

# REFRESH

**JUNE 2008**

## **BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL**

2300 William Penn Highway  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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### **BLACK AND GOLD COMPOST DISTRIBUTION SATURDAY, JUNE 14 & 21**

Mulch will be available on these dates between 8AM-1PM at the Joint Municipal Compost Area (corner of Business Rte. 22 and Rodi Road). There is a suggested donation of \$2/vehicle (bring your own containers) or \$10 per hi-lift bucket full dumped into your truck. Arrangements may be made at the site to have a small dump truck load delivered to your home. plus \$10/bucket of mulch.



Cost for delivery is \$30,

### **REAL ESTATE TAXES**

The Borough taxes are due at the face amount by June 30. There will be a 10% penalty afterward.

Woodland Hills School District taxes will be mailed on or about July 1. The discount period ends August 31, face amount period ends October 31 and there is a 10% penalty thereafter. You may pay these taxes only, at the face amount, on an installment plan of three equal payments. The first payment is due August 31, second payment is due November 30, and the final payment is due February 28, 2009. You must comply with the specified time periods.



While every effort is made to mail the statement to the current property owners, it is always the responsibility of the owners to know the due dates and pay their taxes on time.

The tax collector does not have the authority to waive penalty or interest charges that accrue after the due dates.

As a reminder, please issue separate checks for the Borough of Churchill and the Woodland Hills School District when submitting your tax payments. The checks should be made payable to Daniel R. Duerring, Tax Collector.

### **ABITIBI PAPER RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

There is a container in the lower parking lot of the Municipal Building to collect paper and magazines. **NO TELEPHONE BOOKS OR CARDBOARD.** The container seems to fill up quickly and when this occurs, some people leave the items on the ground near the container. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE PAPER ITEMS OUTSIDE THE CONTAINER.** Not only is it unsightly, it creates a huge nuisance and mess, especially during rainy periods. There is another container, for your convenience, at Tyke's Shell Station on Greensburg Pike. Please give this site the same consideration if their bin is full.



### **OCCUPANCY PERMIT REQUIREMENT**

Whenever a home is sold an Occupancy Permit is now required before the sale can be consummated. Building Inspection Underwriters perform this service. They check for general safety items, i.e., smoke detectors, ground fault interrupt outlets in certain rooms, stairway railings, 20-minute fire rated door from basement to garage, etc. The fee is \$45. The Borough office will not release a tax certification letter or a no-lien letter until this requirement, along with a dye test requirement, is completed.



# HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

## From the MAYOR'S DESK...



Spring is well under way and as usual there's plenty of work to do at the Churchill public gardens. Please consider joining our band of volunteers for weeding and planting at these sites. We meet at the Churchill Commons on Saturday mornings beginning on May 10th and then every other Saturday...so we'll meet again on the 26th and then the 7th and 21st of June. We will continue with this schedule throughout the summer. As we all know many hands make for quick work so plan on joining us for one hour on those dates in our effort to beautify Churchill. If you want to contact me please e-mail [222mayor@comcast.net](mailto:222mayor@comcast.net). I'm looking forward to beautiful summer weather, adequate rain and plentiful volunteers.

### CHURCHILL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING FOR MEMBERS

There are many opportunities to participate as a firefighter, driver or with other functions such as administrative work, emergency planning, equipment maintenance, recruiting, etc. No previous experience is required and free training with state-of-the-art equipment is provided. You can e-mail Brian Papa at [bjp14@verizon.net](mailto:bjp14@verizon.net) or call the firehouse at 412-241-3449.

### SOAPY SEDAN SCUMMY STREAMS CONNECTION

For many, car washing is a springtime ritual. Often citizens don't know that by washing all that winter grime off their vehicles they might actually be causing harm to our local waterways. Water entering storm drains, unlike water that enters sanitary sewers, does not undergo treatment before it is discharged into our waterways. When cars are washed on streets and driveways, that dirty water eventually winds up in rivers, streams, creeks and lakes. Washing one car may not seem to be a problem, but collectively car washing activity adds up to big problems for our local lakes, creeks and streams.

