



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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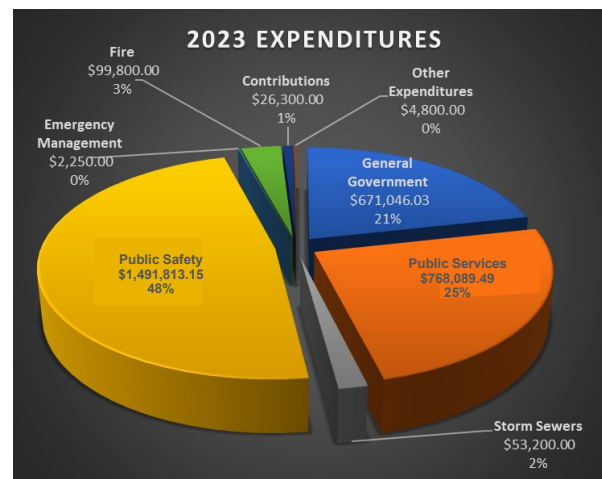
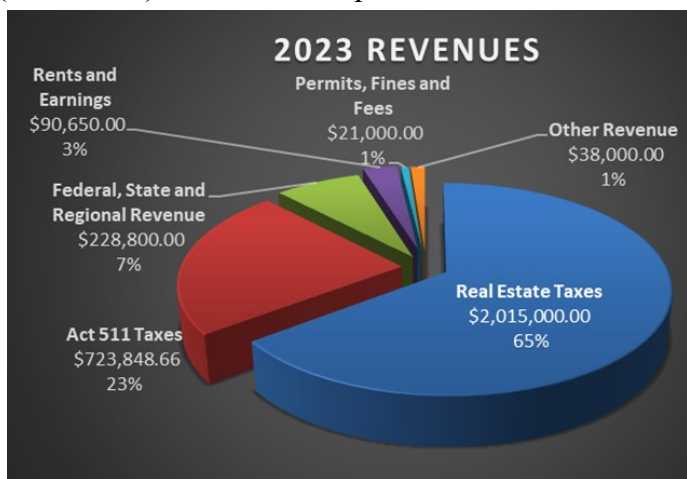
Winter-Spring 2023

No Real Estate Tax Hike for 2023

Churchill Borough Council has held the real estate tax rate for the second year at 8 mills. Council adopted a balanced \$3,117,298.66 General Fund budget on December 12, 2022, with no hike in the real estate millage or the sewer surcharge.

The budget addresses strategic priorities for the desired outcomes of a full-service local government, providing a community that is safe, well-maintained, efficient and productive, accommodating, fiscally responsible, accountable, and offers high quality of life.

The Borough's primary sources of recurring revenue are Real Estate Tax (64.6%) and Earned Income Tax (19.6%), which combine to account for 84.20% of the Borough's revenues. Additional revenue is derived from other taxes, permits, fines, interest, grants and other non-tax revenue. For 2023, budgeted revenues are slightly less (-\$6,578.69) than what was passed for 2022.



The Borough's major program expenditures include Police Services (47.9%), Public Services (24.6%) and General Government (21.5%), which combine to account for 72.5% of the Borough's expenditures. Additional expenditures include general government expenses, storm sewer maintenance and repair, and contributions to supporting entities that allow the Borough to fulfill its mission. Expenditures for 2023 are budgeted at \$106,307.34 less than the budgeted amount for 2022. However, the police union contract expired at the end of December 2022, and the wages portion remained the same for 2023. This may mean that if and when a new police union contract is signed adjustments to the budget may need to be made.

If adjustments are needed, funds carried over from 2022 will be used to pay the extra expenses. The beginning of the year General Fund Budget is projected to cover 40% of the year's costs.

In addition to the General Fund, Council developed budgets for Sanitary Sewers and Capital Improvements. Important budget files, including a budget narrative, can be found online (<https://ecode360.com/CH1558/document/697930357.pdf>).

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A Word from Council President Jay Dworin



What a year! As we look to the future, I would be remiss as Council President, if I did not provide a recap of 2022 from my lens. First, what great work by your Council for all of us. We updated our technology to expand access to meetings by creating hybrid meetings using Owl Labs AI and webcams. It has been a resounding success and increased access to the Council and to all council meetings. We have worked with our state Senator, Jay Costa, to improve how we address sanitary sewage by replacing the need for a pump station, which has saved the borough thousands of dollars. We have improved our public communication system, moving to Savvy Citizen. We worked diligently with Wilkins

Township in the hopes of creating a regional police force. Unfortunately, that was unsuccessful, but we continue to work to modernize our police force.

And, of course, there was a push for development at the former George Westinghouse Research and Technology Park. No matter how you felt about the potential of Amazon moving to Churchill, during the first quarter of 2022, our Council's work was still dominated by that space. Whether it was the committees and Council diligently reviewing the proposals, the countless meetings with developers and local, state, and federal officials to ensure the best outcome for Churchill, or the countless hours speaking to residents, your Council worked diligently on your behalf. The issue of Amazon divided our community. Many citizens supported the development, and many were against it, but in March, Amazon pulled out, as they did across the country, due to the economic environment.

I have been on Council for 12 and a half years, nine of which have been as president, and as I reflect upon the year, there are several points I would like to express to my fellow residents. First, your Council people work hard for you. I have worked with Democrats and Republicans, more "seasoned" Council people and younger, less experienced members, and what they have in common is a desire to see Churchill prosper. We have never allowed national politics to creep into our local priorities. Council spends much of its time on infrastructure, public safety, communication, our environment and education.

