



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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Spring 2023

Borough Council: McDowell Resigns, Ditillo Appointed to Fill Vacancy

Borough Council has appointed Andrea Ditillo to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Council Member Adam P. McDowell, who had served on Council since his appointment on September 14, 2018.

Council accepted McDowell’s resignation at its regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023. The Mayor, Staff, and Council are all thankful for his service.

Ditillo, who lives in the Blackridge neighborhood, was one of two applicants for the vacant seat, which is required by law to be filled within 30 days of Council accepting the resignation. She was sworn in at Council’s regular meeting on March 13 by Allegheny County Common Pleas Court Judge Tom Caulfield. Ditillo will serve the remainder of McDowell’s term, which ends January 1, 2024. She has volunteered for many community events and has maintained the park, playground and trails behind Blackridge Civic Association. Ditillo is a sales and account manager of specialized medical equipment for Tri-Anim.



Churchill Borough Council: Mayor Paul Gamrat, Matt Castiglia, Deb Casini Klein, Jay Dworin, Diane Law, Andrea Ditillo

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Churchill Named 2023 Banner Community



Churchill Borough has been recognized as a 2023 Banner Community by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM). The program, now in its 11th year, recognizes municipalities that have focused their operations on professional development, prudent fiscal management, transparency, accountability, and proactive communications. This work, in turn, engages community stakeholders.

“When we hired a new Borough Manager in 2020, Council made it our goal to become a Banner Community,” said Council President Jay Dworin.

“Our Borough Manager Alex Graziani, along with the staff of Michelle McAndrew, Ralph Zatlin and Ashley Brown, work professionally to ensure the best for our community,” added Mayor Paul Gamrat. “We also extend a thanks of gratitude to our Police Department, led by Chief Ronald Akerley, and to Jeremy and Brandon from our Public Works Department.”

In order to be eligible for consideration for the Banner Community Program, the municipality’s elected and appointed officials must:

- ✓ participate in educational or training programs through ALOM, the Local Government Academy or the PA Department of Community & Economic Development or participate in a governing mentoring program
- ✓ be active members in good standing with ALOM and the county municipal associations, and have a representative attending at least a minimum of 50% of county association meetings
- ✓ be active members in good standing in a COG and attend COG meetings, participate in a COG cooperative purchasing program and participate in at least one shared municipal service
- ✓ conduct a Local Government Week activity by conducting a local activity promoting local government or communicating with the community about delivery of services
- ✓ conduct an effective Citizen Communication Program by offering a municipal newsletter or web-based communication effort, and participate in a class discussion on local government or conducting a shadowing program for junior or senior high school students
- ✓ promote and implement long-term sustainable governing practices by earning certification through Sustainable Pittsburgh, managing employee pensions at funding levels of 90% or above, participating in the annual ALOM Wage and Salary Survey Program, and implementing goals of an up to date Municipal Comprehensive Plan.

The Allegheny League of Municipalities, a nonprofit organization, educates elected officials, delivers essential resources, and advocates for sound policy and legislation.



Churchill Borough Offices Closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023

Do you know the history of Memorial Day? An autumn day is far from the typical backdrop of a Memorial Day celebration. If Boalsburg, Pennsylvania had anything to do with it, Memorial Day would indeed be in the autumn. Boalsburg claims to be the site of the earliest observation of Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day. The specific date of the inaugural decorating in October of 1864, however, is unknown.

Waterloo, N.Y. is recognized because of being the first to as a community honor the fallen soldiers on May 5, 1866. Many communities make this claim, but only these two have significant reasons for their claim — Boalsburg, Pa. because it had the earliest grave decorations and Waterloo because of a 1966 Presidential order declaring it the birthplace of Memorial Day.

A look back at the 2022 Borough Budget

At the end of 2021, Churchill Borough Council proposed a budget that laid the foundation for long-term financial and operational planning. The 2022 Budget did not call for a raise in either real estate tax millage or sewer surcharge fees.

In 2022, the Borough’s primary sources of recurring revenue were Real Estate Tax (61.48%) and Earned Income Tax (19.42%), which combined to account for 80.90% of the Borough’s revenues. Additional revenue was derived from other taxes, permits, fines, interest, grants and other non-tax revenue.

The Borough’s major program expenditures in 2022 included Police Services (44.41%) and Public Works functions (28.71%), which combined to account for 73.12% of the Borough’s expenditures. Additional expenditures included general government expenses, storm sewer maintenance and repair, and contributions to supporting entities that allowed the Borough to fulfill its mission.

