



# Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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Summer 2022

## Amazon and Hillwood Withdraw Plans to Redevelop Westinghouse

The future use of the 133-acre site of the former Westinghouse Research and Technology Park at 1310 Beulah Road is once again up in the air. The plan to construct an Amazon distribution center on the site came to an end in May after the developer withdrew its land development plan and conditional use applications. Churchill Council had approved the conditional use application in December 2021

The development plan to construct an Amazon distribution center on the site came to an end in May after Churchill Creek LLC (“Hillwood”) withdrew its land development plan and conditional use applications. Churchill Council had approved the conditional use application in December 2021.



## Building Code Requires Visible Street Numbers



**Matt Castiglia**

Recently Pennsylvania adopted the 2018 set of International Code Standards, including the International Building Code (IBC) for commercial properties, the International Residential Code (IRC) for single-family homes and duplexes, and the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC), among others. If you’re like me right about now, you might be thinking to yourself SO WHAT?

It’s important because this set of standardized international codes is the basis for all design and construction activities in the Borough. Thinking of adding a deck to your property? It better comply with the IRC code requirements. Considering building part of your commercial building out to mixed use apartments? You better have the proper life safety and sprinkler systems to meet the IBC code to protect your future renters. It’s im-

portant to understand that the codes establish the minimum requirements, sometimes municipalities have good reason to require more than the code minimum ... think wind design on the Florida coast.

The upkeep and maintenance of homes and buildings in Churchill Borough falls primarily under the International Property Maintenance Code. The requirements for building identification were discussed during a recent Borough meeting.

Section 304.3 of the IPMC states: “Buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be not less than 4 inches in height with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch.” Best practice would suggest having two sets of identifying numbers, if possible, one near the front entryway to the home and another near the street.

This goes far beyond wanting the Borough to look nice and make it easy for your local delivery driver to bring dinner. At times, having easy-to-read identification can literally become an issue of life and death. Having easy

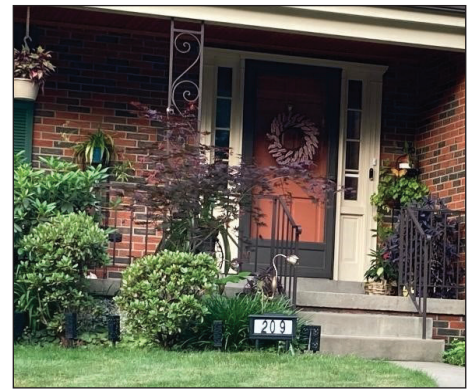
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-to-read, contrasting identification markers makes it that much easier for first responders to find your home in the unfortunate event that you need help fast. Case in point, check out the photos below with a few examples. With the mailbox on the left, could you tell that there were house numbers on the post? I'd hazard a guess that when the post was new and the numbers were shiny new brass they were easily readable. After a few decades of weathering, I sure wouldn't want to be living in the house on the left if there were ever an emergency situation. The pictures in the center and on the right show easily read house numbers.

Now is the perfect time to take a look at the identification on your own home and in some old Pittsburghese speak ... time to REDD UP DA HOUSE. In case you aren't from "Pixburgh" or are just too young to know, "redd up" means to clean or tidy up. The Borough Infrastructure Committee wishes you a safe and happy summer!

*Submitted by Matt Castiglia, Churchill Borough Infrastructure Committee*



**Save the Date!**  
**Celebrating Churchill**  
**Sunday, September 25, 12 to 4 p.m.**  
 St. John Fisher Church, 33 Lewin Lane  
 Music, food trucks, and games for kids. Come and join the fun!  
*Sponsored by Churchill Borough Recreation Board*

**Meet Our Intern**



**Alison Wuensch**

For summer 2022 Churchill Borough is host to a Local Government Academy (LGA) intern. The LGA is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization, promoting excellence in local government. The Municipal Intern Program of the LGA connects local governments with enthusiastic undergraduate or graduate students seeking real-world experience working at the grassroots level.

Alison Wuensch is a Public Policy and Management graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University H. John Heinz III College. Alison is expected to graduate in May 2023.

She is a 2018 graduate of the University of San Francisco. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies.

