

KINDRED SPIRIT

Special points of interest:

- **Arbor Day**— May 1, 2010
- **Borough Office Closed**— April 2; May 31; July 5 and Sept. 6.
- **Pro-Disposal Services** will run one day behind on the following weeks: May 31 and September 6.
- **Spring Clean-Up** will be May 18 & 19 with your regular garbage pickup. All items must be bagged, boxed or bundled for easy handling and must be at curbside by 6:00 A.M. Items that will not be picked up include batteries, tires, auto body parts, paint cans, construction materials or hazardous/demolition materials. Refrigerators, freezers or air conditioners will be taken only after Freon is properly removed and with proper certification.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER

It is still early, but we need to take a positive approach to this winter. I think we have to start thinking Spring. I even went out and bought some vegetable seeds for the garden hoping this would help change the weather. There is no doubt that this winter has been stressful on everyone physically and also mentally. The road crews are tired and so is the equipment. Fortunately we made it through the winter without any major breakdowns. It's also time to start thinking about planting flowers and trees, property maintenance, and paving and

patching roads.

Just a reminder of the upcoming items for March and April.

- The sweeper will be out working on cleaning up the winter anti-skid and debris. We will be starting our crack sealing program in early April.
- Our paving program will commence hopefully in early May.
- Spring Clean-Up will be on May 18 & 19 with your regular garbage pickup.

- Tree trimming and pruning season is here and we've attached a flyer to help you in the correct procedure for trimming and pruning your trees.

Richard L. Wargo
Borough Manager



IMPORTANT REMINDER ON ANIMAL NUISANCE

With warm weather just around the corner, please remember you must carry clean-up equipment when you are walking your dog. According to Ordinances #374 and #419,

- No person shall permit their dog to run at large upon public places, streets, alleys, sidewalks, or private

property of others.

- Dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding 6 feet in length at all times while on public places.
- No person shall allow their animal to defecate on said properties without immediate cleanup, removal, and

proper disposal of feces.

Violators are subject to fines and penalties.

Please keep our community looking nice.

**Office Hours:**

8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.

148 Wonder Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 255-3104

Fax: 255-4160

E-mail:

smtboro@atlanticbba.net

Website:

www.southmontborough.com



Topping trees is the absolute worst thing you can do for the health of your tree.

Why NOT to "Top" - Eight Good Reasons

1. **Starvation:** Good pruning practices rarely remove more than 1/4 to 1/3 of the crown, which in turn does not seriously interfere with the ability of a tree's leafy crown to manufacture food. Topping removes so much of the crown that it upsets an older tree's well developed crown-to-root ratio and temporarily cuts off its food making ability.
2. **Shock:** A tree's crown is like an umbrella that shields much of the tree from the direct rays of the sun. By suddenly removing this protection, the remaining bark tissue is so exposed that scalding may result.
3. **Insects and Disease:** The large
4. **Weak Limbs:** At best, the wood of a new limb that sprouts after a larger limb is truncated is more weakly attached than a limb that develops more normally.
5. **Rapid New Growth:** The goal of topping is usually to control the height and spread of a tree. Actually, it has just the opposite effect. The resulting sprouts are far more numerous than normal new growth and they elongate so rapidly that the tree returns to its original height in a very short time—and with a far more dense and dangerous crown.
6. **Tree Death:** Some species of trees are less tolerant to topping than others.
7. **Ugliness:** A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with its re-

growth it never regains the grace and character of its species. The landscape and the community are robbed of a valuable asset.

8. **Cost:** To a worker with a saw, topping a tree is much easier than applying the skill and judgment needed for good pruning. Therefore, topping may cost less in the short run. However, the true costs of topping are hidden. These include: reduced property value, the expense of removal and replacement if the tree dies, the loss of other trees and shrubs if they succumb to changed light conditions, the risk of liability from weakened branches and increased future maintenance.

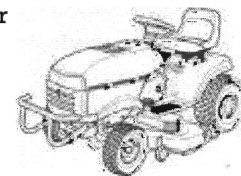
BEFORE you prune, trim or remove any tree in the "Borough Right-of-Way", you must obtain a permit. The permit is **FREE**, but necessary to insure proper attention is given to "our" shared treasures. Permits are available at the Borough Office.

REMINDERS...

Grass cutting and weed trimming is soon to begin. While the "trimmers" work well around fence posts and other objects in the lawn, keep it away from your tree trunks. The immature bark of sapling trees is particularly vulnerable to damage. Even mature bark can be damaged, so the best policy is not to use them near tree

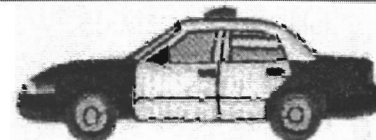
trunks or shrubs. A better way to control grass near trees is to remove the grass around the tree base and place a circle of mulch. This reduces grass and weed growth and conserves root moisture. Another reminder is to cut your grass more often and allow your grass clippings to lay on the grass. That way you are returning the natural

nutrients back into your lawn. And remember lawnmowers cause damage by scraping or banging into the tree trunk. This is the time to be protective of your trees and shrubs.