Pollution associated with car washing degrades water quality while also finding its way in sediments, impacting aquatic habitats. If you must wash your car at home, use the environmentally friendly car washing tips listed below to reduce water use and prevent stormwater pollution:

- Use a bucket and special biodegradable soap. Use as little soap and water as possible. Look for products that do not contain nonylphenol surfactants that act as endocrine disrupters that change the sex of fish and phosphates that contribute to algal blooms and low oxygen levels in waterways. When you are done, dump your bucket of soapy water into a sink, drain or toilet that goes to a treatment system or into a vegetated area.

- Use a trigger spray nozzle to control water flow from the hose and reduce water use.
- Wash the car on a grassy area or other porous surface where soil microbes and vegetation can filter and break down pollutants and keep wash water out of the street and storm drains.
- You can also dike off your driveway and direct wash water into a landscaped area or vacuum it up with a ShopVac rather than allowing it to run into the street.
- Support environmentally friendly charity car wash events that block off nearby storm drains, use minimal amounts of water, and divert wash water to the sanitary sewer or nearby landscaping

## C.C. MELLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

412-731-0909

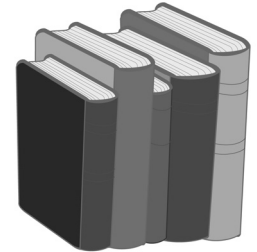
[www.ccmellorlibrary.org](http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org)

### CHURCHILL SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Activities at the Borough Building

#### Catch the Reading Bug! Story Hours

Calling all kids to join the story hour programs offered by the C. C. Mellor Memorial Library. The special summer story hour will be offered on Fridays at 10:00am from June 13 to August 8. Cathy Gable is back and has a great program planned. Each week children ages three to ten will have a chance to learn about a different animal, listen to stories about that animal, participate in games and group activities and finish up with a craft. The program is free and no advance registration is required.



#### Reading Clubs

The library is also offering Summer Reading Clubs for preschoolers and school age children. Preschoolers and kindergartners can join the Read-to-Me Club in which they listen to stories read by others. School-age children do their own reading; they can record their reading either by the number of books read or the time spent reading.

Churchill children can sign up at the story hours or at the Reading Club Kick-Off Party on Monday, June 9 at noon at the Library in Edgewood. Children will enjoy the performance by Pittsburgh Puppet Works entitled "Bugsy and the Critter Jamboree". Kids will receive a snack and will be able to register for a fun summer of reading and fun. The party is free of charge, however reservations are a must. Call 412-731-0909 for reservations.

Once registered readers bring their folders to either of the above programs or the library to record their reading activities. Children who listen to ten books, read at least ten books or read for at least ten hours will receive prizes at the end of the summer and an invitation to a party held at Koenig Field in Edgewood on Monday, August 11 at noon.

Children may read library books or their own books. Residents may choose from the two libraries operated by C. C. Mellor Memorial Library for their books and audiovisual items. They are:

**C. C. Mellor Library/Edgewood**  
One Pennwood Avenue  
Edgewood, PA 15218  
Phone 412-731-0909

**C. C. Mellor Library/Forest Hills**  
Senior Citizens  
Center Lower Level  
444 Avenue D  
Forest Hills, PA 15221  
Phone 412-824-3567

For a complete list of programs and hours of operation visit the library's web site at [www.ccmellorlibrary.org](http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org)

#### Paperback Exchange

Did you know that you can trade your paperbacks at the Churchill Borough building? The library maintains a bookrack of approximately 200 paperbacks in the building's lobby. All you do is bring in a book and take a book. It's a great way to recycle books that you've read for something that is new to you. Please exchange only books that are in good shape and not missing pages or covers. You can access the paperbacks during the hours of operation in the building.

