



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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Fall 2022

Work Begins on the Borough's 2023 Budget

Churchill Borough officials have been developing the 2023 Borough Budget through the combined efforts of Manager Alex Graziani and Finance Officer Michelle McAndrew, in conjunction with Borough Council's Finance Committee.

Included in that effort has been a review of current year revenues and expenditures, and analysis of anticipated future projects to ensure both short-term and long-term financial stability for the Borough. Intern Alison Wuensch has also assisted by reviewing prior budgets and aggregating data for the Borough to develop a financially sound five-year budget plan.

The Finance Committee anticipates the draft budget will be presented by the Monday, Oct. 10 regular meeting of Borough Council. At that time, the budget will be available for public review, both online at the borough website and at the borough building. Following the public review period, Council will consider input and approve a Borough budget for 2023 at the Dec. 12 Council meeting.

Waste Management Awarded a 5-year Contract

In September, Churchill Borough Council approved a five-year contract with Waste Management for the collection, disposal and processing of municipal solid waste, yard waste, recyclable materials, household hazardous waste and electronic waste, beginning January 1, 2023.

The contract requires the hauler to use environmentally friendly Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks, include glass recycling and provide two extra leaf pick-ups next year. Look for a special mailer from Waste Management in December for the 2023 garbage, recycling, and special pick-up schedule.

Bid Sheet for Rates and Services 2023-2027 Hauler - Waste Management

Collection Services	Monthly Charges				
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Base Collection Rate	\$22.80	\$24.85	\$27.09	\$29.53	\$32.19
Extra 65-gallon cart	\$ 6.50	\$7.09	\$7.73	\$8.43	\$9.19
Senior Citizen Rate 35-gallon cart	\$22.54	\$24.57	\$26.78	\$29.19	\$31.82

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Borough Building Renovations Planned

Churchill Borough plans to renovate the Borough Building to create public ADA-compliant restrooms and a new female locker room. In the fall of 2021, Borough Council hired Zero Commute Architecture to develop plans for ADA restrooms and a female locker room.

In June 2022, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald notified the Borough that \$60,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the project had been approved for Fiscal Year 2022 (Year 48) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Borough intends to advertise for bids in October, accept proposals in November and award the project in December. Construction will take place in 2023.

The project includes converting the existing “stamp room” storage room on the lower level, adjacent to the men’s Patrol Officer locker room, into the new ADA-compliant women’s patrol officer locker room. In addition, the project provides for the renovation and expansion of existing single-occupant male/female restrooms outside the main council chamber into accessible restrooms.

If You Spot a Spotted Lanternfly



The spotted lanternfly, an invasive species native to Asia, has been spotted in Churchill and other nearby municipalities. In 2014, it was found in Pennsylvania and has since spread to multiple counties, **which are now quarantined**, including Allegheny County. This highly destructive, invasive insect can threaten hickory, maple, pine, poplar, red oak, walnut, willow, apple and other types of trees.

What should you do if you see one? Kill it! Squash it! Smash it! Just get rid of it! In the fall, these bugs will lay egg masses to 30 to 50 eggs each. Then, immediately report it online to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture or via phone by calling 1-888-BADFLY.

Leaf Collection Dates Set



Leaf pickup dates are on the following Tuesdays: Oct. 11 and 25, Nov. 8 and 22, and Dec. 6. Please place leaves only in paper, biodegradable bags at curb on Monday evening. Leaves in plastic bags will not be picked up. The leaves are composted and next June the “Black Gold” will be available as a rich fertilizer for your trees and shrubs. If you gather more leaves after the last date of pickup, you will need to make special arrangements with a landscaper or other contractor to have them removed.

Winter Reminders



Before you know it, the leaves will be gone and the snow will be here. 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 that may require medical or safety attention.

**Churchill Borough
will observe Halloween
from 6 to 8 p.m. on
Monday October 31.**



988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline



The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States.

Those in need of assistance can simply dial 988 to reach help. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. To learn more, visit www.988lifeline.org.

The Importance of Good House Lighting



It's pretty simple—there is a definite correlation between lighting and crime. The better lighting you have for your home, the more likely you may deter a criminal who would much rather do their intended break-in in the dark. They know that they are more likely to be seen by neighbors or passersby if the porch is lit.

