



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

2300 William Penn Highway • Pittsburgh, PA 15235
Phone: 412-241-7113 • Fax: 412-241-0503 • office@churchillborough.com

Summer 2024



Churchill Recreation Board Community Day Aug. 10, 2024

Submitted by Joe Kotelnicki, Recreation Board Chair

Promoting community, families, inclusion and fun! It’s what the Churchill Community Recreation Board is all about.

To say that we’re excited about our next event is an understatement. Our annual Community Day will be held this year on Saturday, Aug. 10 from 11-4, at Pace School lawn on Greensburg Pike. This event is growing and we are very excited for you to join us and engage in all that we have planned, and planned we have! New food trucks, musical entertainers, the WHHS Marching Band and various vendors have already committed to participating in what I assure you will be a pleasant activity for you and your family.

We’ve taken your suggestions from last year and have added an additional tent for shaded seating, varied musical selections and more artists! Returning will be kids games, family activities, local organizations and a basket raffle like no other!

If you are a business or an organization and you would like to have a vendor table at the event, please reach out to us. If helping is your thing, then we can certainly use your talents. From set-up to clean-up and everything in between, your volunteer efforts will be welcomed. Contact Janet Paull at dpaul4051@aol.com for vendor space inquiry and volunteer information.

So, tap Aug. 10 into your phone or circle it with a bold marker on your calendar. Bring your family, friends and maybe reach out to that neighbor who might not go on their own to join you for a nice afternoon. We’ll see you there!

Our annual community dinner held on May 19 was a huge success! It was our highest attended dinner to date. It was great to see our long-standing community members as well as so many new faces eager to embrace the uniqueness of Churchill. Our attendance at this event continues to increase. The challenge is now becoming where to host the next dinner that can accommodate our growing numbers.

If you have a suggestion for next year’s dinner or for activities/events that you’d like the Rec Board to sponsor, please send them to me, Joe Kotelnicki, at jkotel2@gmail.com.

- INSIDE -

Churchill Recreation Board: Community Day 2024	pg. 1	A Day of Fun at Bullock Pens Park	pg. 9-10
Churchill Borough’s 90th Anniversary	pg. 2-3	Mid-Century Modern Home Tour Planning Begins	pg. 10
Sharing Our World: Coexisting with Wildlife	pg. 4	Churchill Borough Tree Committee Update	pg. 11
“What About the Deer?” Public Meeting August 11	pg. 4	Updates at the Greenway	pg. 12
Scott’s Code Corner	pg. 5	News from the Tax Collector	pg. 13
From the Police Chief’s Desk	pg. 5-6	Intern Insights: Jakob Wells	pg. 13
Message from the Mayor	pg. 7	C.C. Mellor Library Update	pg. 14
Churchill Volunteer Fire Company News	pg. 8	Churchill Wilkins Rotary	pg. 15
Woodland Hills EMS	pg. 9	Churchill Garden Club Celebrates 75th Anniversary	pg. 15

Churchill's 90th Anniversary!

Churchill Borough celebrated its 90th Anniversary at two recent events. On May 19, residents enjoyed dinner and conversation at DeNunzio's Italian Trattoria in Monroeville.

On June 7, residents gathered in the Yagle Room for cake and ice cream. There were photos and memorabilia from Churchill's past. Representative Abigail Salisbury presented the borough with a citation from the state acknowledging Churchill's 90th Anniversary.






Churchill COMMUNITY DAY
BOROUGH

don't forget

Saturday, August 10, 2024 • 11AM-4PM

Rain or Shine! **On the grounds of Pace School**
2432 Greensburg Pike, Churchill 15221



Sharing Our World: Coexisting with Wildlife

Churchill Area Environmental Council (CAEC) has issued a Spring 2024 Advisory, “Sharing Our World: Coexisting with Wildlife,” which focuses on humane and eco-friendly methods for pest and wildlife control that involve prevention, habitat modification, repellents, and exclusion techniques to address issues without causing harm to animals or the environment.

The document discusses in depth the feeding habits, urban temptations and ecological benefits of white-tailed deer, coyotes and raccoons. Along with that information comes tips for helping wildlife coexist with humans and local resources for dealing with wild, injured or sick animals. The advisory also discusses feral cats, domestic dogs, tips for nature observation and being a good neighbor. The eight-page advisory is available online at: www.churchillborough.com/community/around-town/the-churchill-area-environmental-council.

CAEC is an eco-minded organization dedicated to assessing and improving the environmental impact of the communities in Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills, and Wilkins.

