



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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Winter/Spring 2022

Churchill Borough Council Approves Churchill Creek Project Conditional Use Application

At a special meeting on December 21, 2021, Churchill Borough Council voted to approve the conditional use application for the Churchill Creek Project. In rendering a 50-plus page decision, Council approved a number of conditions related to mitigation of potential traffic, sound, lighting, air quality and other environmental impacts.

One of Allegheny County’s Largest Redevelopment Projects

Vacant for many years, the George Westinghouse Technology and Research Park has taken another step toward redevelopment into an e-commerce distribution and logistics facility (“Distribution Center”) for use and occupancy by Amazon. The developer, Hillwood Development of Dallas, Texas, estimated that the total project cost would be \$300,000,000. The Borough expects to move forward with consideration of the land development application as the next step in the process.

Council Listened to Residents’ Concerns

For over a year, after six meetings of the Borough Planning Commission, numerous public meeting comment periods during Council meetings and a Conditional Use Hearing that lasted almost 60 hours over 14 nights, Borough leaders listened to a multitude of concerns related to traffic, the environment and Borough residents’ quality of life.

“Council took into account hours and hours of testimony by the applicant, objectors, experts, and residents,” Council President Jay Dworin said. “This has been a difficult process, but one we took on with the seriousness it requires. Our residents and their passion to protect what is best about Churchill played a significant role in creating the conditions set forth in this approval. I have received so many emails from our residents on this proposed project—many for and many against. I am so proud of my community’s engagement regarding this project.”

Project Overview

The Churchill Creek Project plan is to redevelop the vacant George Westinghouse Technology and Research Park. The site housed over 1 million square feet of testing, laboratory and office space and employed 2,500 people. Until the late 1990s, the Westinghouse Science and Technology Department supported all parts of the businesses of the Westinghouse Electric Company at this location, specializing in material evaluations and testing, including hot-cell capabilities, next-generation reactor designs, chemical processing and decision analysis.

The property is owned by Churchill Crossings Partners, LP, an ownership group led by the principals of Carnegie-based NAI Pittsburgh. The 133-acre property is located in the C-1 Commercial Zoning District of the Borough. The applicant, Churchill Creek Project, LLC, desires to redevelop the property by demolishing the existing blighted buildings and constructing a new e-commerce distribution and logistics facility, along with related on-site and off-site improvements.

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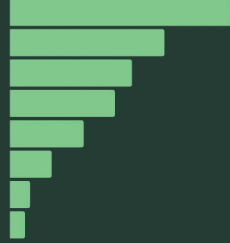
No Increase in 2022 Real Estate Taxes, Sewer Fees

2022 ADOPTED BUDGET

\$6,520,798.70 TOTAL REVENUES FOR 2022

The revenues across all 5 Borough Funds come from 8 sources:

- Real Estate Taxes (29.47%)
- User Fees (20.51%)
- Grants/Contributions (16.19%)
- Interfund Transfers (13.92%)
- Act 511 Taxes (9.77%)
- Restricted Use (5.52%)
- Other Taxes (2.64%)
- Other (1.97%)



\$6,732,673.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2022



An anticipated drawdown of the fund balances on the:

- General Fund
- Road & Highway Fund
- Capital Reserve Fund

is expected in 2022 to properly fund necessary capital projects related to the Borough's Infrastructure



PUBLIC WORKS

38.72% of all expenditures for the year 2022 are related to Public Works and repair and maintenance of the Borough's Infrastructure



POLICE DEPARTMENT

22.61% of all expenditures for the year 2022 are related to providing 24/7, 365 days-a-year police services through the Borough's police department

The Full 2022 Budget Document Available for Review at www.churchillborough.com or in person at the Borough Offices by appointment only

Borough Council adopted the proposed Churchill Borough 2022 Operating Budget on Monday, Dec. 13, 2021. The highlights are:

- **There will be no increase in Real Estate Tax Millage or Sewer Surcharge Fees from their respective 2021 rates of 8 mills and \$8.50/1000 gallons.** Residents should be aware that although the sanitary sewer surcharge remains unchanged, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) is increasing the billing rate for wastewater treatment. This increase will be passed along to property owners in their monthly Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority (WPJWA) billing.