General Fund

The General Fund Revenue for 2022 was \$3,657,201.60, a 17.07% increase from the budgeted amount of \$3,123,877.35.

The General Expenditures for 2022 were \$3,205,488.95, a 0.56% decrease from the budgeted amount of \$3,223,606.00.

Sanitary Sewer Fund

The Sanitary Sewer Fund Revenue for 2022 was \$1,986,016.74, a difference of 18.58% from the adopted budget amount of \$2,392,752.00.

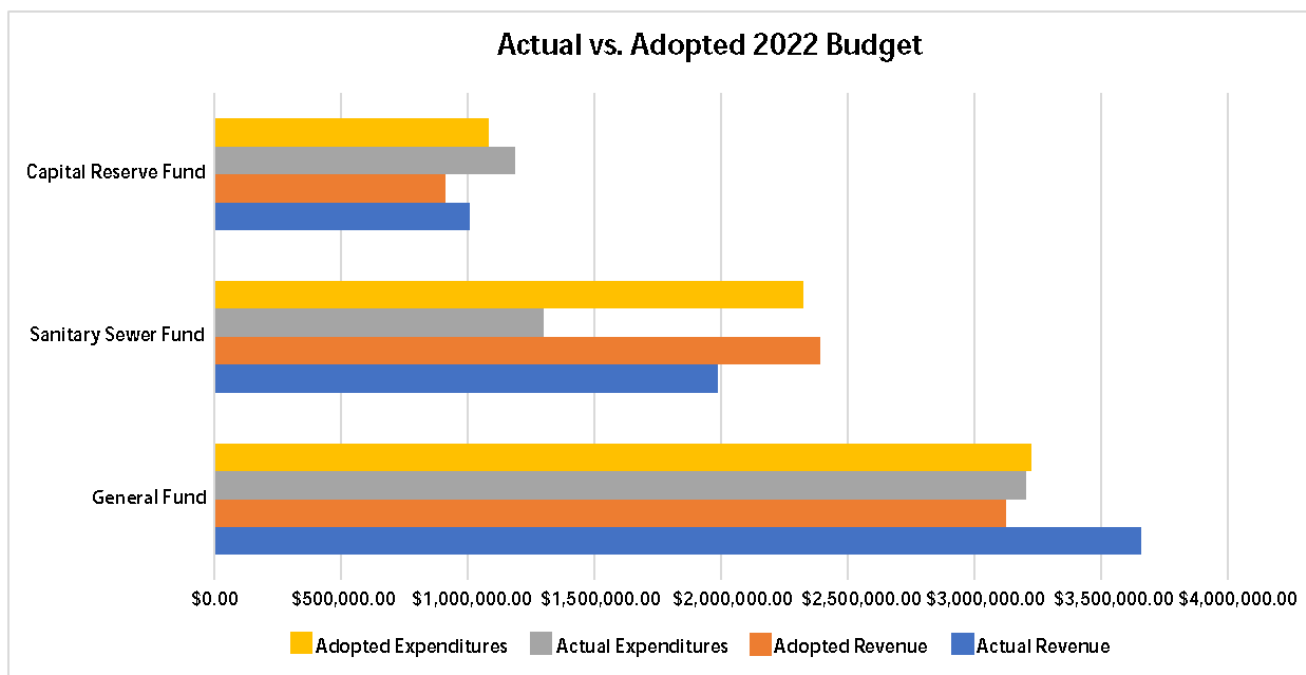
The Sanitary Sewer Fund Expenditures for 2022 were \$1,297,202.29, a difference of 56.68% from the budgeted amount of \$2,323,137.00.

The Capital Reserve Fund

The Capital Reserve Fund Revenue for 2022 was \$1,007,859.92, a 10.76% increase from the budgeted amount of \$909,919.35.

The Capital Reserve Expenditures for 2022 were \$1,186,687.38, a 9.52% increase from the adopted budget amount of \$1,083,494.00.

In summary, the 2022 Churchill Borough Budget ended the year with a revenue of \$6,651,078.26, a 3.49% increase from what was budgeted, and \$5,689,378.62 in expenditures, a 14.19% decrease from what was budgeted for last year.



Borough Council Action Items Update

This new newsletter feature provides a snapshot of recent ordinances, resolutions and simple motions passed by the Borough Council. Details about ordinances and resolutions can be found on the Churchill Borough document eCode360 online repository at <https://ecode360.com/CH1558>.

Monday, January 9, 2023:

Borough Resolution 4557 establishes the standard mileage reimbursement rate established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The IRS rate for 2023 is 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use.