“What About the Deer?” Public Meeting Set for Aug. 11

The Churchill Borough Council Ad Hoc Deer Committee added a Citizen Sub-Committee to its efforts this year. These volunteers contributed their specialized skills and experience in specific areas of investigation. The Committee has sought the most factual and reliable sources available in addressing three principal negative impacts of white-tailed deer (WTD) in Churchill: Deer-Vehicle Collisions, Threat of Lyme Disease (LD) and Undesired Browsing of Plants.

Churchill Borough residents are invited to attend an in-person public meeting from 6:30-8 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11 at the Blackridge Civic Association. Residents who wish to speak must register in advance by contacting the Churchill Borough Office either by phone, email, or postal carrier, no later than Aug. 7. Speakers will be recognized by order of their registration and will be time-limited to accommodate all registrants.

The Deer Committee will distribute more detailed findings and recommendations to Churchill residents prior to the Aug. 11 public meeting through a link on the Churchill Borough website, Facebook and Savvy Citizen. The Deer Committee’s preliminary findings are as follows:

- 1. Deer Management** - After reviewing a variety of options to safeguard the health and welfare of our community, and in accordance with the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) guidelines, the Deer Committee does not endorse Churchill Borough’s removal of deer by lethal means to address the three negative impacts identified by our citizens.
- 2. Deer-Vehicle Collisions** - Churchill Borough’s public safety and public services staff have seen a consistent decline in the number of deer-vehicle collisions in Churchill during the last five years. Obeying speed limits and being vigilant while driving are the best ways to protect you and yours from collisions.
- 3. Threat of Lyme Disease** - WTD are incompetent vectors, meaning that the bacterium which causes LD (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) cannot survive in WTD. Reducing the abundance of WTD would not directly reduce tick abundance, and may increase the proportion of ticks feeding on competent LD vectors such as mice and raccoons. The Committee will provide specific recommendations for safeguarding humans and pets from disease-carrying ticks.
- 4. Undesired Browsing of Plants** - How to manage the overpopulation of WTD is a nationwide dilemma. The ability to objectively determine cause and effect and what constitutes “success” is beyond our capacity, particularly given Churchill Borough’s size and proximity to other densely populated suburban communities. Suburban deer will not disappear. Managing gardening expectations, adapting to change, planning and selecting appropriate plants, and adopting various techniques for reducing damage, are the most effective ways to respond to the reality of living with deer in our community.

The Deer Committee recommends the development of an ongoing dialog with the Churchill community, to share ideas, solutions, the latest research, and advice to help us all live more successfully with wildlife. We are all in this together.

Scott's Code Corner

Submitted by Scott Stonebraker, Property Safety Specialist



Greetings, residents of Churchill Borough! It is finally the time of the year when we can enjoy the warmer, sunny, outdoor-activity weather. Along with the beautiful weather, it also brings growth spurts for grass and weeds throughout the beautiful yards within the Borough. We all have the responsibility to keep Churchill beautiful and maintaining grass and weed growth is an important task to keep that standard of beauty.

As a reminder, ALL grass weeds in ALL yards of all properties shall be constantly maintained to a height of below six inches. As we all know, summer weather can bring violent storms throughout our region, leading to fallen trees or branches on the roadway and our properties. If a tree is ever found on a roadway or in a home, please call 911. As for trees or branches that fall onto yards or any parts of private property, the Borough is not involved in those situations. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy summer this year and I look forward to writing to you all in the fall.



From the Police Chief's Desk

Submitted by Ronald M. Akerley, Chief of Police



I am often questioned by residents as to what became of our merger discussions that occurred over the past year with the Wilkins Township Police Department. Despite all the hard work, best efforts and due diligence invested by all involved from both Churchill, Wilkins Township and the PA Department of Economic Development, the merger never came to fruition.

As you can imagine, there are many moving parts and variables to consider when attempting a project of this magnitude — personnel to vehicles, station location, financial responsibilities and everything in between. In the end, the decision was made to abandon the issue —for now — and for each to maintain our own police department. Regardless of this however, our police department maintains an excellent professional working relationship with Wilkins Township Police, as well as all our neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Essentially, most local area departments function as one and it has become common practice for officers from multiple departments to routinely respond to priority or in-progress incidents to ensure officer safety and that these matters are handled as effectively and safely as possible. Merged or not, residents can rest assured that they will continue to always receive the most professional and efficient services from their police department.

I am happy to report that our new solar-powered radar speed signs have finally been installed and are fully operational! One is located in the 1400 block of Beulah Road facing southbound traffic and the other is in the 2500 block of Greensburg Pike near the Woodland Hills High School, also facing southbound.

Though primarily installed to monitor and alert motorists of their travel speeds, these sophisticated devices

- continued on pg. 6

collect a multitude of data points that can be later reviewed and analyzed. They are also equipped with high-definition cameras. The signs also have the capability of displaying a variety of messages to motorists to provide useful or pertinent information such as AMBER Alerts, or can warn of hazards ahead. The signs are monitored and controlled by the police department, most of which is done so by remote computer access via the Cloud.

