



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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Winter-Spring 2024

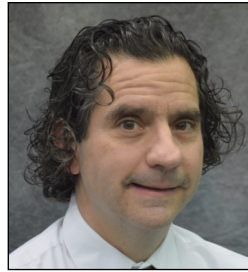
Thanks to Council Member Matt Castiglia



Matt Castiglia

The Borough thanks outgoing Council Member Matt Castiglia for his service to the Borough since being appointed to fill a vacancy on Council in 2020. As the owner of JCMR Engineers, an independent civil and structural engineering consulting firm, Matt provided needed expertise as the Borough tackled important infrastructure issues.

Farewell to Borough Manager Alex Graziani



Alex Graziani

Alex Graziani, who joined Churchill as Borough Manager in the midst of the 2020 pandemic, has resigned from his post to become Manager of the Municipality of Monroeville. His last day was Jan. 2, though he will remain available for limited technical assistance through June 30, 2024. We thank Alex for his service to the Borough.

New Council Members Sworn In



Newly elected Council members Cherylie Blair Fuller and Andrea Ditillo, along with incumbent Jay Dworin, were sworn into office by District Judge Lisa Caulfield on Jan. 2. Council then elected Valerie Reinthaler to serve as Council President and Diane Law to serve as Vice President.

Churchill Council Members (l-r):

- Brooke Burchette-Williams
- Andrea Ditillo
- Deb Casini Klein
- Diane Law
- Jay Dworin
- Valerie Reinthaler
- Cherylie Blair Fuller

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No Increase in 2024 Real Estate Taxes or Sewer Fees

Borough Council adopted the proposed Churchill Borough 2024 Operating Budget on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 (see graphic at right). The highlights are:

- There will be no increase in Real Estate Tax Millage or Sewer Surcharge Fees from their respective 2023 rates of 8 mills and \$8.50/1000 gallons.
- Residents should be aware that although the sanitary sewer surcharge remains unchanged, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) is increasing the billing rate for wastewater treatment (see story below). This increase will be passed along to property owners in their monthly Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority (WPJWA) billing.

ALCOSAN Wastewater Treatment and WPJWA Water User Fees Increase

The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority’s (ALCOSAN) Board of Directors has approved five-year rate structure increases of 7% from 2022-26.

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, the wastewater treatment charge will increase by 73 cents, from \$10.41 to \$11.14 for each thousand gallons used.

The customer service charge will increase by \$1.53, from \$21.88 to \$23.41 per bill issued through Wilkinsburg Penn Joint Water Authority. (WPJWA).

For the 2024 calendar year, ALCOSAN estimates the financial requirement for Churchill Borough to be \$862,130.66, which at 120% is \$1,034,556.79.

Dog Licenses Required by State



Pennsylvania State Law mandates that all dogs three months of age or older must be licensed by January 1 of each year. Annual dog licenses, available through the Allegheny County Treasurer’s Office, are valid for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31.

Lifetime dog licenses are also available for purchase and DO NOT NEED TO BE RENEWED. Microchips are mandatory for the purchase of Lifetime Licenses.

Also, microchips are encouraged for annual dog license holders to ensure lost dogs are found.

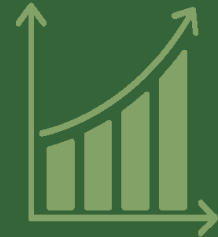
For more information about dog licenses, visit <https://alleghenycountytreasurer.us/dog-license/>.

2024 ADOPTED BUDGET

Total Revenue for 2024: \$4,108,885.78

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

- Real Estate Taxes
- User Fees
- Grants/Contributions
- Interfund
- Transfers Act 511
- Restricted Use
- Other Taxes
- Other



Total Expenditure for 2024: \$3,238,245.64

An anticipated draw down of the fund balances on the:

- General Fund
- Road and Highway Fund
- Capital Reserve Fund



is anticipated in 2024 to properly fund necessary projects throughout the Borough.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

The expenditures for the 2024 Police Department Budget are related to the 24/7, 365 days-a-year services provided through the Borough’s Police Department.



PUBLIC SERVICE

The expenditures for the 2024 Public Services Budget are related to the Public Works Services repairs and maintenance of the Borough’s Infrastructure.

The full 2024 Budget Document is available for review at www.churchillborough.com or in person at the Borough Office.

Meet New Council Member Cherylie Blair Fuller



Cherylie Blair Fuller

Cherylie Blair Fuller, Council's newest member, is hoping to take a proactive rather than a reactive approach to issues facing Churchill Borough. Sworn in on Jan. 2, 2024, Cherylie is no stranger to politics. In 2019, she ran for the District 9 council seat in the City of Pittsburgh.

Cherylie and her husband, the Rev. William Fuller, moved to Churchill from the East End four years ago during the pandemic. Already having family and friends in the Borough was one consideration. But mostly, they were drawn by a "spirit of peace" they found on the tree-lined street in their Thornberry Drive neighborhood.

"It was quiet," she says. "The landscape. The neighborhood itself. I was just in awe to be in a neighborhood where you can walk and be safe."

Shortly after they moved, the couple became aware of residents opposing the proposed Amazon facility on the former Westinghouse property—and they developed their concerns about the effects of the development on their peaceful neighborhood. So after listening to hours of testimony by residents about the proposal and a lot of questions she says "could not or would not be answered," Cherylie decided to run for Council to get involved and make sure the voices of residents are heard.

One of her major concerns is speeding on Beulah Road, which causes motorists entering from the side streets to do so "at your own risk." The fatal accident that occurred in 2023 showed speeding was a factor.

"Nothing will happen until something happens," she says. "Does one of our children or grandchildren have to be killed before someone screams?"