Second, Churchill residents are amazing! We have dealt with difficult and complex issues in a manner that has been civil, well-thought-out, and organized. The number of incredible, skilled volunteers I have seen over the years who work tirelessly to improve our Borough keeps me in awe. And this year is no exception. Whether you were on my side or opposed my ideas, residents have allowed me to run meetings, town halls and public hearings, only having to raise a gavel to call for order once for the entire year. Our citizens have given so much back. From the Garden Club and Recreation Board to Woodland Hills youth programs, Churchill residents come out and support our community. From our local block parties to Churchill community days, it feels special to live here and be a part of this community.

My last point as I wrap up 2022 and look forward to 2023: The best is yet to come! I hope in 2023, we continue the push to develop Churchill, bringing a play space for our children, continuing to modernize our policing, and helping in any way we can to bring our community together. Thank you all for a challenging and rewarding 2022. Here is to 2023 being "Churchill's best year yet!"

Council Explores Sewer Lateral Ordinance and Stormwater Fee



Borough Council continues working on new rules for infrastructure management in the Borough. One is the "Lateral Ordinance" and the other is enacting a Stormwater Management Fee. The former would require home sellers to have their sanitary sewer lateral inspected and, if needed, repaired before selling to a new buyer.

The stormwater management fee ordinance would provide a dedicated revenue stream separate from the general real estate taxes to better match costs to properties that have a greater impact on the volume of storm water runoff. If enacted, the Borough Council would need to create a general-purpose municipal authority to collect the new stormwater fee.

Borough Plans for Infrastructure Improvements



Infrastructure has been described as the backbone of civilization. As it turns out, the backbone or the spine is quite important in supporting the body's ability to function in the same way infrastructure supports our ability to live and move around every day.

The infrastructure committee is responsible for upgrading and maintaining 14 miles of roadway, 130,000 feet of sanitary sewers, 62,000 feet of storm sewers over two different watersheds, 400 inlets, the Borough building and community room, and Bullock Pens Park.

In addition to borough-owned infrastructure, we regularly coordinate and regulate work by utility providers for electricity, gas, water and telecommunications throughout the community.

A paradigm shift occurred through the leadership of previous Borough Council members in 2019-20. We realigned our focus to managing our current needs and implementing a capital planning approach for infrastructure management. To this end, we recently completed a condition assessment of the borough-owned roadways and are working to develop a 5-to-10-year paving and maintenance plan to improve our roadway conditions while realizing cost savings from reduced patching and crack sealing. We completed a multi-year project to remove the sanitary sewer pump station at the end of Collins Road; this not only removes a dangerous and outdated pump house with the new gravity line, but we are taking advantage of the natural topography to both save energy and be more sustainable. In addition, we have implemented updated occupancy inspection and property maintenance ordinances to protect the health, safety and welfare of all borough residents.

The Borough is undertaking a needed upgrade to the Borough building to provide fully accessible restrooms outside of the Council chambers and add a female locker room on the police side of the building. This is in addition to the technology upgrades of our meeting spaces to provide high-quality hybrid meeting options to allow everyone who wants to attend meetings the opportunity to do so in person or virtually. Our public works director and crew continue to upgrade equipment and educate themselves on the best winter maintenance practices to provide snow removal that is second to none in our region. On behalf of the infrastructure committee, we thank our dedicated Borough administrative staff, public works employees, police officers, volunteer firefighters, consultants and, of course, our residents and volunteers for their hard work and input to make Churchill Borough even better in 2022. So, here's looking to 2023.

Submitted by Matt Castiglia, Council Infrastructure Committee

Waste Management Price Hike Explained

Borough residents will see a 5.6% rise in costs for garbage and recycling services provided by Waste Management in 2023. The contractor sets the price, not the Borough. Since the last five-year contract was awarded in 2017 to Waste Management, the low bidder, inflation has increased by 20%, not to mention the current inflation challenges and the collapse of the recycling market. As a result, glass has been tough to recycle.

Terri Fischer, Public Sector Representative for Waste Management, explained that the Company takes pride in offering employees a living wage and, in a market where every Company is vying for employees, they have made wage adjustments to ensure they are an employer of choice. In addition, they have seen increased labor costs as they continue to respond to disruptions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Un-

controllable circumstances have also contributed to an increased cost to operate their fleet. Specifically impacting operations have been increased fuel costs, increased insurance expenses, more rigorous requirements for truck emissions, and tougher federal and state regulations governing solid waste disposal.

***See important news from
Waste Management on page 4.***





Churchill Borough 2023 Collection Schedule

All leaf and yard waste must be placed in biodegradable bags. Trash must be placed in your cart with the green lid, no material outside of the cart will be collected. Recyclables must be placed in your cart with the yellow lid, no material outside of the cart will be collected. Please do not bag recyclables.

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- Even Recycle Week
- Odd Recycle Week
- Summer Yard Waste Collection
- Fall Leaf Only Collection
- Bulk Collection Day - Residents are permitted two bulk items per collection day.
- Holiday - Service will be delayed until Wednesday when a holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday.

Churchill Borough 2023 Recycling Collection Street Listing

The color listed below identifies the week you will receive recycling pick up.