After seeing the example her family of public servants set for her, Alison began her own journey in public service while serving with AmeriCorps City Year in New Hampshire during the 2020-2021 school year. Between her stint with AmeriCorps and the University of San Francisco, she worked as the Office Coordinator for the Greater St. Louis Dental Society.

For Churchill Borough, our intern is tasked with helping to develop a 5-year Budget Plan to position the Borough to best steward this additional revenue to align with Borough values and desired outcomes. Other duties include working closely with Borough staff on the new Borough website and other duties related to serving the Borough residents.

*continued -*

Alison is happy to be working in local government and enjoys her work with the Borough. When she is not serving Churchill Borough, she loves getting to know new cities' personalities, and after moving to Pittsburgh last August, she wants to try as many new experiences in the Pittsburgh area as possible. She also enjoys visiting her family (especially their six pets) in St. Louis and traveling to new places in the US. She hopes to visit all 50 states in her lifetime; so far, she has been lucky enough to visit 41 states. West Virginia is next on the list.

### WPJWA Billing Error

Borough residents received a credit for the month of May on Wilkesburg-Penn Joint Water Authority bills because the Borough sewage surcharge was issued twice in the previous bill. The issue has been rectified.

### Churchill Borough Tax Corner



**Danielle Weaver**

A couple of changes have taken place since the last newsletter:

- A drop box is available at the borough building.
- Check the bottom of your next tax bill, mailed at the beginning of July, for the times I will be at the Yagel Room in the Borough Building. You can pay your taxes and get a receipt.

I am encouraging residents to pay their tax bills using your BILL PAY APP on your bank website. Your Lot/Block is your account number. Use the name, address and phone number below for the PAY TO section. Put your phone number in the memo section, please.

Please include your phone number on your check. Four checks received at the end of April were returned because of errors and missed the discount period. Five other checks with errors were resolved because taxpayers provided their phone numbers. Final notices on the unpaid Churchill real estate tax bills were mailed at the end of May. To avoid a 10% penalty, your tax payment must be postmarked by June 30. The drop box at the entrance of the borough building can be used to get your payments in on time. Any check postmarked after June 30 will be returned and 10% will be added to your tax bill.

You must notify me as tax collector and Allegheny County (412-350-4100) if any of the following occurs:

- You pay off your mortgage (Happy Dance!)
- You refinance
- Any change to the name or address of your mortgage holder.

If you have any questions, I am available by phone at 412-241-0815, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Calls will be returned ASAP. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to serve our community.

*Submitted by Danielle Weaver, Tax Collector*



### Before You Build: Do You Need a Permit?

Churchill Borough requires building permits for items such as swimming pools, decks, sheds, room additions, etc. An Allegheny County permit is required for plumbing/gas, tree trimming and removal in the right-of-way, and dumpsters.

Please visit the Borough office to obtain the necessary paperwork and to ascertain that you comply with the Zoning Ordinance for side-and rear-yard setbacks. Any inside alterations changing the structure of a home or building also require a permit. Citations will be issued to persons violating the ordinance.

While it's great to see many home improvement projects underway in the Borough, please remember to remove contractor signs from your yard. Borough ordinance prohibits these types of advertising signs.

The entire Borough Code is available online at [www.ecode360.com/CH1558](http://www.ecode360.com/CH1558).

## A Message from Mayor Paul Gamrat



The Borough is committed to keeping up its fleet of five police patrol vehicles. On average, our cars log 50,000 miles each year. The recent out-of-service Ford Taurus with over 92,000 miles is being replaced with a 2022 Ford Eco Boost Interceptor. The Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle is designed to offer police a much more utilitarian vehicle compared to the sedans that had long dominated law enforcement fleets in the past. The engine provides 400 horsepower. Finding a new replacement vehicle has been quite a task due to the unavailability of vehicles in recent times. Chief Ronald Akerley has been test driving the interceptor to help determine if this vehicle will be best for our department.

Congratulations to our two new officers, Libby Sage and Justin Hott, who have completed their probationary periods and been regularly evaluated on all aspects of their performance. Both officers have proven to be a strong part of our police department. (The Borough is currently in the final design process for building out female locker rooms in the police department).