Over the past several months, police agencies across the country have experienced a significant rise in the theft of both Kia and Hyundai model vehicles, with thieves using nothing more than a screwdriver and something that can be found in nearly every vehicle these days – a simple USB cable. Thieves primarily target those vehicles that require a physical key to start the vehicle and are not a push button start.

A design flaw by the manufacturer made it so that the vehicle is not equipped with an immobilizer device which would require a key with a transponder chip inside to pair with the ignition system and computer in order for the vehicle to start. Instead, simply forcing a screwdriver into the ignition key slot and turning the ignition to the ‘run’ position unlocks the steering and gear shifter. The USB cable then connects to a port within the steering column and powers the ignition, therefore allowing the vehicle to start and drive as it would with the key inserted. Experienced thieves can enter and steal the vehicle in less than a minute.

These thefts have also become quite popular among teens on social media platforms where they both share their knowledge of how to steal these vehicles but also post videos of the thefts, joy-riding in the stolen vehicle and some even willfully engaging police in vehicle pursuits. If you own a Kia or Hyundai vehicle, particularly one that is equipped with a keyed ignition, please be mindful of this. In recent months, both Kia and Hyundai have released new software that can be installed on the vehicle’s ECU computer which can help to thwart these thefts. Affected vehicle owners should contact their local dealer to inquire.

As the summer months approach, please be mindful of your pets! We regularly receive calls to check on the welfare of dogs left unattended in vehicles as well as left outside for extended periods of time on hot days. When temperatures are up, forgo your car-riding companion and leave your dog at home. If walking your dog on cement or particularly on asphalt, be mindful that the surface temperature can be much higher than the ambient air temperature and can cause injury and burns to their paw pads.

If leaving your dog outside, the state’s ‘anti-tethering law’ mandates that the animal has shelter outside of direct sunlight and an ample water supply also outside of direct sunlight. If tethered, the tether or leash can be no shorter than 10 feet in length. The dog can be tethered no longer than nine cumulative hours within a 24-hour period and, if temperatures are either below 32 degrees or above 90 degrees, the dog may not be tethered any longer than 30 consecutive minutes.

Wishing all our residents a very fun-filled and safe summer season ahead!

Waste Management Updates Recycling Plant

In May, Waste Management (WM) announced the completion of close to \$23 million in automation updates to its Pittsburgh Recycling Facility. The updated facility is expected to be able to process up to 25 tons of material per hour.

“WM is excited about the opportunities these upgrades bring to our facility and recyclers across the region,” said Chris Pilzer, Capitol Area Director of Sustainable Growth. “This retrofit utilizes state-of-the-art equipment that focuses on artificial intelligence and optical sorting technologies that are expected to increase the amount of recycling we can process on behalf of local communities and businesses. It also expands our roster of acceptable materials and creates a higher-quality product for our end users.”

These technological advancements are expected to allow the upgraded facility to:

- Recycle more types of plastics, including polypropylene plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs
- Utilize intelligent sorting where conveyors and optical sorters communicate with each other and with technicians to improve material quality
- Include an additional optical sort line that serves as a final quality control measure for any recyclables not initially captured.

Message from the Mayor

Submitted by Mayor Paul Gamrat



The Borough of Churchill Police Department took delivery of a new 2024 Dodge Durango. This will replace Car 9, a 2013 Ford Taurus sedan with 109,395 miles. Car 9 was recently taken out of service due to mechanical issues. Currently, our officers log in an average 4,000 miles each month. Our fleet of police cruisers consists of five vehicles.

Being able to locate a home in an emergency is critical. This is another reminder to our residents about making sure that house numbers are clearly visible from the street. House numbers should be 3-to-6 inches tall, depending on how close they are to the street.

There has been a recent rise in vehicle thefts in Western Pennsylvania. Thieves are resorting to forced entry to take what is inside of the steal the vehicle. The Police department again reminds us to never leave valuables or your keys in your vehicle and make sure it is locked at all times.

We ask residents to be mindful of “No Parking” signs throughout the Borough. There may not be a sign every 10 feet but they are posted. Also make sure you are parked facing the flow of traffic.

We are in the process of hiring two new police officers. This hiring will replace one officer who left for another department and a pending retirement. We would like to maintain eight officers and the chief. Having this number will enable us to have two officers on duty each shift, reduce overtime costs and provide public safety at all times. In addition, when an officer is sick or injured, we will have the officers to fill in. Having the officers will help with monitoring traffic infractions, and responding to calls for service and proactive patrols.

