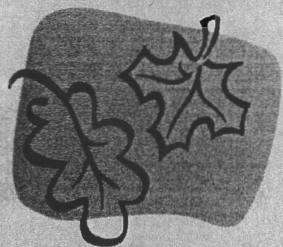


Fall/Winter 2006



Special points of Interest:

- **Fall brush clean-up is scheduled for October 16th and October 17, 2006.**
- **Trick or Treat will be on Tuesday, October 31, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**
- **Leaf collection at curb side October thru November 30th.**
- **Daylight saving time ends Sunday, October 29th—Set clocks back one (1) hour.**
- **November 7, 2006 General Election.**
- **The BOROUGH OFFICE will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and November 24th for Thanksgiving.**
- **The BOROUGH OFFICE will be closed Monday, December 25th for Christmas.**
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT service will run one day behind on the following holiday weeks: Thanksgiving Day November 23rd, Antlered deer season November 27th, and Christmas Day December 25th.**

KINDRED SPIRIT

Trees and Drought

Adequate water is crucial for tree growth. Water is one of the main elements involved in photosynthesis. Without water trees cannot produce enough food to fuel growth. Drought impacts the leaves ability to produce food, the roots' ability to grow and function, and the plant's ability to move food, hormones, and other elements around. The main problems associated with longer periods of drought (weeks and months) are poor and stunted growth. Ultimately, lack of water will lead to death either by desiccation and starvation, or secondary problems such as a soil fungus. Some trees (e.g., beech and dogwood) are more sensitive to

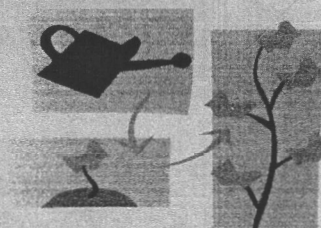
drought than others (e.g., ginkgo and redbud). Symptoms of drought include wilting of leaves for a number of days (especially those exposed to afternoon sun and wind). All tree leaves can wilt on especially hot days, but they should recover quickly in the evening.

Treating drought is not just about applying water. There is more to consider:

- 1) Treat any cultural problems such as soil compaction, soil fill, deicing salts, weeds and turf, and root damage.
- 2) To slow evaporation of water and control weeds and grasses,

mulch as much area under the canopy as possible with 2–3 inches of composted mulch.

3) Apply moderate amounts of water slowly and deeply so that water supports good plant growth, but does not exclude oxygen from the soil. There is no absolute rule on how much water to give trees.



Two actions that will absolutely NOT HELP in drought are fertilization and pruning. Do not do these!

Dumping is Prohibited by Law

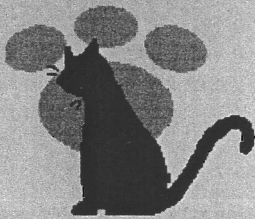
Council wants to make all residents aware that dumping is prohibited by law. Referencing Ordinance #378, Section III Prohibited Activities—It shall be unlawful for any person to accumulate or permit to accumulate and/or any person to throw, place or deposit or cause or permit to be thrown, placed or deposited any garbage, rubbish, bulky waste or any residual solid

waste in or upon any street, alley, sidewalk, body of water, public or private property within Southmont. Section IX Penalties—Any person who violates any provision shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$300, or in default of payment by imprisonment for a period of not more than 90 days, or both.



Many of Southmont Ordinances are on the webpage and are downloadable for your use. If you get a chance visit the webpage.

www.southmontborough.com



Please be courteous to your neighbors!

The Borough office receives numerous calls concerning pets—please review Ordinance #460 if you are a pet owner.

Any owner whose **dog**, cat or other animal, which by frequent and habitual **barking**, howling, screeching, yelping or baying for a continuous period of ten minutes or more will be in violation of the Borough nuisance ordinance. No barking shall be allowed between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00

a.m. It is prohibited in anyway or manner to disturb the quiet of the community or endanger the comfort, repose, sleep or health of persons at anytime day or night..

Any dog, **cat** or other animal which scratches, **roams**, digs or defecates upon any lawn, tree, shrub, plant, building or any other public or private property other than that of the owner or person in charge or control of such dog, cat or other animal

without the permission of the owner of such property. Where the owner or person in charge or control of such animal immediately removes all feces deposited by such animal and disposes of the same in a sanitary manner, such type of nuisance shall be considered abated.

*"Cut tree limbs
into three feet
lengths, bundle
together, and put
beside trash—Waste
Management will
pick up with
garbage"*

Avoiding excessive soil over root systems of trees

An industry wide working group was formed in 2003 to develop consensus on a complex national issue: tree decline and death in the landscape resulting from excessive amount of soil over the root system. When structural roots are too deep below the soil surface, lack of oxygen can kill roots and lead to decline and death of the tree, especially in urban soils. In some species, prolonged moisture at the base of the trunk may increase root and collar rot diseases.