Both the Chief and I receive calls and emails from residents who have concerns about motorists running stop signs, speeding and ignoring signage. Residents who live near stop signs tell me that they regularly witness drivers who don't even attempt to slow down or stop for the sign. However, officers should occasionally and randomly post in our known problem areas (Blackridge, 1400 block of Beulah Road, Greensburg Pike and Thornberry Drive) in an effort to minimize these complaints. Even just posting in clearly visible and conspicuous locations to motorists can be quite efficient in deterring moving violations and keeping resident complaints to a minimum. Keep in mind that a majority of these complaints are forwarded to me and the Chief. In response, the Chief has increased speed monitoring in high-traffic areas.

Talks continue on the possible merger between Churchill and Wilkins Township police departments. There are many benefits to this merger for both communities. The Public Safety Committee, the chief, the Borough Manager, members from Wilkins and I continue to have meetings to work out details.

Chief Akerley, Public Works Director Ralph Zatin, and I met with Emilie Rzotkiewicz from the Allegheny Land Trust to talk about police and EMS services for the newly created Churchill Greenspace. Among our concerns are being able to locate anyone who needs emergency services while on the property. ALT is currently working on identifying trails and areas so help can be dispatched.

To complicate matters, there are two jurisdictions involved in the Greenspace—Penn Hills and Churchill. Currently, anyone encountering injured animals is asked to call the Southwestern Game Commission. Please keep in mind that their officers cover large expanses of land and necessarily prioritize their workload. Mother Nature is sometimes difficult to see in action. Dog walkers are reminded that their dogs must be on a leash while on the property. Please be considerate of others and abide by the rules. There are many improvements being planned and they will take time to complete. Additional information can be accessed on the ALT website at [www.alleghenylandtrust.org](http://www.alleghenylandtrust.org).

Chief Akerley and I met with representatives from the Woodland Hills School District to discuss their new plan for security on the school campus. They are currently using a private security company. Some issues were raised by our department. Talks were positive and the goal of both Churchill PD and the district is to provide safety for both students and staff.

The 2022 Churchill Borough Paving Program was awarded to Mele & Mele & Sons, Inc. for a total bid of \$427,192.50 in April 2022. The program includes paving all of Marbury Road and Elm Hill Road. The goal is to have the paving and associated storm drainage utility work complete by the beginning of the start of school.

The Yagel Community Room is now open for public use. After almost two years of closure, residents are now permitted to attend community functions. The first activity held was held in March 2022 when the Churchill Garden Club hosted an evening with Doug Oster, a local organic gardener who is very knowledgeable and entertaining. We had an enjoyable evening with his discussions and our social. Anyone interested in the Church-



ill Garden Club and its activities is encouraged to contact Eileen Kisloff at [emtkissloff@gmail.com](mailto:emtkissloff@gmail.com) for more information.

The Churchill Garden Club is dedicated in its efforts to cleaning our roads of litter. The group meets at 9 a.m. the third Wednesday of the month at the Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Highway. We also maintain the Common Garden area at the corner of Beulah and Churchill Roads. We have several other projects we would like to include, but need your help to complete and maintain.

For more information about the Garden Club, contact me at [gamratpaul@gmail.com](mailto:gamratpaul@gmail.com).

## Churchill Police Department



Your Police Department is on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Please call immediately when an incident occurs that requires the police. Any delay in time makes it extremely difficult for your officers to serve and protect.

- If you have an actual emergency, dial 911.
- If the call is not a true emergency, call the Allegheny County non-emergency number at 412-473-3056.

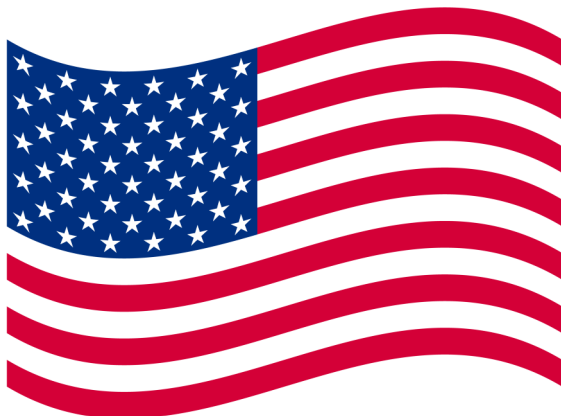
Remember, also, to keep your house and car doors locked at all times.

