

## Special points of interest:

- **SPRING CLEAN-UP** will be June 1.
- **ARBOR DAY** will be May 2, 10:00 a.m. at Diamond Blvd. Playground
- **THE BOROUGH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day and Monday, September 7 for Labor Day.
- **WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE** will run one day behind on the following holiday weeks: Memorial Day May 25th and Labor Day September 7.
- **BOROUGH ELECTIONS** will be held May 19.

## Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

148 Wonder Street

Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 255-3104

## E-mail:

smtboro@atlanticbbn.net

To deter skunks from around your house mix 5 parts of ammonia to one part water and set containers out.



## Spring Has Sprung

Richard Wargo

### Borough Manager/Zoning Codes Officer

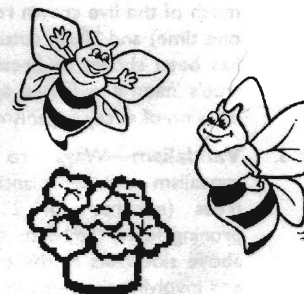
The public works department has the street sweeper out and about and is beginning spring maintenance throughout the Borough.

With the change in seasons comes a reminder from your Codes Officer that if you plan on doing remodeling of any kind, please give us a call. If you anticipate a permit for construction, a good idea is to bring a diagram of the project on an 8 x 11 sheet of paper to

the Municipal Building for review. The Codes Officer will be making visual inspections of the Borough periodically during the construction season.

Also, a reminder to everyone that if there is a situation that exists in reference to property maintenance that needs attention, please call us at the Municipal Building. Property owners need to be commended for efforts in maintaining their properties in the past. As al-

ways, your cooperation in the upcoming spring and summer months is appreciated.



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

## NOTICE: Election Voting Poll Changes

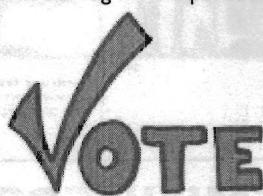
**Precinct #1** will remain the same with residents voting in Council Chambers located at the Southmont Borough Municipal Building.

**Precinct #2** has been changed to the McCullough House located at 500 Cheney Oak Drive. This precinct includes residents who have previously voted at the Overbrook Church.

**Precinct #3** has been changed to the Southmont Borough Volunteer Fire Company's Meeting Hall located at the Southmont Borough Municipal Building. Voters

will enter through the main entrance of the Municipal Building and follow the signs posted. This precinct includes residents that have previously voted at the First Church of Christ Scientist.

**Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on May 19.**



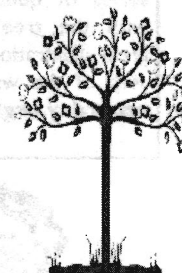
## Southmont Shade Tree Committee to Attend Training Session

The course is designed for lay people and experts alike. Since 2004, the program has been supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's TreeVitalize initiative and continues in support of their mission to increase Pennsylvania's tree canopy. The Shade Tree Committee will be attending this course with at least four volunteers and two staff members. The nine hour class will be in conjunction with the recent grant application by Southmont for the planting of thirty trees throughout the Borough during spring and fall 2009.

## TREES MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

### America desperately needs more trees now!!!

Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and produce the oxygen that we breathe. Tree planting can play a vital role in fighting global warming and the severe heat waves and extreme weather that result.



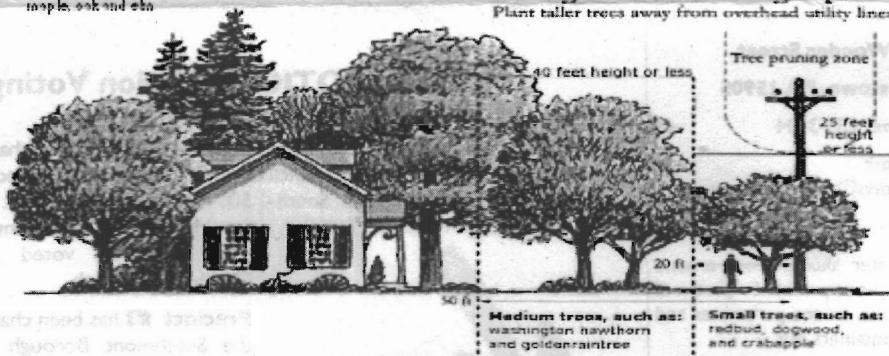
## Tree Mortality and the Community Forest

