

KINDRED SPIRIT

VOLUME 40

SPRING/SUMMER 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE BOROUGH

Special points of interest:

- **Spring Clean-Up** will be **May 15 & 16** with your regular garbage pickup. All items must be bagged, boxed or bundled for easy handling and must be 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.
- **Borough Office Closed**— May 28, July 4, September 3, November 22 and 23 and December 24 and 25, 2012
- **Arbor Day** will be held May 12, 2012

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@atlanticbba.net
Website:
www.southmontborough.com

The signs of spring came early this year and fortunately, Old Man Winter was very kind to us. We were able to begin cleaning up the streets sooner than expected and our regular street sweeping is scheduled to begin in May. Our crack sealing program was conducted during a three week period in April and the paving schedule should be completed by June 30th.

There are many activities scheduled for this summer. If you reside in the areas of Cheney Oak Drive, Thoburn Street, Edward Street, or the upper section of Shady Lane you may have some construction activity with sanitary sewer replacements. This construction should not disrupt

any of your services.

We would also like to remind everyone of the property maintenance issues that in some cases become a problem. We will be monitoring property maintenance issues that arise and we urge you if you see a property that could become a hazardous or unsightly situation, please contact our office.

Have a nice spring and a long summer!

Richard Wargo
Borough Manager



Moving Permits

According to Southmont Borough Ordinance No. 317, a moving permit is required when moving into, within or from the Borough of Southmont. If you are a rental property owner, please make sure all tenants file a moving permit application when moving into or from your property.

Moving permits are available at the Borough office or on the Borough website: www.southmontborough.com

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.



PRO DISPOSAL SCHEDULE

2012 Garbage Collection

Memorial Day (May 28, 2012)

All regular collections will be picked up one day late.

Independence Day (July 4, 2012)

All Tuesday collections will be picked up as routine. All Wednesday collections will be picked up Thursday, July 5, 2012

Labor Day (Sept. 3, 2012)

All regular collections will be picked up one day late.

Thanksgiving (Nov 22, 2012)

No change to normal pick-up.

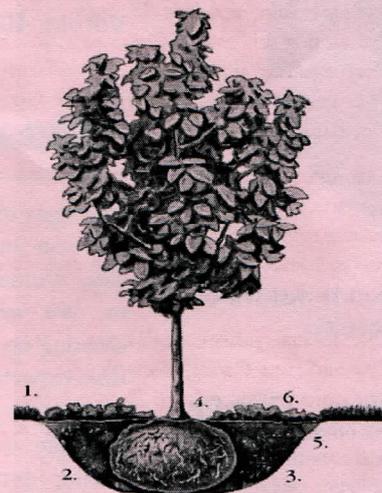
Christmas (December 25, 2012)

All regular collections will be picked up one day late.

Six Things You Should Know When Planting A Tree

- 1. Call Before You Dig**—Several days before planting, call the national 811 hotline to have underground utilities located.
- 2. Handle with Care**—Always lift a tree by the root ball. Keep roots moist until planting.
- 3. Digging a Proper Hole**—Dig 2 to 5 times wider than the diameter of the root ball with sloping sides to allow for proper root growth.
- 4. Planting Depth**—The trunk flare should sit slightly above ground level and the top-most roots should be buried 1 to 2 inches.
- 5. Filling the Hole**—Backfill with native soil unless it's all clay. Tamp in soil gently to fill large air spaces.
- 6. Mulch**—Allow 1 to 2 inch clearance between the trunk and the mulch. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep.

For more tree-planting tips and information, visit arborday.org.



The 10 Most Unwanted Pests

1. Asian longhorned beetle

By far the most dreaded, invasive threat in recent times. This wood borer, with a body more than an inch long, was introduced in New York City from China in 1996 and quickly spread to Chicago and several other cities. It prefers maples, elms and willows and its boring is lethal to any tree it infests. Signs include 3/8 to 3/4 inch diameter holes in trunks and branches.

Action: Immediately report any sign of this insect to your city or state forester.

2. Gypsy moth

This defoliating pest has now spread to the Gulf and West Coasts from Boston where it was introduced in 1869 from France. Infestations are cyclic, with long periods of moist weather resulting in a population boom of a natural virus that kills the moth's larvae.

Action: Individual trees can be protected with bands of burlap or sticky products wrapped around the trunk about 4 feet above ground. Destroy caterpillars that hide under the burlap. Apply sticky products to tape or other material, not directly to the tree. Various insecticides are also available, including Bt, a bacteria that kills only caterpillars.

3. Dutch elm disease

Introduced on logs from Europe in the 1920s, this is a vascular-clogging fungus that is transported by elm bark beetles. Wilting and browning of branch tips are often the first noticeable symptom.

Action: Promptly remove infected trees. Preventative and therapeutic fungicide injections are also available from arborists.

4. Wood borers

As a group, these insects take a toll on birch trees (particularly when stressed by lack of moisture), locusts, lilacs, willows, oaks and others.

Action: Prevention is best. Preventative fungicides are available at garden stores.

5. Anthracnose

A group of fungi that cause dieback and sometimes death to various species such as flowering dogwoods, sycamores, oaks and maples.