Over the past five years, there were 265 crashes along the stretch of Interstate 376 in our jurisdiction. Churchill has been participating in discussions with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission to determine best practices for roadway safety. All are in agreement that speed, aggressive and distracted driving are factors in many of the accidents. It has become the norm to travel over the posted speed limits. Please set an example for others and obey the traffic laws.

Our officers are called to assist, along with our Volunteer Fire Department and EMS, for all reported accidents on I-376. This puts a strain on our resources and dedicated individuals. The VFD is reaching out for any volunteers to join them. There are many other jobs in the department beside actively fighting a fire. Churchill has just one resident on the Department. The rest live outside the Borough. If you know of anyone who would like to volunteer, have them contact the Churchill Volunteer Fire Department.

Officer Chris Lewandowski has recently completed training in two separate areas. He completed an extensive, three-week DRE (Drug Recognition Expert) class that certified him as an expert in identifying drivers who are impaired by narcotics, and even to the point of what type of narcotics. He will begin another three-week extensive training with PA State Police in Harrisburg for Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MCSAP). This will certify him to conduct detailed equipment safety inspections as well as weigh commercial motor vehicles. This will ensure that commercial vehicles traveling on borough roads are compliant.



The long awaited electronic Speed Alert signs have been installed. Speeds from 20 mph up to 90 mph, the sign will display the speed. A motorist’s speed will flash once they hit 10 mph over the limit (45), and the red/blue LED strobes begin flashing at 15 mph over (50). The Department will also be capable of gathering data to better monitor speeding. They are monitoring the 1400 block of southbound traffic on Beulah Road and southbound traffic at the 2500 block of Greensburg Pike. I thank Chief Ronald Akerley for his persistence and State Sen. Jay Costa with assisting us in getting the signs.

Have a safe and pleasant summer!

Churchill Volunteer Fire Company News



Stay Safe When Grilling

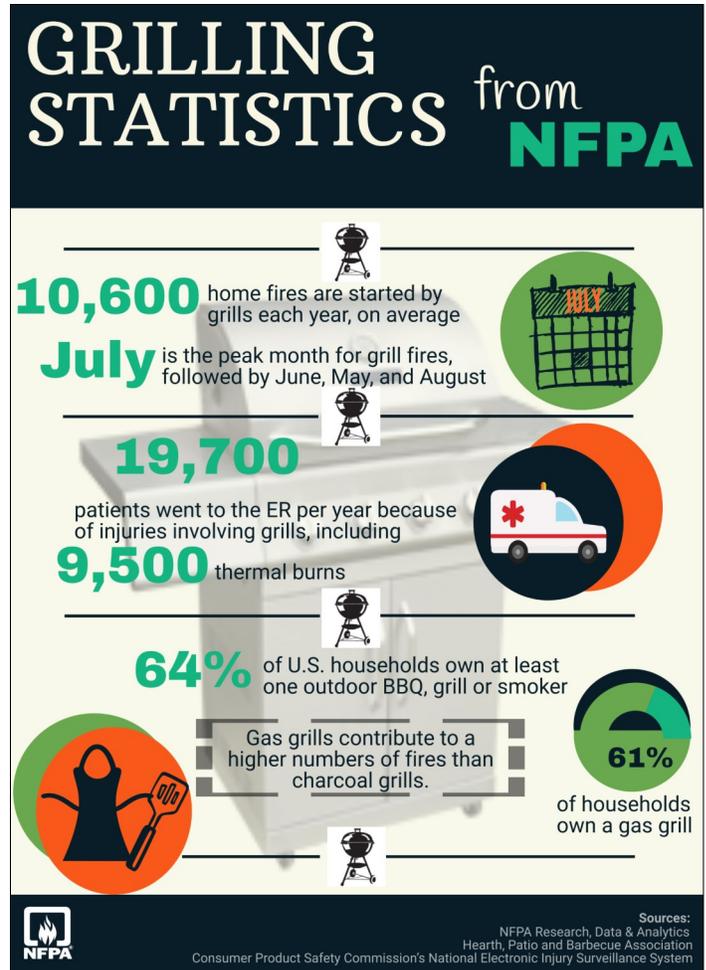
Summer is here! Time to light up the grill for a barbecue or spend time around the campfire with family and friends. In recent years, Churchill Fire Company has responded to several house fires caused by unsafe grilling and a number of grill-related fires. Here are some tips so you can enjoy a cookout or fire safely and avoid an unexpected visit from Churchill Fire Company and Churchill Police.

