



Churchill Borough Local Government Newsletter

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Fall 2024

Borough Council Fills Two Vacant Seats



Greg Prodonovich and
Matt Castiglia

At its September 9 meeting, Churchill Borough Council appointed Matt Castiglia and Greg Prodonovich to fill vacancies on Council that resulted from the resignations of two long-time councilpersons, Jay Dworin and Diane Law.

Castiglia previously served on Council for three years, chairing the Infrastructure Committee. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2009 with BS degree in civil/structural engineering and earned an MBA in business administration from Pitt in 2018. He worked his way up with a number of local engineering firms in the Pittsburgh region before starting his own consulting firm in January 2019. He and his family moved to Churchill in 2017, and “quickly fell in love with our vibrant street and wonderful neighbors that have become family over the years.”

“While Council was a great deal of work it was also an amazing opportunity to personally develop while serving by learning more about Borough functions and operations, working with diverse teams of staff and other elected officials, and advocating for our community on the regional and county level,”

Castiglia said. “I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our community.”

Prodonovich, a Beaver County native, is new to Council. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor’s degree in history.

- continued on pg. 3

Council Elects Ditillo as Vice President



Borough Council elected Andrea Ditillo as its Vice President at the September 9 meeting. She fills the post following the resignation of the former Vice President, Diane Law.

Ditillo, who was appointed to Council in March 2023 and won a seat in the 2023 general election, will serve alongside Council President Valerie Reinthaler.

- INSIDE -

Borough Council Fills Two Vacant Seats	pgs. 1 and 3	Churchill Volunteer Fire Company News	pg. 8
Council Elects Ditillo as Vice President	pg. 1	Churchill Community Day	pgs. 10-11
Outgoing Council Members Honored	pgs. 2-3	Garden Club News	pg. 12
Churchill Celebrates the Holidays	pg. 4	Churchill Borough Tree Committee Update	pg. 12
Scott’s Code Corner	pg. 5	Wilkins Elks News	pg. 13
News from the Tax Collector	pg. 5	How to Winter-proof Your Home	pgs. 13 and 15
Message from the Chief	pg. 5 and 9	C.C. Mellor Library Update	pg. 14
Message from the Mayor	pgs. 6-7	Churchill Wilkins Rotary	pg. 15

Two Outgoing Council Members Honored for Their Service



Mayor Paul Gamrat, Diane Law and Jay Dworin

Former Council President Jay Dworin and Vice President Diane Law were honored with proclamations issued by Mayor Paul Gamrat at Council’s September 9 meeting.

Gamrat acknowledged their individual decades of service to the Borough, and Council recognized and thanked them both for their service.



Mayor Paul Gamrat reading proclamation to Jay Dworin

Jay Dworin

Dworin devoted more than 12 years of outstanding leadership and dedication to the Borough both as President and a member of Council. During his tenure, he initiated Council’s first effort to partner with a neighboring community to explore creation of a regional police department for enhanced public safety.

Dworin played a key role in promoting the “Zone C-1 Planning and Visioning” public presentations by Pashek-MTA and consultants, including recruiting the Borough’s first citizen steering committee; and he effectively navigated the complexities associated with the Hillwood/Amazon development proposal over a challenging two-and-a-half-year period, demonstrating resilience and strategic acumen.

“His efforts have left a lasting impact on the community, promoting cooperation, innovation, and inclusivity,” Gamrat said.

Among Dworin’s other achievements:

- Secured \$1 million in grant funding, in collaboration with Senator Jay Costa, for the development of an all-inclusive playground, enhancing recreational opportunities and accessibility for all residents.
- Collaborated in the creation of the Churchill-Monroeville-Wilkins Multi-Municipal Implementable Comprehensive Plan.
- Successfully promoted public presentations and successfully transitioned to Zoom communications with the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2020.
- With 20 years of professional experience in providing fair housing and civil rights guidance, Dworin has consistently championed equitable and just practices within the community.



Mayor Gamrat and Diane Law

Diane Law

Law dedicated more than 10 years of exemplary service, both as a Council Member and Vice President. She was instrumental in transforming the Borough management from a conservative to a more progressive and engaged stance, fostering substantial growth and innovation. She recruited a professional team of staff and council members who brought “fresh perspectives and energy” to the Borough’s leadership.