# Have you met the nice folks in Churchill?

Because Churchill has no downtown, no town square, no common meeting place, many residents of Churchill have lived here for years, but know few of their neighbors. New residents seldom know more than the people next-door. In the past, families got to know other families through involvement with the Churchill schools' PTAs. Many residents worked at Westinghouse and knew each other through their employment. Many women didn't work then and were more involved with community organizations, such as the Scouts, while the men coached Little League baseball. The world has changed and today, there are few unifying activities that serve to introduce residents to each other.



The Churchill Recreation Board has tried various offerings to get our residents involved. The response has been minimal. At this point the Churchill Recreation Board is going to try again, — but this time we need YOU to make it happen. The Board has four members, yet it is chartered to have nine members. The terms of two of those members expired in May. We are inviting you (really urging you) to volunteer to become a member of the new Board. We hope to offer programming that will appeal to every segment of our community, —the busy households where everyone is working full time, the young, the retired, and everyone in between.

It makes our neighborhoods a safer place to live when everyone on the street knows and looks out for each other. It makes our borough a more appealing place to live when the community has recreational and social opportunities for its residents without driving to another town.

Please, please join our efforts to offer varied and stimulating recreational programming to our community (e.g., Block parties, lectures, group outings to the theatre or events, visits to Churchill by Santa and the Easter Bunny, classes on a variety of topics) so that more of our residents can get to know other very nice folks in Churchill. Call Craig Robinson, the Borough Manager, at (412) 241-7113 to volunteer your willingness to get involved.

## FROM THE CHURCHILL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

The winner of the 2008 graduation award to a Woodland Hills High School senior is **PAUL HARPER** of Swissvale. His environmental "Urban Farming Project" helped bring a farm stand to Braddock, where the fresh produce sold is raised on a teaching farm in the 1000 block of Braddock Avenue. Paul will participate in the urban farming project again this year. He also worked with a local sculptor on an impressive mosaic "Welcome to Historic Braddock" which will hang on the Rankin Bridge. Richard Romanko, a Chalfant member of the CAEC, made the \$150 award presentation to Paul at the WHHS Awards Ceremony on April 30. If you know a **Woodland Hills student who is interested in the environment**, encourage him/her to use part of the summer on a winning school or community project. Ideas include recycling, conservation, biodiversity, and habitat improvement, but innovation and other ideas are encouraged. **Application forms for 2009** will be available in the fall at the Borough Building, from the High School Guidance Department, and on line at the CAEC website (see below). They are due by the end of March, 2009.



The CAEC has a brand new web site at [www.cpeg-inc.com/CAEC](http://www.cpeg-inc.com/CAEC)

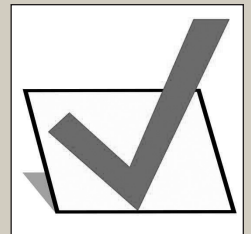
A mission statement and list of appointed members will soon be augmented with updated scholarship application information and new environmental advisories. Check it out from time to time. Sincere appreciation goes to Peggy Carpenter, a Churchill representative on the Council whose environmental consulting firm, CP Environmental Group, Inc., designed and maintains the site at no charge.

**"WATER: NOT A DROP TO WASTE"** – a new advisory will be available at the Borough Office in early June. With Water Authority rates up 15% and Alcosan sewage bills up 9% this year, everyone can benefit from the suggestions in this advisory. They are guaranteed to **help lower your bills** – a good deal for your pocketbook and for the environment. Remember, in addition to the water and sewage rate hikes, all municipalities (including Churchill) in the mandated EPA Consent Order impose a water use surcharge. In Churchill that surcharge is \$2 per thousand gallons. Although this is one of the lowest surcharges in our area, and the money is used solely for sewer improvement work to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows, it adds significantly to your quarterly water/sewer bill and provides yet another incentive to conserve.

## ELECTION PREPARATION

Churchill's participation in elections has usually been among the highest in Allegheny County. We can be proud of our past voter turnouts, but we always aspire to do even better.