Monday, February 13, 2023:

- Council approved a motion to accept the resignation of Adam McDowell from Churchill Borough Council.
- Resolution 4557 hiring Ashley Brown as the full-time Resident Service Specialist at \$22.00 an hour, starting February 15, 2023. The mission of the *Resident Service Specialist* is to serve as the primary contact for Borough residents needing assistance, track administrative details and clear the path for the Borough Leadership Team to make their most significant contributions to the Borough.
- Resolution 4554 appointing James N. Williams, III, for a five-year term as the Borough's representative to the Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority Board. Williams will replace William Cole. A \$1,200 annual stipend is paid to each board member (\$100 monthly). The appointment expires on December 31, 2027.
- Resolution 4559 exonerating Churchill Borough Tax Collector Danielle Weaver for the remaining 2022 real estate taxes.
- On Thursday, January 19, 2023, the Tax Collector forwarded a report of delinquent properties for 2022. The report detailed 58 delinquent properties that owe the Borough \$54,760.29 (face + penalty) in real estate property taxes. Once exonerated, the Tax Collector will forward the list of delinquent properties to Jordan Tax Service, the delinquent tax collector.

May 30 Rotary Golf Outing Benefits Community



The Churchill Wilkins Rotary is hosting a golf outing open to all golfers at the beautiful Edgewood Country Club at noon on Tuesday, May 30. All of the profits from the event go back to the community to fund such needs as education, feeding the hungry and helping with local and international projects, which include Churchill Community Days, Wilmerding Community Center, CC Mellor Library, special needs children and adults, Allegheny Land Trust, Angel Tree for children, winter coat drive and many more.

If you need extra players to form a foursome, we will pair you with a group whether you are a single or double. This golf outing is a scramble event playing the best ball in your foursome. All levels of golfers are welcome and have a competitive chance to win the event or skill prizes like the longest putt, straightest drive or the longest drive on designated holes. A putting contest will be featured with cash prizes. A buffet dinner will follow at Edgewood at 5 p.m. You can golf and have dinner for just \$140 or join us for dinner only for \$40. The Churchill Wilkins Rotary will have wonderful gift baskets to win, a 50/50 drawing, bidding auction and more.

If you would like to play in the golf outing, come to dinner, be a sponsor or donate a gift basket, contact Mark Allston at 412-816-1000 or Paul Gamrat at 412-298-0982. This is a great event for you and your friends at one of the finest golf courses in the Commonwealth.





Annual Bunny Parade - Saturday, April 8

The annual Bunny Parade will take place from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8.

Come on out and greet the bunny for treats
and picture opportunities.

The following street times are *approximate*
so listen for the sirens!

10:00 Parade leaves Borough parking lot
10:05 Forest Drive
10:10 Williamsburg Place- upper
10:15 Hollywood Drive
10:25 Collins Road
10:30 Williamsburg Place- lower
10:40 Greensburg Pike
10:50 Barton Drive
11:00 Marbury Road
11:10 Garden Terrace
11:15 Henley Drive
11:25 Thornberry Drive

11:30 Garrick Drive
11:45 Fenwick Drive
11:50 Beulah/Old Beulah Road
12:05 Kings Dale Road
12:15 Woodland Hills Drive
12:25 Homer Drive
12:30 Hampstead Drive
12:45 Holland Road
12:50 Huntingdon Drive
12:55 Ridgewood Drive
1:05 Nottingham Drive
1:15 Churchill Road

BOROUGH BRIEFS

Correction

In the Winter 2023 Newsletter, the Borough erroneously reported that the residents would see a 5.6% increase in garbage and recycling service for the combined base 65-gallon rate from 2022 to 2023. The actual rate increase will be 21.9%.

New Resident Packets



Are you a new resident? Or have a new neighbor? Check out the new resident packet! It includes helpful information such as trash pick up schedule, tax information, and so much more. Click the QR code to view or go to

<https://ecode360.com/documents/CH1558/public/714954525.pdf>

Sewer Inspection

Churchill Borough has authorized a contractor, State Pipe Services Inc. of Cranberry Township, to perform closed-circuit TV (CCTV) inspections of public sewers. This work will consist of cleaning and then the internal cleaning and inspections to identify any defects in the sanitary and storm sewer systems. Property owners will be informed by a door tag when work is taking place in their neighborhood.

Waste Management App and Texts



Waste Management offers some tools to help you manage your account and get notifications about collections. Create a [MyWM](#) online profile to provide a customized experience that puts you in control. Check out the easy process through a computer, tablet or the MyWM Mobile App. Just scan the QR code or visit www.wm.com/us/en/user/register.