Among her other achievements:

- Acting decisively to prevent fracking by working with community volunteers to develop a zoning ordinance amendment that has served as a model for other municipalities facing similar challenges from the oil and gas industry.
- Oversaw the elimination of the Collins Drive pump station, secured the Borough’s first major grant funding and initiated multi-municipal infrastructure collaboration.
- Co-founded the Woodland Hills School District (WHSD) Municipalities Consortium, bringing together 12 municipal governments to directly impact the school district for the first time since the 1981 court-ordered merger.
- Founded the Churchill Borough Tree Committee.
- Represented Churchill Borough with distinction in various regional and municipal organizations.

- Borough Council continued from pg. 1

After college, Prodonovich worked in a local government park. Drawn to the area because of its abundance of mid century homes, he and his husband and three dogs moved to Ridgewood Manor five years ago. He serves as president of the Ridgewood Manor Association.

“I love our neighborhood,” Prodonovich said. “We have a quiet street with the greatest neighbors you could possibly ask for. My love for not just our neighborhood but the community as a whole is what inspired me to join council. I will tirelessly work to foster growth, encourage positive change, and serve the citizens to help future Churchill compete as a desirable community where people can have the pleasure of living here, like I have. Let’s get to work!”

Both Castiglia and Prodonovich have additional volunteer and nonprofit experience.



It’s that time again!

**Churchill Borough
2024 leaf pickup dates are:**

**October 15, 22, 29
November 5, 12, 19, 26
December 5**

Churchill Celebrates the Holidays



- What:** Halloween Trick or Treating
When: Thursday, Oct. 31 - 6 to 8 p.m.
Where: If you decorate your house in October for Halloween, please send pictures to office@churchillborough.com so we can post them on the Borough's social media.



- What:** Churchill's Annual Toy Drive
When: Beginning Nov. 1
Where: Please drop any unwrapped at our bin in the lobby at the Borough Building. More details to come.



- What:** Holiday Party
When: Friday, Dec. 6 - 5 to 8 p.m.
Where: Council Chambers in the Borough Building
 Join us for hot chocolate, desserts and cookie decorating for the kids! Santa will make a special appearance at 6:30 p.m. and will help Mayor Paul Gamrat light the Christmas Tree at 7 p.m.



- What:** Pet Photos with Santa
When: Friday, Dec. 13 - 5 to 8 p.m.
Where: Yagel Room in the Borough Building
 Get your pet's picture taken with Santa. To register for an appointment, email office@churchillborough.com or call 412-241-7113 ext. 201 or go to www.churchillborough.com.



- What:** Santa Parade
When: Saturday, Dec. 14 - 5 to 8 p.m.
Where: Look for the parade route on social media.



- What:** Holiday House Decorating
When: Throughout the holiday season.
Where: We'd love to have you decorate your house and send us pictures so we can post them on the Borough's social media. They can be sent to office@churchillborough.com.

News from the Tax Collector

Submitted by Danielle Weaver, Tax Collector



The Churchill Borough taxes were mailed March 1, 2024. The final notices will be sent Oct. 31. Unpaid taxes will be sent to Jordan Tax Service on Dec. 31. Additional fees will be added and a lien will be placed on the property. Any payment that can be made between now and Dec. 31 will reduce the tax and additional penalties added by Jordan Tax Service.

Woodland Hills School Taxes

The discount period is over, and taxes paid at face or installments are due by Oct. 31.

If you are having financial issues and find it difficult to pay your taxes in full,

please contact me.

Return Receipt Requested

I have been receiving requests for return receipts with notes attached to the payment and envelopes with no stamp. These will not be honored. You must include a SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE AND BOTH COPIES OF YOUR TAX BILL.

Please Include Your Phone Number on Your Check

This will not be shared with anyone; it is for my use only. Several checks were returned this year because of errors and a few resulted in additional charges.

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 (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.

Message from the Chief

Submitted by Police Chief Ronald M. Ackerly



As we know, significantly high inflation costs are creating a real strain on all aspects of daily life. From interest rates to utilities, groceries, fuel and everything in between, many if not all of us are feeling the impact. Local governments are certainly not immune, as we – your collective government officials and leaders – have been experiencing as we work thru preparing the 2025 borough budget.