Cherylie says council should keep moving to implement the comprehensive plan with residents and public safety in mind. She said key items to consider are infrastructure upgrades such as underground utility lines, planting trees with roots that go down and don't spread out, and making sure future developments consider the effects on neighboring properties.

"Let's take Churchill to be the best Borough it can be," she says.

She says the Borough could move towards strategies that enable senior citizens to age in place but also be a welcoming community for younger families. Until she campaigned, she didn't realize the diversity represented in Churchill's population, which she sees as a positive asset.

Though retired, Cherylie keeps busy. Alongside her husband, she ministers at Trinity Temple Church. She continues to work with residents in the East End to become productive members of the community and society. She works with seniors, the homeless and youth through education on healthy eating, healthy living and creating a healthy environment where they live, work and play. She conducts outreach to senior citizens in communities with food disparities through the H3C Ministry.

Cherylie's involvement in civic organizations includes the grounded Solutions Network, the City of Pittsburgh Human Relations Commission, the "Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing" Task Force and as a community stakeholder member of the University of Pittsburgh's Homewood Community Engagement Center (CEC). She was inducted into the Westinghouse High School Academy Wall of Fame in 2019.

The great-grandmother recently earned a B.A. in psychology through Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). She plans on pursuing a graduate degree in the future.

Please Note: Change in 2024 Primary Election Date

Pennsylvania has moved up the date for the 2024 Primary Election to **April 23**.

Polls are open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Last day to register to vote: **April 8, 2024**

Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot: **April 16, 2024**.

For more information, visit alleghenycounty.us/Government/Elections or vote.pa.gov.

Introduction to DLC EV Charging Program



Churchill Borough is proud to announce its participation in the DLC Community Charging Program, a transformative initiative aimed at advancing electric vehicle (EV) accessibility within our community. In collaboration with DLC, we have successfully designed and implemented an electric infrastructure, covering all installation costs from the power grid to the charging station.

Charging Stations: We are thrilled to introduce three OpConnect networked dual-port HCS-60R stations at the Churchill Borough office parking lot, 2300 William Penn Highway. These stations boast a charging capacity of 11.5 kW and will be available to the public at a rate of \$0.25 per kWh. **Charging stations are available 24/7 on a first-come, first-served basis.**

About OpConnect: OpConnect is a leading provider of electric vehicle charging solutions dedicated to minimizing costs and maximizing the use of renewable energy, serving cities, municipalities, transit agencies, workplace and multi-family properties. Headquartered in Portland, OR, OpConnect holds certification as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE).

Instructions:

App and Account Creation:

- Visit the App Store/Play Store and download the OpConnect App.
- Follow the instructions to create a Driver’s account.
- Click on “Create a New Account” and fill in the required form.
- Verify your account through email and text.
- Click on “Profile” (bottom right corner) and then “Account Balance.”
- Add a payment method and funds to your account.

Starting a Charging Session with the App:

- Open the OpConnect App.
- Scan the QR code on the station as instructed.
- Accept the fees.
- Plug in your vehicle.
- Look for the charging indicator on both your vehicle and the station.
- The app will confirm that the charging session is in progress.



Community Wide Easter Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 23, 2 - 4 p.m.
 Beulah Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Rd.
 Ages 2 - 10
 Snacks, Games, Stories, and more!

Winter Snow Brings Salt

The common practice of applying salt to the roads and sidewalks comes at a price. As the snow melts, the salt begins its journey into our waterways.

Salt facts:

- PennDOT applies more than 800,000 tons of salt and 8 million gallons of salt brine to the state roads and highways it manages.
- When the salt melts, the resulting water dissolves the salt into sodium and chloride, which is usually carried through storm drains. The high levels of these chemicals can be toxic to aquatic life and negatively impact our ecosystem.
- A Maryland study reported that no brook trout were found in waterways that exceed 280 mg/L of chloride.
- Another study found that some streams in Pennsylvania contained more than 1,000 mg/L of chloride.
- The salt which does not enter storm drains still has the potential to infiltrate soils and groundwater, causing harm to our ecosystem.
- Vegetation is not typically tolerable of salt and often leads to the death of many native plants after winter.

WalkWorks Grant for Pedestrian Networks, Boost Physical Activity



Churchill Borough has been awarded a \$19,375 WalkWorks grant to assist in the development of Active Transportation Plans and increase physical activity by connection local destinations with improved pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks.

Churchill is one of nine communities in the Commonwealth to receive a WalkWorks grant allocation. The grant recipients were selected from a pool of high-quality applicants by a multidisciplinary review team that included representatives from the Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Downtown Center, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Department of Community and Economic Development. Churchill was one of two communities that got additional funding through the DCNR.

The WalkWorks program is committed to expanding walkability, bikeability, accessibility, and connectivity to transit across Pennsylvania and encourages residents to incorporate activity-friendly routes into daily routines. Borough officials will work over the next year with transportation and community planners to collect data, assess current conditions and aspirations and incorporate public input to craft the Active Transportation Plans.

Living in, working in, or visiting communities with safe, beautiful, functional, and accessible public spaces and streets means being able to use activity-friendly routes to get to key destinations. Opportunities like that help to increase physical activity and reduce obesity and chronic disease, which simultaneously improves individual health, expands economic vitality, and reduces health care costs.

Funding for the grants is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant program, as well as additional funding from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, for two of the awardees. For more information about WalkWorks, visit the [PA WalkWorks website](#). Visit the [Explore PA Trails](#) and [Get Outdoors PA](#) website for information on recreational resources.

Community. It's what the Churchill Recreation Board is all about!

In 2023, the board organized several successful events. **Cocktails and Cuisine** had us gathering at the Grand View Golf Club. It was so well attended that we're now challenged to find a venue that can accommodate all who are interested in attending in 2024!