BARTON DR	Even	GILCHREST DR	Odd	MERRIE WOODE DR	Odd
BAYER LANE	Odd	GRAHAM BLVD	Even	NORTHERN PIKE	Even
BEULAH RD	Even	GREENSBURG PIKE	Even	NOTTINGHAM DR	Odd
BLACK FOREST RD	Odd	HAMPSTEAD DR	Odd	OLD BEULAH RD	Even
BOWSTONE RD	Odd	HARMAIN RD	Even	ORLANDO PLACE	Odd
BRANNING RD	Odd	HENLEY DR	Even	RIDGEWOOD DR	Odd
BRUSHCLIFF RD	Even	HOLLAND RD	Odd	ROSE DR	Odd
BURNABY DR	Even	HOLLYWOOD DR	Odd	ROYAL OAK AVE	Odd
CAMELOT CT	Even	HOMER DR	Odd	RURAL COURT EAST	Even
CARLTON ST	Odd	HUNTINGDON DR	Even	RURAL COURT WEST	Even
CHAPEL HILL DR	Odd	JAMESTOWN PLACE	Odd	SAYBROOK DR	Odd
CHURCHILL RD	Odd	KINGS DALE RD	Even	SCATHELOCKE RD	Odd
CLIFFWOOD TRAIL	Odd	LANCEWOOD DR	Even	STEVENDALE DR	Even
COLLINS RD	Odd	LEAR DR	Even	STEVENS LN	Even
CREEKEDGE DR	Odd	LEWIN LN	Even	SURREY PLACE	Even
CROFT CT	Even	LOCKSLEY DR	Odd	SUZANNE DR	Odd
EDGEWOOD DR	Odd	LONGBOW DR	Odd	THORNBERRY DR	Even
ELMHILL RD	Even	MARBURY DR	Even	THORNYCROFT RD	Even
FENWICK DR	Even	MARGARETTA ST	Odd	VALIANT DR	Even
FOREST DR	Odd	MARGATE RD	Even	WILLIAM PENN HWY	Even
GARDEN TERRACE	Even	MCCRADY RD	Odd	WILLIAMSBURG PLACE	Odd
GARRICK DR	Even	MCCREA RD	Odd	WOODLAND HILLS DR	Even
GEORGETOWN PLACE	Odd	MCNARY BLVD	Odd	YORKTOWN PLACE	Odd

ATTENTION: Residents who live on Carlton Street, McCrea Road, Merrie Woode Drive and Cliffwood Trail - Your recycling pick-up day will be on **Wednesday** of the bi-weekly schedule. The color listed above will be your recycling week.

Bulk Collection Reminder:

Residents are permitted to select from one of the following options on scheduled bulk collection days:

- Two bulk items including but not limited refrigerators (with Freon properly removed), washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves, bicycles, microwaves, carpet (3-foot section, 40lbs or less), etc.
- Two garbage bags placed outside of the provided container
- Combination of one bulk item and one garbage bag

In addition to the two allowable items (as described in the options above), if you have need for any additional bulk items to be collected on your bulk collection day, you must contact WM to schedule accordingly.

WM Contact Information:

Residents looking for information about billing or that have other general service questions can contact WM at 1-800-866-4460. Representatives are also available through chat and e-mail by visiting www.wm.com.



Recreation Board Plans 2023 Events

Churchill Community Day
August 12, 2023

Due to the pandemic restrictions over the past few years, the Churchill Recreation Board took a bit of a hiatus. However, we are excited to announce that we have regrouped and are back in action! We are adding some new members, restructuring our goals and planning a variety of activities for the coming year. We kicked off our efforts with the **Celebrate Churchill** event, which was held in September 2022 on the lovely grounds of St. John Fisher Church. If you missed it, you missed a beautiful day with great musicians, kids' games, food trucks, and a chance to meet and mingle with your Churchill neighbors! Thank you to all who volunteered and to those who attended.

We welcome you to get involved and join us on an event committee or to volunteer. We are planning the annual Bunny Parade at Easter, arranging for some guest speakers and organizing a Dinner & Vine event. We are also thrilled to announce that **Churchill Community Day is coming back and will take place on August 12 on the grounds of Pace School**. If you can help us with any event(s), contact board member Joe Kotelnicki (jkotel2@gmail.com) for more information.

Submitted by Joe Kotelnicki, Churchill Recreation Board

Churchill Volunteer Fire Company: One Member's Story



I grew up in a small town in eastern Pennsylvania, where I was a junior member of the local volunteer fire company. When I came to Pittsburgh to attend college, I stayed involved over breaks, and my plan was to go back to my hometown when I graduated and continue to serve in the same fire company. That did not happen, as I met the woman who would become my wife in college, and we ended up buying a home here, right over the Churchill border in Wilkinsburg.

I was aware that the Churchill Volunteer Fire Company was less than a mile from our home, but I was hesitant to get involved. What if it wasn't like the one in my hometown? What if I had to do fundraising, or run bingo or a fish fry? What if I didn't like the people? What if, what if, what if. My wife said to me, "Just go down there once. If you don't like it, you don't have to go back." I took her advice, and I have been part of the Fire Company for 20+ years now. Getting involved in any new activity can be scary sometimes. Will I fit in? Do I have the right skills? How much time is involved? Will I like the people? The list of unknowns is as long as we make it. But sometimes, you just need to try something and see what happens.

Volunteer fire companies can only thrive when members of the local community are involved. In a time where so many people are participating in life virtually—working from home, exercising with Zoom classes, even buying a car remotely—fire companies still need people on the ground, present in the community, to be effective. Volunteer fire companies all over the country are facing personnel shortages, and that is true for the Churchill Volunteer Fire Company as well. Many fire companies are either closing altogether or becoming volunteer/paid hybrids.

My hope is that the Churchill Fire Company remains a vital part of the Borough for many years to come. Using funding from a federal recruiting grant, the Fire Company has been engaging in online targeted video ads to recruit new members, as well as some joint recruiting efforts with Wilkins Township. I have talked to a couple people in Churchill who have seen the advertising spots. I am glad the ads are reaching the people in the Borough. Now, I need *you* to reach out to us.

Just come by once. If you don't like it, you don't have to come back. But you may find a wonderful way to serve your community, right here. Plus, there are other benefits, like getting to build things, using fun tools,

and driving a big truck. You may also make some new, lifelong friends. My wife and I consider a couple from the Fire Company to be among our closest friends for the last 15 years.