Would you like to receive text alerts from Waste Management? From the home screen of the MyWM app, tap Communication Preferences. Select the location where you would like to make updates. Check the text message notification box. Click "Save" and reply YES to the confirmation text to complete your request.

Ashley Brown Hired as Resident Service Specialist



Ashley Brown officially joined the Churchill Borough staff as its new Resident Service Specialist on February 15. In this capacity, Brown will be a key asset to the Leadership Team by anticipating needs at an exceptionally high level, allowing the team to develop vision and strategy for all aspects of management and finance at the Borough so that Churchill can reach its desired outcomes. Her tasks will vary week to week, based on resident needs and the needs of Borough.

Brown said she has been busy taking care of resident concerns, serving as assistant treasurer/bookkeeper and meeting the needs of Borough Council. According to her job description, Brown's most essential responsibility is to ensure that administrative tasks and projects are completed with a high level of efficiency, confidentiality, accuracy, flexibility, and positivity to support the initiatives of the Borough. She also helps bring together the Borough newsletter and works with IT needs. She hopes that residents will help her learn more about the Borough historically. "It's pleasant just to be here," Brown said. "It's been really amazing. I'm really surprised about how involved everyone in the community is. I'm really happy to be here to address their concerns. I'm open to all suggestions — any way I can help the community."

A graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas College with a degree in Social Psychology, she has career experience as a medical secretary, collection and sales management, administrative assistant for a law group, and as a personal assistant to Rontez Miles of the New York Jets. Originally from New York, she moved to Swissvale to be close to family. She is the mother of 3-and-a-half-year-old twin boys.

2023 Spring Leaf and Yard Waste Pickup



For pickup at the curb, place leaves and yard waste in paper biodegradable bags on the evenings prior to April 25, May 9 and 23, and June 6. No plastic bags or bags that are taped or stapled shut will be accepted. Acceptable items include leaves, trimmings, cuttings and clippings from trees, small bushes and other plants, and garden residue. Longer branches (more than 6 inches in length, but less than 3 feet) should be bundled together separately outside of these bags.

Non-acceptable items are dirt, stones or grass clippings; heavy tree trunks; stumps; or excessively large items. There is no limit to the number of bags or branches that are accepted per residence. These

items will be picked up on these scheduled dates automatically and it is not required that you schedule or request a date in advance.

Black and Gold Compost Distribution 2023

Over the winter and spring, the Borough turns the biodegradable paper bags full of autumn leaves that residents have picked up into functional compost. **This year, the compost will be ready for distribution June 3 and 10, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Residents can pick up a supply from the Joint Churchill/Forest Hills Compost Site at the corner of Business Route 22 and Rodi Road.

BYOC: Bring Your Own Containers. There is a suggested donation of \$2 a vehicle. Delivery is available at a set cost of \$10/bucket of mulch (2 buckets equals 4 cubic yards), plus \$35 for delivery. Cash, checks, money orders or cards are accepted. Checks or money orders are made payable to the Borough. To pay by card, call the Borough or stop in. To establish a delivery time and date, as well as coordinate delivery payment, contact Borough Public Works Director Ralph Zatlin at 412-241-7113, x 203. **Note: All delivery orders must be paid in advance at the borough office.**



2023 Proposed Paving of Borough-owned Roads



The following roads are included in the proposed base bid:
Jamestown Place – from Hollywood Dr. to Georgetown Place
Margaretta Street (both South and North)
Surrey Place
Nottingham Drive – from William Penn Hwy. to Longbow Dr.
Brushcliff Road

Depending on the bids received, the following alternate roads might be considered:

Thornberry Drive – from Henley Drive to Beulah Road
Old Beulah Road – from 1527 to 1625
Margate Road



A Message from the Mayor



What's going on in the Police Department? I give a Mayor's Report each month at the regular monthly Council Meeting. Also, I received a detailed report of the activities of the department. I have gone through the 2022 Mayor's Reports and am listing some of the statistics:



- We currently have an eight-officer force and the Chief.
- The Chief makes every effort to have two officers on duty for each shift.
- The neighboring communities work together with our department when assistance is needed.
- We maintain a fleet of five Police Cruisers. As of this writing, we are waiting for our newest vehicle—a hybrid Ford Interceptor SUV—to be upfitted for service.
- Officers are equipped with Axon body-worn cameras and in-car cameras.
- Our officers:
 - Log an average of 4,000 miles per month
 - Average 834 calls for service and proactive patrol engagements
 - Collect \$483.00 in magisterial fees
 - Make 7 arrests
 - Issue 60 traffic and non-traffic tickets

The Public Safety Department is involved with CONNECT (Congress of Neighboring Communities). Part of the program is the LEAD program. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion is a community-based diversion approach with the goals of improving public safety and public order, and reducing unnecessary justice system involvement of people who participate in the program. I met recently with representatives to keep us involved and updated.

