

# KINDRED SPIRIT

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

VOLUME 50

## MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

It's that time of year again! Spring is here and the beginning of the property maintenance season.

Of course I would like to thank the residents for their patience and cooperation during the ongoing sewer project. The projected schedule for restoration to the properties that have been disturbed is around

mid to late May and the paving will occur around the same time. According to the engineer, Kukurin Contracting is on schedule and should be completed with Phase I by the end of August. I would like to assure you that the borough and the engineer will walk through the area after the project is completed to as-

sess the restoration. If we are not satisfied the contractor will have to address the issues before any final payment is issued.

Again, I thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this construction period.

-Richard L. Wargo  
Borough Manager

## NEW BILLING INFORMATION

In an effort to minimize the impact of the increased sewer maintenance fees, we will be implementing a new payment option.

Beginning January 2018, you will be able to continue

to make two bi-annual payments or four quarterly payments. You will still only receive two bi-annual bills, but each bill will now have the option for you to pay the balance in one pay-

ment or split it into two payments.

If you have any questions regarding billing, please contact the borough office at 814- 255-3104 or [smtboro@atlanticbbs.net](mailto:smtboro@atlanticbbs.net).

## RESIDENT REMINDERS

### 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,

- 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.

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Before tree planting or doing any other digging, simply call 811. This national number will route your call to an operator who will then determine any affected utility companies in your area. A professional locator will be sent within a few days to mark your lines. This precaution can save lives and

the huge expense of repair in case you would damage buried utilities.

### GRASS HEIGHT

International Property Maintenance Code Section 302.4: Weeds, states all premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of 10 inches. Your cooperation and concern for the appearance and safety of our Borough is appreciated.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**Spring Clean-Up** will be May 16th 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. There will be no return trips. 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. There will be a dumpster in the municipal bldg. rear parking area to dispose of televisions.

**Borough Office will be closed** April 14th, May 29th, July 4th, Sept. 4th, Nov. 23rd, Nov. 24th, Dec. 25th.

**All garbage collections** will be picked up one day late the week of July 4th.

**Arbor Day Celebrations** will be held Saturday, May 6th at the **Diamond Blvd.** Playground at 10:00 a.m.

## NATURAL GAS LEAKS

Although rare, natural gas leaks do occur and you should always be prepared. Natural gas can be hazardous and if released it may ignite, possibly explode, or can cause asphyxiation. Using your sense of sight, smell and sound will help you recognize a suspected leak. Here's what you should look for:

- **SIGHT** - A dense fog, mist, or white cloud. Discolored vegetation, blackened soil areas, bubbling in water, or blowing dirt.

- **SOUND** - Hissing, whistling or roaring noise.
- **SMELL** - Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive gaseous odor (rotten egg) is added to natural gas.

What to DO in the event of a gas leak:

- A dense fog, mist, or white cloud. Discolored vegetation, blackened soil areas, bubbling in water, or blowing dirt.
- Hissing, whistling or roaring noise.

- Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive gaseous odor (rotten egg) is added to natural gas.

What NOT to do if a leak occurs:

- DO NOT touch, breathe or make contact with a leak.
- DO NOT light a match, turn light switches on or off, use a cell or home phone, or do anything to create a spark.
- DO NOT attempt to

extinguish any fire.

- DO NOT attempt to operate any valves.

What you should DO if a leak occurs:

- DO leave the home, building and area of the suspected leak, and get to a safe area.
- DO call 911 to notify police and fire officials.
- DO notify people around you.

## PROTECT YOUR TREES FROM SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Summer is the time for outdoor projects around the house. Here are some tips to help you plan for the safety of your trees during these projects.

### Avoid Damage from Cutting

- Respect the root zone by routing pipes outside it.
- Use posts and beams

instead of foundation walls for outbuildings, garages or porches.

- Discuss root protection before contractors plan their work.
- Consider tunneling instead of trenching.

### To Prevent Compaction

- Fence off as much of the

root zone as practical to keep off equipment.

- Use mulch in heavy areas of pedestrian traffic.
- Use walkway material that allows maximum aeration and water penetration.
- Avoid grade changes or soil storage that would cover root zones.