There are also some practical benefits. It is true that to be a firefighter takes training, but all those expenses are paid for by the Fire Company. In addition, there is grant money available that will reimburse students in regular associate- or bachelor-level programs for books and/or tuition if they are actively involved in the Fire Company for at least six months and are pursuing firefighter training and certification.

Want more information? Please go to our website churchillfire.org and fill out the Volunteer Signup form at the bottom of the page. A member of the Fire Company (most likely me) will contact you to give you more information and answer your questions. In addition, we gather most Thursday evenings for meetings, training or maintenance activities. If you would like to drop by on a Thursday, just reach out and let us know in advance info@churchillfire.org. By choosing to volunteer with us, you can serve your community, learn valuable skills and get some help with your education expenses. And maybe, just maybe, find something that you can be a part of for your next 20 years.

Submitted by Brian Papa, Churchill Volunteer Fire Company President

Mark Your Calendar! Tax Collector Announces Due Dates



WOODLAND HILLS SCHOOL TAX: The second installment for Woodland Hills School Tax must be postmarked by January 31, 2023. The final installment must be postmarked by March 31, 2023.

CHURCHILL BOROUGH TAX: The Churchill Borough taxes will be mailed beginning March 1, 2023. Borough council is considering allowing installment payments this year. If approved, the details will be included with your tax bill.

MORTGAGES: If you pay off your mortgage, refinance your mortgage or it is sold to another company, we need your new mortgage company's "Tax Bill Mailing Address." At the beginning of the year, Jordan Tax Service downloads the addresses from Allegheny County to print and mail that year's tax bills. If there is a change of any kind, call Allegheny County at 412-350-4100 and ask them to change the "Tax Bill Mailing Address." Please call me, Danielle Weaver, at 412-241-0815 so I can update my records.

Please include your phone number on your check. This will not be shared with anyone. It is for my use only. Many checks were returned in 2022 because of errors and a few resulted in additional charges.

Happy New Year!!!

Submitted by Danielle Weaver, Tax Collector

Business Route 22 Improvements Slated for Spring 2023

Be prepared for delays and changes in traffic patterns when PennDOT begins construction this spring on the 4.2 miles of William Penn Highway (Business Route 22) between the Churchill interchange of the Parkway East and just past Route 48 in Monroeville.

The road work will include resurfacing the road surface; upgrading drainage, guide rails and traffic signals; and sidewalk and curb ramps.

Construction is expected to occur throughout the 2023-24 road repair seasons during off-peak hours. Short-term, off-peak lane restrictions may occur. Long-term crossover setups, with around-the-clock single lane traffic in each direction, will be necessary for bridge work at two locations within the project limits when it occurs. Other detours around bridge structures along the road will be implemented as work progresses.



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Support the Churchill Volunteer Fire Company Fund Drive



Churchill Volunteer Fire Company is starting its 2023 Fund Drive. The fire company responds to approximately 350 incidents each year, including house and vehicle fires, vehicle accidents/rescues, residential and commercial fire alarms, public service details like storm responses to trees down and basement flooding, and training sessions.

Most of the Fire Company's funding comes from individual donations like yours and from others in the Churchill community. We accept credit/debit card donations using PayPal at the following link: <https://churchillfire.org/wp/donations> Or you can donate via our fund drive by mailing a check to:

2023 Fund Drive, Churchill Volunteer Fire Company, 2298 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Please contact us via email at donations@churchillfire.org with any with any questions or to make other donation arrangements. We thank you for your donation.

WHEMS Subscription Drive Starts in February



Woodland Hills EMS will start our yearly subscription fund drive in February 2023. Residents will receive a mailer with information on how to subscribe, the benefits of becoming a subscriber, and how your subscription helps both you and the service. WHEMS has been the community-based EMS service in Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills, and Wilkins Township for the last 20 years. We look forward to serving our communities for the next 20 and beyond. We cannot do this without your help!

Over the past three years, many things have happened to affect our service and other EMS services in the area. High deductible plans through the Affordable Care Act, lowered insurance payments, COVID-19 related costs, and patients simply failing to pay their invoices have stretched our budget. In the past three years, we have seen five additional EMS services in Southwest Pa. close their doors. This has increased response times, treatment delays, and staffing shortages. Please help us continue to provide the service and commitment to the area that we strive to meet.

Currently, WHEMS receives small per capita payments from Braddock Hills, Churchill, Forest Hills, and Wilkins Township. This per capita payment is less than 2% of our operating budget. Our subscription drive helps, but with less than 23% of the residents participating, it affects purchasing of supplies, fuel, and training. Currently, Chalfant Borough is the only Borough that has entered into an agreement with Woodland Hills EMS where for a 0.5 mill property tax, Woodland Hills accepts any payments from insurance billing as full payment for all residents. WHEMS will also write off any treatment/no transport, lift assists, and community assist calls. If you face the need to call for help, this program helps remove any worries of additional costs associated in getting the care you need. Entering its third year, the program is highly popular with both residents and community leaders.

Woodland Hills EMS recognizes the needs and issues facing not only ourselves, but the community as a whole. If you are having a problem paying for services, please contact Chief Frank Mastandrea at 412-351-9111. We are always willing to work with patients so that medical bills do not overwhelm families' budgets. If you have any questions regarding the subscription program or would like any additional information on how the EMS Services Tax works, please call the station at the number listed above.