## Retire 'Old Glory' Respectfully

The "Retire Old Glory" bin is located in the lobby of the Borough Building. American Flags, respectfully known as Old Glory, should be retired in a dignified and respectful manner when they are no longer a fitting emblem for display and replaced with a new flag, as outlined in the United States Code Title 4 Chapter 1-The Flag.

For more information, visit [www.retireoldglory.com](http://www.retireoldglory.com).

Thanks to the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary Club for sponsoring this bin. All flags will be properly retired by Forest Hills Boy Scout Troop 90.



**Congratulations  
Woodland Hills High School  
Class of 2022!**

## Woodland Hills Takes Home Five Kelly Awards



"Shrek: The Musical" won big at the 2022 Gene Kelly Awards, which recognize local excellence in high school musical theater. Shrek won awards in Budget 4 for Best Musical, Best Vocal Ensemble, Best Crew/

Technical Execution, Best Scenic Design, and Best Lighting Design.

The Department of Music also was selected as a Best Community for Music Education for the third year in a row. The recognition puts Woodland Hills in the top 4% in the country for music education.

## WHSD Registration Still Open for 2022-23 School Year

Registration is still ongoing for the 2022-23 school year. Parents or guardians interested in registering a student for kindergarten, as a transfer or as a new resident can download a registration packet at [www.whsd.net/0/Content/148](http://www.whsd.net/0/Content/148).

Completed registration packets with supporting documents can be emailed to [registration@whsd.net](mailto:registration@whsd.net). They can also be returned in person by making an appointment. Registrations are currently being accepted in person at Woodland Hills High School. Registration appointments can be made for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Get to Know Your School District

Woodland Hills School District's website contains information about the district schools, administration and school board, sports and performing arts programs, COVID-19 updates and much more. Visit [www.whsd.net](http://www.whsd.net) and support your local public schools.

## Woodland Hills EMS Needs Your Help



Woodland Hills EMS, the community-based ambulance service for Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills and Wilkins Township, has been hit hard in recent years by a combination of factors: high-deductible plans engendered by the Affordable Care Act, lowered insurance payments overall, COVID-19, and patients who simply fail to pay their invoices for services received. At a recent meeting with Allegheny County EMS Council, Director Frank Mastandrea and other service directors addressed the pressures felt by the ambulance companies.

WHEMS is asking for help to maintain operations as well as creative ways to enlist better financial support for this important area asset. With annual operating expenses of over \$1 million, it is expensive to run an ambulance service. Employee payroll, insurances, equipment, maintenance on equipment, fuel, and the ambulances themselves cost a great deal to buy and maintain. The WHEMS Board of Directors has instituted cost-cutting measures but, without increased revenues, the service is threatened. In the last six years, 15 ambulance companies in Southwestern Pennsylvania have closed their doors, leaving their communities with delayed response times due to outside services having to cover calls from the communities.

Don't let WHEMS be the next.

One of the problems with high-deductible plans is that in the beginning of every year, the insurance companies pay little or nothing for a service billing, leaving the patient responsible for a bill that can be \$1,000 or more. Coupled with that, the actual amount the insurance companies pay is seldom equal to the amount billed. The remainder must be billed to the patient.

Subscribing to WHEMS during their annual drive can alleviate a lot of that bill, but not all of it. Unfortunately, under a quarter of eligible citizens, families and businesses subscribe to the service. Many do not pay their bill when it is received. The service is always willing to work out a payment plan or help those who are truly needy, but WHEMS must still pay its bills. Insurance companies sometimes send the billed amount in a check made out to the patient, who then uses the money for themselves instead of paying WHEMS. These and other factors lie at the heart of the financial stressors now felt at the nonprofit organization.