Burglars tend to avoid a home that looks occupied. But leaving the light on isn't an automatic guarantee; burglars pay attention to how and when you turn on porch and deck lighting.

Here are a few tips:

- Do not leave your lights on 24/7. Outdoor lights on all day can attract attention from burglars, because if you're home, you would most likely turn the lights off.
- Use a smart light bulb in your porch so you can turn your light on from anywhere just in case you leave your home and forget to turn your light on.
- When you are home at night, it's a good time to leave the porch light on; it alerts the burglar that you are home, especially if your indoor lights are on. And you can easily see if someone is approaching your home.
- Always leave lights on until everyone in your household is home for the evening.
- A porch light works best when it is coordinated with decks, garage and indoor lights. It gives the appearance that people are home and moving around. If possible, get a motion sensor porch light.
- Motion-activated lighting is best for the exterior of your home. It can deter burglars because it instantly alerts everyone inside your home—and possibly your neighbors—that there is something going on.
- Turn the porch light off when you go to bed. If you are home alone because your spouse, partner or roommate is gone, you may feel more comfortable keeping the light on all night. However, burglars tend to stake out a house for weeks before they make their move, and if they notice an obvious different pattern with the light on all night, they could decide to strike during that time. Exterior lighting is critical; burglars do not want to be seen. Keep in mind that winter is a burglar's favorite time of the year, especially during the holidays.

Safety is paramount, no matter where you are. Good lighting certainly helps. Keep this in mind, should you be walking in your neighborhood in the evening or walking your dog—always stay in well-lit areas. As comfortable as you may be on your own street or nearby streets, good lighting is still critical no matter where you are.

A Message from Mayor Paul Gamrat



Police activity during the summer has been without any major incidents. Our department continues to monitor speeding and signage violations and assist other local departments. A Borough police vehicle was involved in a car accident with a motorist. While responding to an assist call, our car #10, a 2017 Ford Interceptor SUV, was broadsided. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries. The car was a total loss.

We remind residents that safety is paramount. Please watch your driving habits and do not allow distractions such as texting to interfere with your driving. We are also reminded that our schools are in session and students will be out walking to bus stops and school. State law requires motorists to yield to all pedestrians, regardless of whether or not they are in a designated crosswalk. Also, you must stop for any school bus with red flashing lights. If you drive your child to a bus stop, please do not block any driveways and, to ensure their safety, do not let them play in the street while waiting for the bus.

Many complaints come to my attention and speeding is on top of the list. It is our responsibility to obey all traffic signage. Motorists continue to speed through our borough, endangering pedestrians and other motorists. Please adhere to posted speed limits.

Some members of Borough Council, the Borough Manager and I attended a workshop conducted by the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The purpose of this workshop was to define the role of public officials in the event of an emergency. It is important to be proactive and have a defined plan in place.

The upkeep of your home reflects your commitment and respect for your neighbors and community. Please keep your grass mowed and yard free of debris. When mowing, make sure your mower's discharge is not aimed toward the street. This is not only unsightly, but the grass will make it to the sewers and create clogs.

Garbage/recycling containers should not be stored in plain view of the street. They are an eyesore and an ordinance violation. If they are stored in front or on the side of your home, they should be hidden by some sort of fencing.

Chief Ronald Akerley reminds us that you should keep your vehicle locked at all times. Do not leave items such as cash, computers, purses, cell phones or other valuables inside your vehicle. If you hear or observe any suspicious activity, please call 911 immediately.

In case of an emergency at your home, it would be very helpful if the Borough's emergency responders, such as Fire and Police departments, were aware in advance of any medical circumstances. Examples would include people on oxygen and individuals who are wheelchair-bound, hearing impaired, blind, etc. Please call the Borough office at 412-241-7113 or send a letter or email with your information.

We are involved in several community projects. We meet monthly to pick up litter along our highways and we maintain several community gardens. We could do more beautification projects if we had the manpower. Also, Manager Alex Graziani has clerical work that could be done in the office. If you are interested in volunteering your skills, please contact me at pgamrat@churchillborough.com or Alex at Alex@churchillborough.com for more information.