Easter Bunny and Santa Claus visited neighborhoods spreading holiday cheer, treats and smiles to our residents. August found hundreds of us gathering on the Pace School lawn for our Community Day. Music, food trucks, games, vendors, basket raffles, artists, neighbors... there was something for everyone! If you missed it, you missed a good time!

The Rec Board is planning several things for 2024. We'd like to follow-up with similar, previous events while adding some guest speakers and possibly start the planning of a Mid-Century Modern Home Tour in 2025! This would take some detailed planning, but could be a real draw to our borough as we have a plethora of wonderfully classic MCM homes here. If you have an interest in such an event, contact Joe Kotelnicki at jkotel2@gmail.com.

Plans continue to develop as we work toward another **Churchill Community Day** to be held on the lawn at **Pace School** on **Saturday, August 10, 2024**. If you are a business owner, artist, or an organization and would like to participate, please reach out. We'd love to have you! Have an idea for a guest speaker? Contact us. The committee is here to make it happen!

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to make Churchill a **vibrant** and **inclusive** community for **ALL** its residents.



Churchill Community Day!



Borough Council Action Items Update

The following is a snapshot of recent Borough Council action items, including ordinances, resolutions and simple motions. Details about ordinances and resolutions can be found on the Churchill Borough document eCode360 online repository <https://ecode360.com/CH1558>.

Monday, September 11, 2023:

Pennsylvania State Rep. Abigail Salisbury attended the Borough Council meeting. She shared plans to hold mobile office hours at the Borough Building on Friday, Nov. 3 to help constituents file for property and tax rebates, apply for senior citizen ConnectCard bus pass, get help for PennDOT issues (such as a handicap placard) and receive assistance with obtaining other state services.

The council recognized and thanked members of the Recreation Board for another wonderful Community Day.

Adopted Ordinance 771 amending the Churchill Borough Zoning Ordinance Chapter 304 of the Borough Code to revise certain definitions and add new definitions; to amend 304 Attachment 1 Table 201 (permitted uses, conditional uses, yard, and area requirements); and to amend regulations related to distribution centers.

Adopted Resolution 4575 authorizing a two-year collective bargaining agreement with the Churchill Borough Police Association retroactive to January 1, 2023. The two-year agreement includes reducing the number of steps to reach Patrol Officer base pay from 10 to 7, a 3% raise for 2023 and a 4% increase for 2024.

Adopted Resolution 4576 establishing the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for pension funds pursuant to Pennsylvania Act 205 of 1984 (Municipal Pension Plan Funding Standard And Recovery Act) as amended for 2024.

Monday, October 9, 2023

Mayor Paul Gamrat gave David Bajada a special recognition and proclamation for participating in the 2023 National Senior Olympics in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. David Bajada thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition and spoke about what inspired him to compete.

Adopted Resolution 4577 authorizing a grant application to be made to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the Local Share Statewide grant program for new school zone safety signs on Greensburg Pike at the Woodland Hills High School.

Executed a **Professional Services Agreement** with Hoffman's Boarding Kennels to serve as the Borough's Dog Law Enforcement Officers for 2024-25 at a rate of \$165 per month, plus charges per service request.

Monday, November 14, 2023

Authorized advertising a public notice of availability to review the Churchill Borough **2024 General Fund Budget** in the Valley Mirror newspaper.

Adopted Resolution 4578 appointing Mallard S. George to a three-year term on the Churchill Borough Zoning Hearing Board.

Adopted Resolution 4579 hiring **Pashek + MTR** as consultants to assist with completing a Churchill Borough Active Transportation Plan.

Adjust the salary of Churchill Borough Police Chief Ronald M. Akerley from the amount set by Resolution 4548 by 3.5% for 2023 with retroactive pay back to Jan. 1, 2023.

Local Climate Action Plan



Jess Fortino, a senior at Pennsylvania State University, is participating in a collaborative Local Climate Action Program between Churchill Borough, Pennsylvania State University, CONNECT, and PADEP. The full-year program is separated by semester. For fall/winter, she is focusing primarily on the Local Government Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which will offer an in-depth look into emissions from buildings and services owned and operated by the Borough. In the spring, Jess will be creating a tailor-made Local Climate Action Plan for Churchill's government to reduce emissions, improve resiliency and create adaptation scenarios for potential impacts from climate change.

News from Tax Collector Danielle Weaver



Tax Payments

It is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure their tax payment check has been cashed. I sent the final notices on Nov. 7. I am receiving calls from homeowners stating they paid their taxes, but the check was never cashed. **If your check is not cashed one month from the time of mailing, there is a problem and you should call me. The 10% penalty will be charged if the check is not postmarked by the end of face period.**

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 2023 because of errors and a few resulted in additional charges. If you are having problems and find it difficult to pay your taxes in full, please contact me.

Woodland Hills School Tax

The second installment for the Woodland Hills School Tax must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2024.

The final installment must be postmarked by March 31, 2024. **IF 2023 INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS ARE NOT MADE ON TIME, YOU WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S INSTALLMENT PLAN.**

Churchill Borough Tax

The Churchill Borough taxes are mailed March 1, 2024. If paid by April 31, 2024, you will receive a 2% discount. The face charge must be paid by June 30, 2024 to avoid a 10% penalty. The details will be included with your tax bill. Tax Collector Danielle Weaver will be at the Yagel Community Room in the Borough Building to accept your tax payments on the following dates:

Thursday and Friday, April 18 & 19, 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 20, 10 to 11 a.m.

Thursday and Friday, April 25 & 26, 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturday April 27, 10 to 11 a.m.

Mortgages

If you pay off your mortgage, refinance your mortgage or if it was sold to another company, I need your new mortgage company's Tax Bill Mailing Address. Please call me, Danielle Weaver, at 412-241-0815 so I can update my records.