For the presidential contest on November 4, 2008 it is not too early to register to vote. If you are not already registered or if you will be **18 years old on or before election day**, pick up a registration form at the Borough Building. If you are college bound this fall be sure to register before heading off to school. Then, in early October, have an **absentee ballot** request form sent to you by phoning 412-350-4520, or pick one up at the Borough Building. Voting by absentee ballot is a two-step procedure so allow enough time. Make sure your elderly or ill neighbors get absentee ballots if needed or offer them a ride to the polls. If you will be out of town over election day, you are eligible to vote absentee. **Completed absentee ballots must be received at the Allegheny County Elections Division by October 31, 2008. New registration forms must be received at the Election Division by October 3, 2008.** Questions about voting, registering, absentee ballots? Call the **Allegheny County Elections Division at 412-350-4500**. The Borough Office can answer questions about your poll location. Call 412-241-7113.





## REPUBLICANS COLLECTING USED UNIFORMS FOR NEEDY BOY SCOUTS

The Allegheny County Republican Party is collecting gently used Boy Scout uniforms and camping gear for needy Scouts who cannot afford to purchase them. This drive will begin immediately and culminate in the fall. This project has a two-fold benefit: it helps youth who would most benefit from the many fun activities that also develop character and leadership as an integral part of Scouting, while it provides an easy, direct outlet for the best use of unneeded Scouting items. The donations can be dropped off at the Churchill Municipal Building or delivered to the County GOP office located at 125 Seventh Street Room 626 downtown. To make arrangements to donate you may call the county Republican office at 412-281-9748. The Boy Scouts leadership asks that those considering donating used Boy Scout items should only give uniforms that are less than 10 years old and to provide nylon tents, not canvass ones. Also, for hygiene reasons, no sleeping bags can be accepted.



**Please Contact: Dave Majernik, Plum Borough Republican Committee, 412-795-9501 or 412-726-3547**

## RECYCLING TIPS

Cell phones can be deposited in a collection box in the lobby of Drew's Restaurant (Ardmore Blvd.) or Jodi B's Restaurant (Forest Hills Plaza). Or, go to [www.gooddeedfoundation.org/aarp](http://www.gooddeedfoundation.org/aarp) and apply for a postage-paid return envelope. All phones are used for charitable purposes.



Ink and Toner Cartridges are accepted at Office Depot, Office Max, and Staples stores. You may even get some credit on a new cartridge. Bottles, jars, and all metal cans can be taken to the Churchill Area Volunteer Center at **the parking lot behind the WHSD Admin. Bldg.** (Greensburg Pike) on **the first Sunday of each month from 10 AM to 1 PM.** Newspapers, junk mail, and other used paper (no phone books or cardboard) can go into any of the colorful Abitibi bins located at: **Churchill Borough Building's lower parking lot, Beulah Presbyterian Church parking area, Tykes Shell Station on Greensburg Pike, and Woodland Hills Administration Building rear parking lot.**

Everything: plastics #1-5, glass, metal, cardboard, paper, books, and some e-waste (desktop computers, keyboards, **but NO laptops, monitors or TVs**) can go to Construction Junction and Hi-Tech Scrap at 214 N. Lexington Ave. (two blocks north of Penn Ave. in Homewood). They also accept usable building materials like cabinets, doors, hardware, and lumber. Call 412-243-5025.

## Health and Safety Reminders:

*Summer is almost here, with high temperatures and humidity levels that favor many pest species. Now is the time to:*

Check your property for standing, stagnant water. Add "**Mosquito Dunks**" to control these disease spreading insects in an environmentally sound way or add **feeder fish** (Elmer's Aquarium Wm Penn Highway, Monroeville).



Secure all garbage in bags that are placed in garbage cans with tightly fitting lids to that keep out raccoons and other critters. Remove your cans from the curb on the day of collection.

Clean up after your pets and deposit the waste in your home toilet, or wrap it well for the garbage. All dogs must be leashed when outside the home.

The Borough of Churchill  
2300 William Penn Highway  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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