- **Adoption of the Borough's first 5-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).** The goal of the CIP is to plan for long-term financial and operational needs while minimizing future maintenance and replacement costs. Uses of the Capital Reserve Fund will be stipulated by the CIP, providing payments for assets and services with a useful life of 5 years or more that exceed \$1,500 in cost. Residents should note that substantial percentage changes in budgetary expenditures from the 2021 budget to the 2022 budget reflect the movement of funds to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Noteworthy Capital Improvement Projects:

- Establishment of a pavement management program, with an estimated cost of \$10,000. The program will assess current road conditions and provide a systematic guide to plan future paving projects.

- \$350,000 dedicated to road paving in 2022

- \$18,000 of Closed Circuit Television Video (CCTV) scoping of the Borough stormwater sewer system to identify sites needing future repair.

- \$40,000 in anticipated repair costs to correct sinkholes caused by stormwater runoff.

The 2022 operating budget also establishes an Operating Reserve Fund, regulated by the newly adopted fund reserve policy. This prepares the Borough for unanticipated or non-recurring expenditures, as well as revenue declines and stagnation. The fund will assist the Borough in maintaining the fiscal stability of the general operating fund during times of uncertainty.

Collins Road Pump Station Removed; Sewage Flow Redirected

The problematic sanitary sewage Pump Station located at the end of Collins Road has been removed and its flow processed with a new pipeline that feeds down through Blackridge Park and the former Churchill Valley Country Club to join up with the Penn Hills sewer system.

Sewage pump stations are required where gravity flow sewer lines are not feasible. This project became feasible when two sizable grants were secured from the Commonwealth and the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN).

For over 10 years, the pump station has been a safety concern and required expensive operation and maintenance costs. Public Works Director Ralph Zatlin diligently kept the station in operating condition and initiated the transition to the gravity-fed system with retiring Council Member Kevin Collins, former Borough Manager Donna Perry and former Council Member Rick Kline. Working closely with Borough Engineer Dennis Flynn of Gateway Engineers and Tim Prevost from ALCOSAN, Borough Council formulated and agreed to a regional approach with Penn Hills.

Despite pandemic-related logistical and supply chain problems, Zatlin, along with current staff members, worked with the contractor to successfully complete the project by year end 2021. Operation and maintenance costs associated with the Pump Station will be eliminated, along with the fear of looming emergency repair costs. These costs amounted to an average of **\$20,200** per year for the last five years. For the next 10 years, these funds will be paid to Penn Hills as a part of a required tap-in fee for the additional sewage flow that is redirected into their sanitary sewer system and cover additional maintenance costs they will now endure.

The project was financed through an **\$803,472** GROW Grant from ALCOSAN and in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority. Council President Jay Dworin and Council Vice President Diane Law coordinated with Senator Jay Costa’s office and obtained this additional **\$400,000** PA Small Water and Sewer grant in order to cover the Borough’s required financial match on the GROW grant and other fees incurred.

ALCOSAN Wastewater Treatment and WPJWA Water User Fees Increase

Both ALCOSAN (Allegheny County Sanitary Authority) and WPJWA (Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority) have made the Borough of Churchill aware that they are raising their user fees effective Jan. 1, 2022. Depending on your billing cycle, these increases may be reflected on WPJWA bills as early as February but may not be fully reflected until March’s billing statement.

The following concerns have been noted as reasons for the increases:

- **ALCOSAN:** Financing for Clean Water Plan activities, which is the Authority’s blueprint for removing 7 billion gallons of overflows from our waterways, thereby cleaning up one of our region’s most valuable assets. More information can be found at: www.alcosan.org/news-and-events/featured-news/news/2021/10/28/alcosan-announces-new-five-year-rate-structure
- **WPJWA:** Significant increases in costs of labor, chemicals, and materials required for water treatment and maintenance.

The current Borough of Churchill Sewer Surcharge rate of \$8.50/1,000 gallons of water WILL NOT be increased in 2022. The average residence using 4,000 gallons of water per month should expect an approximate \$3.68 increase to their monthly WPJWA bill due to these changes.