One last note: I continue to welcome all new residents with a Welcome Packet. There was a little backlog so, please be patient. I will knock on your door and we can have a friendly chat.



**THANK YOU FOR MAKING
CELEBRATE CHURCHILL DAY
AMAZING!**

Special thanks to the
Churchill Recreation Board
and the
Churchill Borough community!

Churchill Wilkins Rotary Provides ‘Service Above Self’



The Churchill Wilkins Rotary proudly sponsors scholarships annually for the community, which includes four Churchill Wilkins Founders Endowed Scholarships and a Bruce Sapp Churchill Wilkins Endowed Scholarship to Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC). In addition, the Churchill Wilkins Rotary sponsors two scholarships for Woodland Hills students to be used at any higher education college or vocational school, and four Allied Health Scholarships for CCAC.

Our Churchill Wilkins Rotary’s purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. Our primary motto is “**Service Above Self.**”

ALL the funds we raise are given to local and international projects with no administrative fees. Therefore, our fundraisers are an important part of our program. This year the Churchill Wilkins Rotary gave college scholarships, fed the hungry, purchased and delivered 350 dinners to the Rainbow Kitchen, worked on projects with the Wilmerding Community Center, and donated to the Allegheny Land Trust for the Churchill Green Space, to name a few of our efforts. Below is a list of projects the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary Club has funded:



Board members Mark Ellison; Nicki Armstrong; Dr. Norm Johnson (Rotary president); and Ellen Allston attended the CCAC Spring Scholarship Luncheon and Reception for donors and student recipients at the Carnegie Science Center. (Photo by Mark Allston)

International Projects

Masai School in Kenya
 School in the Dominican Republic
 Rotary International project to eliminate polio world wide
 Potable water projects in Africa and India

Educational Support

Pace School
 Woodland Hills Foundation Scholarships
 Community College of Allegheny County Founders Endowed Scholarships
 Masai project to educate 10 African women—donated food, scholarships and housing
 Dictionaries for Woodland Hills students

Fighting Hunger

Thanksgiving turkey dinners for 350 people
 Rainbow Kitchen WAR on Hunger
 Boyce Campus Food Bank
 Pittsburgh Food Bank
 Meals on Wheels

Community Projects

Family Links Angel Tree
 Monroeville Arts Council
 Wilmerding Community Center
 Churchill Community Days
 Churchill Garden Club
 Lincoln-Lemington Community Walk and Health Fair
 Autism Summer Camp at Beulah Presbyterian Church
 Boy Scout Eagle projects

The Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club would like to extend an invitation to you to get to know us better at one of our luncheon meetings. We can certainly use your help with our local and international community projects. Rotary is a non-political and non-religious international organization open to all people regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or age. If you are interested in attending this event or becoming a Rotarian, please get in touch with Paul Gamrat, Mayor and Rotarian.

Submitted by Dr. Charles Bostaph, Rotary board member and Paul Harris Fellow



**The Newly Reconfigured 17th Congressional District
and the Nov. 8 General Election**

Pennsylvania lost one of its 18 congressional seats due to a decline in its population, based on the 2020 Census. Churchill is now part of the newly reconfigured 17th Congressional District.

Churchill is still part of PA House District 34 and PA Senate District 43. You can search to see your old and new political districts by entering your address into Spotlight PA’s Pennsylvania redistricting tool at www.spotlightpa.org/news/2021/12/pennsylvania-redistricting-house-senate-districts-lookup-tool/ The General Election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. If you recently moved to Churchill or you don’t know your district, you can access your Polling District location at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx

Residents can apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot at www.votespa.com or calling 1-877-VotesPA (Option 3). You may also contact the Borough Office.

On your ballot will be candidates running for the following offices:

Federal

- US Senator
- US Representative - PA Congressional District 17

State

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Representative in the General Assembly - Pennsylvania District 34

Ballot Question (All County Voters)

In February 2022, Allegheny County Council passed legislation proposing an amendment to the county's Home Rule Charter, which requires County Council members to resign from office before they run for federal, state, county and local elected office. The proposed amendment would remove that requirement.