What can you do to help this valuable community asset? First of all, subscribe to the service annually. This provides a much-needed source of basic revenue to WHEMS for the purchase of equipment, staff training and helps you by reducing your financial responsibility. Secondly, if you need our services, please understand that we need that billing revenue to sustain operations. WHEMS has cut its budget as much as it can without sacrificing patient quality of care. If you can't pay the bill all at once, please make payments.

Understand that those high deductible plans may cause early years bills to be large, so budget for that, remembering the lower overall insurance premiums you pay for those plans. Also, talk to your community leaders about funding Emergency Services. With EMS and fire departments facing a shortage of personnel and increases in costs, these services are reaching critical levels across Pennsylvania. Finally, if you are able, make an additional donation to WHEMS. Look for upcoming fundraisers in local community periodicals and support these efforts to sustain WHEMS in our communities. Help us help you. For many years WHEMS has been a great asset supporting the quality of life in our communities. With your continued support, we will always be there for you 24 hours a day, every day. See our website at [www.whems.org](http://www.whems.org).

## Churchill Volunteer Fire Company Is as Busy as Ever...

On Father's Day, June 19, Churchill Volunteer Fire Company responded to a fatal house fire in the 800 block of Graham Boulevard. Munang Nanji, a resident, was trapped inside the home because of the intense blaze and pronounced dead at the scene. Our sincere sympathies to his family.

The Graham Boulevard fire is just one of the more than 200 calls we've responded to this year. In addition to fire alarms, we've responded to calls for traffic accidents, car fires and brush fires. On April 3, we responded to a truck rollover on the Parkway. This was the second truck rollover in that location this year.



### ... But Not Too Busy to Help Others Across the World

In March, the Fire Company donated 20 sets of full gear, including helmets, turnout coats, pants and boots that we were no longer using, to fellow firefighters in Ukraine to help them in their emergency response within their own country.

Our donation was part of a larger effort coordinated by a college friend of Churchill firefighter Scott Stonebraker, Patton Fire Company's Andy Holodnik.

The overall donation totaled over 100 sets of turnout gear plus breathing apparatus, masks, boots, and gloves from fire companies from six different Pennsylvania counties. The shipment of donated gear was sent to Ukraine in early April.

### Serve Your Community; Get a Break on Tuition

The Fire Company has been serving Churchill and our neighboring communities for over 80 years. We are recruiting additional firefighters to increase our membership.

We welcome anyone who is able to serve and willing to be trained, but we are especially looking for high school-aged and college-aged individuals. To that end, the Fire Company applied for and was awarded a multi-year grant for firefighter recruiting. That grant can reimburse students enrolled in any associate- or bachelor-level programs who remain actively involved in the Fire Company for books and/or tuition (up to \$3,000 per year).

Additional scholarship opportunities exist for full tuition for an associate degree or certificate programs at Community College of Allegheny County when committing to five years of volunteer fire service in the county. As has always been the case, all firefighter training and equipment expenses are paid for by the Fire Company. By choosing to volunteer with us, you can serve your community, learn valuable skills, and get some help with your education expenses. Anyone 16+ is eligible and needed, regardless of prior experience.

Want more information? Please go to our website [www.churchillfire.org](http://www.churchillfire.org) and fill out the Volunteer Signup form at the bottom of the page. A member of the Fire Company will contact you to give you more information and answer your questions. If this opportunity is not for you, perhaps you know a young person who could serve (son/daughter/babysitter/neighbor). Please pass the word!



*Firefighter Scott Stonebraker (right) and fire company President Brian Papa pack the donated equipment.*

## Churchill Borough Tree Canopy Update

In celebration of Earth Day 2022, nearly 100 trees—white oak, sugar maple, service berry and other species—were planted under the guidance of representatives from the Chalfant Run/Thompson Run Watershed Association and the Allegheny Land Trust during a tree planting event at the Churchill Valley Greenway to help enhance the tree canopy.

The new trees were planted near the entrance to Bullock-Pens Park in a space that had been cleared of invasive plants several weeks earlier by members of the Churchill Tree Committee and Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission. The Greenway is situated in both Churchill and Penn Hills. Some black willow trees were planted by the Tree Committee along Chalfant Run in Bullock-Pens Park to serve as pollinators to help restore our greatly reduced bee population.