ALCOSAN’s Five-Year Rate Schedule

Year	Rate per 1000 gallons	Quarterly Service Charge	Quarterly Bill (based on 12,000 gallons)
2022	\$ 9.73	\$20.45	\$137.21
2023	\$10.41	\$21.88	\$146.80
2024	\$11.14	\$23.41	\$157.09
2025	\$11.91	\$25.04	\$167.96
2026	\$12.74	\$26.79	\$179.67

Letter from Mayor Paul Gamrat



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Churchill for choosing me as your mayor for another term. I have learned a lot about many of your concerns. We have many residents who have shown a willingness to step forward and be heard. I am proud to be a part of this community. The level of participation has been extraordinary.

As I enter my next four years, I encourage residents to please join us during Council meetings on the first and second Mondays of each month at 7 p.m. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to hear about the many projects we are developing in Churchill.

Police News

The Borough of Churchill passed a resolution in March 2021 to establish a pre-arrest Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (LEAD). This offers alternative pathways for low-level offenders and reduces unnecessary justice system involvement. In the past few months, Borough police have been involved with meetings and training sessions. The goal of LEAD is to improve public safety and public order.

The Police Department is working in partnership with the University of Pittsburgh's Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT) in a collaborative effort to ensure the success of the program and provide support services, such as mental health crisis response teams. CONNECT is bringing together the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding municipalities to identify common public policy challenges. They advocate for collective change on behalf of Allegheny County's urban core. It is our goal to focus on reducing harm for those struggling with problematic behavior, usually because of substance abuse, poverty, or a mental health crisis.

Other Reminders from the Police Department

- We ask residents to make sure their homes are clearly marked with the house numbers. This is very important when emergency vehicles are locating addresses.
- Soliciting in the Borough requires a person or company to obtain a permit from the office through the Chief of Police. Police will grant a permit and issue identifying credentials to the individual. The identification should be properly displayed by the individual going door to door. The Police Department has a description of both the individual and their vehicle(s). Permits have an expiration date. In addition, the solicitor will be given a list of residents who are on a no-solicitation list. You may contact the office to be placed on the list or place a no solicitation sign near your door or on your residence property.
- Always lock all vehicle doors when left outside. Do not leave valuables inside or in plain sight. Actors will walk by and try all doors to gain access. When they find one unlocked, they enter and take anything of value. Never leave keys in the ignition. The owners of all reported stolen cars had left the keys in the ignition.
- On-street parking is limited in the borough. Typically, overnight parking is monitored between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Residents are advised to use their driveways and remove vehicles at night. Also, when parking on the street, your vehicle should be parked with the flow of traffic. Most of our streets have "No Parking" signage on marked sides of the street.
- As winter approaches, residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to remove and keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice. This includes the walkways along Greensburg Pike and Beulah Road.

We have many opportunities for residents to volunteer to work on projects throughout the borough. Please contact Mayor Paul Gamrat if you think you would be interested in exploring these opportunities.

Mine Subsidence Insurance

Pennsylvania has a long history of coal and clay mining. As a result of this underground mining, millions of structures in Pennsylvania are located over old, abandoned underground coal and clay mines. Mine Subsidence Insurance provides financial compensation for losses caused by the movement of the earth's surface that results from the collapse of underground coal and clay mines in Pennsylvania.

This coverage is offered through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection. Damage due to mine subsidence or mine water breakouts is usually not covered by your homeowner's insurance policy. For more information, visit <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/MSI/Pages/default.aspx>.

Woodland Hills EMS Fund Drive



Woodland Hills EMS continues to service the areas of Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills and Wilkins Township. During these trying times, WHEMS is ready to assist our residents and visitors in their time of need. WHEMS also offers CPR training, First Aid, and AED for a small fee for local residents and businesses. We also have certified Child Seat Technicians on staff to inspect car seats, and ensure they are the proper size for the child and properly installed in the vehicle. WHEMS also participates in the Safe Sleep Program. We will provide any child a safe sleeping crib area. Any child in need will be provided this assistance without consideration of income.

