

KINDRED SPIRIT

Special points of interest:

- Arbor Day—April 28, 2007
- Spring Clean-up May 2nd & May 3rd, with regular pickup
- Municipal Primary is May 15th
- Borough Office closed—April 6th, May 28th, July 4th, and September 3rd
- Weeks Waste Management are 1 day behind—May 28th, July 4th, Sept. 3rd, Nov. 22nd, Nov. 26th, December 5th, and Jan. 1st
- 35th Annual Jubilee—May 28th through June 2nd

"Congratulations" to the Westmont Hilltop High School Basketball Teams on their successful seasons.

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

Office Hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 255-3104, 148 Wonder Street.

Message From Kevin L. Pile, President Southmont Borough

When Do I Need a Zoning Permit?

The Southmont Borough Zoning Officer is responsible for the issuance of building permits for any type of construction such as: Single Family Residence, Commercial Establishment, Swimming Pool, Fence, Deck, Porch, Garage, Shed, Gazebo, Addition, Pavilion, Roof over Porch or Deck, Storage Building, Etc. *(Note: This is only a partial list of permits required. Please contact the borough office for further information.)*

Whatever your plans may be for construction, please take the time to contact the **Borough Office at 255-3104,**

to determine what type of permit is necessary. You may also check out **Southmont Borough's web page at www.southmontborough.com** for pertinent information, as well as the necessary application forms.

"Slow Down For Children This Spring!"

All Borough residents should slow down this spring as kids make their way outside to play in our neighborhoods after a long winter. **Remember all Borough streets have a 25 mile per hour speed limit,** but often people fail to recognize that limit. Residents with concerns about speeding in their neighborhoods should contact

the West Hills Regional Police. Before you decide that you must hurry to get to your destination, please remember the safety of our children. No one wants to see a child injured due to carelessness of a speeding driver.

Dog walkers please be considerate and pick up after your dogs. With the nice weather, residents are out enjoying nice leisurely walks through their neighborhood. Please pick up any waste so no surprises end up on shoes and in homes. Southmont Borough has Ordinance #460 prohibiting the harboring of an animal nuisance. If this ordinance is not being followed please contact the West Hills Regional Police.

Board Openings: Planning Commission, Tax Appeal Board, Alternate Zoning Hearing Board, and Shade Tree Commission. If interested, please contact the Borough Office at 255-3104.

Tree Roots Appearing

Why do roots sometimes appear around the bottom of a tree?

Circling roots are usually caused either by a young tree being in a pot too long before planting or when bare root seedlings are

planted without spreading out the roots. It is an easy problem to prevent. Just make your planting hole large enough to accommodate all the roots and take some care to make sure all the roots are heading out

away from the tree as you cover them with soil.



Visible House Numbers Needed

I have lived in Southmont over twenty years. During that time I have spent, because of my business, many evenings out meeting with potential customers. I always appreciated daylight savings time because there would be light in the evening while I was out trying to find addresses (house numbers) on unfamiliar streets. I thought the activation of the 9-1-1 system would make my life easier, because everyone would put up address numbers that I could see from the street. (Of course, the 9-1-1 requirement for obvious and legible house numbers was not set up to make my life easier. That would have been

just a side effect!)

The idea was to make it easier for emergency personnel to find an address—to make it easier for ambulance drivers, for example, to find your house. It is probably the most difficult for them—they don't drive by your house several times a week like the officers in the West Hills Police Department. The guys from the Southmont Volunteer Fire Department generally have visual aids, such as smoke or flames, to help them get to the correct address.

But why take a chance? Are your house numbers visible from the street? Do they show up at night when you turn on your front light? Or are they too small to be

seen, or faded to the same color as your house, or hidden behind a porch column or a bush? Stand down on the curb tomorrow and check your numbers. Look at them tonight in the dark or with your light on, or shine a flashlight from the curb and see if you can find your numbers. It might be time for a new set of numbers, or to relocate those you have. Hopefully there will never be a need for emergency personnel to come to your home, but if so, a good legible set of house numbers might be the difference between life and death.