Do:

- Burn only clean firewood, charcoal or propane.
- Start your fire in a barbecue grill, chiminea or commercial fire pit.
- Locate your grill or fire more than 15 feet from your house, deck, sidewalk, street, cars and property lines.
- Have an adult tending the fire at all times.
- Call 911 as soon as something goes wrong. Don't wait, even one-minute matters!
- Have a hose or fire extinguisher nearby, just in case. But only after you call 911.
- Ensure the fire is completely out before leaving.

Don't:

- Burn trash, yard debris, or any chemicals or plastics.
- Burn next to or inside your house or garage, under a deck or tent, or near trees or shrubs.
- Leave your fire unattended.
- Burn on Allegheny County Air Quality Action days or during excessively dry conditions
- Put anything in the fire other than wood. **No fireworks!**



Stop By and See Us at Community Day

Churchill Volunteer Fire Company will be at the Churchill Community Day on Saturday, Aug. 10. Please stop by our tent to tour our fire trucks, learn more about the Fire Company and see how you might be able to help.

The Fire Company's alarm volume continues to rise, increasing demands on our firefighters. We need additional volunteers to continue to provide the best protection and service to Churchill and our neighbors.

Being a volunteer firefighter is about giving back to your community, learning some new skills, and making new friends as well. If you are over age 16, please volunteer to be a firefighter. All training and equipment are provided. You will be joining a great team and become a nationally certified firefighter at the end of training. Plus, you can earn a scholarship to CCAC for any associate or bachelor's degree program.

Stop by during Community Day, sign up at our website, www.churchillfire.org, or stop by the firehouse behind the Churchill Borough building at 7 p.m. any Thursday night.

Woodland Hills EMS

Submitted by Frank Mastandrea, EMS Chief



Woodland Hills EMS is the primary EMS service to Braddock Hills, Chalfant, Churchill, Forest Hills and Wilkins Township. So far this year, Woodland Hills EMS has responded to more than 2,500 calls for service. We employ 20 EMTs and paramedics and have been recognized by UPMC as one of the premier services in the area.

Woodland Hills EMS will be sending out our Subscription Drive 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 most treatment and no transport calls. 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 municipalities that use this program. Chalfant Borough does not participate in this program. They instead have elected to have a 0.5 mill EMS tax added. 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.

Coming soon to Woodland Hills EMS is a new additional unit, Medic 344, a Ford F-450, 4x4 with a conversion by Demer's. It will be added to the fleet of three medic units to help with the addition of emergency calls. It will contain the latest technology, including a Stryker Powerload system, LUCAS CPR device, advanced airway equipment, and advanced cardiac care. Look for Medic 344 on the streets of the boroughs very soon!

A Day of Fun at Bullock Pens Park

Submitted by Renee Dolney, Director, CRTRWA



On an absolutely beautiful Friday, May 24, 2024, about 70 excited fourth graders from Turner Intermediate School in Wilkinsburg spent an adventurous day in Churchill's Bullock Pens Park. This environmental education program was initiated by the Chalfant Run-Thompson Run Watershed Association (CRTRWA) in conjunction with the very appreciative Wilkinsburg School District.

The students learned about streams and watersheds and the importance of clean water for a healthy environment. More importantly, they learned that nature is beautiful, fun and right near-by. This program was made possible by the efforts of volunteers from the (CRTRWA) and the PA Master Watershed Stewards Network.

"We have been teaching kids about land, water, and erosion, but for them to actually see it up close and personal was amazing," said Wilkinsburg teacher Lauren Javens. "Bullocks Pen Park has absolutely perfect access for students to study the stream. The opportunity for my students to get in the stream and explore nature while learning about the human impact on their environment is priceless."

The students also worked together to remove some of the invasive knotweed growing along the path and asked if they could come back and remove more!

- continued on pg. 10

We felt so welcome at Bullock Pens Park and the pavilions were a wonderful place to have lunch and then to have a central place where the students could reflect on their experience and do art was great. We thank the borough of Churchill for sharing this fantastic natural area with the students!”

The students are looking forward to future trips to Bullock Pens Park to continue their study of the stream and to enjoy the walking trails and the biodiversity of the park.

Our Bullock Pens Park is an asset to the community. Churchill Borough is working to reopen and utilize the park as much as possible in the upcoming years. Much work needs to be done in the park, including cutting back knotweed and other vegetation to clear the path. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Paul Gamrat at the Borough Building.

Mid-Century Modern Home Tour Planning Begins



Did you know that Churchill has a significant number of unique Mid-Century Modern (MCM) homes? While there are other MCM homes scattered around Pittsburgh, Churchill has one the largest concentrations of MCM homes between New York and Chicago. Various accomplished architects, including modernist architect Tasso Katselas, designed many of the MCM homes in Churchill Borough. Tasso’s accomplishments also include designing buildings such as the Pittsburgh International Airport, Carnegie Science Center and the Allegheny County Jail.