Generally, on a young tree, the uppermost structural roots (two or more) should be within the top 1 to 3 inches of the soil surface, measured 3 to 4 inches from the trunk. As a tree matures, roots thicken faster on the top side, effectively reducing the amount of soil above the structural roots and forming the root flare.

Mulching is an excellent way to conserve soil moisture, reduce competition from other plants, and prevent lawn mower injury. Two inches of mulch is the appro-

priate depth for 2 to 3 inch caliper trees. Later applications to "refresh" the mulch should not increase the depth. Keep the mulch away from the trunk. Avoid thick layers of mulch around the base of the tree (often called "volcano mulching"), as far too often seen in landscapes. Do not pile the extra soil around the base of tree and use mulch to hide it—excess soil should be removed from the planting site. Avoid organic material that can mat down and create a hydrophobic layer.

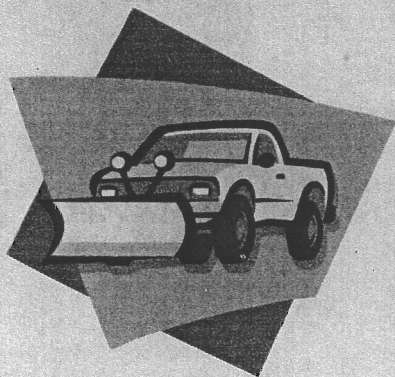
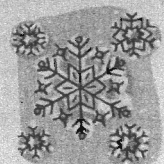
Snow Removal

If possible, wait until the street has been plowed before cleaning out the end of your driveway. DO NOT shovel snow onto the street or have your driveway plowed onto the roadway. This can cause a serious traffic hazard. If possible, it

is best to place snow on the side of your driveway opposite the direction the plow is traveling. By implementing this technique, the plow will carry snow away from your driveway rather than back into it.

If a storm is anticipated, re-

move vehicles from the street to allow plows to clear the area the first time through, making return trips unnecessary.



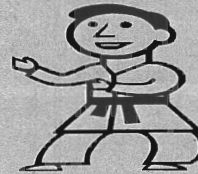
Message from the Westmont Hilltop Recreation

Here's what is happening at the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Center!

The weather is changing and the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Center is excited about the many activities and programs scheduled for this Fall/Winter Season. We are offering two new and outstanding programs for the kids. For ages five (5) and above, Basic Karate by Master Chris Miller is a great opportunity to train with

one of the best teachers in the country. For ages six (6) and under we have a great U6 Instructional Soccer program by Brad Junker. Kids can learn the FUNDAMENTALS of soccer from an experienced teacher.

The Commission is offering new Adult Wellness Program, "Butts & Guts" a thirty (30) minute muscle tightening and sculpting workout that targets those hard-to-tone-areas.

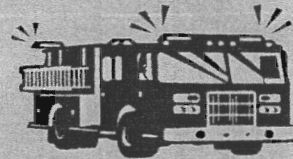


"To register for classes at the Hilltop Rec. or if you have any questions, please call 539-1877."

Southmont Volunteer Fire Company

The Southmont Volunteer Fire Company will again be conducting the "Annual Holiday Cash Raffle". The raffle will be held on December 1st. Fifteen tickets will be drawn for \$1,000 in cash prizes. This is one of two fund raising events the fire company conducts. The first being the annual jubilee. You will soon be receiving tickets in the mail for the raffle. Your support is greatly appreciated and needed. The fire

company will be replacing its rescue vehicle. A new international chassis has been purchased and the box on the current vehicle will be transferred to the new chassis. The cost of doing this is less than half of purchasing a completely new unit. The current rescue is twenty years old. As always, we continue to need volunteers. Volunteers are needed not only as firefighters but also as fire police to control traffic and crowds at



incidents, volunteers to assist with business aspects and fund raising activities, etc. If you would like to help your neighbors and community, phone the fire company at 255-2633 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you.

"Your continued support of the fire company is greatly appreciated and needed!"

West Hills Regional Police Department

The West Hills Regional Police Department is the third longest operating Regional Police Department in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It began operations in 1978 when Westmont and Brownstown Boroughs formed the West Hills Regional Police Commission. Since that time, the size of the Commission has increased with Southmont Borough becoming a member in January 1994 and Lower Yoder becoming a

member in January 2001. These municipalities have joined together to provide professional and experienced police service to their residents in a cost effective manner. The department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with a police officer always available to handle emergency and non-emergency situations. Chief Andrew T. Havas, Jr., heads the department with the assistance of Det. Sgt./Criminal Investigator

Goerge Musulin and Corporal Michael Lose. The department staff also includes a full-time secretary/office manager and eight additional full-time and nine part-time officers. Upon request, Officers are available to speak at civic and school functions about safety and other police issues. A Crime Prevention Officer will make home visits to answer resident questions and to make suggestions on how to make your home a safer place.

*West Hills Regional
Police Headquarters*

1000 Luzerne St.

814-255-4145

(Monday-Friday)

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

non-emergency

number is

1-800-281-1680