Gerry Sleat, Mayor

Volunteer Fire Company

Jubilee time will soon be upon us. May 28th, Memorial Day, will mark the start of our 35th Annual Jubilee. The Jubilee is our largest yearly fund raiser. Your fire company strives to minimize requests for financial donations. We have two fund raising events yearly, the Jubilee and our Holiday Cash Raffle. Previously, we conducted fund drives for major equipment purchases. However, we recently purchased a new chassis for our rescue vehicle and refurbished it. The cost was over one hundred thousand dollars. Due to

what seems to be an ever increasing request for financial support from numerous charitable organizations, we did not conduct a special fund drive for this purchase. We obtained a low interest loan from the PA Emergency Management Agency. If you would like to make a special, tax deductible, donation towards the costs of the vehicle, please complete the coupon and return it with your donation. "We thank you for your support!"

Southmont Volunteer Fire Co.

2007 Rescue Donation

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

Return to Southmont Volunteer Fire

Co., 148 Wonder Street, Johnstown, PA

15905-2651

West Hills Regional Police Department

West Hills police officers are available to give presentations to various groups, including schools, scouts and at senior citizens' functions. Also, upon request, the crime prevention officer would come to a resident's home to check the property and to make recommendations

on how to make the home more secure.

The West Hills Regional Police are proud to serve the residents of Southmont Borough and all of the municipalities that we patrol. We are grateful to all municipal representatives for

their ongoing confidence and support. The West Hills Regional Police Commission has grown and prospered over the years because the participating municipalities have worked together in harmony to provide professional and dedicated police service, while still saving money for their residents.

Southmont Named Tree City USA

Southmont has been named a Tree City USA community by The National Arbor Day Foundation to honor its commitment to community forestry. It is the seventeenth year Southmont has received this national recognition.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

Southmont has met the four standards to become a Tree City USA community: a tree board or department, a tree care ordinance, a comprehensive community forestry program, and an Arbor Day observance.

"Trees in our cities and town help

clean the air, conserve soil and water, moderate temperature and bring nature into our daily lives," said John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation. "Tree City USA designation recognizes the work of elected officials, staff and citizens who plant and care for the community forest."

"Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in our cities and towns, and provide environmental and economical benefits. A community, and its citizens, that recognize these benefits and provide needed care for its trees deserves recognition and thanks."

The annual Southmont Borough Arbor Day celebration will be held on April 28, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the intersection of

***"THE ANNUAL SOUTHMONT
BOROUGH ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION
WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 28, 2007 AT
10:00 A.M. AT THE INTERSECTION OF
HERSHBERGER AND VIOLET
STREETS."***

Hershberger and Violet Streets. Three trees will be planted in honor of John Khuri, an Arlington Street resident who recently passed away. He contributed many years of service to our community. Ten additional trees will be planted throughout the borough.

Mr. & Mrs. Forquer Neighborhood Heroes

At the Council meeting of February 19, 2007 the Southmont Volunteer Fire Company, Mayor Sloat, and Southmont Borough Council recognized the bravery of Mr. & Mrs. Forquer for their lifesaving actions of December 4, 2006.

On Monday December 4, 2006 at approximately 3:45 p.m. a vehicle went into the wooded area off Cheney Street. Leaves under the vehicle caught fire filling inside of vehicle with smoke. Mr. Forquer, without regards to his own well being, raked the burning leaves from under vehicle preventing further fire damage. He realized there was an unconscious driver locked in vehicle. With assis-

tance of his wife, they broke the window to gain access and with a police officer they pulled the unconscious driver from vehicle. They prevented the unconscious driver from further harm and possible death.



Fire Company, Borough Council, and Mayor Sloat of Southmont Borough recognize, congratulate, applaud, and praise Mr. & Mrs. Forquer for their heroic lifesaving efforts.