Woodland Hills EMS will be starting its fund drive for the period of June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Please look in your mailbox in February 2022 and sign up today. Being a member helps us with training, equipment and classes to better serve our communities. It also helps our patients by discounting fees associated with treatments, transport to hospitals, home assists and standbys. WHEMS is also a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation and any donations are tax deductible. Please refer to the flier being mailed out and contact our station with any questions.

If you have any questions on any of these programs or would like more information, please contact Chief Frank Mastandrea at 412-351-9111.

Important Changes to Tax Collection



Danielle Weaver

I am Danielle Weaver, the newly elected tax collector for Churchill Borough and Woodland Hills School District. Please make note of the following:

- **ALL CHECKS WILL BE MADE PAYABLE TO:** Danielle Weaver T.C.
- **NEW MAILING ADDRESS:** 880 Graham Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15221
- **PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER ON YOUR CHECK.** Checks not made out correctly will be returned. If I have your phone number, a missed discount or 10% penalty can be avoided.
- **IF YOU REFINANCE OR PAY OFF THE MORTGAGE, YOU MUST LET ME KNOW.** Please notify Allegheny County (412-350-4100) and the local taxing authority (412-241-0815) of any changes. If corrections are not recorded, discounts or missed payments can occur.

Contact me at dweaver@churchillborough.com or call 412-241-0815.

Dates to Remember

Churchill Borough taxes are mailed in March

2% Discount	March 1, 2022 – April 30, 2022
Face	May 1, 2022 – July 31, 2022
10% Penalty	After July 31, 2022

Woodland Hills School taxes are mailed in July

2% Discount	July 1, 2022 – August 31, 2022
Face	September 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022
10% Penalty	After October 31, 2022

Two Grills, a Shed, and a Guard Rail...

Churchill’s volunteer firefighters were busy in November responding to multiple early evening fires in Churchill involving two barbeque grills, a shed, mulch ignited by a cigar, and even a guard rail. Yes, you read that correctly—the rubber bumper on a metal guard rail caught fire on Business 22. The fire company also responded to car accidents and other fire alarms in Churchill and Wilkins and assisted at two kitchen fires in Edgewood. All in November.

The Churchill Volunteer Fire Company has been busy, but we need additional volunteers to continue to provide the best protection and service to Churchill and our nearby neighborhoods.

Being a volunteer firefighter is not about what you look like, what degree you have, or where you come from. Our current volunteers are teachers; building maintenance managers; small business owners; masonry, construction, painting, and landscape contractors; IT engineers; paramedics; and customer service workers.

Being a volunteer firefighter *is* about giving back to your community, learning some new skills, and having some fun as well. If you are over age 16, please volunteer to be a firefighter. All training and equipment are provided. You will be joining a great team and will become a nationally certified Firefighter at the end of training. Plus, you can earn a scholarship to CCAC for any associate or bachelor’s degree program. We are also looking for volunteers to help with recruiting efforts. Do you have social media, web site, video/photo, or advertising experience? We could use your help, too.

Have any neighbors that may be interested? Please encourage them to volunteer. Contact volunteer@churchillfire.org today for more information.

Borough Meetings Conducted via Zoom

Due to COVID-19, Churchill Borough public meetings are being conducted via Zoom. We understand that using Zoom may be new or different for some residents and we’re happy to help troubleshoot any issues you may be having either by phone or computer. Contact Borough Manager Alex Graziani via e-mail at alex@churchillborough.com or by phone at 412-758-8818 for assistance.

Join Zoom Meeting Link (via Internet Browser using a Internet capable phone or computer):
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89741861488?pwd=RDMrRThFOVVhYUM0RFIEaHc5azFqdz09>

Via Phone:

Dial: 1-877-853-5257
Meeting ID: **897 4186 1488**
Participant ID: Not required. The passcode has been eliminated for ease of access by participants.