In nearly every city, borough or municipality across the country, public safety accounts for one of the largest demands on the available budgetary resources. This comes as no surprise as public safety, consisting of police, fire and EMS services are and have always been a 24/7/365 operation. Staff is on the clock every minute of every day. Vehicle and equipment maintenance, repair and replacement is required regularly. In fact, in just the last 2 years, the cost of purchasing and outfitting a police vehicle has risen from an average of \$54,000 to nearly \$67,000. Training, equipment, insurances, overtimes costs and many other aspects also play a pertinent role in why this is so.

As it pertains to Churchill and for 2024, the police department alone accounts for 49.58% of the total budget. As your Chief of Police, I am tasked with not only managing the daily operations of the department and its personnel but, just as importantly, with ensuring that the budgetary funding allotted for police operations is utilized as effectively and efficiently as possible. During my 5+ year tenure as Chief thus far, I have done whatever possible to accomplish just that. From the creation of a vehicle fleet management plan to modifications of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the officers as well as the revamping of how officer scheduling is managed, I have committed myself to ensuring that the taxpayer dollar is stretched as far as it

- continued on pg. 9

Message from the Mayor

Submitted by Mayor Paul Gamrat



Congratulations to new council members Greg Prodonovich and Matt Castiglia, who were appointed to fill the two vacancies on Borough Council.

Our Police Department is happy to announce the addition of Officer Zachery Janocko. Officer Janocko comes with experience and has passed all requirements, received the approval of Chief Ronald Akerley and completed his field training in the Borough.

I would like to acknowledge all of our police officers for their dedication and professionalism. We have experienced a higher than normal summer for service and proactive patrol engagements and details.

Residents may have noticed the newly installed permanent electronic speed monitoring signs located on Beulah Road and Greensburg Pike. I want to thank the Chief for his persistence and our State Senator Jay Costa, who helped with securing grant money to make this possible.

The first round of data has come in from the new signs. The data reported that an average of 4,530 vehicles travel southbound daily on Greensburg Pike with an average speed of 39.1 miles per hour (mph); 38% travel between 41-50 mph and the fastest speed recorded at 86 mph.

An average of 5,171 vehicles traveled southbound daily on Beulah Road at an average speed of 41 mph, with 48% of drivers traveling between 41-50 mph. Most disturbing is that 20 motorists were traveling 80+ mph, six motorists traveled 90 mph and one reached a speed of 99 mph. The Chief is able to use this data to coordinate efforts in scheduling police patrols in the targeted areas.

We urge motorists to obey the posted speed limits at all times and everywhere you drive.

In other Police Department news, Officer Chris Lewandowski has completed the required training to be certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). It is a demanding and rigorous course and only 30 officers are currently certified in Western Pennsylvania. This training is used for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement and is used to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.

As mayor, I have made a commitment to welcome every new resident to our borough. Since 2016, I have stopped by with a Welcome Packet of information to welcome over 470 new residents. The reaction has been rewarding for me and I hope for the residents as well. If I haven't stopped by, you can rest assured that I have a packet for you. If for some reason you haven't been visited, please let me know.

I also invite new residents to attend Borough Council meetings to meet council and other administrators. Of course, we welcome long-time residents to join us as well. The workshop meeting is held the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Borough Conference Room. The regular business meeting is the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers. There is also a link on the website to join the meeting remotely.

A copy of the Welcome Packet can be found at our website, www.churchillborough.com. Look under Community, Resident Packet Information. While you are on the site, also check out the videos in the Manager's Corner.

We have replaced police vehicle Car 9, a 2013 Ford Taurus Sedan that had 109,395 miles, with a 2024 Dodge Durango. This replacement is in line with council's plan to replace the cars on a scheduled maintenance program.

Our five-car fleet is in service every day and covers 2.7 square miles of Borough roads, so wear and tear on the vehicle is demanding. Car 9 has been destriped and is currently being used by our Code Enforcement Officer, Scott Stonebraker.

Other Reminders from the Police Department

We ask residents to make sure their homes are clearly marked with the house numbers. This is very important when emergency vehicles are locating addresses.