You can join me in congratulating two of our officers who became new parents. Officers Chris Shell and Chris Lewandowski both welcomed sons.

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

Parking on our local streets is monitored throughout the Borough. Residents are reminded to remove any vehicles between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Adhere to "No Parking at Any Time" signage and limited parking times. Parking signs are there for safety reasons. Be sure to park with the flow of traffic. Your passenger door should be facing the curb.

I receive many communications from both residents and non-residents. Recently, an out-of-state motorist who was involved in a vehicle accident sent an email. The motorist acknowledged our Officer Chris Lewandowski for his kindness and thoughtfulness to the trauma a family had experienced. We thank all our officers for their dedication and compassion when dealing with the public.

We are reminded during the winter months that motorists are responsible for removing heavy accumulations of snow and ice from their vehicles before entering the roadways. It is also referred to as Christine's Law and is named for Christine Lambert, who died on Christmas Day in 2005 after a large piece of ice dislodged from a passing box truck and crashed through her windshield. Also, residents are responsible for snow removal from walkways and sidewalks.

Volunteer Firefighters Needed



Every year, in addition to over 400 emergency responses, Churchill Volunteer Fire Company is proud to serve the community by teaching fire safety in the schools, making the rounds for Trick-or-Treat and Santa, and participating in neighborhood activities and fairs to meet and greet our neighbors. Even during two years of global pandemic, our highly trained firefighters and four fully equipped vehicles were still here to respond to emergencies—24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Each year, we ask residents to contribute financially to the fire company and we are very grateful to those who have generously supported our fund drives over many years.

But there is another valuable way to support the Churchill Volunteer Fire Company. We are asking for your participation.

Why volunteer:

Your help is needed as an active firefighter or vehicle rescue technician.

You can participate and give back to your own community.

You help ensure the future vitality of the Fire Company and safety of the community.

It is a chance to do something interesting, different and meaningful.

No prior experience is needed, just a willing attitude. The schedule is flexible, and also sometimes highly variable due to the unpredictable nature of emergencies. All training is provided free of charge Go online to sign-up! <https://churchillfire.org/wp/volunteering/>

Emergency Management in Churchill

News reports of terrible disasters in unsuspecting, and perhaps unprepared, communities are disturbing. How has Churchill Borough prepared for any disasters that could affect our community?

The *Churchill Borough Emergency Operation Plan* (EOP) was adopted in January 2019 and is updated at regular intervals. Scott M. Stonebraker is Churchill's Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). The plan can be viewed online at ecode360.com/documents/CH1558/public/717930963.pdf or by appointment at the Churchill Borough Building, where the Emergency Operations Center is located.

The purpose of the plan is:

- to provide for the protection of persons and property in Churchill Borough in the event of a natural or man-caused emergency or disaster, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services code;
- to establish procedures to alert the public and provide information and appropriate protective action instructions, if necessary;
- to provide for coordination and use of available municipal resources during an emergency;
- to define the role and responsibilities of municipal officials and the Emergency Management Coordinator;
- to assure coordination and cooperation with the County in accordance with the Allegheny County Emergency Operations Plan.

The EOP covers a wide range of disasters, from those that might be evolving slowly to those that could arise without warning. Examples include events like: floods, hazardous materials accidents, environmental hazards, landslides, storms, terrorism, infectious diseases, and utility interruptions. Operations manuals detailing leadership responsibilities and coordination of resources, responses by emergency services, notification of the public, and communication and coordination with local, county, and state emergency operations management are located in the Churchill Borough building.

- continued on pg. 10

- Emergency Management continued

The Allegheny County Emergency Operations Plan describes how the county would take control of coordinating a disaster response when more than one municipality is impacted. Likewise, when more than one county is impacted, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) provides coordination, direction, and control.

The best way to prepare for a disaster is to anticipate one.

- Make a family plan, including evacuation and communication.
- Create a disaster supply kit. (Habitat for Humanity website has a “Disaster Supply Kit” guide.
- Check on your homeowners insurance coverages based on the potential risks at your location. Do you have flood insurance? Do you need it? Get low cost mine subsidence insurance from the state.

Think about it. Take care.