Submitted by Frank Mastandrea, WHEMS Chief

Churchill Valley Greenway Update

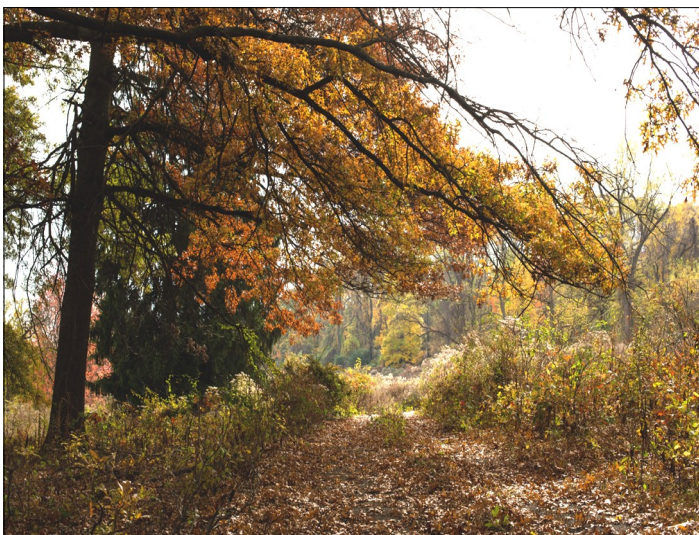


Less than two years ago, residents of Churchill, Penn Hills and surrounding communities worked together with Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) to ensure the permanent conservation of the 151-acre [Churchill Valley Greenway](#). The former country club land is now reverting to a natural meadow, is home to an impressive and growing list of native flora and fauna, and is visited by hikers, birdwatchers, and explorers alike.

Since conserving the land, ALT has begun implementing some improvements outlined in a conceptual planning report drafted with the help of key community stakeholders and has also begun following recommendations laid out in a forest restoration plan.

In 2022 alone, ALT—with the help of many individual volunteers and several corporate and community groups—planted more than 300 trees, made improvements along a quarter mile of trail, removed invasive plant species that were crowding out native habitat, and conducted data collection for stream health restoration. In November 2022, ALT began fixing the bridges that cross Beulah Road and expects them to remain under construction until Spring 2023.

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Churchill Valley Greenway continued from p. 9

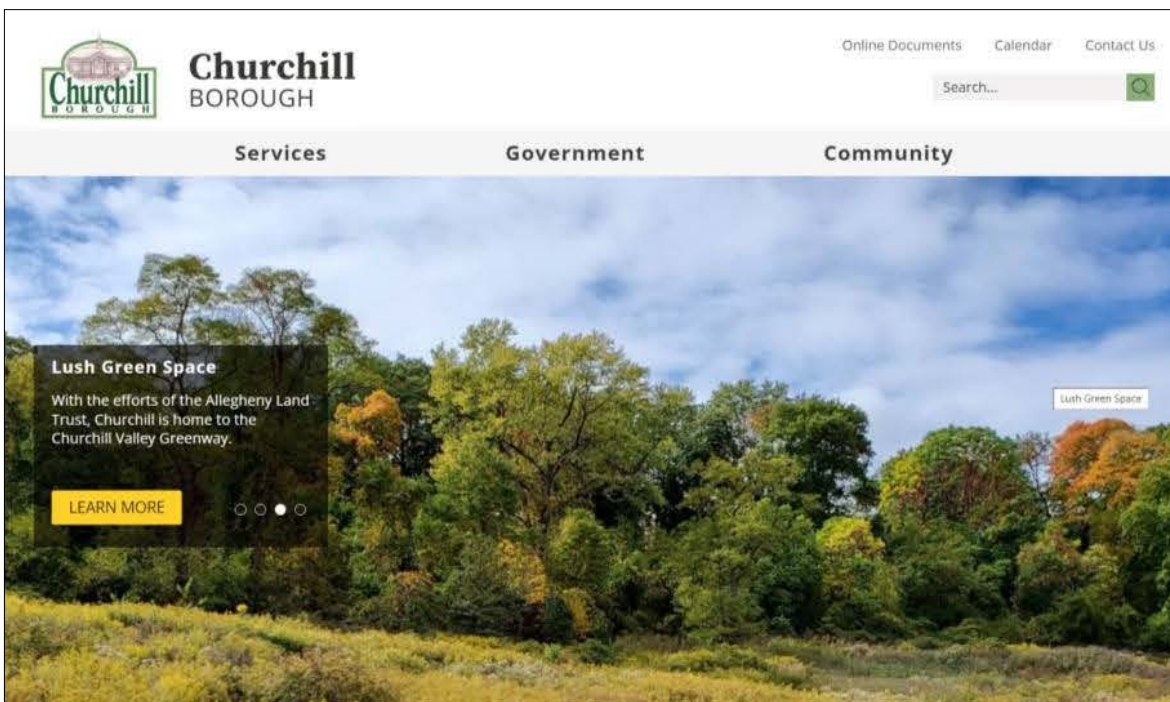
The land trust will start the larger management plan process for trails, meadows and community connections in 2023. Community meetings are a critical piece of this plan, so stay tuned for public meeting dates in the summer. ALT will continue to host tree planting [events](#) and all-ages environmental education opportunities at the green space in the spring and summer.

Finally, ALT and a local family created The Mark A. MacKay Conservation Internship, which will be an annual 10-week internship at the greenway working with ALT staff, partners, and volunteers to maintain and improve the land, restore native plant and wildlife habitat, improve the visitor experience, conduct educational and scientific programming, and represent ALT. [Applications](#) for the first round of the internship will be accepted in the first quarter of 2023.

ALT thanks the Borough, residents and local businesses for their continued support of the land trust's efforts at Churchill Valley Greenway as it helps ALT maintain momentum in upkeep, improving and planning to ensure this special place improves the quality of life for our communities today and for generations to come. Join the Friends of Churchill Valley Greenway Facebook Group at www.facebook.com/CVCCLandPreservationEffort.