The Question: Shall Article III, Subsection 6(b) of Allegheny County's Home Rule Charter be repealed to allow Members of County Council the same freedom of right to seek other elected office as is accorded to all other independently elected officials in Allegheny County, such that Council Members are permitted to run for nomination or election to elected office other than that of County Council Member without first having to resign from County Council?

Important Dates:

- October 24** - Last day to register before the General Election
- November 1** - Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot
- November 8** - Last day for County Board of Elections to receive mail-in or absentee ballots
(Must be received by 8 p.m. that day)
- Tuesday, November 8** - **GENERAL ELECTION** - 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Helpful web resources for Churchill residents:

- Churchill polling locations: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx
- PA voting information: www.votespa.com
- League of Women Voters voting information: www.lwvpg.org
- Vote 411: www.vote411.org
- Allegheny County sample ballots: apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/ElectPollPlace.aspx

Helpful Phone Numbers:

- Allegheny County Elections Division: 412-350-4500

Churchill Borough Receives Active Transportation Grant



At its August 25, 2022 meeting, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) awarded a \$30,100 Active Allegheny Grant to Churchill Borough, pending the final execution of the contract, RAAC Director Lance Chimka informed the Borough.

In May 2022, Churchill Borough Council approved Resolution 4540 to apply for an Active Allegheny grant to develop an Active Transportation Plan for the Borough. Council also approved a WalkWorks grant application to match the Active Allegheny grant.

The Active Allegheny Grant Program (AAGP) is administered by the Allegheny County Economic Development (ACED). The purpose of the AAGP is to provide financial assistance to municipalities, nonprofit organizations and councils of governments to develop community plans and design transportation projects that will, when implemented, provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to important local destinations and transportation systems and increase residents' opportunities for physical activity.

WalkWorks is an initiative between the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center that supports developing and adopting active transportation plans or related policies. Its mission is to develop an Active Transportation Plan to increase access and opportunities for physical activities, such as walking, biking, wheeling and using public transit.

An Active Transportation Plan (ATP) is a comprehensive resource that documents existing conditions and guides the planning, design, implementation and evaluation of bicycle and pedestrian programs, policies, guidelines and infrastructure improvements.

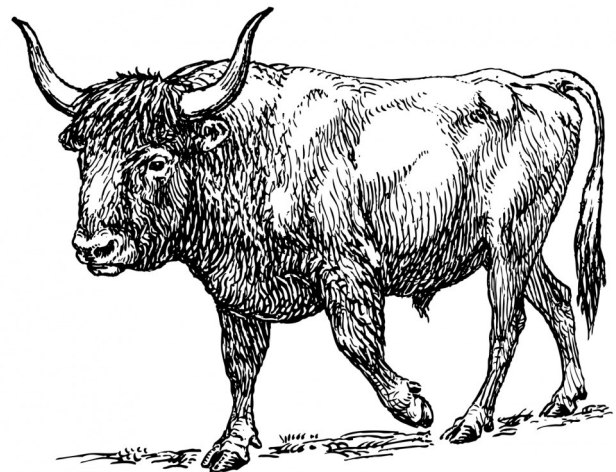
The total project cost is \$43,000. The Borough hopes to initiate the plan shortly after the new year in 2023.

HISTORY TIDBIT

Bullock-pens Park

In 1758, during the French and Indian Wars, British General John Forbes led his army against the French at Fort Duquesne and corralled a herd of oxen to be used for food in the approximate area in Churchill Borough now preserved as Bullock-pens Park, located at the dead end of McCrady Road. The area also contained a small village where a substantial number of Forbes' men remained to protect settlers against Indian raids after the fall of Fort Duquesne. Logging and coal mining during the 19th century dramatically changed the original character of the terrain.

Churchill Borough began acquiring parcels of land in the area in 1963 and at the end of 1974, 57 acres were dedicated as a recreational park. Two picnic shelters were added, and over the decades, playground equipment, a summer day camp, a bridge across the creek, and other amenities were added and subtracted. Today most of the park functions as green space.



Churchill Borough
2300 William Penn Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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 call, text, or email Borough Manager Alex Graziani at 412-758-8818 or 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.

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