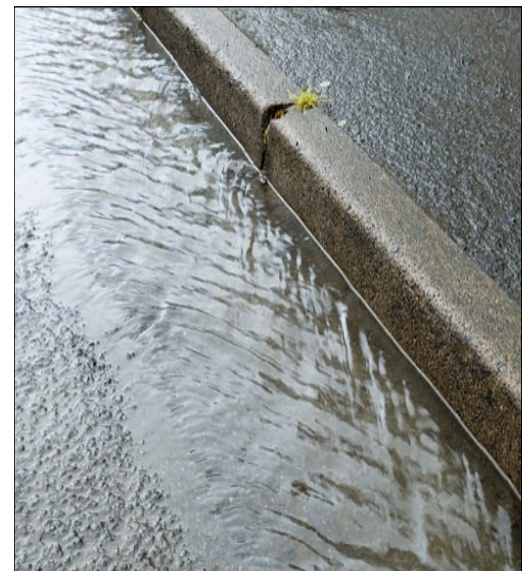
Homestead Act

New homeowners must apply before March 1 for the Homestead Act discount. Information can be found on the Allegheny County website.

What is an MS4 Permit?

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program was administered through the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1999. The goal of the MS4 program is to prevent stormwater pollution from entering nearby waterbodies. Pennsylvania implemented state regulation of the MS4 permit in 2003. Municipalities are required through the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to implement a stormwater management program comprising of the following six Minimum Control Measures that help with the overall goal:

- Public education & outreach program
- Public involvement and participation program
- Illicit discharge, detention & elimination
- Construction site stormwater runoff control
- Post-Construction Stormwater Management
- Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping through education





Churchill Borough 2024 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.

January

M	T	W	TH	F	S	SU
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29	30	31				

February

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March

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April

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May

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June

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July

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29	30	31				

August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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 2024 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
CLIFFWOOD TRAIL	Odd	LEAR DR	Even	STEVENS LN	Even
COLLINS RD	Odd	LEWIN LN	Even	SURREY PLACE	Even
CREEKEDGE DR	Odd	LOCKSLEY DR	Odd	SUZANNE DR	Odd
CROFT CT	Even	Longbow Dr	Odd	THORNBERRY DR	Even
EDGEWOOD DR	Odd	MARBURY RD	Even	THORNCROFT RD	Even
ELMHILL RD	Even	MARGARETTA ST	Odd	VALIANT DR	Even
FENWICK DR	Even	MARGATE RD	Even	WILLIAM PENN HWY	Even
FOREST DR	Odd	MCCRADY RD	Odd	WILLIAMSBURG PLACE	Odd
GARDEN TERRACE	Even	MCCREA RD	Odd	WOODLAND HILLS DR	Even
GARRICK DR	Even	MCNARY BLVD	Odd	YORKTOWN PLACE	Odd
GEORGETOWN 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 can visit www.wm.com for service alerts and information, to report a missed pickup or to schedule a bulk collection.



Message from the Mayor



Our department's number-one priority is public safety. Being in close proximity to heavily traveled Interstate 376 (Parkway East) and State Business Route 22, our officers respond to traffic accidents many times daily. We urge all residents to be mindful of their speed while traveling on these and our neighborhood roads. Speed is almost always a factor in these accidents.

The speed limit on most of our borough streets is between 20 and 35 miles per hour (mph). In an effort to control speed on Beulah Road, the right-hand turn lane at Lewin Lane has been eliminated. We are currently waiting for the installation of electronic speed signs to remind motorists of the posted 35 mph on Beulah Road and Greensburg Pike.

The residents on these roads thank you for not speeding so they can enter and exit their driveways without fear of a speeding vehicle making it difficult.

Police Department



In October, our Police Department took delivery of a 2022 Dodge Durango. This will complete our fleet of five vehicles, which average a combined 5,000 miles per month. The Borough has approximately 27 miles of roadways, not including the state and county roads.

In June, the Department put into service some long-awaited essential pieces of equipment. All officers have received the necessary mandated training and certification to put these tools into service. The new devices purchased to replace older, outdated and less effective versions are:

- Three Axon fleet in-car camera systems
- Troy Arms AR-15 rifles
- Taser 7 less-lethal weapons

Chief Ronald Akerley has written and submitted a Federal grant offered through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) entitled "Recruitment Incentives for Law Enforcement." The grant is intended to assist law enforcement agencies by providing funding to offer new prospective candidates hiring incentives such as signing bonuses and other stipends.

In addition to public safety, our officers, along with other departments, participate in many neighborhood charitable projects. Most recently, our officers collected toys for children in their respective communities. They participated in the annual Trunk-or-Treat event held at the Woodland Hills High School campus in October.

Also make sure your vehicle is locked and valuables removed. Never leave your keys in the vehicle. Most vehicles are entered through unlocked doors and if stolen the keys are in the ignition or sitting on the console.

To assist in our first responders in locating your home in an emergency, we again all residents to make sure your house numbers are easily seen from the street and in a highly visible location.

Fire Department



Since 2000, the number of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania has dropped from 60,000 to 38,000. Here are a few helpful tips to help prevent house fires:

- Replace batteries in smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
- Clean dryer vents
- Have fireplaces inspected and cleaned regularly
- Have easy access to a home fire extinguisher
- Do not grill close to your home
- Do not store flammable liquids such as gasoline in your home

In the Community

We want to thank the Churchill Garden Club's "Adopt a Highway" Program. Club members and a few residents meet monthly at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday to pick up litter in our Borough. Club Chair Ginger Bauer reports that, on average, 10 large garbage bags are collected each month. Some of the high-volume litter consists of fast food bags, cups and straws, followed by plastic water bottles, beer cans and wine bottles. Cigarette packs and diapers are also common items. The entrances and exits to I-376 are favorite places for litterbugs. If you are interested in volunteering for the clean-up effort, please contact me at gamratpaul@gmail.com or 412-793-9095.