Volunteers kindly picked up heavy trash along Beulah and Long roads.

Tree Committee members also helped clear more invasive plants in the Greenway on May 14 as part of an ALT Volunteer Workday to support future tree planting events.

Students from Churchill Borough and other nearby municipalities participated in a tree planting event on May 16 at Dickson STEAM Academy in Swissvale. Sixth through eighth-grade students braved some cold rain and wind to plant about a dozen trees at several locations surrounding the school under the careful guidance of *Tree Pittsburgh* representatives, with help from teachers and volunteers from Communitopia and the Churchill Tree Committee. Students from Edgewood STEAM Academy also planted three maple trees in the playground area of their school on April 13, together with support from their teachers and Tree Pittsburgh.

The Student Conservation Association planted an additional 10 bayberries at Wilkins Elementary STEAM Academy through these efforts. With support of an Allegheny County Health Department grant, tree planting events have now been held at all five schools that comprise the Woodland Hills School District over the last year under the guidance of Tree Pittsburgh staff member Clara Kitongo, *One Tree Per Child* Program Coordinator, in collaboration with Woodland Hills School District teachers and staff. The Churchill Tree Committee actively participated in tree planting events at four of the schools. Over 120 more trees remain to be planted next school year, including at Woodland Hills Senior High School in Churchill.

Per prior articles, large trees continued to be removed from private properties and public rights-of-way along or under electric power lines this year.

Our borough trees quietly provide environmental and economic benefits while improving physical and physiological health and well-being for residents. For example, a Japanese study recently reported by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* showed that the body's natural killer cells, a type of immune cell, remain elevated for up to a month after a three-day excursion in a heavily treed area. This type of immune cell protects us from cancer and invading pathogens.

Residents should think twice before cutting down a nearby large tree, which should be done only as a last resort to solve an issue. The Churchill Tree Committee has helped several residents over the last months in saving their trees by recommending a certified arborist to recommend the right treatment. Two large trees in the borough have recently been restored because of appropriate, affordable root and bark treatments.

Tree Committee members, with the help of Gateway Engineers, continue planning to map trees along public rights-of-way over the summer to help the committee and Borough officials gain a better understanding of the condition of these trees.

*Submitted by Ken Balkey, Chair, Churchill Borough Tree Committee*



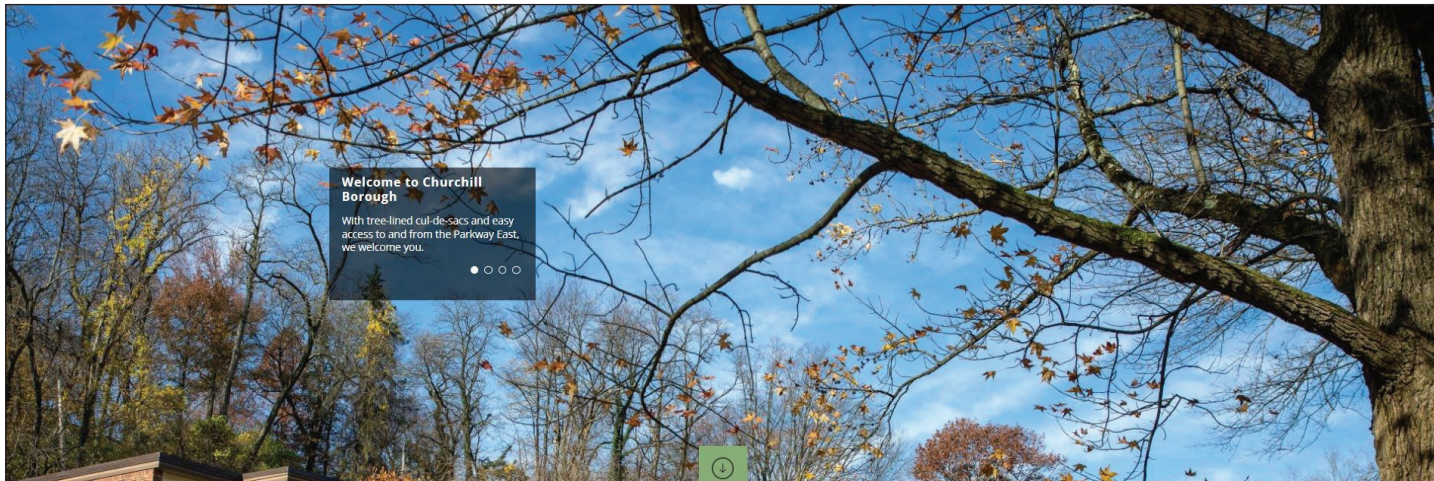
*A volunteer plants a tree at Bullock-Pens Park.*