According to the organization TREE CITY USA®, few people know more about tree death than the arborists and urban foresters who care for our nation's street and park trees. To get an overview of the worst causes of premature tree mortality, ten professionals representing all regions of the country were asked to rank the top 10 killers. Here are the results:

1. **Construction Damage**—It is clear that a priority challenge for urban forestry programs is public education stressing the value of saving existing trees during development projects of all kinds.
2. **Improper Pruning**—Specifically topping, excessive pruning (too much of the live crown removed at one time) and "flush cutting" which has been shown to break down a tree's natural defenses against the invasion of decay organisms.
3. **Vandalism**—Ways to prevent vandalism include: planting larger trees (minimum of 2" caliper); pruning lower limbs to at least 8' above sidewalks as the tree grows and involving residents in the selection, planting and care of street trees.
4. **The Wrong Tree for the Site**—Poor species selection dooms many trees right from the start. Disease resistance and suitability to soil and climate conditions. Planting large tree species beneath utility lines is also asking for trouble.
5. **Lack of Watering**—A systematic means of watering during dry spells, especially newly planted trees, is one of the essentials of a well-managed urban forestry program.
6. **Poor Planting**—Proper planting is essential. It requires special training for crews and close supervision. Planting too deeply, handling new trees, allowing roots to dry, not removing the root containers or bindings, and planting root-bound trees without cutting or straightening encircling roots.
7. **Soil Compaction**—Soil compaction is one of the slower and more insidious causes of tree mortality. Mulching and regular aeration are good ways to minimize the damage.
8. **Bark Damage**—Lawn mowers and string trimmers are the main culprits here—or, more correctly, the people who operate them carelessly. Proper instruction and supervision are key solutions, with mulch helping even more.
9. **Misuse of Herbicides**—Herbicides, especially those containing chemicals that work through reactions in the soil, should be kept away from the root zones of trees. Weed treatments on windy days should also be avoided.
10. **Automobiles**—Not surprisingly, bark damage and the breakage of young trees caused by cars is a common occurrence in urban areas. Traffic barriers, proper curbs, and planting out of the reach of bumper and tailgate overhang can help reduce this damage.

Tall trees, such as:  
maple, oak and elm

**Plant the right tree in the right place**  
Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



The Arbor Day Foundation's pocket tree guide, *What Tree is That?*, which helps you identify most of our country's trees, is now available online. The new Web site version walks you through the easy-to-understand series of questions that end up with the tree's name, and with great illustrations to help at every step of the way. Take a look at [arborday.org/whattree](http://arborday.org/whattree)



## REMINDERS

### Southmont Conducting Inspections

Throughout the next few months the Borough of Southmont will be conducting inspections of storm water discharge systems in accordance with a directive from the Department of Environmental Protection. The Borough has been directed by DEP to eliminate surface water from entering the sanitary sewer system. A Borough Official will be inspecting the downspouts and drains and he or she will have proper identification and may be making inquiries about your storm water outlets.

### CLIP & SAVE REMINDER

#### Waste Management Changes Garbage Pick-up

Beginning April 14, Waste Management changed all Thursday garbage pick-ups to Tuesdays. We understand residents may forget about the change in dates for the first few weeks, so if you happen to not have your garbage out on Tuesday or just have questions or concerns, please give us a call at the Borough Office and we will be happy to help you.

## 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. 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, dieback, 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.



## West Hills Regional Police Department



"Proudly serving the Municipalities of Westmont, Brownstown and Southmont Boroughs and Lower Yoder Township"

1000 Luzerne Street, Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: (814) 255-4145

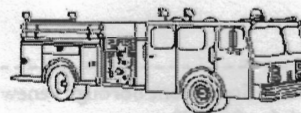
The West Hills Regional Police Department is supervised by Chief Andrew T. Havas Jr., with the assistance of Det. Sgt. George Musulin and Corporal Michael W. Lose, and Administrative Secretary Judith A. Fetcko. The administrative staff is available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Police Officers provide 24-hour service 7 days a week. An Officer may be contacted by either calling the above office number (which, if not answered, will rollover to the Non-Emergency 9-1-1 Center) or by calling the Non-Emergency number of 1-800-281-1680. Residents are encouraged to contact the Police Department if they observe activities that appear to be suspicious, need police assistance, or have any questions. Residents are cautioned, however, to **immediately** dial 9-1-1 if an emergency situation should occur.