- Soliciting in the Borough requires a person or company to obtain a permit from the office through the Chief of Police. Police will grant a permit and issue identifying credentials to the individual. The identification should be properly displayed by the individual going door to door. The Police Department has a description of both the individual and their vehicle(s). Permits have an expiration date. In addition, the solicitor will be given a list of residents who are on a no-solicitation list. You may contact the office to be placed on the list or place a no-solicitation sign near your door or on your residence property.
- Always lock all vehicle doors when left outside. Do not leave valuables inside or in plain sight. Actors will walk by and try all doors to gain access. When they find one unlocked, they enter and take anything of value. Never leave keys in the ignition. The owners of all reported stolen cars had left the keys in the ignition.
- On-street parking is limited in the borough. Typically, overnight parking is monitored between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. Residents are advised to use their driveways and remove vehicles at night. Also, when parking on the street, your vehicle should be parked with the flow of traffic. Most of our streets have “No Parking” signage on marked sides of the street.
- As winter approaches, residents are reminded that it is their responsibility to remove and keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice. This includes the walkways along Greensburg Pike and Beulah Road. We have many opportunities for residents to volunteer to work on projects throughout the Borough. Please contact Mayor Paul Gamrat if you think you would be interested in exploring these opportunities.

I wish to thank Councilpersons Jay Dworin and Diane Law for their contributions to Churchill Borough. They have faithfully served on the council for the past 11 years. Their guidance and leadership have been proven over the years. We appreciate all the volunteer hours they have given to make sure the Borough runs efficiently and provides the best of services to its residents.

Celebrating Churchill Community Day Success



The Recreation Board and Borough Administration attended a dinner to celebrate all their hard work and time on this year's Churchill Community Day in August. From left to right are Ashley Brown, Sharon Pedrotti, Maddie DeSanno, Deb Casini Klein, Marti Baran, Michael O'Brien, Danielle Weaver, Kelly Stouffer, Helen DeFranco, Janet Paull and Nicolette Armstrong

Churchill Volunteer Fire Company News



Help Us Help You

How can you help? Churchill Volunteer Fire Company needs additional volunteers to serve as fire-fighters and vehicle rescue technicians. Please contact us if you are age 16+ and would like to join our group of dedicated volunteers. All training and equipment are provided at no cost; all you need is to be willing and able to help. Those with prior fire, EMS or military experience are encouraged to join.



To learn more, visit <https://www.churchillfire.org/volunteer> or stop by the fire station on the second, third or fourth Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

Here are some statistics on the types of incidents over the summer months where we could have used your help.

- **In June:** 5 fires, 21 vehicle accidents, 5 downed power lines, 4 gas/carbon monoxide issues, 16 automatic alarms, 6 smoke/odor incidents and 2 service calls.
- **In July:** 3 fires, 14 vehicle accidents, 5 gas/carbon monoxide issues, 1 smoke odor incident, 11 automatic alarms, 5 service calls.
- **In August:** 5 fires, 18 vehicle accidents, 3 smoke/odor incidents, 16 automatic alarms, 4 gas/carbon monoxide alarms.

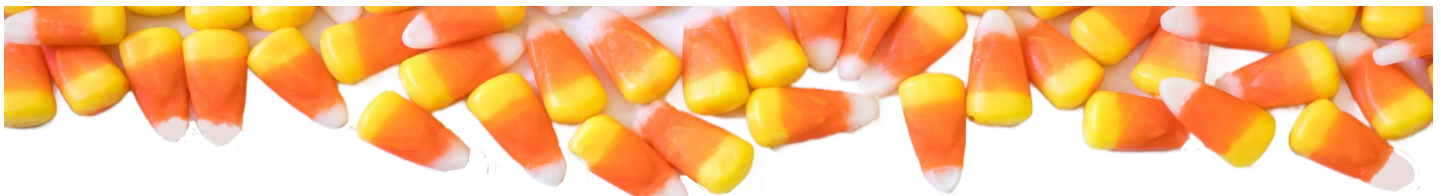
We responded to 332 incidents through the end of August. We answer the call at all hours of day and night in Churchill and assist fire companies in several adjacent boroughs and townships.

October 6-12 is National Fire Prevention Week.



Please remember to test your smoke detectors monthly, replace any detectors that are more than 10 years old and vacuum around your detectors periodically. Each year, the fire company responds to many calls caused by expired detectors. Detectors with 10-year, tamper-proof batteries are recommended to minimize maintenance.

Smoke detectors should be installed in each bedroom, in the hallway outside sleeping areas and at least one detector should be placed on each level of your home. If cost is an issue, there are free resources available to help through the American Red Cross. Search "Red Cross Smoke Alarm Request" online to find out more.



Halloween Safety Tips

Excitement is in the crisp, fall air and trick-or-treaters of all ages are preparing for the festivities. But it's best to be aware. Halloween can pose its own special dangers, and increased evening activity around our homes and neighborhoods can result in accidents and insurance claims. The first rule of thumb for parents and property owners is to be prepared and minimize the risks.