The Borough Maintenance Crew has been working to reclaim Bullock Pens Park. During COVID, the park was closed and it quickly became overgrown and people used it as a dumping ground. The crews have removed knotweed and other invasive plants along the entrance driveway and created a larger parking area. The park will blend into the adjacent Churchill Valley Greenway and additional trails will be added. If you are interested in volunteering in the park, contact the Borough at 412-241-7113.

Congratulations to Marti Baran, winner of "Lunch with the Mayor" drawing at the 2023 Churchill Borough Community Day. Council Member Deb Casini Kline joined me and Marti for lunch at the Roman Bistro. Looking forward to the 2024 Community Day!

All those bags of fall leaves are piling up at the borough maintenance yard. They will be transformed into the "black gold" that will be available to residents in June 2024. Remember leaves must be placed in approved paper bags for pickup.

Submitted by Mayor Paul Gamrat

Woodland Hills EMS Subscription Drive



Woodland Hills EMS (WHEMS) is the primary emergency medical service for Churchill, Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Forest Hills and Wilkins Township. This year, Woodland Hills EMS has responded to over 4,000 calls for service. We employ 23 EMTs and paramedics and WHEMS has been recognized by UPMC as one of the premier services in the area.

WHEMS will be sending out our Subscription Drive notices soon. Signing up for this program helps us help you. Your donation helps us with training, updated equipment and employee retention programs. As a member, you will not be charged for calls where there is treatment but no transport. If you are transported, WHEMS forgives

50% of what insurance does not pay.

Please sign up and talk to your neighbors about participating in this program. Currently, we have less than 25% community participation in the four boroughs that use this program. Chalfant Borough does not participate in this program, choosing instead to have a 0.5 mill EMS tax assessed. Under the agreement with Chalfant Borough, WHEMS does not charge Chalfant residents for **ANY** EMS service. It does not matter whether insurance or Medicare covers the transport. Chalfant residents do not have to worry about getting a bill when calling 911. If you would like more information on this and how you can talk to your local leaders, please reach out to Chief Frank Mastandrea at whems340@gmail.com.

Recent improvements for WHEMS this year have included replacing our roof, gutters and downspouts. All windows were replaced to save on energy bills. Our more-than-30-year-old HVAC system was replaced to provide a more environmentally friendly system. Our electrical systems have been upgraded with LED lighting and auto switches to save on electricity. All this has been done with the assistance of state Sen. Jay Costa. We are thankful to have a representative in the area who supports public safety.

Lastly, WHEMS is awaiting delivery of a new ambulance from Glick Emergency Vehicles. The new unit will be our most technologically advanced unit and an addition to our current fleet. Timeline for delivery will be in the first quarter of 2024.

Churchill Borough Tree Committee Update



67 new trees were planted adjacent to the trees that were planted by Woodland Hills students and other volunteers on April 14.

In light but steady rain, the Churchill Borough Tree Committee participated in a tree planting event hosted by the Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) at the Churchill Valley Greenway on Oct. 14. The group of volunteers also helped move more than 200 new trees to be planted nearby in the Greenway by a school group outside our district. ALT has volunteers and works with schools from across our region to support all their properties. Thus, there were about 300 new trees of various species planted in Churchill Borough this fall, including tulip, poplar, eastern redbud, chestnut oak, white oak and Virginia pine.

ALT plans to plant several thousand trees in the coming years to reforest the former golf holes on the steeper sloping southwest face of the Churchill Valley Greenway below McCrady Road. ALT hosted a public input session at the Churchill Borough Building on Nov. 15 to share plans for further improvements and development of this unique property. A similar session is being planned for early 2024.

Members of the Churchill Tree Committee provided public comments on Oct. 23 during a Churchill Zoning Hearing Board meeting concerning the Rodi Maple Devco, LLC Billboard Variance. Using available drawings and a site visit, we

raised concerns about the potential removal of about 25 large trees for the project along with potential storm-water runoff. Churchill Tree Committee and Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission members stated the proposed project runs counter to recent beautification efforts near the site. Regardless of the outcome of this proposal, our borough, county, country and world continue to lose trees and green space at an alarming rate. According to *Tree Pittsburgh*, about 1,000 trees are removed across Allegheny County each day despite our on-going decline in population. The U.S. Forest Service estimates that we lose 6,000 acres of open space to development every day! The World Economic Forum recently reported that humanity has removed 1/3 of the world's forests over the last 10,000 years, sparking much debate in the role of trees in combating climate change concerns, a topic for a future public workshop.

We thank Judy Diorio, whose term on the Tree Committee has expired, for her several years of service. Judy played an instrumental role in educational efforts, hosting three tree workshops at the Blackridge Civic Association and supporting the Tree Committee display at Churchill Community Day events. If any resident is interested in filling this vacancy on the committee, please contact the Borough office.

Just as a reminder, the winter months are the appropriate time to prune oak trees to remove dangerous dead limbs, maintain tree health and prevent oak wilt. Residents are required per Borough Code to use a licensed tree service that is insured to do such work that is done in accordance with American National Standards Institute requirements.

Submitted by Ken Balkey, Chair, Churchill Borough Tree Committee

Homemade Windshield Deicer



Combine:
 2 parts 70% rubbing alcohol
 1 part water

Transfer this solution to a spray bottle. Shake to mix, then spray on icy surfaces.

Reflections on Churchill's Past: J. Roger Glunt



W. Edward Glunt



J. Roger Glunt

When J. Roger Glunt's family moved from Swissvale to a three-bedroom, one-bath, brick veneer home on Rural Court in Churchill in 1941, they weren't moving into the suburbs we know today.

"It was really country," says Roger, who has served the Borough in many capacities over the years.