Action: Rake and destroy leaves of infected trees. Preventative fungicides are available at garden stores.

6. Oak wilt

Once a tree is infected with this fungus, it is unlikely to recover. A wilting of the leaves is the unwelcome symptom.

Action: Remove trees that die from the disease. After removal, debark, chip or otherwise treat the trees to prevent the production of spore mats under the bark. Avoid wounding trees and do not prune from February through June. Professionally applied injections can treat or prevent this disease, and root barriers can help prevent spread from infected trees.

7. Scale insects

A group of insects ranging from those that are white and fuzzy or some that look like tiny oysters to others that are as large as peas and look like tortoise shells. They suck the life juices from leaves and inner bark, eventually weakening or killing the tree.

Action: Horticultural oil, insecticidal soap, and other sprays are available from garden stores.

8. Cankers

These result from a variety of causes that deform bark or stems, often killing part of the tree or creating a weak point subject to breaking under the stress of wind or an ice load.

Action: Prune affected limbs, and keep trees healthy.

9. Southern pine beetle

White to reddish pitch tubes or reddish boring dust are the signs that indicate adult beetles are trying to overcome the tree's natural defenses and penetrate the bark. If penetration is successful, eggs are laid and the next spring hatching larvae burrow and eat their way through the inner bark, killing the tree.

Action: Salvage logging, cutting and burning, and chemical treatment are options. Contact your local or state forester.

10. Hemlock woolly adelgid

This pest was introduced in 1927 and is destroying hemlocks throughout the eastern U.S. It does its damage by sucking plant sap at the base of the needles, eventually causing the tree to lose vigor, drop its needles and die.

Action: Horticultural oil, insecticidal soaps, and other sprays are commercially available to protect individual trees.

Southmont Volunteer Fire Company

Hi all from the Southmont VFC!!!

Spring is here and it is 75 degrees out as I'm writing this article! Outside, people are busy cleaning up their yards and cutting their grass and many will probably have a nice family cookout this evening.

Our focus at the fire station, at this time of the year, is our annual Jubilee. You should have already received your tickets. Please be kind and send your tickets and donations back to the fire department.

Our annual Jubilee begins on Memorial Day and runs through Saturday, June 2nd. We again welcome LAM Enterprises from Westmoreland County as our amusement company. We are again hosting a parade on Thursday, May 31st.

Proceeds from the Jubilee allow us to upgrade to newer equipment and continue our training. For example, our department just took delivery of a brand new MSA Thermal Imaging Camera at a cost of about \$12,000 dollars. This piece of equip-

ment allows us to find fire that is hidden from our view, such as in a wall. This limits the damage that would occur if we were just poking through the walls to find this fire and could save property owners thousands of dollars in the event of a fire.

As usual, I will end this article with fire prevention tips. The focus is Spring/Summer tips.

Spring & Summer Fire Safety Tips

- Allow your tractor or lawn mower to cool down outside before being stored in a shed or garage.
- Clean and clear your mower or tractor of all accumulated lawn debris prior to storage, as dried grass near heated areas may cause a fire.
- Keep gas and fuel containers stored in well-ventilated outdoor storage areas.
- Have your tractor or mower serviced

by a professional maintenance technician.

- Install and test smoke alarms in your garage and storage areas.
- Keep a fire extinguisher near and/or mounted on garage walls, kitchen areas and outdoor grills.
- Test your home smoke alarms monthly.
- Take the time to discuss and develop a home fire drill with all family members.
- Schedule a professional technician to service your air conditioning unit.
- Check the exhaust hoses on your clothes dryers for accumulated lint.

Have a great spring season! Hope to see all of you at the Jubilee!!!!

Mike Leckey
Fire Chief

Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission

Look for our 2012 Spring and Summer Program Guide in your mail the first week in May. The 2012 Spring and Summer guide offers new programs like Lacrosse, Turbo Kick & Personal Safety Class. Classic favorites like Camp Westy-our 8 week summer camp for children ages 6-12, golf or tennis lessons, basketball camp, leagues, doggie & me class, spin class and the popular Zumba are available. Look for special events like the Hershey Track & Field Day in May 5-Goal Iron Man Hockey Tournament at Southmont Courts, UK Soccer Camp at the

Mound, Flood City Wrestling, discount park tickets and much more. Calling all junior race fans, July 21st is the first (hopefully annual) Hilltop 500 Downhill Derby, our version of an old fashion soap box derby. Celebrate the end of summer at the Ridge for the 2nd annual Hilltop Days Craftin & Cruisin, our unique community days offering a craft show, classic car cruise, displays, demonstrations, games, food, music and fun for everyone.

Need a place for a special event, family reunion

or party? Check out the refreshed Grove, with a banquet room and gym...or The Ridge-historic stone lodge with 62 acres to explore. Rates are reasonable and the memories you'll make are priceless.

If you want to book a party or sign up for a program., call the Westmont Hilltop Recreation Commission at 539-1877 or check us out on our new website:

www.westmonthilltoprecreation.com

West Hills Regional Police

The West Hills Regional Police Department operates under the supervision of Chief Andrew T. Havas, Jr., with the assistance of Det. Sgt. George Musulin, 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.