West Hills Regional Police



The West Hills Regional Police Officers, under the direction of Chief Andrew T. Havas, are proud to serve and protect the residents of Southmont Borough, along with the residents of the three other municipalities that comprise the West Hills Regional Police Commission. All personnel that the municipal representatives for their continued support and confidence. West Hills Regional Police headquarters is located at the rear of the Westmont Borough Municipal Building (lower level) at 1000 Luzerne Street. Residents are strongly encouraged to contact the Police Department if they observe any suspicious activities, have questions or concerns, or require police assistance. West Hills Police Offi-

cers do respond to all calls. The administrative staff is available between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office telephone number is 255-4145, but residents should dial 9-1-1 if an emergency does occur.

The West Hills Police ask all residents to be proactive in the practice of crime prevention. Theft is one of the most common and prevalent crimes in our country today, with the majority of thefts being committed by drug addicts, teenagers and other amateurs who are looking for quick cash. The West Hills Police strongly urge everyone not to keep cash or items of value in your vehicle and to

keep your vehicle locked at all times. Other crime prevention deterrents include burglar-proofing your home, keeping doors and windows locked, and canceling newspapers and mail while away on vacation. With the coming of warmer weather, more thieves will be looking for easy access to vehicles and homes that contain property they can easily sell. Don't be a victim!

**DON'T FORGET TO KEEP YOUR VEHICLES
LOCKED AT ALL TIMES!**

Southmont Volunteer Fire Co.

Greetings from the Southmont Fire Department! Spring is almost here! Winter was brutal this year and I would like to thank the residents who took an extra five minutes to clear the hydrants in front of their homes. This saves the members of the department a considerable amount of time and also ensures that the hydrants are operational in the event that we would need them.

Recently, our fire company, along with the Richland Fire Department, was filmed for a television show that will be shown on PBS. The show is called Our Town and it will feature the Johnstown Area. The show will air on April 29th at 8:00 PM. A segment of the show will feature volunteer fire departments and some of the problems that we face.

Our annual Jubilee is rapidly approaching.

The dates are May 31st through June 5th. We again welcome Lam Enterprises as the ride company. Hours of operation are 6-10 PM each day and a matinee on Saturday from 2-5 PM. Tickets will be mailed out in the next few weeks for our raffle. We give out \$50 each night and \$900 on Saturday!

Now to my safety topic...

With the warmer temperatures coming, people are getting ready to grill all kinds of good foods. The smell of steaks will soon fill the air! But, there are several safety issues to deal with when grilling.

1. Before using the grill, check the hoses for any types of cracking or holes.
2. Make sure the propane line has the newer style three pronged valve. This became a requirement in 2002. If you are still using the five prong valve, replacements can be pur-

chased at any hardware, department, or home-improvement store.

3. NEVER USE GASOLINE TO START A GRILL!!!!
4. Do not store spare propane cylinders in your house.
5. Make sure there is adequate spacing from other combustible materials. These include porch furniture, kids toys, and even the siding on your home.
6. Finally, keep children away from the grill!

I hope everyone has a great Spring season!

Sincerely,
Mike Leckey, Chief



Westmont Hilltop Recreation



My name is Robin S. Gates, the new Executive Director at Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission. We have lots going on this year in Westmont starting with a Summer Day Camp at the Grove. Kids will enjoy their summer by learning in a fun way with themed weeks from Wacky Science to Sports Week. Kids ages 5 to 12 will have a blast keeping

busy. All counselors are certified teachers & teachers candidates. Also, look forward to an elementary soccer league this summer in Southmont ages 5-10. Other programs will include tennis, football, girls and boys basketball, roller hockey, inline skating and golf. For our senior citizens we are offering a senior citizen exercise class beginning April 6

and for more excitement a belly dancing class beginning April 12. Contact us at the Grove 539-1877 to inquire about our summer classes or stop in and meet us. We look forward to your input and suggestions to make this our best summer yet.



SOUTHMONT BOROUGH

148 Wonder Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

Phone: 255-3104

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We're on the Web!
www.southmonthorough.com

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Permit No. 468

Current Resident

540 Edward Street

Johnstown, PA 15905



SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Robert Morgan, Chairman; Richard Rodgers & Herb Ewald; Councilmen

Advisory Board: 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.

Address _____

Name for 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 the beauty and tranquility of the Southmont Borough Urban Forest.