November 2021 Election Results

Welcome to our new elected officials and congratulations to our returning incumbents. Here are the certified election results for Churchill Borough from the November General Election:

Mayor	
Paul Gamrat (D)	1,010
Write-ins	28
Tax Collector	
Danielle Weaver (D)	995
Write-ins	12
Member of Churchill Council (vote for 4)	
Debra Casini Klein (D)	924
Brooke M. Burchette-Williams (D)	772
Diane Law (D)	587
Valerie Reinthaler (D)	531
Write-ins*	1,071

**No one write-in candidate received enough votes to win a seat.*

Member of Churchill Council (vote for 1)	
Matthew Castiglia (D)	599
Write-ins	491

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Looking Forward to Serving on Borough Council



**Brooke M.
Burchette-Williams**

Brooke M. Burchette-Williams and her husband, James, sought three things while house hunting—value, location, and style. Churchill’s home values, 10-to-15-minute drive to neighboring communities and proximity to downtown Pittsburgh made the Borough a favorable choice. They were intrigued by the mid-century modern, contemporary, and international architectural designs, particularly on Marbury and Elmhill Roads. The couple bought their new home in the Borough in the Spring of 2020.

“We went from the closing table to a pandemic lockdown,” says Burchette-Williams, an alumna of Westinghouse High School and Point Park University, who currently works with the University of Pittsburgh School of Law Hickton Center for Community Legal Services & Clinical Legal Education.

The pandemic didn’t stop her from getting involved. Burchette-Williams expressed interest in serving on one of the Borough’s boards or commissions, and then decided to run for Borough Council. She brings to the table experience in advocacy, driving the mission of local nonprofits and bridging government services with communities. Her professional and civic experience includes Operation Better Block, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, CORO Pittsburgh, the City of Pittsburgh Civic Leadership Academy, and the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Citizen’s Academy. The mother of two is involved with a local school PTA and Just Mediation Pittsburgh, a nonprofit dedicated to resolving housing disputes in Allegheny County.

“The future of Churchill depends on the residents and the people we select to make decisions on our behalf,” Burchette-Williams says. “At my core, striving to make impactful contributions in my community is a driving force. I pursued this role to champion for the residents of Churchill and foster effective community leadership.” Among her goals as a council member are:

- Fostering a greater drive for proactive community involvement and volunteerism.
- Diversifying revenue generated for the operational cost of Churchill Borough, particularly expanding the income sources beyond residential properties to curtail additional millage rate increases.
- Revitalizing the commercial footprint while maintaining the fabric of the community.
- Continuing to address infrastructure concerns such as the stormwater and sewer systems.
- Addressing our school district performance while telling a narrative about what the district does well.

“I enjoy community development and connecting with my neighbors through community projects,” Burchette-Williams adds. “I want to thank the Churchill community for your vote of support.”



Deb Klein

Helping people is one of the reasons that Debra Casini Klein decided to run for Borough Council. “I thought this would be a great opportunity to engage and help people in my community,” says Klein, who prides herself on being a good problem solver and listener. “I can see both sides of things. I’m fair when it comes to judgment. If I’m given a job, I take it very seriously.”

That includes her annual stint when she makes the rounds as Churchill’s Easter Bunny. In fact, she thinks that opportunity to say “hi” and meet people might be partially responsible for her being elected to Council. She also thinks the speculation that she was opposed to the Amazon project due to the proximity of her house near the site helped contribute to the votes she garnered.

“I love my community,” Klein says. “I want to be very accessible. If there are any problems, I want the residents to contact me. I want to serve them well.”

Klein sees two challenges facing the Borough. One is that Council’s decision to approve the conditional use application that will allow Amazon to build a distribution facility is not a win-win for all residents. The fact that many residents don’t want the facility built is a challenge that Council faces. The other challenge is over-

coming the problems faced by Woodland Hills School District and how they affect the Borough. She says the district has “amazing programs” and noted that there are many successful graduates.

A resident for 16 years, Klein and her husband Bob, son Michael and daughter Isabella moved to Churchill when the couple was employed by WTAE-TV. For them, the big selling point was that they could have a home tucked in the woods and in 30 seconds, be on the Parkway for a very short drive to work. She has had a career that has ranged from being a freelance producer (she earned six Emmy Awards and numerous others for her work) to working as a travel agent.

A graduate of John Carroll University, Klein mentors Pitt students in the broadcasting field and is director of the “I Want to Be an Ambassador” Summer Camp offered through Luminari, a summer enrichment program. In addition to serving on Churchill’s Recreation Board, Klein is on the board of directors at Pace School. She supports the Knead Community Café in New Kensington, a restaurant that serves nutritious, fresh, local food and treats patrons with dignity, regardless of ability to pay.