Submitted by Lindsay Dill, ALT Marketing Communications Director

Borough Improves Communications with Residents in 2022



For Council's Communication Committee, 2022 was a big year! The committee, along with the help of staff, launched a brand-new website www.churchillborough.com. The website is user-friendly and enables easy access to important documents and information for residents.

The committee is striving to find new avenues of communication with its residents. That led to the adoption and use of Savvy Citizen, a mass notification system that enables staff to relay important information to citizens and surrounding communities. Our residents like to communicate with us in various ways, so while we improved and expanded our website and mass notification system, we also ramped up our social media presence. A lot was accomplished this year, and we are looking forward to another year of growth.

Submitted by Valerie Reinthaler, Council Member



Churchill Rotary and Rainbow Kitchen



Churchill Wilkins Rotary Supports Rainbow Kitchen, Collects Winter Coats

The Churchill Wilkins Rotary donated 60 turkeys and more than 700 food items to the Rainbow Kitchen in Homestead to feed over 350 for the holidays. The Rotary also gave Rainbow Kitchen a check for \$1,000 to continue its good work in helping to feed those in the community who need extra help during the holidays and throughout the year.

The food items included yams, green beans, corn, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, turkey gravy, fruit cocktail, jellied cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling and brownie mix. The food drive had a great start with new community support provided by Terry Lewis, Manager at the Wilkins Township Shop 'n Save, who donated 15 cases of assorted food. The Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club purchased 60, 14–16-pound turkeys from Kuhn's Market on Beulah Road with the assistance of Bob Bechtell, Meat Department Manager. Dr. Mike Szoko, Churchill Vision and Laser Center, coordinated the order and pick-up to complete the meals that fed over 240-360 people.

On November 16, 2022, Dr. Norman Johnson, PTA Program Coordinator and Churchill Wilkins Rotary President; Dr. Stephen Bannister, PTA Program Professor; Mark Allston, Rotarian; Paul Gamrat, Churchill Mayor and Rotarian; Dr. Charles Bostaph, Rotarian; and Dr. Rose Salada, Churchill resident and prospective club member, picked-up the turkeys with the assistance of Zak Bell, Kuhn's Meat Department Assistant Manager and Chad Arth, Meat Department Representative, who loaded the turkeys with the additional food items that were delivered to the Rainbow Kitchen Community Services staff in Homestead. More than 700 additional food items were collected during the food drive.

Rainbow Kitchen Community Services is committed to improving the quality of life by providing nutritious supplemental food for low-income individuals and families living in Homestead, West Homestead, Munhall, Duquesne, Whitaker and West Mifflin through several programs, including a Breakfast Program, The Rainbow Kitchen Food Pantry and 'Kids' Café.

The Churchill Wilkins Rotary is collecting new and gently used coats for the homeless for the winter. If you would like to donate a coat or become part of the Churchill Wilkins Rotary, please get in touch with Paul Gamrat at 412-298-0982. Many thanks and Happy Holidays to all!

Submitted by Paul Gamrat, Rotarian

The 2023 Churchill Borough Public Meeting Schedule

The Borough of Churchill public meetings are held at the Borough Building at 2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Churchill Borough Council meetings are held in person and via electronic remote connection with a link for public participation at www.churchillborough.com.

Council meets for its monthly “workshop meeting” at the Borough Building on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The purpose of the workshop meeting is to discuss items for action at the regular meeting, but Council may act on items and conduct any other business which may lawfully come before it.

Council meets for its monthly “regular meeting” at the Churchill Borough Building on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The purpose of the regular meeting is to consider and act on business items and to conduct any other business which may lawfully come before Council.

The Churchill Borough Planning Commission meets as needed. Its regular monthly meeting date is the first Wednesday of the month at the Churchill Borough Building at 7 p.m., however, the meeting may be conducted via electronic remote connection with a link for public participation at www.churchillborough.com. Call the Borough Building at 412-241-7113 to learn if there will be a Planning Commission meeting and in what format the meeting will be held.

The Churchill Borough Zoning Hearing Board meets as needed. Its regular monthly meeting date is the fourth Monday of the month at the Churchill Borough Building at 7 p.m., however, the meeting may be conducted via electronic remote connection with a link for public participation at www.churchillborough.com. Call the Borough Building at 412-241-7113 to learn if there is going to be a Zoning Hearing Board meeting and in what format the meeting will be held.

The Churchill Borough Recreation Board meets as needed. Its regular monthly meeting date is the second Thursday in the Yagle Room at the Churchill Borough Building at 6 p.m. Call the Borough Building at 412-241-7113 to learn if there will be a Recreation Board meeting.

Public participation is encouraged at all meetings. Visit the Churchill Borough website to view meeting agendas and minutes from previous meetings. On the web, check out Savvy Citizen, the Borough’s notification system for residents and visitors.

Notes from the Climate Action Committee

As the last leaves fall from the trees and we see snow falling from the sky, it’s time to put away that leaf blower ... if you have one. If you don’t and are thinking of getting one for next year, think about this before making your purchase. Gas-powered leaf blowers spew pollutants into our atmosphere at an alarming rate. Not only are they very loud, but they also contribute to global warming.

While many municipalities across the country are restricting use of gas-powered leaf blowers, and some cities even banning them, we are asking our residents who are considering purchasing a leaf blower to go electric. And if you must use a gas-powered leaf blower, please be responsible. Here are some reminders:

- ✓ Wait to blow leaves until after 8 a.m. in the morning, 10 a.m. on weekends.
- ✓ Do not blow leaves after dark.
- ✓ Make sure animals and any bystanders are at least 50 feet away when your leaf blower is in use.