Submitted by the Churchill Borough Council Public Safety Committee

News from Tax Collector Danielle Weaver



The Churchill Borough taxes were mailed March 1, 2023. If paid by April 31, 2023, you will receive a 2% discount. The face amount must be paid by June 30, 2023 to avoid a 10% penalty.

I will be at the Yagle Community Center in the Churchill Borough Building to accept your tax payments the following dates.

Thursday and Friday, April 20 and 21, from 6-7 p.m.

Saturday April 22 from 10-11 a.m.

Thursday and Friday, April 27 and 28 from 6-7 p.m.

Saturday April 29 from 10-11 a.m.

Tax Office Address Change

My husband/deputy Toby and I have downsized. The new address for the tax office is: 3710 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235

New Homeowners

There is a change to the state tax law for **NEW HOMEOWNERS**. ACT 756 is for homes purchased AFTER JANUARY 1, 2023. Call the tax office with any questions.

Mortgages

If you pay off your mortgage, refinance your mortgage or it was sold to another company, we need your new mortgage company’s “Tax Bill Mailing Address.” Call the tax office with the information at 412-241-0815, MONDAY through FRIDAY, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Paying by Check?

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.

Borough Now Accepts Credit/Debit Card Payments

We are proud to announce Churchill Borough has implemented a system where we can take credit or debit card payments in person or over the phone.

We are currently utilizing a device called The Clover that allows us to use the swipe, tap or chip method of payment with your credit or debit card.

We look forward to improving our residents’ experience at the Borough Building.



VOTE in the Pennsylvania Municipal Primary Election: May 16, 2023

Spring primary elections narrow down the pool of candidates for the fall general elections, and our upcoming primary will feature state, county, and borough candidates from each political party—Democrats and Republicans—on separate ballots. The successful candidates will be making decisions about important policies which will impact your daily life.

Pennsylvania has “closed” primaries, which means that you must enroll in a political party to participate unless there are ballot questions, constitutional amendments, or special election contests. In the upcoming Primary, only political party registrants will select candidates for this year’s local November election (judicial, county, municipal and school district). There is still time to change your voter registration, affiliate with a party of your choice, and become completely enfranchised.

The Churchill Borough Office or the Department of State websites at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov or www.vote.pa.gov have voter registration forms (first-time, change of party, or change of address). New or changed registrations must be **received** at the Allegheny County Elections Division (Room 609, County Office Building, 542 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219) by **5 p.m. 15 days prior to election day, May 1, this election (postmarks no longer apply)**. Applications for Absentee or Mail-in Ballots must be received by the Allegheny County Elections Division by **5 p.m. 7 days prior to election day, May 9, this election (postmarks no longer apply)**.

In Pennsylvania, you have two options for mail ballots:

Mail-in ballot – Any qualified voter may apply for a mail-in ballot. You may simply request this ballot without a reason. **Absentee ballot** – If you plan to be out of the municipality on election day or if you have a disability or illness that prevents you from going to your polling place on election day, you can request this ballot type, which still requires you to list a reason for your ballot. Make sure you get one of these ballots for your “away” college children. Residents can apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot if registered to vote, by clicking on this link: www.vote.pa.gov or by calling 1-877-VotesPA(Option 3). To review your registration status, go to: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/SurePortalHome.aspx

Municipal Primary: Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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

Borough of Churchill

Member of Council (4-year term, 3 positions)

Woodland Hills School Board

School Director, Region 1 (2 positions)

Allegheny County

County Chief Executive

County Controller

County Treasurer

District Attorney

County Council, District 7

County Council, At-Large

Magisterial District Judge 05-2-08

Judge of the Court of Common Pleas (1 position)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Justice of the Supreme Court (1 position)

Judge of the Superior Court (2 positions)

Judge of the Commonwealth Court (1 position)

Important Dates:

- Last day to register or change your registration before the primary: **May 1**
- Last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot: **May 9**
- Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted absentee or mail-in ballots: **May 16**

Helpful web resources for Churchill residents:

Churchill polling locations:

<https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/PollingPlaceInfo.aspx>

PA voting information:

<https://www.vote.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

League of Women Voters voting information:

<https://www.vote411.org>

Allegheny County Election Bureau:

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/index.aspx>

Allegheny County sample ballots: [http://](http://apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/ElectPollPlace.aspx)

apps.alleghenycounty.us/website/ElectPollPlace.aspx

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Churchill Borough Office:

412-241-7113

Allegheny County Elections Division:

412-350-4500

Churchill Valley Greenway Update



The start of a new season has brought and will continue to bring great change to [Churchill Valley Greenway](#) as bridge improvements are finalized, management planning begins, and environmental education and volunteer events are hosted on the land.