Looking Back on Their Terms on Borough Council



Kevin Collins

After serving two four-year terms on Borough Council, Kevin Collins decided, at age 75, to step down to have more time to do the things he wants, such as traveling to visit with his grandchildren, who live out of town. But he’s not going away. “I told Council I’ll be around to serve on committees. I’ve enjoyed the eight years. I’ve enjoyed the people.”

The one project the borough has undertaken that he is most proud of is eliminating the sewage pump station on Collins Road, which was made possible by grants from state Sen. Jay Costa and ALCOSAN. The project, which redirected the sewer flow into the Penn Hills sewer system, will result in a cost savings to the borough because of the maintenance required to keep the pump station operational. “I’m glad we finished it before I left.”

Collins sees two challenges facing the borough in the coming years. One is maintaining the infrastructure, particularly the pipes and roads. The other is how the future of the former Westinghouse site plays out. In the last 20 years, because of decreased tax revenue from the site, the borough’s millage has doubled. “That’s a concern. We need commercial tax revenue. That will be a challenge.”



Norma Greco

In 2016, as society challenged women to become more active in local government, Norma Greco answered the call by running for Churchill Borough Council. A career educator who has taught at The Ellis School and the University of Pittsburgh, Greco chaired the Council’s Education Committee. Along with elected officials from other municipalities, she worked with Woodland Hills School District officials to improve communication between the District and local government. Then the pandemic hit—and the meetings stopped.

That disappointment and a desire to do different things in her life, such as traveling to see her family in Boston, helped Greco make the decision not to seek re-election. “The work of Council demands dedicated time,” she says. “It’s a real commitment.”

Any initial doubts about our political system changed when she saw the democratic process work at the local level. Greco says the integrity and dedication of Churchill’s council members have impressed her, noting that Council has her “greatest respect.” She commends them and the Borough management team for their efforts to move the Borough forward despite the pandemic as they try their best to serve all residents. She has similar admiration for Borough residents and praises them as knowledgeable, passionate, and committed citizens who “care about their community.”

Greco says the biggest issue Churchill Council faces is leading everyone forward to the same place for “the good of the whole.” While the immediate focus will be managing the conditions placed on the Hillwood project, she says Borough officials will continue to face the usual year-to-year infrastructure and revenue challenges.

C.C. Mellor Memorial Library Provides Library Cards for all students



Thanks to a first-of-its-kind partnership between Woodland Hills School District and C.C. Mellor Memorial Library, Carnegie Free Library of Swissvale, and Braddock Carnegie Library, every student attending Woodland Hills schools now has a public library card that will be theirs for the rest of their lives and can be used at any library in Allegheny County.

Even better, this isn't a one-and-done program. Every student who enters Woodland Hills School District from now on will get their own public library card and all the great benefits and resources that come with it.

Something this fantastic deserves a celebration and, in early November, Woodland Hills High School Library Media Specialist Kevin McGuire hosted a party for a group of students on the day the cards were distributed. The students won prizes, picked out free books to take home, had fun with photo props, shared their favorite books, and created their own blackout poetry while also learning about some of the ways and places they can use their new cards.

Do you have a student with a new library card? Stop in today and show one of our librarians! They'll be happy to walk you through all the benefits and ways you can use it, including finding age-appropriate reference and research materials and one-on-one tutoring online.

We also have some exciting programming coming up this winter and spring at the library, including free tax preparation assistance, free technology help, our adult Journaling Group and an art auction. For kids, we've got programming that includes Family Storytime, Makerspace Mondays, and Family Art Afternoons. Be sure to check our website at ccmellorlibrary.org and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on all our news and upcoming activities!



Churchill Borough Tree Canopy Update



The Churchill Borough Tree Committee continued efforts to protect and enhance our tree canopy including tree planting, removing invasive plants, and learning of new opportunities and developments.

