastic items with the cans, and colored glass (green and brown bottles) – these items are all unacceptable and must stop or the program will stop! Who ever is walking their dog and dropping the waste into the trailer is very inconsiderate of the Borough employees and of the

program, **STOP IT!**

If the recycling program is stopped, the garbage fees will be raised. Those of you who wish to recycle will have to do it somewhere else. That means some other municipalities' residents will reap the benefits!

Unfortunately, if you are reading this, you probably aren't the person or persons we are trying to reach. But you do need to understand that we will not be able to continue the Borough recycling program if these inconsiderate actions continue.

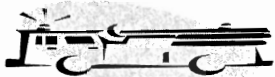
### **Recyclable items are:**

**Clear glass** bottles, jugs or jars from food and beverage only. Must be empty, rinsed, unbroken, and lids must be removed. **DO NOT** include drinking glasses, light bulbs, dishes, ceram-

ics, window or safety glass.

**Plastic** bottles, jugs and jars examples milk jugs, shampoo bottles, detergent bottles, plastic soda bottles, #1 P.E.T & #2 H.D.P.E. on bottom of container. Must be empty, rinsed, lids removed, and crushed (label can stay on). **DO NOT** include plastic knives, forks or spoons, plastic plates or cups. **Cans** must be empty, rinsed, labels removed and crushed if possible. **DO NOT** include aerosol or toxic containers.

**Questions call 255-3104 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.**



## Volunteer Fire Company

The Southmont Jubilee is back to our Memorial Day week this year, May 30th thru June 4th. The Jubilee is the biggest fund raiser for the fire company. Your fire department does not receive any reimbursements for providing emergency services, even when we are called to assist the ambulance. Your fire department depends solely on your support. As with other charities, your fire department has experienced a decline in

financial support the past few years. We realize that the local economic situation has played a large part in this decline. The news media has brought to light the economic plight of some fire departments in the region. Fortunately, we are not in distress status. We **thank** those who have graciously supported us in the past. We urge everyone to support your fire department by supporting its fund raising efforts.

Whether you purchase our raffle tickets, patronize the jubilee or make a monetary contribution, you are helping yourself and your neighbors. Your volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They sacrifice family time, personal time and sleep to help you in your time of need. The equipment and materials needed to accomplish this can only be realized through your financial generosity. As always, volunteers are constantly needed. If you would like to help serve your community, phone us at 255-2633. Leave a message if no one answers, someone will return your call.

**"Come one come all "..... show your support the Southmont Jubilee is back to Memorial Day week May 30th thru June 4th. Join us for good food and rides. "FUN FOR ALL AGES!"**

## Diamond Playground

Gear up for a great summer at the Diamond Playground. **PARENTS:** This is a drop-in program. Supervisors are present to monitor the area and to help ensure a safe playing environment for your children. The Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission provides play equipment and games that the

children may utilize at their leisure. Playground attendance varies from day to day, and activities are determined daily by those children who are present. A weekly craft will be provided at a cost of .25¢ per child to help offset cost of materials.

**Monday thru Friday**  
**June 13th to July 22nd**  
**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
**Ages 6 to 12**

Tuesday will be the official craft day for the Summer Playground Program. Wednesday will be the rain make-up day. Questions call Westmont Hilltop Recreation 539-1877.