Safety tips for parents

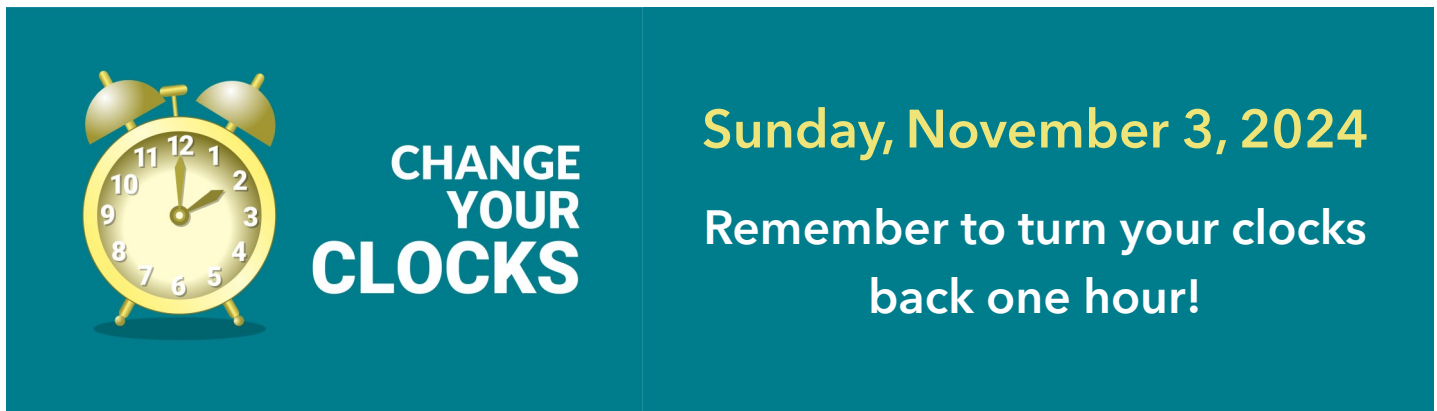
- Make sure costumes fit properly; loose-fitting costumes can cause a child to trip and fall.
- Use makeup instead of masks. Some masks can obstruct a child's vision.
- Discuss safety rules with kids before allowing them to go trick-or-treating. Set a trick-or-treating route and stick with it.

- Remind children to visit homes familiar to them and not to approach unlit homes.
- Provide kids with small, battery-powered flashlights.
- Stay on sidewalks and avoid crossing yards.
- Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks (where they exist) and do not cross between parked cars.
- No one eats any neighborhood treats without Mom or Dad's inspection.

Safety tips for neighbors

- Turn on all outside lights. Leave them on all night to deter vandalism.
- Make sure walks and pathways are clear of debris, leaves, garden equipment and lawn decorations.
- Repair walkways, railings and steps leading to your home.
- If a pumpkin gets smashed on your sidewalk, clean up all the slippery goo.
- Move cars, bikes, planters, sprinklers and other items into a locked garage or inside the house to deter theft or vandalism.
- Swimming pool owners - Be sure the pool cover is secure, gates are locked and lights are on around the pool area.
- Drivers - Slow down. It will be dark. Children will be running excitedly. Watch for them in the street and on medians. Exit driveways and alleyways with care and caution.
- Pet owners - Watch your dog. If it is not used to little visitors, keep it away from the front door.

Source: Pennsylvania Insurance Department, www.insurance.pa.gov.



- *Message from the Chief continued*

can possibly go while still maintaining the highest degree and quality of services to our residents and visitors. Rest assured that I will continue to do what I can, daily, to ensure this continues.

On a regular basis, I receive phone calls and emails from concerned residents from nearly every area of the borough who want to report the unsafe driving habits of motorists in their respective neighborhoods. Speeding, stop sign violations, school bus passing and distracted driving are most commonly at the root of their complaint. Often times, these residents are frustrated, even angry, and frequently question the commitment or strategy by our department in enforcing such matters. Though I echo the concerns of all residents as it pertains to these dangers, it is important to know and understand that we are a small police department currently consisting of nine full-time officers.