Tree Planting

The tree committee continues to be engaged in the Woodland Hills School District Climate Initiative that includes tree planting to address air quality concerns and CO₂ absorption. Successful tree planting events were held this fall at Woodland Hills Senior High School and Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy. Students in grades 9 through 12 planted more than two dozen trees in an open area just above the driveway from Braddock Road and just below the baseball fields south of the high school. Several of the trees were planted to stabilize a hillside subject to recent landslides.

About a dozen fourth-grade students planted three new trees in open areas in front of Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy. Tree Pittsburgh arborist Jake Milofsky and Clara Kitongo, One Tree Per Child program coordinator, respectively coordinated these tree planting events with support of an Allegheny County Health Department grant, in collaboration with Woodland Hills School District teachers and staff. Both events provided an excellent opportunity to interface with the students, teachers and staff on a meaningful and beneficial activity for all. Future tree planting events are expected for spring 2022.

- *continued*



Beulah Presbyterian Church also planted more trees this fall to reforest and ecologically regenerate church property with a goal of contributing to Churchill's community health. Over the past few seasons, the Church has worked with Plant Five for Life (plantfiveforlife.org) to assess Church property conditions to determine the best places for plantings to assist with stormwater management, erosion control, second generation forest regeneration, and air pollution health risk mitigation. Additionally, food forest planting areas have been identified with the help of Garfield Farm Open Door Church for wildlife and human consumption as well as educational opportunity. Churchill residents and Beulah Church member volunteers have shown up to support this work repeatedly, and this season

were joined by University of Pittsburgh students also during a Civic Action Day to plant again, for a running total of over 500 restoration size shrubs which are also protected from deer browse by shelters. In addition, Plant Five for Life has recently been awarded an Allegheny County Health Department grant, which will be used to pilot a strategic project along a portion of church property adjacent to the Parkway East designed to create a planted biofilter - an assortment of large trees, shrubs and groundcovers - as a type of health intervention monitored for its ability to positively impact exposures to mobile source pollutants and health outcomes. The grant will be used to support similar initiatives along other public roads in the borough like Greensburg Pike and the main driveway at Woodland Hills High School and additional fundraising and collaboration building will continue in 2022.

Bullock-Pens Park and Churchill Valley Greenway

A severe outbreak of hemlock woolly adelgid was previously reported on 24 large hemlock trees at the entrance to Bullock-Pens Park. Thanks to the borough obtaining professional help, a horticultural spray was applied that has completely eradicated the damaging insect. However, invasive vines and undergrowth continued to threaten these hemlock trees planted 15 years ago by Dr. Joan Gottlieb and her late husband Milton. Thanks to the generous help of Kathy Raborn, chair of the Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission, and a dozen friends associated with her group, scores of thick invasive vines and knotweed were recently cut and removed to restore the beauty of these hemlock trees. The Churchill and Penn Hills Tree committees expect to further collaborate on the Churchill Valley Greenway that resides in both boroughs. A meeting was recently held at the Blackridge Civic Center with senior officials of the Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) that recently purchased this magnificent space. The ALT officials explained that the 150 acres are to be kept as a greenway versus a park. While they want to preserve certain spaces as meadows, they want to reforest others working with the two tree committees and local schools. The Blackridge Civic Center will also play a key role going forward.

Other Developments



Some large street trees continue to show decline, e.g., abnormal leaf loss in summer and fungus at the root of the tree. Root and bark treatments can slow or reverse this decline. Please notify the borough office if advice is needed.

Property owners are reminded that only duly licensed and bonded tree service companies can perform work on trees in the public right-of-way, per Borough Code Chapter 286 Trees and Shrubs. A company was recently discovered to be removing large limbs from an oak tree that was still leafed, placing the tree in jeopardy of oak wilt. Workers were unaware of the disease and its potentially fatal effects on that tree and surrounding trees as the disease spreads through the root system. There can be fines for violations.

The Churchill Tree Committee continued to be actively engaged in review of the proposed e-commerce distribution center and its potential impact on the tree canopy at the former research site. Testimony and cross-examination were provided during Churchill Creek Project Conditional Use Hearings on September 13 and 20, 2021, respectively. Additional documentation dealing with potential stormwater impacts was provided on October 29, 2021 to supplement the above testimony. Churchill Tree Committee provided a full report and presentation in July 2021. For the latest developments on this matter, please refer to the public documents page of the borough website at www.churchillborough.com.