W. Edward and Amy Glunt, and their children 3-year-old Roger and 6-month-old Nancy, were the first family to move into the new plan built by the late Steve Catarinella Sr. just off Greensburg Pike on the former Westfall Farm. He said the newcomers were welcome on the farm property, where they'd pick apples to take home. Roger recalls playing in the woods and around the cattails at the frog pond where he'd gather tadpoles in a jar. The pond eventually became part of the Westinghouse property, just behind William Penn Cemetery.

Not long after they moved to Churchill, his father joined the Borough's volunteer fire company. "Everybody helped everybody" in those days, whether it was borrowing sugar from a neighbor or being supportive of each other. Neighbors shared a party line, a telephone line or circuit shared by two or more users, which meant waiting for one neighbor to finish a call before you could place yours. Families had one car, so "what we did we did in the neighborhood," Roger says.

In the warm weather, youngsters on Rural Court used the pavement as their baseball field. Over on Garden Terrace, Dick and Dan Heckel made a flat area behind their house to use as a ballfield. Roger said the first organized recreation nearby was at the Westinghouse Recreation Center on Greensburg Pike in Forest Hills, where the baseball field turned to a football field in the fall. When it snowed, neighborhood children would grab sleds and start at the top of Rural Court, glide across Garden Terrace, down lower Rural Court, turn again on Garden Terrace and end up at Stevens Lane.

The only real commercial development was on Greensburg Pike. The Fiersts had a gas station where Tyke's Auto Service is today. Inside was a small mom-and-pop grocery store with some staples and a small deli counter. Next door was Fierst's Tavern on the Pike, which served as a gathering place after meetings for Borough officials, firefighters and residents to have a beer and one of the delicious fish or barbecue sandwiches. Later, Scott's Garden Center won conditional use approval to construct the second commercial site in Churchill on Beulah Road.

Churchill was not immune from the post-World War II suburban boom, but it maintained the idea put forth by its founders in 1934 to keep it a residential community. According to Roger, Churchill became known as "a rural, non-commercial, bedroom community with a reputation for fair taxes." The police department gained a good reputation for keeping borough residents safe, he says.

At sometime in the 1950s, Joseph Horne's had considered being an anchor store in a proposed shopping development that never happened. Through the 1950s and into the 1960s, many residents shopped in Wilkinsburg, where there were two Isaly's, three movie theaters, two 5-and-10s, Murphy's and Kresge's; and Caldwell and Graham, which sold women's clothing and sewing needs. A McCoy Brothers bus traveled along Greensburg Pike and down Penn Avenue to Wilkinsburg.

He also recalls when the land that became Churchill Area High School and Churchill Elementary School (now Woodland Hills High School and Pace School) was vacant, as well as when a section of Beulah Road became a four lanes after Ralph Scherger built the homes there. The road narrowed back to two lanes in the vicinity of the well-known duck pond landmark and Lewin Lane.

The late W. Edward Glunt chaired the committee that oversaw construction of the first small cement-block Borough building. In the early 1960s, the elder Glunt was appointed to fill a vacancy on Council and was then elected to the post in 1962. He was elected to serve three more four-year terms before retiring from council in 1981. During his time on Council, he served on the Police Committee, Churchill Area Regional Planning

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The Importance of Knowing CPR and First Aid

CPR is the most important first aid skill everyone should know. CPR can double or triple a cardiac arrest victim’s chance of survival, especially if performed immediately. It is important to know you can perform hands-only CPR and use an AED (automated external defibrillator) without certification. What should you do if you see someone collapse and go into cardiac arrest?



Save-A-Life First Aid & CPR

- First, call 911 or send someone to call
- Then start CPR. Interlock your fingers together and push hard and fast in the center of the chest (Approximately 100 - 120 chest compressions a minute.)
- If there is an AED nearby, as you are calling 911, they will advise you or someone to administer that as well.

Equally important is to know other basics of First Aid:

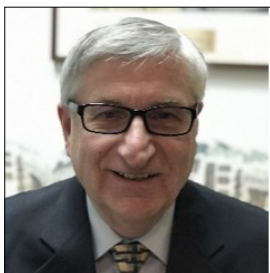
If someone is choking, the Heimlich maneuver can dislodge whatever is blocking their airways. Time is of essence; typically a person who has had their airways cut off has about five minutes before brain damage occurs. Learning the Heimlich maneuver is easy; YouTube videos can show you how.

If someone is bleeding excessively, it is critical to stop bleeding. The injured person could be bleeding from a main artery or vein, which means they could bleed out in 10 - 15 minutes. Learning how to make a tourniquet is simple and extremely helpful.

Spotting a concussion: Concussions are dangerous and require medical attention. If someone had a blow to their head, you should check for symptoms like dizziness, pupil dilation, confusion, balance issues, sensitivity to light or sound and balance issues. Consult your doctor.

The Red Cross and the American Heart Association are great resources to learn more about CPR and First Aid. Consider taking a course or learning more online. You could save a life!

Churchill Resident Honored by Pitt Varsity Letter Club



Ken Balkey

Ken Balkey, chair of the Churchill Borough Tree Committee, is among the University of Pittsburgh Varsity Letter Club’s 2024 Awardees of Distinction.

Since 1961, the Pitt Varsity Letter Club has honored letter winners who have distinguished themselves in their profession or community, and who, by their accomplishments, have enhanced the value of the intercollegiate athletics programs at the University of Pittsburgh.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to have been selected to be a member of the 2024 class,” Balkey said. “My role in serving as Chair of the Tree Committee since its inception in 2018 as an ad hoc group would have been favorably viewed by the Pitt Varsity

Letter Club Selection Committee.”

Balkey, who lettered in track & field and cross country is one of eight Awardees of Distinction who will be honored at the 62nd Anniversary Varsity Letter Club Awards Dinner on Feb. 23, 2024 at The Westin Pittsburgh. The recipients will then be honored Feb. 24 at the Pitt-Virginia Tech Men's Basketball game.