Despite our best efforts and committing a large portion of our daily patrol efforts to traffic enforcement, these problems do, and will always exist. That is not to say that we are in any way deterred and we will continue to make our best efforts in curtailing these issues when and where we possible. In collaboration with Borough administration and PennDOT efforts, we have also taken more significant proactive measures such as roadway and intersection studies, the installation of sophisticated solar-powered, electronic speed signage on some of our major thoroughfares as well as roadway lane designation modifications, restrictions and restriping. It is my sincere hope that all these efforts combined with the continued dedicated enforcement actions of my officers will lead to Churchill being one of the safest Boroughs in which to reside and travel.

Churchill Community Day

Churchill Borough would like to thank the following sponsors of Churchill Community Day: Tucker and Arensberg PC, Wolfe Memorial, Pashek, Vigliotti Landscape and Construction, Churchill-Wilkins Rotary Club, Campbell Durant PC, Ilona Tassone-Howard Hanna, Gateway Engineers and Konica Minolta. We would also like to thank Pace School for the use of the school grounds for Community Day.





Garden Club News

Litter Pickup

I would like to thank the members of the Churchill Garden Club for their monthly litter pickup. Every third Wednesday of the month, the Garden Club gathers at the Churchill Borough Building at 9 a.m. They organize groups to pick up litter on the entrances and exits of the Parkway. On any given day, they can pick up 10 to 11 construction bags full of litter. If you have the time and interest, we invite you to join the Garden Club to help keep the Borough clean. If you don't have time, we ask you please do not litter. Thank you.

Submitted by Pattie Gamrat, Churchill Garden Club

Churchill Borough Tree Committee Update



Tracy Sherksnas once again kindly hosted the Tree Committee table and displays at the Churchill Community Day on Saturday, August 10 with help from fellow Tree Committee members Natalie Boydston and Jay Gamze. Ruth Anne Balkey constructed displays for children to place leaves on felt material, allowing them to collectively build an attractive tree as shown in the diagram. A Tree Heritage Program poster was also available to obtain valuable feedback and support from residents. The Committee continues to review ways to provide historic or heritage tree designation and is also completing the form to file for *Tree City USA* recognition with the Arbor Day Foundation.

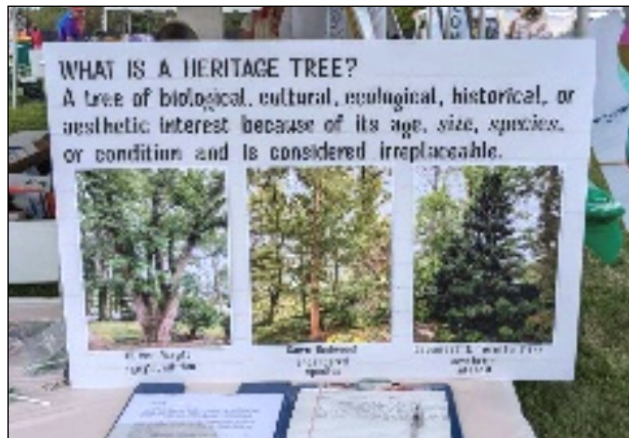
An opportunity exists for everyone to help plant more trees once again at the Churchill Valley Greenway on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., similar to our Arbor Day event in April. This event is being hosted by the Allegheny Land Trust (ALT). Registration is available using the following ALT link - [Tree Planting: Churchill Valley Greenway - Allegheny Land Trust](#).

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy recently reported that the urban forest in cities and municipalities like Churchill is a complex tapestry made up of trees growing alongside well-kept streets and in our yards, as well as those in our park, school and church grounds, and green spaces. Collectively, these trees form a borough-wide canopy, an intricate system facing unprecedented threats.

This year, our region has experienced another hot summer accompanied by unpredictable dry spells. The stress on our trees has never been more significant. Invasive species and deer overabundance compound its impact, jeopardizing the long-term health of our borough forest. Many of these challenges are projected to become more severe in coming years. Removing non-native species has been a first step before planting new trees, particularly in the Churchill Valley Greenway. To combat deer impact, all newly planted trees have protective guards or deer exclosure fences. Despite these challenges, our Tree Committee remains committed to maintaining and enhancing our tree canopy working with our borough residents.

Finally, the best time to trim oak trees, which are prevalent throughout our borough, is in the coming months, preferably after Nov. 1 and before March 1. When your oak tree is dormant during this period, the tree is not actively growing. Pruning trees during this time will limit and prevent the spread of fungal and insect infestations, particularly oak wilt.