*Students helped plant trees at several Woodland Hills schools.*



## New Borough Website



The Churchill Borough website is often the first point of engagement for our constituents searching for information on services, events, and more. With that in mind Borough Council authorized an agreement with Granicus to develop a new Borough website.

With the goal to help residents have a positive experience finding what they need quickly. The Borough recently launched a new Borough website, is adaptable for mobile devices, meets modern security and accessibility requirements. Plus, it is easy for Borough staff to keep updated.

Visit [www.churchillborough.com](http://www.churchillborough.com) and let us know what you think or how can improve your experience.

## 2022 Churchill Wilkins Rotary Paul Harris Fellows



*Pictured (from left) are Vince Costa, Paul Gamrat, Nancy Carpenter, Dan Paull, Mark Ellison, and Norm Johnson.*

Congratulations to our Churchill Wilkins Rotary Paul Harris Fellows for 2022. Dr. Vince Costa, District Governor of Rotary 7305, presented the awards after Dr. Norman Johnson, a 10-time Paul Harris Fellow and Churchill Wilkins Rotarian, spoke about the contributions of each of our deserving recipients.

This recognition exemplifies in our actions and words our Rotary motto of “Service above self.” The presentation of Paul Harris Fellow is The Rotary Foundation’s way of expressing its appreciation for a substantial contribution to its humanitarian and educational programs. This recognition is named for Rotary’s founder, a Chicago lawyer, who started our organization with three business associates in 1905. World peace and goodwill come closer to reality today as **Churchill Wilkins Rotarians** pictured here become Paul Harris Fellows.

*Submitted by Charles Bostaph, Churchill Wilkins Rotary President*

## Summer Learning = Summer Fun at C.C. Mellor!

Learning doesn't have to stop during the summer, and at C.C. Mellor we've got all sorts of fun, free, and educational activities lined up for kids. From stories and songs for toddlers to tie dying and mystery solving for teens, there's something for kids of all ages throughout the month of July and into early August. We've also got summer reading challenges for both kids and adults! Kids can pick up a board game at our children's department, and adults can find a bingo card to track their own summer reading.

Here's a rundown of our summer kids' and teen programming:

**Family Storytime** happens every Monday at 10:30 a.m. at CCM Edgewood and every Thursday at 10:30a.m. at CCM Forest Hills. Bring the little ones for stories, songs, rhymes and fun! For kids up to age 5.

**Treasure Hunters Club** is a weekly meetup for kids 5 to 8. Every Wednesday through Aug. 3 we'll follow maps, forge paths, play games, and make treasure in the children's room at CCM Edgewood. Sessions are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. each week. Space is limited.

Register at [www.ccmellorlibrary.eventbrite.com](http://www.ccmellorlibrary.eventbrite.com).

**Summer Makerspace** will be held every Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. through Aug. 4 in the children's room at CCM Edgewood for kids 6 and up who enjoy building, painting, sewing, tinkering and creating. Drop in to see what we're up to!

**Summer STEAM at Forest Hills** is a drop-in program every Thursday this summer from 4 to 5 p.m. through Aug. 4. Different stations for science, technology, engineering, art and math activities will be set up outside the library (indoors if the weather's poor). Look for the yellow signs!

**Teen Group** is ongoing every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at CCM Edgewood either in the second floor board room or outside at the picnic table, and this summer we'll also have **Tween Club** every Tuesday at 2 p.m. for kids 8 to 12 who want to tie dye, make ice cream, solve puzzles and more! We'll be outdoors, weather permitting.

