

# KINDRED SPIRIT

## Special Points of Interest:

- **Spring Clean-Up** will be **May 17 & 18** 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.
- **Pro-Disposal Services** will run one day behind on the following weeks: May 30, July 4 and September 5, 2011.
- **Borough Office Closed**— May 30, July 4 and September 5, 2011.
- **Arbor Day** will be held on May 7, 2011.

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.  
148 Wonder Street  
Johnstown, PA 15905  
Phone: 255-3104  
Fax: 255-4150  
E-mail:  
smtboro@atlanticbbn.net  
Website:  
www.southmontborough.com

Volume 38

Spring/Summer 2011

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER

Spring is taking its time getting here with the prolonged cool weather and snow flurries. Somebody better have a talk with that groundhog! Unfortunately we must keep on moving forward despite the weather conditions. The Borough has a lot of activities scheduled for spring and summer.

- We begin our crack sealing program in early April.
- We are installing new split rail fencing at the Bird Sanctuary.
- Our paving contract has been awarded and will be completed
- The nature trail is scheduled for brush removal and up-grading in May.
- Arbor Day activities are scheduled for May 7 at the Bird Sanctuary.
- The Borough is reviewing

potential sewer repairs at various locations this summer.

- Public Works will continue on its regular maintenance schedule of the Borough during the summer.
- Our dye testing program will be completed by June 30, 2011.

So you see there are a lot of things happening this spring and summer. We would also like to remind everyone of the property maintenance issues that in some cases become a problem. If you see a property that could become a hazardous or unsightly situation, please contact our office. I hope everyone has an enjoyable spring and summer and don't forget if you get tired of those hot summer days, just think back to February!

-Richard Wargo

## Brush Clean-Up

The Borough no longer has a Brush Clean-Up. Any brush and limbs may be disposed of with your regular garbage pick-up with the following specifications:

- Make sure limbs are cut down to no longer than 3 ft.
- Bundle and tie together any large pile of brush. (If you do not have a large amount of limbs they do not need to be tied, but please place in an easily gathered pile.)
- Leaves and yard waste must be placed in bags.



## Skateboards, Skates & Scooters

Please remember that Southmont Borough Ordinance No. 450 prohibits the use of skateboards, in-line skates or scooters on any street or alley. Also, whenever riding bicycles, skateboards, skates or scooters upon a sidewalk, you must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and must give audible signal before passing such pedestrians.



## 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,

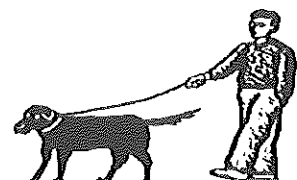
- No person shall permit their dog to run at large upon public places, streets, alleys, sidewalks, or private property of others.

- 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**

**finest and penalties.**

Please keep our community looking nice.



## TREES FOR SHADE

Home owners and small business operators can make significant cash savings by properly using trees for shade. To help trees keep you cool, here are some tips to consider:

### 1. What to Shade?

- Maximum benefit from shade usually comes from trees on the east and west side of a building, and close to the walls.
- Windows! About 3/4 of total solar heat gain in a building comes through windows.

- Dark or rough-textured surfaces absorb more heat than light-colored or smooth surfaces.
- Consider high summer use areas such as patios and porches.
- Shading an air conditioning unit can increase its efficiency by 10 percent.

### 2. When Is Shade Needed?

When planning where to plant trees, remember that the sun's position in the sky changes hourly and daily. Plan for shad-

ows that cover targeted areas during the hottest hours of the hottest weeks of summer.

### 3. What to Plant?

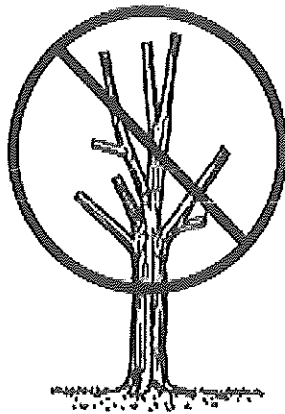
Tree species with round, horizontal oval and vase-shaped crowns when mature offer the best shading potential. An arborist or nursery professional can recommend suitable species that grow well in the area.

-Tree City USA



### The Benefits of Shade

- Improved human comfort
- Reduced air conditioning costs
- Reduced imports of foreign oil and less pressure to develop domestic sources
- Less sunlight damage to carpets, drapes and furniture
- Long-term savings



### Learn to Prune

A virtual pruning session is available on [arborday.org](http://arborday.org). It is a fun way to learn the basics of shade tree pruning. You can watch pruned and unpruned trees 'grow' side by side and even use pruning tools to try your hand at improving an unkempt tree. To get started, simply go to;

[arborday.org/](http://arborday.org/)

## Why NOT to "Top" Trees—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. There may also be a dramatic effect on neighboring trees and shrubs. If these thrive in shade and the shade is removed, poor health or death may result.
3. **Insects and Disease:** The large stubs of a topped tree have a difficult time forming callus. The terminal location of these cuts, as well as their large diameter, prevent the tree's chemically based natural defense system from doing its job. The stubs are highly vulnerable to insect invasion and the spores of decay fungi. If decay is already present in the limb, opening the limb will speed the spread of the disease.
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. If rot exists or develops at the severed end of the limb, the weight of the sprout makes a bad situation even worse.
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 (often called water 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. Beeches, for example, do not sprout

readily after severe pruning and the reduced foliage most surely will lead to death of the tree.

7. **Ugliness:** A topped tree is a disfigured tree. Even with its regrowth 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.