If you are as concerned about our environment, here are some alternatives to leaf blowers:

- ✓ Rake the leaves if you can. It’s great exercise or a great activity for the kids or grandkids. Or a nice job for a high school student.
- ✓ Compost leaves and use shredded leaves to mulch flower beds.
- ✓ Keep a thin layer of leaves on your lawn. It can provide nutrients for your lawn and can be helpful to your grass.



Please do what you can to make our community as environmentally sound as possible!

Submitted by Deb Casini Klein, Council Member

Partnership with Vex Robotics Gives Teachers New Tools for Familiar Topics



There is a low murmur of excitement as Ms. Tina Dietrich's third grade class at Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy prepares for its next lesson. Plastic cases sit on their desks as they group up in teams of three. Each case contains a series of interconnecting parts, almost like a box of LEGO, along with wheels and gears and pulleys to help create motion. The cases are courtesy of Vex Robotics, a new partner in the Woodland Hills School District that is helping provide K-12 STEM education to Woodland Hills students.

Ms. Dietrich's class has a specific task in front of them. They must work together to construct a plant that contains all the traditional basic parts — flower, leaves, stem, and roots. Not only must every plant part be included, but it needs to be free-standing without support. The task is an extension of what the students have been learning in their science class. In the past, these biological concepts would be reinforced through art. Ms. Dietrich's classes previously used pipe cleaners, feathers, felt, construction paper, and more to create art projects that reflected what they had learned about plants. Now, the robotics kits utilize a different set of skills to help the students visualize what they have been learning.

The Vex Go kits are designed specifically for students in third, fourth and fifth grades. There is enough variety in the parts to give the students freedom in their creations, as well as enough variety in the pieces to give teachers freedom to implement restrictions to challenge their students. By working in teams, the students learn how to collaborate, problem solve, explain their ideas, listen, and compromise.

Scholars Program Semi-Finalist



Josiah Anderson

Woodland Hills senior Josiah Anderson has been named a semifinalist for the Class of 2023 Coca-Cola Scholars Program. Josiah is one of 1,500 students nationally being considered for one of 150 \$20,000 scholarships. The initial pool of applicants numbered over 91,000. "It's very exciting to know that out of all those people, I was chosen to be a semifinalist," he said. Josiah said the initial application featured an essay, and the second round features additional writing. The essays fit right into his passion for creative writing. "I love writing. I want to go to college to be a script writer," he said. Josiah has been a volunteer with the Pittsburgh NFL League, an official flag football league through the NFL, and is active in the First Baptist Church of West Mifflin,

where he works with younger members of the congregation. The next round of the application includes his transcript, a letter of recommendation and essays. A committee will review the applications and select 250 regional finalists, who will then undergo interviews to determine which 150 applicants will become Coke Scholars. The winners will not only receive the \$20,000 scholarship, but they'll be invited to attend Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend in Atlanta in April. Full link - <https://tinyurl.com/3h3s5ebd>

Makeover Contest Award

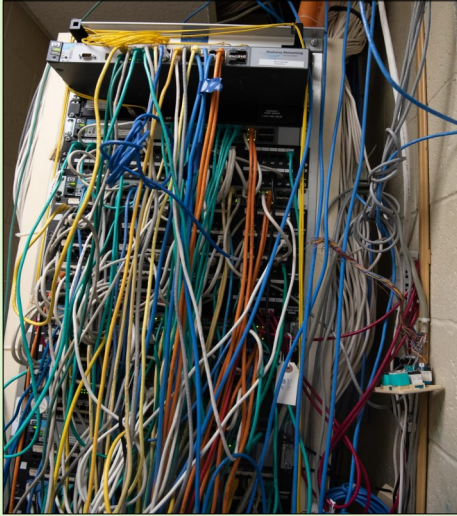
Schneider Electric has awarded the Woodland Hills School District \$25,000 as the winner of the APC K-12 Makeover Contest. "The Woodland Hills School District is truly grateful for the recognition from Schneider Electric and the APC K-12 Makeover Contest award allowed the district to relocate its data center and make several upgrades to its IT infrastructure," said Dr. Daniel Castagna, Woodland Hills School District Superintendent. "Infrastructure is a challenge for every school district, especially one of our size. The updates to our IT department through this award will improve our efficiency and security. It is partnerships

- continued on pg. 14



-Makeover Contest Award continued

BEFORE



AFTER



like these that help school districts thrive, and we could not be more appreciative of everyone involved.”

With the upgrades, WHSD's new equipment is now protected from environmental conditions and vulnerabilities and will provide more reliable power to connected devices. “Like a lot of districts over the last couple of years, our focus has been on making sure our students have access to the technology they need in order to learn from wherever they need to be,” said Johnathan Kim, Director of IT, Woodland Hills School District. “But we also needed to be able to make sure the programs and services our students and staff need to access remotely are safe and reliable. The generosity from Schneider Electric means we're able to provide a more secure location for our data center, gives us much more reliable power to our networks and has helped us modernize the entire system.” Full link - <https://tinyurl.com/57c6p2sz>

Submitted by Andrew Chiappazzi, Communications Specialist, Allegheny Intermediate Unit

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 and support your local public schools.

Essential Value of Street Trees

Churchill Borough Manager Alex Graziani recently forwarded a webinar, “Essential Value of Street Trees in City Making and Sustainable Urban Design,” to the Borough of Churchill Tree Committee as it may apply to the streets of the borough. The webinar is available at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yhynr6aa>

With this information, the Tree Committee recently surveyed all 68 streets of the borough (see Table 1) and has started Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping of trees to better understand our tree situation. While thousands of trees grow in our borough, only five of our 68 streets are tree-lined (i.e., large shade trees on both sides of street in the public right-of-way) and are primarily located in the Royal Oak Plan, where nearly 300 large pin oak trees lining the streetways. Huntingdon Drive located near the Parkway East exit ramp to Route 22 is also heavily tree lined. Parts of 13 other streets and roads are also lined with large trees, e.g., Beulah Road (along its east side), Churchill Road, and Lewin Lane. Forty streets have only one-to-a-few trees in the public right-of-way, and 10 streets have no trees. There are large trees near homes on many of these streets. However, they are not located in or near the public right-of-way.