Now that warmer weather has arrived, more people will be participating in outdoor activities and walking and riding on and near roadways. Therefore, the West Hills Police ask that motorists drive cautiously and observe the speed limit. All bike riders are encouraged to wear a helmet, but the law mandates all children under the age of 12 must wear a helmet. Bike riders are also required to observe the same rules of the road as vehicle operators. Scooters and other unlicensed, motorized vehicles are prohibited by PennDOT from being operated on the roadways. Parents should recognize that this is the law and can be very dangerous for the children operating the equipment. As everyone is aware, drug activities are becoming more prevalent in all areas. Therefore, the Police ask residents to report all activities that appear to be drug related so they

can be investigated. (This could be done anonymously.) The West Hills Police would rather respond to a call where police action is not required than to not respond when Officers are needed. Everyone should be more alert not only for their own safety, but for the safety of others.

The West Hills Regional Police are proud to serve the residents of Southmont Borough, along with all of the member municipalities. The Chief, Officers, and Staff appreciate the ongoing support and confidence provided to the Department by all municipal representatives. The West Hills Regional Police Commission has been in operation for more than 30 years because of the cooperation and good will among all of the municipalities and because of the dedication and professionalism provided to all residents by the West Hills Regional Police Officers.

## Southmont Volunteer Fire Company



148 Wonder Street

Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: (814) 255-3104

E-mail: svfd@floodcity.net

It is finally the start of the Spring/Summer seasons! Spring sports are just beginning, the days are getting longer, and all of the trees are becoming green again. In the evenings and on the weekends, people will be sprucing up their lawns and having cookouts in the yard.

However, these seasons pose the highest threat for brush fires. Lightning strikes, careless discarding of smoking materials, or even something dropping from the barbecue grill can start a brush fire. During the seasons, the underbrush is generally dry and can ignite very

easily. There is an ordinance against any open burning in the Borough of Southmont. Chimneys or enclosed backyard fire pits, which are sold at the local stores, are exempt from the ordinance. Residents are also not allowed to burn any waste from lawn cleanup. Branches are to be cut under 3 feet and tied into bundles to be picked up with your garbage.

At the end of May, it's Jubilee time again! The Jubilee runs from Memorial Day (May 25th) through May 30th. Each resident will again receive tickets in the mail for our drawings. As

in the past, we are giving away \$50 nightly and a total of \$900 dollars on Saturday. The festival runs from 6-10 PM each night and there is also a matinee on Saturday.

Every year, we count on the support and assistance from our residents to make the festival a success. If you would like to help out by working a booth or in the kitchen, please stop by the jubilee grounds.

Have a wonderful and safe Spring and Summer!

Mike Leckey, Fire Chief



# Southmont Borough

148 Wonder Street  
Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 814-255-3104  
Fax: 814-255-4150

Email: [smtboro@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:smtboro@atlanticbbn.net)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.southmontborough.com](http://www.southmontborough.com)

Presorted Standard

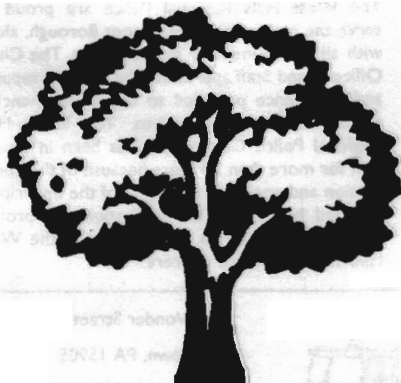
U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 468

Johnstown, PA

## SHADE TREE COMMISSION



The Shade Tree Commission was instituted by Council with Ordinance #69 in 1927, and amended by Ordinance #420 dated June 2002, as envisioned by Council, and is primarily advisory.

**MEMBERS:** William Krupa, Chairman; Herb Ewald & Ed Danyluk

**Advisory Committee:** Mary Ann Kory, Jennifer Drummey, Judy Kelly,

Ellen Singleton, Betsy Seifert & Elizabeth Mayer

**YES,** I want to sponsor a tree and help Southmont Borough renew its Urban Forest. Enclosed is a check for \$100.00 or more.

Name of Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of whom the tree is planted \_\_\_\_\_

**YES,** I would like to contribute to Southmont Borough's Urban Forest Project, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are tax deductible and very much appreciated by all who enjoy, daily, the beauty and tranquility of Southmont Borough Urban Forest.

The Shade Tree Committee would like to thank Charles & Dorothy Glass, Larry Koval and David & Ethel Carney for their contributions.