-Arbor Day Foundation



## Southmont Gains People

The recent data from the 2010 U.S. Census of Population shows that Southmont Borough, along with Lorain Borough and Richland Township, were the only three of the twenty municipalities comprising the Greater Johnstown Area which had a net gain in population between 2000 and 2010. Richland gained 216 people (1.71% increase), Southmont gained 22 people (0.97%) while Lorain increased by 12 people (1.61%).

Leading the area in net losses

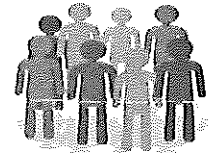
was the city of Johnstown. It lost nearly 3,000 people or over 12% of its population in the past decade. Westmont Borough and Upper Yoder Township lost over 6% and 7% of their population respectively. Cambria and Somerset Counties also experienced population losses. The former lost nearly 9,000 people (5.8%) ranking it 5th of Pennsylvania's 67 counties in percentage losses. Somerset County lost over 2,000 people (2.9%).

Pennsylvania's losses occurred

primarily in the western half of the Commonwealth with gains in the eastern half. Overall, Pennsylvania's population increased by 3.4%, well below the nation's average of about 9%. The small increase resulted in the loss of one Congressional seat (now 18) for Pennsylvania.

-Councilman William Kory

<p><b>Pennsylvania</b> 2010 Population 12,702,379</p> <p><b>Cambria County</b> 2010 Population 143,679</p>
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## West Hills Regional Police Department

The West Hills Regional Police Department operates under the supervision of Chief Andrew T. Havas, Jr., with the assistance of Det. Sgt. George Musullin, Corporal Michael Lose and Administrative Assistant Judith A. Fetcko. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The Police Officers provide 24 hour service 7 days a week. An Officer can be requested by calling either 255-4145 (if not answered, will roll over to the 911 Non-Emergency number) or by calling 1-800-281-1680. Residents should contact the Police if they need police assistance or observe any activity that appears to be suspicious. However, if an emergency does arise, 911 should be called **immediately**.

The Police caution residents to be aware

of the many scams that currently abound. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, **IT IS**. Never give out personal information to a stranger, including Social Security and credit card numbers. Never send money in response to a letter or phone call stating that you have won a sizeable money prize, but must send a certain amount of money before the prize is released to you. Also, at this time of the year, there are many individuals going door-to-door offering various services (carpet cleaning, home and driveway repairs, lawn services, etc.). If you question the legitimacy of the person or company, call the Police, and never pay for the services before they are performed, And **NEVER** allow any of these individuals to enter your home for any reason whatsoever. If they are insistent, call 911 and the

police will immediately respond.

The West Hills Regional Police are proud to serve the residents of Southmont Borough, along with all of the other member municipalities. The Chief, Officers, and Staff appreciate the ongoing support and confidence provided to the Police by all municipal representatives. The West Hills Regional Police Commission has been in operation since 1978 because of the cooperation and good will that exists among all of the municipalities and because of the dedication and professionalism provided to the residents by the West Hills Regional Police Officers and staff.

## Southmont Volunteer Fire

Greetings from the Southmont Fire Department! Spring is finally here! The longer than usual snowy season is hopefully over and April showers have begun. Thank you to all who shoveled their hydrants this Winter! Some exciting news for us has recently occurred as two of our members completed their training as Interior Firefighters. The combined training hours to reach this level is over 175 hours each! I would like to personally thank them for their hard work and dedication. We also have a Junior Firefighter who has just started his basic training.

We have a little over a month until our annual Jubilee. The dates for the festival are May 30th to June 4th. LAM Enterprises of Westmoreland County will again provide the rides and

carnival games. Our hours of operation are Monday and Saturday 5-10 PM and Tuesday through Friday 6-10 PM. There will be NO SATURDAY MATINEE this year. We again will offer Pay-one-Price bracelets each evening. Tuesday night we will welcome HOT 92 for a live action broadcast with prizes! Thursday is our annual parade night. Come out and enjoy the fun! Now to my safety topic...

1. Check and clean your smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors. Replace the batteries and you can gently vacuum them to keep them free of dust.
2. DO NOT BURN any yard debris such as limbs and leaves. This is illegal in Southmont Borough and also very dangerous as the embers may ignite something else.
3. Store fuels used for mowers, trimmers, etc. in a shed or detached garage in a

proper container. Never store these items inside your home.

4. Spring bring thunderstorms and the potential for power outages. Make sure there are fresh batteries for flashlights and portable radios in case of power loss.
5. When using a gas grill, always light it with the lid open. Check to make sure the flame is blue. If the flame is orange, the burners are not getting sufficient gas supply and the unit should be checked by a qualified service technician.
6. When using a charcoal grill, only use charcoal fluid to start the fire. Do not spray it on after the fire is burning. This could cause a flash fire and you may be injured.

I hope everyone has a great spring season!

-Mike Leckey, Fire Chief

# Southmont Borough

148 Wonder Street  
Johnstown, PA 15905

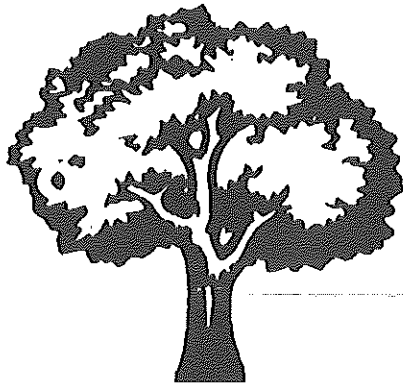
Phone: 255-3104  
Fax: 255-4150  
Email: [smtboro@atlantcbbn.net](mailto:smtboro@atlantcbbn.net)



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Johnstown, PA

CURRENT RESIDENT

~~OLIVER, Towle & O'Boyle~~



## SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

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