Past awardees include Olympic Gold Medal winner and world record holder Roger Kingdom and Pitt & NFL great Tony Dorsett.

In December, Borough Council recognized with a proclamation honoring his achievements.





C.C. MELLOR MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Embrace the Winter Chill with C.C. Mellor Memorial Library!

This winter, we're thrilled to present an array of events and programs catering to every age group and interest. And, of course, don't forget to explore our extensive collection of books, DVDs and audiobooks for the perfect companion during this cozy season. Here's a peek at some of our events this winter:

Trivia Night - Join us for an evening of brain-teasing fun at our Trivia Night. Unleash your competitive spirit with your friends to earn cash prizes while supporting your local library! Reserve a table on our website at www.ccmellorlibrary.org. *21+ only.*

Family Blanket Fort Night - Gather your family, grab your pillows and blankets, and visit the library after hours for Family Fort Night on Jan. 19 and 26! We'll have the whole building to ourselves as we construct our blanket forts. Register at www.ccmellorlibrary.org.

Mario Party - Wahoo! Drop in the library for a real-life Mario Party on March 16! We'll have games, crafts, challenges and more to match your favorite levels and mini games!

Teen Night - Calling all teens! Come help solve a murder mystery at the CCM Forest Hills on March 22. Bring your imagination and appetite. We will be having pizza while we solve crimes.

We will continue offering our full slate of programming through the winter with programs including Family Storytime, Baby Talk, Pajama Storytime, Music and Movement Storytime, Makerspace Mondays, Teen Group, Tween Club, Dungeons and Dragons Clubs for teens and adults, and our adult book clubs and Social Hours at CCM Edgewood and CCM Forest Hills.

Be sure to follow us on facebook.com/CCMellorLibrary and Instagram instagram.com/ccmellorlibrary and check our website for the latest events and news!

Churchill Garden Club



Churchill Garden Club's monthly meetings and programs are held August through September and March through June. We strive to offer diverse topics to interest both beginning and seasoned veteran gardeners and to maintain our mission "to promote an interest in horticulture, an appreciation of artistic design, and an awareness of ecology and the environment." Our ongoing beautification projects include maintaining the community garden at the corner of Beulah and Churchill roads (usually Saturday mornings), and clearing our local roads of litter through Adopt-A-Highway.

Upcoming meeting topics are:

- March 25, 2024 - Personal Treasures Showcase
- April 18, 2024 - Hummingbirds: Flying Jewels in the Garden
- May TBD, 2024 - Growing Organic Vegetables Sustainably
- June 12, 2024 - Churchill Garden Club 75th Anniversary Luncheon.

We welcome new members and would be delighted to have you attend a meeting and get to know us. Membership is open to men and women. You need not be a Churchill resident to join. If interested, contact Membership Chair Eileen Kisloff at emtkisloff@gmail.com.

Women's Neighborhood Fellowship



Are you over 50 and wanting connection with compassionate neighborhood women for supportive conversation and prayer? A new Women's Neighborhood Fellowship 50+ is meeting bi-monthly for pastries and prayer on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Blackridge. Call either Gail 412-897-9915 or Carol at 412-897-2358 for directions and to RSVP. Space is limited, so please call to reserve your spot. Hope to see you there!

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Committee and as Assistant Secretary. Roger's father also served as chairman of the Building Committee to construct the present-day Borough Building, which incorporated the existing building into its design.

Roger and his wife Lee moved to Churchill in 1966 to a home he built in the Stratford plan on a lot purchased from co-developers Vince Amore and John Hobart Miller. He became involved in Borough politics in 1981, after he was asked by the Republican committee to run for a seat on Council. Roger was the leading vote-getter and he and his Republican running mates captured the four open Council seats, defeating the four Democratic challengers. Roger continued to serve on Council through 1991, when he chose to resign after he was elected vice president/secretary of the National Association of Home Builders and his travel made it necessary to miss many Council meetings.

Roger continued to serve the borough in many capacities in the years after as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board, Civil Service Commission and Minority Clerk for the District #3 Election Board. His mother Amy had served many years as Majority Clerk when Republicans were the majority. He also somewhat followed in his father's footsteps when his company, Jayar Construction Co. Inc. was selected to build the new Churchill Volunteer Fire Company structure in the Borough complex in 2003 and, in 2005, when his company renovated the space in the Borough Building known as the Yagle Community Center.

Through his family's involvement and his own, Roger has known most of the Borough officials, police, fire-fighters and many residents throughout the last 80 years. He continues to have great love for the place he's always called home.

As someone who has seen Churchill develop from its early years, and as a developer himself, Roger says the future of Churchill is tied in large measure to what happens at the former Westinghouse property. The borough needs to attract a viable entity to provide jobs and tax revenue. That also would benefit local businesses, not just in Churchill, but also neighboring Wilkins Township and Forest Hills. "If it stays as it is, the future is not as bright," he says, noting that if future leaders and residents "make the highest and best use" of the former Westinghouse property, the Borough will be able to better provide a good police department, paved roads and a reasonable tax rate for residents.



J. Roger Glunt's father served on Churchill Council in 1964. He is pictured here with other Churchill Council Members and Officials: (front row, left to right) Mayor Roy W. Bigley, Council President William E. Richards, Charles V. Fields, Ralph Frank; (back row) W. Edward Glunt, Solicitor John Elder, Council Vice President Russell P. Gunia, E. Ogden Thompson, Borough Manager Ralph Heckel and Borough Engineer J. Fred Triggs.



Churchill Council and Officials, circa early 1960s: (left to right), Ralph Frank, William E. Richards, unidentified person, former Police Chief John Klemm, former Police Chief Saul Holden, Mayor Roy W. Bigley, W. Edward Glunt and Charles V. Fields.