We hope you can join us this summer! And be certain to check out our website at [www.ccmellorlibrary.org](http://www.ccmellorlibrary.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to get the most up-to-date information about all our programming and activities.

## Soapy Sedans and SUVs Create Scummy Streams



For many, car washing is a summertime 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 on another 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 create a dike on your driveway and direct wash water into a landscaped area or vacuum it up with a shop vac 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.
- When maintaining your yard this summer, do not dispose of yard waste in a nearby creek or allow yard waste to be washed down or put into the storm drains.
- Do not sweep or blow grass clippings and leaves along the street or into a storm drain.
- Do not dump grass or yard waste onto a creek bank or area where it will be washed into creeks or rivers.
- Consider going to a commercial car wash where water is filtered and reused multiple times before being sent to a wastewater treatment facility.

## Don't Let Severe Weather Take You by Surprise

Find out what you can do before severe weather strikes.

Preparation is key to staying safe and minimizing impacts.

- **Be weather-ready:** Check the forecast regularly to see if you're at risk for severe weather. Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio to stay informed about severe thunderstorm watches and warnings. Check the Weather-Ready Nation for tips.
- **Sign up for Savvy Citizen:** Get local weather warnings and enable weather warnings on your mobile device.
- **Sign up for other notifications:** Know how your community sends warning. Some communities have outdoor sirens. Others depend on media and smartphones to alert residents to severe storms.
- **Create a communications plan:** Have a family plan that includes an emergency meeting place and related information. Pick a safe room in your home such as a basement, storm cellar or an interior room on the lowest floor with no windows. Get more ideas for a plan at: [www.ready.gov/make-a-plan](http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan)
- **Practice your plan:** Conduct a family severe thunderstorm drill regularly so everyone knows what to do if a damaging wind or large hail is approaching. Make sure all members of your family know to go there when severe thunderstorm warnings are issued. Don't forget your pets.
- **Prepare your home:** Keep trees and branches trimmed near your house. If you have time before severe weather hits, secure loose objects, close windows and doors, and move any valuable objects inside or under a sturdy structure.
- **Help your neighbor:** Encourage your loved ones to prepare for severe thunderstorms. Take CPR training so you can help if someone is hurt during severe weather.

For additional information, visit:

[www.alleghenycounty.us/emergency-services/emergency-mgmt/be-prepared.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/emergency-services/emergency-mgmt/be-prepared.aspx)

[www.duquesnelight.com/outages-safety/storm-plan](http://www.duquesnelight.com/outages-safety/storm-plan)

[www.firstenergycorp.com/help/outages/be\\_prepared\\_for\\_anoutage.html](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/help/outages/be_prepared_for_anoutage.html)

[www.weather.gov/ind/preparedness](http://www.weather.gov/ind/preparedness)



## Report Troublesome Potholes

PennDOT encourages motorists to call

**1-800-FIX-ROAD**

or go online to report potholes at [www.customercare.penndot.gov](http://www.customercare.penndot.gov).

**Churchill Borough**  
**2300 William Penn Highway**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT #1227

**Churchill Borough Elected Officials:**

**Mayor:** Paul Gamrat

**Borough Council:**

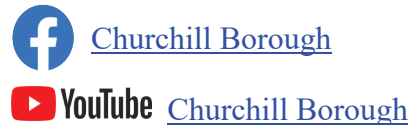
**President:** Jay Dworin  
**Vice President:** Diane Law  
Brooke Burchette-Williams  
Deb Casini Klein  
Matthew Castiglia  
Adam McDowell  
Valerie Reinthaler

**Tax Collector:** Danielle Weaver

**Newsletter:**

**Content Editor:** Zandy Dudiak  
**Layout Editor:** Leanne Longwill

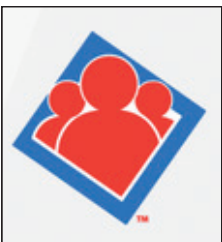
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**Contact the Borough, Keep Informed**

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](mailto:alex@churchillborough.com). 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](http://www.churchillborough.com).

**Savvy Citizen Simple. Convenient. Free.**



It's simple, really... the Borough's easy way to communicate in ways that are convenient to you.

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