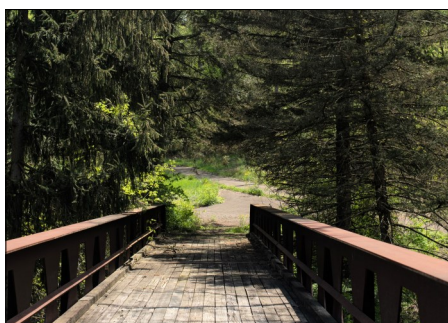
If you have visited the green space since February, you may have noticed the bridges crossing Beulah Road have been re-framed and re-decked. This was Allegheny Land Trust's highest priority improvement for the green space, and the project was completed ahead of the busy exploring season. The organization will continue to address water pooling areas on either side of each bridge. The renovation ensures safer crossing conditions over the busy roadway for visitors to hike between both sides of the green space.

The bridges were outlined as an item in ALT's early conceptual planning report for Churchill Valley Greenway. ALT has also begun implementing of the forest restoration plan associated with that report. In 2023, the nonprofit will begin the larger management plan process for trails, meadows and community connections. Community input is a critical component of this management plan, so stay tuned to this newsletter, ALT's website and the [Friends of Churchill Valley Greenway](#) social media to find information on public meeting dates later this year.

In the meantime, ALT will continue hosting volunteer and all-ages environmental education programs at the green space. You can join ALT on May 13 for a morning World Migratory Bird Day event and stay after for an afternoon volunteer workday or attend a pollinator habitat volunteer workday on June 19.

Also, this will be the first year that ALT's [Mark A. MacKay Conservation Intern](#) will be on-site, which is sure to result in more scheduled volunteer workdays. The intern will work with ALT staff, partners and volunteers to maintain and improve the land, restore native plant and wildlife habitat, enhance the visitor experience, and conduct educational and scientific programming. Check ALT's website calendar between May and August for more opportunities to help improve Churchill Valley Greenway and learn about its flora and fauna with ALT's intern and staff.

ALT looks forward to a year of continued enjoyment and improvement of Churchill Valley Greenway as friends of the green space enjoy the new bridges, meet the first on-site conservation intern, partake in management planning, and attend volunteer and environmental education events at this special close-to-home green space.



Learn About Spring Tree Care

Spring is the time when tree diseases and pests begin to emerge, threatening the health of our trees during the upcoming growing season. By inspecting the trees anytime from March to May, one can identify and address possible problems or threats to promote a longer lifespan and decrease susceptibility to insects and disease.

The Arbor Day Foundation proposes the following guidelines for proper spring tree care:

Check branches

Branches that are missing bark or growing fungus are signs of decaying wood potentially leading to breakage. Pruning may be necessary to protect structures and/or public safety. Please note that Oak trees can only be pruned from November to March.



Check roots

Fungus or mushroom growth on large anchor roots or in nearby soil often indicates decay. Cavities near the base of the tree can also indicate decay. Fungal infection cannot be cured but can only be suppressed, so prevention is key to tree health. These conditions can lead to the eventual death of the tree. An arborist can recommend possible treatments to delay the decline and prolong the life of the tree.

Check leaves

The tree should leaf out evenly with uniform color in the leaves. Uneven color or slow growth may indicate nutrient deficiencies requiring treatment. Also, inspect leaves for insect damage and seek treatment if necessary.



Check trunks

Look for cracks, cavities, missing bark, or oozing wounds and seek professional advice for treatment. Also inspect the trunk for insect egg masses which should be removed.

Applying mulch is one of the best things one can do to maintain the health of our trees. Applying 2-4 inches of mulch as far as the drip line of the tree is preferable but, in many cases, is not practical with large trees. In this case, apply within a 2-to-3-foot radius. Keep the mulch away from the trunk so that the root flare is visible. Do not use fresh wood chips around young trees. Fresh wood chips are higher in acidity and can cause injury to a young tree.

Spotted Lanternfly – This invasive and damaging pest has been seen in our borough. If you see one, agriculture authorities request that you KILL it. If you spot the egg masses on tree bark, rocks, or other surfaces, scrape them away. The egg masses have a gray/brown mud-like appearance and the insects particularly like tree-of-heaven trunks and branches. Newly laid eggs are shiny with a waxy coating. Older egg masses may not have a covering and appear as four-to-seven columns of seed-like eggs with a total of 30-50 eggs. More details can be found at agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly. Community involvement continues to be necessary to help eradicate this damaging pest. Sightings of this pest can also be reported to Penn State Extension at extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly or by phone at **888-4BADFLY**.