Submitted by Ken Balkey, Chair, Churchill Borough Tree Committee



Wilkins Elks News

Drug Take Back Day

The Wilkins Elks Lodge, in conjunction with the Wilkins Township Police Department, is hosting a Drug Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Wilkins Elks Lodge, 728 Brown Avenue, Turtle Creek, 15145.

This is the time to empty your medicine cabinets of all old over-the-counter drugs and outdated prescriptions you never used or finished. We will take it all. No need to remove labels. Just bring them as they are and deposit them into our boxes for proper disposal. We will even take your fur babies' prescriptions. **Please no liquids or needles.**

There is a proper way to dispose of old medications and the Drug Take Back Program at the Wilkins Elks ensures that this happens. Police will take possession and dispose of all dropped-off medications. Mark your calendars and we'll see you at the Wilkins Elks on Saturday, Oct. 26.

Scholarships Available Through Wilkins Elks

The Wilkins Elks has over \$3.5 million each year available to 2025 graduating seniors from local high schools. Do you have a senior in your family graduating in 2025, are they planning on going to a college or university next school year and do you need a little help with paying for tuition, room and board, books and more?

Well, Wilkins Elks is offering them the opportunity to apply for the Most Valuable Student Scholarship. There are over 500 separate scholarships awarded yearly ranging from \$4,000 to \$50,000 paid over years. Here is the link to the online application process: <https://www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/MVS.cfm>.

In this same area you can find FAQs about the program. Applicants are notified by email about the scholarship awards. Eligibility is simple:

- Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply.
- Applicants **do not** need to be related to a member of the Elks or have any affiliation.
- High school graduates are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are submitted; permanent legal resident status does not qualify.

The applications for the 2024-2025 school year will open on Aug. 1 and close on Nov. 3. It is a short window, so don't miss your opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Raible at 412-860-7088.

How to Winterproof your Home



Standard homeowner policies will cover winter-related disasters such as burst pipes, ice damming and wind damage, but consumers should keep their property well-maintained so that filing an insurance claim can be avoided altogether. Take steps now to protect your property from damage that could occur from freezing temperatures, snow and wind.

Outside your home:

- Clean out gutters by removing leaves, sticks and other debris so melting snow and ice can flow freely.
- Trim trees and remove dead branches, as the weight of ice and snow could cause branches to break and may damage your home, car or injure someone walking by your property.
- Seal cracks or holes on outside walls and foundations with caulk or weather stripping to prevent melting snow from seeping in.

Inside your home:

- Maintain a constant temperature in your home to keep your pipes from freezing.
- Adding extra insulation in your attic could prevent heat from escaping through your roof, causing snow to melt faster and overload your gutters.
- Check your pipes for cracks or leaks, and wrap any exposed pipes with insulation or heating tape.

- continued on pg. 15



Rainbow Readers - The Rainbow Readers is a brand-new book club dedicated to creating a queer space in public libraries. In partnership with Write Pittsburgh, we will be reading primarily queer-centered stories and stories by queer authors. Join us at CCM Edgewood from 6-7 p.m. every third Tuesday, ages 16 and up.

Medicare 101 - Learn everything you need to know as you approach this important milestone. This free educational class will cover how and when to enroll, working past 65 and delaying Medicare Part B, what Medicare does and does not cover, your expected costs, Medicare Supplement vs. Medicare Advantage, prescription drugs and the donut hole. Call 412-771-6868 to register and join us at CCM Edgewood on Sept. 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Part A and on Oct. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. for Part B.

Computer Basics Class - Here is the computer basics class that you have been waiting for! For beginners and those who want to improve their computer skills or learn new programs. Bring your questions and your device, if you have one. Computers will be provided. This six-week course begins on Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 5 at CCM Forest Hills from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Adult Yoga & Relaxation - Gentle yoga stretches and strengthening postures are interwoven with breath awareness and relaxation. This class is suitable for beginners and those with prior yoga experience. Please bring a mat, a blanket, yoga blocks (if you have them) and a strap/belt/scarf. Go to ccmellorlibrary.org for details.

Frog and Toad Tea Party - Celebrate these beloved storybook characters with a Frog and Toad Tea Party, complete with stories, snacks, crafts and games! Best for children ages 3-8 and their families. Please register at ccmellorlibrary.org. Join us on Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Children's Programming Room at CCM Edgewood.