### Helping Injured Trees

- Keep tree well watered.
- Fertilize lightly
- Provide a covering of mulch
- Remove deadwood

## ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION NAMES SOUTHMONT TREE CITY USA

Southmont, PA was named a 2016 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management.

Southmont achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program's four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordi-

nance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

"Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community first hand," said Dan Lambe,



President of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Additionally, recognition brings residents together and creates a sense of community pride, whether it's through volunteer engagement or public education."

Trees provide multiple bene-

fits to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat, among many other benefits.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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**Who should I notify if I have damage to my property or have a complaint regarding Phase I of the sanitary sewer project?**

Just stop by the Borough Office and fill out a Complaint Form, which will be sent to Kukurin Contracting for review.

**Will my driveway be blocked?**

Kukurin Contracting will do everything they can to accommodate local traffic as they are working in each area. If they need to dig up the street in front of your driveway, they will take measures to make sure you are still able to access your driveway.

**Will I have access to my mailbox?**

Yes, Kukurin Contracting and will also do everything they can to provide the postal service and residents access to mailboxes.

**Do you have to get into my basement or garage?**

No, Kukurin Contracting will only be working on the lateral line that runs from the outside foundation of your property to the street. They will not need access to your basement or garage.

**Will I have a tap-in fee?**

No, residents will not be charged a tap-in fee.

**Will my yard be dug up?**

Only if necessary. Kukurin Contracting will be using a process called sliplining. Sliplining is one of the oldest methods for trenchless rehabilitation of existing pipelines. It is completed by installing a smaller, "carrier pipe" into a larger "host pipe", grouting the annular space between the two pipes, and sealing the ends.

**If I have a sump pump, do I need to notify you?**

Yes, please notify the borough office immediately if you have a sump pump. If your sump pump is discharging into the sanitary sewer system we will need to remove them from the sewer system, as soon as possible.

**Are you able to mail the garbage and sewer maintenance bills to residents more frequently instead of bi-annually?**

Yes. In an effort to help minimize the impact of the sewer maintenance increases, Southmont has approved a quarterly billing system. The

new quarterly billing will begin in 2018.

**How will I find updates on the sewer project?**

The borough will be adding updates to the borough website, [www.southmontborough.com](http://www.southmontborough.com). If you do not have access to a computer or internet, updates will be available in the borough office. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m. You can also call the office at (814) 255-3104 during those hours to inquire about updates.

**Who will be completing Phase II of the sewer project?**

The bid for Phase II was awarded to Snyder Environmental Services, Inc. from Kearneysville, WV.

**When will a schedule for Phase II be available?**

The schedule should be available around August. A copy of the schedule will be sent out with the Fall/Winter 2017 Newsletter. The schedule will also be posted on our website [www.southmontborough.com](http://www.southmontborough.com)

# SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATED PHASE I SCHEDULE

	REPLACEMENT OF MAINLINE, MANHOLES & LATERALS	PAVING
<b>GROUP A</b>	January 13, 2017—February 10, 2017	April 7, 2017 - April 21, 2017
<b>GROUP B</b>	February 17, 2017—April 21, 2017	July 7, 2017—July 21, 2017
<b>GROUP C</b>	April 7, 2017—April 21, 2017	June 23, 2017 - June 30, 2017
<b>GROUP D</b>	April 28, 2017 - July 7, 2017	July 7, 2017 - July 28, 2017
<b>GROUP E</b>	January 13, 2017—February 17, 2017	April 28, 2017—May 12, 2017
<b>GROUP F</b>	February 24, 2017—March 31, 2017	August 25, 2017 - September 1, 2017

## **GROUP A**

STATE STREET  
FLOYD STREET  
PALLISER STREET  
PENN AVENUE

## **GROUP B**

GARDNER STREET  
HANNAH ALLEY  
CLEM ALLEY  
MAY STREET  
HELEN STREET  
MABEL STREET  
POTATO ALLEY  
FILA STREET  
CARROT ALLEY