The existence of modern architecture in Churchill spans beyond Tasso’s contributions. There are other modernist architects (e.g., Herbert Seigle) and designers, as well as artists such as Aaronel deRoy Gruber, who utilized the canvas known as Churchill to represent their modernistic passion in homes, landscapes, gardens, and artwork. Let’s share our community’s MCM imprint with others!

The Churchill Mid-Century Modern Home & Garden Tour “Pre-Planning” Committee, in partnership with Churchill Borough, the Recreation Board of Churchill and the Pittsburgh Modern Committee of Preservation Pittsburgh, welcome you to participate in the inaugural edition of the Churchill Mid-Century Modern Home & Garden Tour, which we proposed to take place in Fall 2025.

Interested in being part of this extraordinary event? There are many ways to participate:

- Have your MCM home and garden considered for inclusion as part of the tour
- Become part of the official Planning Committee to help shape and organize the event
- Research, contribute and/or volunteer at various points throughout this journey.

If interested in participating in any way, we ask that you complete the Interest Form, which is available within this new webpage <https://www.churchillborough.com/community/recreation-board/churchill-midcentury-modern-home-garden-tour>. You can also scan this QR code to link directly to the Interest Form.



If you encounter difficulty submitting the form or need to contact us, please submit inquiries via email to RecBoard@churchillborough.com. Please include reference to the “MCM H & G Tour” in your subject line.

While we prefer electronic correspondence for this initial information gathering, we understand not everyone has digital access. If assistance is needed, you can reach out to the Churchill Borough office via phone at 412-241-7113 to provide contact information and express your level of interest. A committee member will reach out to you within two weeks of any inquiries and in response to all correspondence received.

Our webpage will be updated periodically with details, guidelines, event progress and information for residents, participants, and other contributors and sponsors. Check it now for additional information.

Thank you from the Churchill MCM Home & Garden Tour “Pre-Planning” Committee:
 Michael O’Brien, Churchill Recreation Board
 Brittany Reilly, Pittsburgh Modern Committee of Preservation Pittsburgh
 Jay Gamze, Churchill Tree Committee
 Joe Kotelnicki, Churchill Recreation Board

Churchill Borough Tree Committee Update

Submitted by Ken Balkey, Chair, Churchill Borough Tree Committee



The Churchill Borough Tree Committee successfully conducted its first ever Arbor Day tree planting event in collaboration with the Allegheny Land Trust at the Churchill Valley Greenway on Saturday, April 27. About 30 volunteers participated in planting close to 100 trees of varying species on the hillside below Saybrook Drive. Volunteers involved families and individuals, ranging from youth to young-at-heart seniors.

Special thanks go to Dani Kramer, Field Coordinator, and Caitlin Seiler, Vice President of Stewardship of the Allegheny Land Trust, for providing the trees and tools needed for the planting and in recruiting volunteers for the event. ALT Board Member Patricia DeMarco is also acknowledged with appreciation for coordinating registration on the morning of April 27. The Tree Committee also thanks Churchill Mayor Paul Gamrat and Judy Diorio for reaching out to the Churchill and Blackridge Garden Clubs to recruit volunteers.



The Tree Committee joined Dani Kramer a few weeks after the planting to revisit all the new tree sites, including ones completed by a school group following the Arbor Day event. Minor adjustments were made to give the new trees their best chance to survive and thrive. The 150 trees planted in April 2023 by 80 Woodland Hills students were also revisited and checked. While several protective tubes had to be straightened and reconnected, all the trees planted last year are growing appropriately.

All the trees that were planted over the last three years at Woodland Hills Senior High School are also growing well. With the 200 new trees just planted at the Churchill Valley Greenway added to those previously planted, the new trees at the high school, and the hundreds of new trees planted by Beulah Presbyterian Church, Churchill Borough has added almost 1,000 new trees to the community since the start of this decade.

As a result of the Tree Committee article in the Spring 2024 Churchill Borough Newsletter, several residents contacted the borough office for help in addressing various issues facing the health of trees on their property. Issues ranged from prevention of spotted lanternfly infestation and invasive vines to unique threats to large, mature trees. Following a visit by a Tree Committee member, the residents have been pointed to appropriate professional help. In all cases, the Tree Committee is most appreciative of each of these residents doing what they can to save their precious trees. When many others share a similar perspective, such attitude will help Churchill Borough maintain and enhance its precious tree canopy.

Given the Arbor Day event, the Committee is completing the form to file for Tree City USA recognition with the Arbor Day Foundation. The Committee is also continuing to review ways to provide historic or heritage tree designation. Several residents have already expressed interest in having such a program.