Given growing climate change concerns and to maintain the health and well-being of our borough, all these street trees need to be protected as best as possible. With the help of Gateway Engineers, information is being gathered by the Tree Committee to be appropriately used in making tree planting, tree maintenance and tree

removal decisions. Mapping of the Royal Oak Plan has begun with a photo screen of data collected to date being shown in Table 1. Photos of each tree are documented along with its species, estimated date planted, height, trunk diameter, condition, maintenance and inspections, and identification of nearest street address. Only one of the 47 large trees surveyed to date has some decay in the root system that is currently being treated. The other 46 trees are either in good condition or very good condition – i.e., all branches fully leafed, no dead limbs, and no sign of disease or decay. Dead limbs and possible diseases are noted in the GIS survey data so that these issues can be addressed by the nearby property owner who will be notified by borough officials.

The Tree Committee also held two tree giveaways during the fall Borough Community Day and at a League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh meeting at the Blackridge Civic Association, which also included a presentation titled - “Trees - Can We Live With or Without Them?” A copy of the presentation, which includes an update and photos of invasive plants & pests and of recent tree planting events with the Woodland Hills School District, the Allegheny Land Trust for the Churchill Valley Greenway, and Beulah Presbyterian Church, can be obtained from the borough website. About 1,000 trees have been planted with our partners over the last two years. The Tree Committee is working with the Borough Council Climate Action Committee to review all this information and to define a plan for maintaining and enhancing the borough’s overall tree population.

Finally, we thank Barry Kisloff for his several years of service with the Tree Committee as his term of office has been completed. Dr. Kisloff played an instrumental role in writing and implementing the Borough of Churchill Tree Ordinance over the last four years. If any resident is interested in serving on the Borough of Churchill Tree Committee, please contact the Borough office.

Table 1 – Public Right-of-Way Tree Inventory of Churchill Borough Streets

Many Trees Lining Both Sides of 5 Streets	Roads Not Included					
Hampstead Drive Holland Drive Huntingdon Drive Royal Oak Drive Suzanne Drive	Bayer Lane (Private Drive) Rodi Road Cliffwood Trail William Penn Highway (Private Drive) (Route 22 section) Parkway East					
Several Trees Along Parts of 13 Streets	Few Trees Along 40 Streets					
<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Beulah Road (east side of upper part of road) Bowstone Road (adjacent private drive has many) Carlton Street Churchill Road Elmhill Road Harmain Road Lewin Lane (along St. John Fisher) </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Church property) Marbury Road McCrady Road (along Bullock-Pens Park and other side of Rodi Road) Merrie Woode Drive Nottingham Drive Old Beulah Road Thornberry Drive </td> </tr> </table>	Beulah Road (east side of upper part of road) Bowstone Road (adjacent private drive has many) Carlton Street Churchill Road Elmhill Road Harmain Road Lewin Lane (along St. John Fisher)	Church property) Marbury Road McCrady Road (along Bullock-Pens Park and other side of Rodi Road) Merrie Woode Drive Nottingham Drive Old Beulah Road Thornberry Drive	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Barton Drive Branning Road Brushcliff Road (1) Burnaby Drive Camelot Court (1) Chapel Hill Drive (1) Creekegde Drive (1) Edgewood Drive Fenwick Drive (2) Forest Drive Garrick Drive Georgetown Place (1) Gilchrest Drive Graham Boulevard (sidewalk east side) Greensburg Pike (sidewalks both sides) Henley Drive Hollywood Drive (1) Homer Drive Jamestown Place (1) Kings Dale Road Lancewood Drive (1) Lear Drive (1) </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Locksley Drive Longbow Drive Margaretta Street - South McCrea Road Orlando Place Ridgewood Drive Rose Drive (1) Rural Court East Rural Court West Scathelocke Road Stevendale Drive Surrey Place (1) Thornycroft Road (1) Valiant Drive (1) William Penn Highway (sidewalk on south side) Williamsburg Place (1) Woodland Hills Drive Yorktown Place (1) </td> </tr> </table>		Barton Drive Branning Road Brushcliff Road (1) Burnaby Drive Camelot Court (1) Chapel Hill Drive (1) Creekegde Drive (1) Edgewood Drive Fenwick Drive (2) Forest Drive Garrick Drive Georgetown Place (1) Gilchrest Drive Graham Boulevard (sidewalk east side) Greensburg Pike (sidewalks both sides) Henley Drive Hollywood Drive (1) Homer Drive Jamestown Place (1) Kings Dale Road Lancewood Drive (1) Lear Drive (1)	Locksley Drive Longbow Drive Margaretta Street - South McCrea Road Orlando Place Ridgewood Drive Rose Drive (1) Rural Court East Rural Court West Scathelocke Road Stevendale Drive Surrey Place (1) Thornycroft Road (1) Valiant Drive (1) William Penn Highway (sidewalk on south side) Williamsburg Place (1) Woodland Hills Drive Yorktown Place (1)
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No Trees Along 10 Streets						
Black Forest Road Collins Road Croft Court Garden Terrace Margate Road Margaretta Street - North McNary Boulevard Northern Pike Saybrook Drive Stevens Lane						

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

Churchill Borough Government Newsletter:

Content Editor: Zandy Dudiak

Layout Editor: Leanne Longwill

Find us on social media:



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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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