Tree Planting – The Borough of Churchill Tree Committee will be actively participating in tree planting events this spring at the Churchill Valley Greenway and at Woodland Hills Senior High School as part of the school district's Climate Action initiative. *Tree Pittsburgh* is hosting the events as part of their **One Tree Per Child Program** in collaboration with students, teachers and staff, the Allegheny Land Trust, and Community, an organization guiding solution-based climate change education.

Submitted by Ruth Anne and Ken Balkey, Chair, Churchill Borough Tree Committee

Woodland Hills School District Happenings



Student Summit

Woodland Hills High School hosted its fourth Student Summit on Friday, February 10 to give students from nine districts a platform to talk about issues that impact their daily lives. Students led discussion groups that delved into these critical topics and empowered their peers to effect change in their communities.

Founded by Woodland Hills High School English teacher Ms. Erin Wall, the Student Summit began during the 2019-20 school year as a response to a series of traumatic events in the Woodland Hills community. The first year exclusively featured Woodland Hills students. This year, the Student Summit expanded to include nine school districts — Aliquippa, Avonworth, Belle Vernon, Greater Johnstown, Mt. Lebanon, Penn Hills, Shaler, Westmont Hilltop, and host Woodland Hills. The discussion topics were handpicked by the students and included Women's Rights, LGBTQ issues, Mental Health, Quality Animal Care, Racial and Social Injustice, Gun Violence, and Climate Change.

This year's summit featured a keynote speech from author and community organizer Leon Ford, who is the co-founder of the Hear Foundation. Ford was paralyzed at the age of 19 when he was shot by a police officer in a case of mistaken identity. He shared his experience with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as the concept of post-traumatic growth and the importance of self-care.



Shakespeare Contest Finalists

Turtle Creek Elementary STEAM Academy student Jonas Divelbiss and Woodland Hills High School student Annelise Hanson were both selected for the showcase of finalists at the Shakespeare Monologue and Scene Contest at the Pittsburgh Public Theater. Over 700 students in the tri-state area competed in the preliminary rounds during the first two weeks in February.

Outstanding Library Award

The Pennsylvania School Librarians Association has selected Woodland Hills High School to receive this year's Outstanding Pennsylvania School Library Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding school library programming, instruction and services that are integral to the students' education. Under the leadership of Librarian Kevin McGuire, the Woodland Hills High School library provides an educational program that meets the varied needs of the students, faculty and school community at large.

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.

Celebrate Churchill with
Cocktails and Cuisine
 Sunday, May 7
 Come have fun and meet your neighbors!



Asti Italian Steakhouse

1000 Clubhouse Drive
Grand View Golf Club
North Braddock

Cocktail Hour

CASH BAR
5:30 to 6:30 pm
BYOB Corkage Fee
\$10/Bottle

Cost per Person

\$47.00 each
Includes gratuity

Jane West will be delighting us throughout the evening with her musical talents.

Dinner Includes:

Your Choice of Entree	Italian Bread/Rolls
Charcuterie Board	All Non Alcoholic Beverages
Tossed Field Greens Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette or Ranch	Dessert

Dinner Options:

Salmon with Maple Bourbon Glaze

Pink No Pink

Green Beans Almondine
Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Bavette Steak

R MR M MW WD

Green Beans Almondine
Roasted Red Skin Potatoes

Chicken Tomato Florentine

With Pasta

Gluten Free Vegetarian

Gluten Free and Vegetarian Options will be available off the menu the day of the event.

Reservations required by Thursday, April 27, 2023.

You may also contact Churchill Borough in person, by phone at 412-241-7113, by email at office@churchillborough.com, or online at churchillborough.com to reserve and pay with cash, check, or credit card in person or by phone.

Return this form with the names of your guests, email address, entree selections, and payment made out to Churchill Borough Dinner.

Name: _____ Entree: _____

Name: _____ Entree: _____

Email Address: _____

Payment Amount: _____

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

Andrea Ditillo

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.

Savvy Citizen Simple. Convenient. Free.



It's simple, really... the Borough's easy way to communicate in ways that are convenient to you. You decide what information you want. You decide how you want to receive it.

When Churchill Borough has useful information to share, we'll notify you. Sign up at www.savvycitizenapp.com.

New Resident Packets



Are you a new resident? Or have a new neighbor? Check out the new resident packet! It includes helpful information such as trash pick up schedule, tax information, and so much more. Click the QR code to view or go to

<https://ecode360.com/documents/CH1558/public/714954525.pdf>