Pumpkin Storytime at Forest Hills - Pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins will be rolling out at our Forest Hills branch. Come enjoy a special Saturday Storytime with pumpkin stories and a craft on October 19 at 1 p.m.

Red, White, and Blue Storytime at Forest Hills - Election Day is almost here. 'Tis the season to wear your red, white and blue at our Forest Hills branch. Come enjoy a special Saturday Storytime with patriotic stories and a craft at 1 p.m. on Nov. 3.

Election Day Bake Sale - We are looking for bakers and volunteers to help with the Forest Hills Election Day Bake Sale to be held at the Westinghouse Lodge. Sign-ups are available at both Edgewood and Forest Hills libraries, by contacting Jennifer Bell at bellj2@ccmellorlibrary.org, or by calling 412-436-2390 on days that the FH branch is open.

Minecraft Mob - Experience your favorite game IRL at the library with crafts, games, snacks, and more in stations around the children's room at CCM Edgewood. Whether you are a Minecraft noob or a pro, we will have plenty of stations around the library to keep you entertained IRL! Join us at CCM Edgewood from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on November 16 and craft the day away.

Adult Nature Programs – October & November

Nature's Tricks and Treats - Caterpillars that look like snake eyes? Snakes that try to look like each other? Plants that pretend to offer a sweet treat to insects...aka...dinner? The wild world is full of hidden "tricks" as a part of survival. While we celebrate the candy version of tricks and treats this Halloween, nature has some tricks going year-round! Go to ccmellorlibrary.org for more information.

Animal Behavior - How do animals find resources, organize their social groups, and communicate with each other?

Our full slate of regular programs will continue through the fall including Baby Talk, Family Storytime, Music and Movement Storytime, Tween Club, Teen Group, Makerspace Monday, The Wanderers, Forest Hills Social Hour, Knitting Group, Conversation Salon, Fourth Tuesday Book Club, Century Book Club, Drop Dead Book Club, Great Outdoors Book Club, Mahjong and Crating Circle.

Please visit our website, ccmellorlibrary.org, and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Churchill Wilkins Rotary

Rotarians Receive Harris Award



Five members of the Churchill-Wilkins Rotary were honored with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award at a recent meeting.

From left to right, they are Carol Johnson, current club president; Donna Perry, former Churchill Borough manager; Cheryl Johnson; Dr. Steve Corey, past president; and Dr. Norm Johnson, the club's Paul Harris Chair and an eight-time recipient of the award. Wilkins-Churchill Rotary awards the honor to individuals who meet the high professional standards exemplified by Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary International.

Congratulations to all for their service and friendship.

Did you know Churchill has a GIS Portal? Residents can apply for permits, view existing zoning districts and track progress on the Borough's ongoing tree inventory project.

Check it out at <https://churchill-borough-gis-portal-chllboro.hub.arcgis.com/>

- Winterproof your Home continued

Make sure that smoke and fire alarms are working properly, and consider installing a carbon monoxide detector. Know where your pipes are located and learn how to shut the water off if your pipes freeze.

If you have to file a claim:

- Contact your insurance company immediately to report your loss. Follow the instructions given to you by claims personnel.
- Take notes on any conversations you have with the insurance company and photograph the damage, both inside and outside of your home.
- Wait for the adjuster to arrive! Your adjuster's visual inspection of your loss may be necessary before repairs are undertaken. Do not throw away damaged property until your adjuster advises you it is all right to do so.
- If your home is damaged, make only temporary repairs until a claims adjuster looks at the damage.
- Making permanent repairs before the inspection could trigger a denial of your claim.
- Be careful when choosing a contractor to make repairs. Before signing a contract, check references to make sure you are working with a reputable firm. Consumers need to be prepared so they are not taken advantage of by unscrupulous businesses or people. Consumers should examine their options, get more than one estimate, ask for and check references, and, most importantly, get everything in writing.

Source: Pennsylvania Insurance Department, www.insurance.pa.gov.

Churchill Borough
2300 William Penn Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Churchill Borough Elected Officials:

Mayor: Paul Gamrat

Borough Council:

President: Valerie Reinthaler

Vice President: Andrea Ditillo

Cherylie Blair Fuller

Brooke Burchette-Williams

Deb Casini Klein

Matt Castiglia

Greg Prodonovich

Tax Collector: Danielle Weaver

Churchill Borough Government Newsletter:

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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.

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