## **GROUP C**

HARSHBERGER ROAD/SR3002  
GOUCHER STREET/SR3007

## **GROUP D**

DIAMOND BLVD.  
OLIVE STREET  
POTATO ALLEY (2)  
MABEL STREET (2)  
QUINCE ALLEY  
ORCHARD STREET  
COURT ALLEY

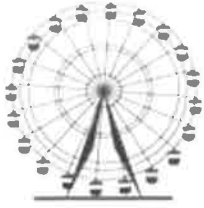
## **GROUP E**

BEET ALLEY  
EDWARD STREET  
THOBURN STREET  
THORN ALLEY  
DELL STREET  
WONDER STREET  
ARTICHOKE ALLEY  
LEON STREET

## **GROUP F**

TOMATO ALLEY  
VIOLET STREET  
LETTUCE ALLEY  
QUEEN STREET  
DAHLIA STREET  
SWAN ALLEY  
WREN ALLEY  
DAISY STREET

## SOUTHMONT VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY



**2017 JUBILEE  
WILL BE HELD  
MAY 29TH—JUNE  
3RD**

Southmont Volunteer Fire Departments is currently in the process of updating the fire equipment in the Fire Rescue Vehicle. Through local stores and state grants we were able to get a new battery operated rescue tool that will assist with vehicle accidents and other rescues. We are also currently in the process of updating our fire engine that is from 1983. We hope to have a new 2018 Engine in service by next year. Please

continue to watch your mail for a "fund drive". We should be sending these out very soon.

This years jubilee will be held May 29th through June 3rd. We have new games, new food, and dessert items. Volunteers are always welcome, even if you can only do a few hours, we can always use extra help!

We will hold our 2nd Annual Golf Outing on July

8th at 8:00 AM at Berkeley Hills Golf Course. Registration is \$50 and is due by June 23rd. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

We are always looking for volunteers. Even if you don't want to fight fires, you can still be an active member. Junior firefighters are able to start at age 14. Contact the fire hall at 255-2633 for more information.

## WEST HILLS REGIONAL POLICE

The West Hills Regional Police again caution residents to be aware of the numerous scams that are currently being carried out in this area and throughout the entire United States, including Identity Theft, which is one of the fastest growing crimes in America today. Identity Theft is the stealing of your personal information by someone who then pretends in some way to be you. Another form of Identity Theft is when your personal information is combined with phony data to create a new bogus identity. Keep in mind that your personal information is only as secure as the least secure way it is stored or disclosed. Do not give any personal

information to unknown callers and do not send money or by gift/cash cards for callers who claim to be from the IRS, tell you a grandchild needs financial assistance, or for anyone who claims you owe money of which you are not aware. Scammers are becoming much more creative, so never hesitate to call the Police to check the authenticity of the call.

Also, with summer approaching, people will be offering different types of services, including painting, home repairs, driveway paving and yard work. If you have any question about the honesty of the person or company, call the Police and an Officer will respond to check their

credentials. Anyone soliciting door-to-door must have a Permit. Remember, never allow any of these individuals to enter your home for any reason. If they are insistent, call 911 and an Officer will respond immediately.

Now that the warm weather is here, there will be more children and adults walking, riding bikes, and doing other outdoor activities. Motorists should drive responsibly at all times, but extra caution should be observed where sporting events are being held, where children are at play, and also in areas where road construction is occurring.

The West Hills Regional

Police Department operates under the direction of Chief Michael W. Lose, assisted by Captain George Musulin, Sergeant Edward F. Fisher, 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 255-4145, which rolls over to the Non-Emergency 911 number if no one is in the office. However, if there is an emergency, 911 should immediately be called. Residents are encouraged to contact the Police if they need assistance or observe any activities that appear to be suspicious.



BOROUGH OF  
SOUTHMONT

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Johnstown, PA 15905  
Phone: 814-255-3104  
Fax: 814-255-4150  
Email: smtboro@atlanticbn.net

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SHADE TREE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Robert Morgan, Chairman; Sheree Speicher & Herb Ewald; Councilmembers

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. We would like to give a special thanks to Salvatore Ferrau, Dorothy Glass, Richard & Susan Kastelic, and Mark Pasquerilla & Family for their donations.