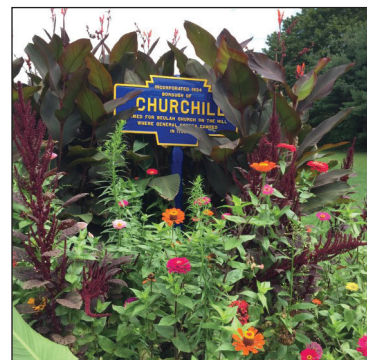
Submitted by Ken Balkey, Chair, Churchill Borough Tree Committee

Churchill Garden Club

Community Gardens

The Churchill Borough community gardens located at the corner of Beulah and Churchill roads was put to rest for the season. We had a successful year. Our goal was to provide native plants and perennials. Many of the annuals this year were grown from seed by Churchill Garden Club members.

You may have noticed the trees that were also planted by the garden club to enhance the site. Thanks to the volunteer work by the club members and a few residents, we were able to keep the garden area weed free and attractive. If you are interested in volunteering to help maintain the garden, please contact Paul Gamrat at pgamrat@churchillborough.com.



We also have some other beautification projects that will need some volunteers. Anyone interested in joining the Churchill Garden Club can contact Eileen Kisloff at emtkisloff@gmail.com. We have interesting monthly scheduled activities that appeal to our members. These activities cover a wide range of topics.

Adopt a Highway

Just a reminder that the Churchill Garden Club sponsors an adopt a highway program on our local roads. You may have seen our sponsor signs posted on the exits off Interstate 376. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Highway. For more information contact Paul Gamrat at pgamrat@churchillborough.com.

Submitted by Patricia Gamrat

- Election Results continued from [pg. 6](#)

The spring primary election will be held on **May 17, 2022** and will include the races for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, U.S. House and Senate seats, state House and Senate seats, and other state offices. **Polling hours are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

To register to vote in Pennsylvania, an applicant must be a citizen of the United States for at least one month before the next election, a resident of the district in which he or she is registering for at least 30 days before the next election, and at least 18 years old by the day of the next election. The deadline for registering to vote before the primary election is **May 2, 2022**.

Registration can be done [online](#), in person, or by mail. Prospective voters can register in person at the county voter registration office or at a number of state agencies, including Pennsylvania Department of Transportation centers. The Pennsylvania [voter registration application](#) is available online and can be mailed to the county



Winter Reminders

Please keep in mind there is an ordinance regarding snow removal from sidewalks. Borough Code Chapter 264 Article II “[Snow and Ice Removal](#)” states that snow must be removed within 24 hours after the snow ceases. Furthermore, [Chapter 264 Article III](#) prohibits shoveling snow into the street.



Keeping pedestrians and motorists safe is a priority. Please move your vehicle(s) off Borough streets during snow events so that plowing and salting can proceed effectively.

Also, check up on elderly or infirm neighbors and notify the Borough Office of any situation.



Churchill Borough
2300 William Penn Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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Winter/Spring 2022

Contact the Borough, Keep Informed

Any resident who has questions or concerns about Churchill Borough matters is encouraged to contact Borough Manager Alex Graziani at 412-758-8818 or alex@churchillborough.com. The Borough Council meets the 1st and 2nd Monday at 7 p.m. unless a holiday falls on those days.

The Borough website is a one-stop source of information about Churchill, such as the Borough Code online, meeting agendas and minutes, past newsletters, community calendar and recreation programs. Visit www.churchillborough.com.



In an effort to provide more reliable communication to our residents and businesses within the borough, we have implemented Swiftreach to enable us to launch alerts to your home or cell phone. It will be used to communicate Borough information only. If you would like to participate in this program, you can login to the Swiftreach Portal located on the homepage at www.churchillborough.com. Residents should also login to the Swiftreach website to update their email, phone number, etc. or contact the Borough offices at office@churchillborough.com or 412-241-7113.

We're on social media:



<https://www.facebook.com/Churchill-Borough-100676791820384>



www.youtube.com/user/ChurchillBorough