Updates at the Greenway

Submitted by Lindsay Dill, ALT Senior Director of Marketing & Community Engagement



Churchill Valley Greenway is bustling with activity every season. Since conserving the land, Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) has collaborated with the community to improve the health and vitality of the green space's ecology and infrastructure. We're continuing those efforts by hosting an intern on-site this summer, developing management plan and launching new restoration efforts.

For those enjoying the greenway this summer, you may meet our 2024 Mark A. Mackay Conservation Intern Phoebe Brown. A recent graduate of Oberlin College, Phoebe will maintain and improve the health of the Greenway while also informing the community about Greenway happenings. Say hello if you meet them on the land!

Earlier this year, ALT hosted public meetings to gain input from community members and local leadership to inform a management plan for the Greenway. ALT is now working with planners to incorporate the summary of those conversations into the final management plan that will outline the site's maintenance, improvement, and programming. Supporters can expect to see this plan in the coming months.

Additionally, Greenway visitors can expect to see a flurry of stream restoration activity in the coming months. The state Department of Environmental Protection granted ALT \$2.7 million to remedy environmental impacts to Chalfant Run caused by acid mine drainage. Our team will utilize those funds to implement a treatment system on-site and will launch additional stream restoration efforts on-site to re-naturalize the stream and better support its ecological health. We hope you will follow along and bear with the short-term aesthetic sacrifice for long-term community and environmental benefit.

Visit our website for more information: alleghenylantrust.org.
Tickets and more information at alleghenylantrust.org/events.

Allegheny Land Trust Upcoming Events

Register at alleghenylantrust.org/events

July 17, 5-5:45 p.m.

WEBINAR: SNAKES OF PA

Aug. 21, 5-5:45 p.m.

WEBINAR: BATS OF PA

Sept. 4, 5-5:45 p.m.

WEBINAR: VULTURES; GROSS BUT GREAT!



Introduction Class to Bobbin Lace Making

Learn the basics of the art of making lace taught by a lacer with 40 years of experience. You will learn now to set up your lace pillow and complete three or four lace projects.

Evening classes for adults will be offered from 7-9 p.m. on Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22 in the Yagle Room/Churchill Borough Building. A \$40 refundable deposit is required for use of lace equipment.

To register, contact
pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com.

News from Tax Collector

Submitted by Danielle Weaver, Tax Collector



Churchill Borough

The Churchill borough taxes were mailed on March 1, 2024. The discount period ended on April 30 and checks will be returned if they are not paid at the face value.

To avoid the 10% penalty, taxes must be post-marked by June 30. If you are having difficulty paying your tax bills, please contact me.

Woodland Hills School District

Bills will be mailed on July 1, 2024.

Online Bill Pay

I'm encouraging everyone to use online bill pay. The account number is your lot/block number. Pay to is my name and address located on your bill: Danielle Weaver, Tax Collector, 3710 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235.

Please put your phone number in the memo. As always, if there are any questions, please call me at 412-241-0815 or email me at dweaver@churchillborough.com.

Intern Insights: Jakob Wells



As a recent transplant from the Pacific Northwest to the Steel City, my journey to the Churchill Borough Building has been more than just a career move—it's been a reconnection with my roots and a step towards new horizons.

Growing up in Washington State, I always felt a strong connection to my parents' Pittsburgh origins. Their stories of bustling neighborhoods, vibrant communities and the indomitable spirit of the Steel City sparked curiosity in me. So, when the opportunity arose for me to relocate to Pittsburgh this past April, I seized it eagerly, ready to immerse myself in the rich history of this city's culture.

My passion for technology, science and my love for animals have always been driving forces in my life. They are the guiding lights that led me to pursue an internship at the Churchill Borough Building through the Local Government Academy.

One of the most rewarding aspects of my internship has been the opportunity to organize events for the community. Each event has been a chance to engage with residents, form new connections, and make a positive impact. Through these events, I've witnessed firsthand the power of community collaboration and the importance of civic engagement. But my internship at Churchill Borough is more than just event planning—it's about communication and outreach.

In a world filled with constant noise and distractions, ensuring that everyone in the community is informed and engaged is paramount. I've been working hard to spread the word about upcoming events, important updates and resources available to residents.

Being in Pittsburgh has allowed me to not only reconnect with my family but also to form new connections within the community. The warmth and hospitality of the people here have made me feel right at home, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the community of Churchill.

As I look ahead to the rest of my internship and beyond, I am filled with excitement. There are still so many opportunities to explore and challenges to overcome. But one thing is certain: my time at the Churchill Borough Building has been nothing short of transformative, and I am eager to continue this journey of growth, discovery, and service.



**The Churchill Borough offices
will be closed on
July 4, 2024
to observe Independence Day
and on
September 2, 2024
to observe Labor Day.**



Fun in the Sun: Summer programs at C.C. Mellor Memorial Library

Refresh Your Wardrobe!