Views of the people featured in the newsletter "History Corner" are not necessarily those of the Borough.

Happy 90th Anniversary, Churchill Borough!



Beulah Presbyterian Church Chapel

Churchill Borough celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2024. Named for the “church on the hill,” Churchill Borough has existed as a municipality since 1934.

The written history of what is now Churchill dates back to before the Revolutionary War. As the French and Indian War raged in 1758, British General John Forbes led an army of about 6,000 men over the Allegheny Mountains as they prepared for an assault on Fort Duquesne. That fall, the troops arrived at approximately the area that we know today as Bullock-Pens Park, where Forbes corralled a herd of oxen to be used as food for the troops.

By 1790, the area had become a safe home for the settlers. As more families established their homesteads and farms, there was a need for more efficient government than could be provided by Pitt Township, one of Allegheny County’s seven original townships. Wilkins Township seceded

from Pitt Township in 1821, taking with it the area that is now Churchill Borough.

In 1934, a group of residents dreamed of an ideal, small, quiet, and economical community where they could establish their homes and raise their children in an aura of peace and tranquility. They were also driven by a desire for a lower tax rate after a reassessment by Allegheny County dramatically drove up their township property tax bills. And thus Churchill Borough was formed.

In the years following World War II, as suburban growth exploded, Churchill became a desirable location to raise a family, given its proximity to the Penn-Lincoln Parkway (Parkway East). To this day, commercial establishments remain a very small part of Churchill’s land use.

The Borough of Churchill is one of 130 municipalities located in Allegheny County in Western Pennsylvania. Churchill encompasses a total of 2.5 square miles of land area with approximately 1,494 housing units.

To this day, worship has continued in the cattle yard area established in 1758 when Forbes’ soldiers first arrived in what is now Churchill. The old Beulah Church Chapel built in 1837 still stands at the intersection of Beulah and McCrady roads, with a historical cemetery around it that contains the graves of veterans from Gen. Forbes’ troops, as well as 35 men who fought in the Revolutionary War.



Sponsors Sought for Churchill Community Day

The Churchill Recreation Board is accepting sponsors for Churchill Community Day,
August 10, 2024.

If interested, contact Deb Klein at 412-841-5427 or email dklein@churchillborough.com.

Police Chief Recaps Holiday Giving



Dec. 17, 2023 marked the 34th anniversary of the Western PA Police Athletic League's Stuff-A-Store Toy Drive event, and the fifth anniversary of our local police Blue Santa Toy Giveaway, sponsored by Toys For Pittsburgh Tykes.

As always, it was my honor and privilege to participate in both. This year for Stuff-A-Store, Mayor Paul Gamrat was able to join me on behalf of both Churchill Borough and the Wilkins-Churchill Rotary Club, which graciously donated \$500 to the event through both the Churchill and Wilkins Township police departments.

Toys For Pittsburgh Tykes is a main contributor to several different toy drive events this time year and collected and distributed more than **500,000** toys just for the 2023 holiday season! Quite impressive to say the very least. The organization was started several years ago as a joint effort between the late Allegheny County Police Detective Jim Svetic, who also established the Western PA Police Athletic League, and Javid, the proprietor of Jaden's Catering & Banquets in Monroeville.

For Stuff-A-Store, the officer from each participating department selects and personally delivers gifts to children from their community. I delivered several gifts for five children of a local daycare established and run by one of our residents, Shannon Veltri of Lear Drive. These particular children were selected because they and their families have experienced difficult times, hardships, traumas or the passing of a parent in recent months.

Blue Santa is an event open to anyone and everyone. Families visited our distribution location and provided a list of ages and genders of their children. Officers filled their trunk with several appropriate gifts, including several beautiful new bicycles!

Stuff-A-Store, which was held at Monroeville Mall, ran from 9 to 11 a.m. with Blue Santa immediately following from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Braddock Hills Shopping Center. However, Blue Santa saw such a turnout that we ran until 2 p.m. before eventually having to close off the line of waiting cars.

Every year, one or both of my own children happily participate in Blue Santa along with several of their friends. This year, my daughter Miranda was unfortunately home sick. But my son, Alex and some friends from school made it out and were a big help! Of course, I couldn't be a prouder dad. My girlfriend Wendy and her daughter Izzy also participated this year and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the gift of giving.

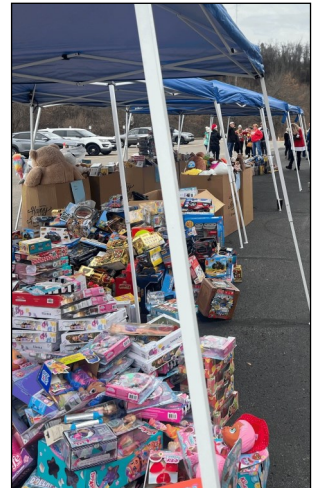
Both events provide police throughout Allegheny County with the opportunity to engage and interact with the public in a very positive, lighthearted and meaningful way and to spread the joy and spirit of the holiday season. Just as rewarding is seeing all the smiles as we deliver toys to so many needy families, knowing they too will experience the magic that is the holiday season!

Submitted by Ronald Akerley, Chief of Police

Stuff a Store



Blue Santa



Churchill Borough
2300 William Penn Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Churchill Borough Elected Officials:

Mayor: Paul Gamrat

Borough Council:

President: Valerie Reinthaler

Vice President: Diane Law

Cherylie Blair Fuller

Brooke Burchette-Williams

Deb Casini Klein

Andrea Ditillo

Jay Dworin

Tax Collector: Danielle Weaver

Churchill Borough Government Newsletter:

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Contact the Borough, Keep Informed

Any resident who has questions or concerns about Churchill Borough matters is encouraged to call or email us at 412-758-8818 or office@churchillborough.com.

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