Clothing Swap - Refresh your wardrobe without worrying about price tags. We accept clothing of all types and sizes, for all ages. No need to bring donations to participate. Everything is free, no strings attached! All clothing left at the end of the swap will be donated. Stop by the Edgewood Club any time between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 6.

Uniform Swap - Kids grow out of uniforms so fast. Instead of buying new ones, stop by and get secondhand uniforms from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 10 in the Edgewood Club Ballroom.

Weekly Fun for Kids!

Summer Silliness - Join Ms. Amy for summertime games, crafts and projects. Join us on Fridays from 2-3 p.m. at CCM Edgewood and Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m. at CCM Forest Hills.

Summer Adventure Club (FH) - Join Ms. Jennifer each week where we'll read a picture book as a group and extend the fun with related activities and games. Taking place at CCM Forest Hills every Tuesday from 5-6 p.m.

Science Detectives - Explore a new area of science each week with hands-on activities and experiments. Taking place every Thursday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at CCM Edgewood.

Camps for Kids, Tweens, and Teens!

Registration for each camp will open at ccmellorlibrary.org two weeks before the start of the camp, so make sure to reserve your spot!

Tween D&D Camp - Join Ms. Becka for a week-long summer camp for kids who want to learn the basics of Dungeons & Dragons and tabletop RPGs from July 8-12 at 2-3:30 p.m. at CCM Edgewood.

Graphic Novel Camp - Spend a week creating your own graphic novel. Join Ms. Amy at CCM Edgewood from July 8-12 at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Head to the Carnegie Library of Swissvale Website for information about another session of this camp.

Comic Camp - Spend a week designing and writing a short comic strip with Ms. Amy. Join us from July 15-19 at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at CCM Edgewood.

Messy Art Camp - Make a mess and explore your creativity with cool art projects. Taking place July 22-25 from 1-2 p.m. at CCM Edgewood.

Kindergarten Camp - Get excited for a new school year and ease the transition into kindergarten with stories, songs and games at the library. Taking place August 5-8 with sessions at 1-2 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at CCM Edgewood.

CCM Library will continue with our regular programming including Family Story time, Makerspace Monday, Tween Club, Baby Talk, Teen Group, Knitting Group, Great Outdoors Book Club, Forest Hills Social Hour, The Wanderers, The Seekers, Music & Movement Story time, 4th Tuesday Book Club and Century Book Club throughout the summer.

Churchill Wilkins Rotary

The Churchill Wilkins Rotary will be sponsoring a putting contest at this year’s 2024 Churchill Community Day on Saturday, Aug. 10 for all residents and friends. The Rotary will have a drawing with a cash prize of \$50 awarded at 2 p.m. and at 4 p.m.

In order to qualify, the contestant must sink a hole in one during the putting contest. Thanks to the Churchill Borough Social Committee and the many volunteers for their hard work and dedication to making Churchill Day a special day and our Borough a wonderful place to live.

The Churchill-Wilkins Rotary held its 28th annual Golf Outing at the Edgewood Country Club. A total of 148 golfers hit the course and, in

addition, 60 people attended the dinner afterward. It was a huge success and we are looking forward to our Wine Tasting Dinner in October 2024 and next year’s golf outing. All proceeds benefit local organizations, including the CC Mellor Library, the Woodland Hills Foundation and Pace School, to name a few.

The Churchill Wilkins Rotary Club would like to extend an invitation to you to get to know us better by inviting you to one of our meetings. We can certainly use your help with our local and international community projects. Rotary is a non-political and non-religious international organization open to all people regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age. Membership is open to people in management and business ownership positions as well as retirees and people from all walks of life. You can live in any community worldwide to be part of our local Churchill Wilkins Rotary.



Churchill Wilkins Rotary members (l-r): Charles Bostaph, Nancy Carpenter, Nicolette Armstrong, Norm Johnson, Dick Farrell and Mark Ellison at Community Day 2023.



**Churchill Garden Club
Celebrates its
75th Anniversary**





Mayor Paul Gamrat presents a proclamation to Garden Club President Ilona Tassone in celebration of the club’s 75th Anniversary.

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:

Content Editor: Zandy Dudiak

Layout Editor: Leanne Longwill

Find us on social media:



[Churchill Borough](#)



[YouTube Churchill Borough](#)



[Churchill Borough](#)

Contact the Borough, Keep Informed

Any resident who has questions or concerns about Churchill Borough matters is encouraged to call or email us at 412-241-7113 or office@churchillborough.com.

Savvy Citizen - Simple. Convenient. Free. www.savvycitizenapp.com