

# FREE

MAY 2011

## BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL

2300 William Penn Highway  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Telephone: 412-241-7113

office@churchillborough.com

Fax: 412-241-0503

The black gold mulch will be distributed on Saturday, June 11 and 18 between the hours of 8AM-2PM at the Joint Compost Area, corner of Business Route 22 and Rodi Road. Bring your own containers and there is a suggested donation of \$2/vehicle. Delivery is available at a cost of \$10/bucket of mulch (2 buckets equals 4 cubic yards), plus \$30 for delivery.

Use the "black gold" (leaf mulch from the borough's Joint Municipal Compost Area) to control weeds on your property. First, cut down unwanted plants that are already tall. Then, spray with an herbicide like Round-up or Weed-B-Gone. Follow package directions and dilution instructions if you buy the concentrate. (Never use herbicides on lawns unless the label specifically says the formulation is safe for narrow-leaved plants.) After a week or so the weed killer will have done its job (a second application may be needed for resistant plants) and it will have bio-degraded into harmless by-products, thanks to soil microbes.

Spread a 4 - 6 inch layer of "black gold" over the entire area to suffocate any seeds and plant parts that may remain viable in the soil. They will not have enough stored energy to grow up through the thick mulch layer to reach needed light. You can plant annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees in the treated area right into the mulch. Leave an unmulched "moat" around the base of trees so that rodents will not nest or feed against the bark.

"Black gold" mulch will not only help control weeds, it is a source of plant nutrients (use less commercial fertilizer), a moisture retainer (water less often), and a good source of organic matter that will improve the tilth (texture) of your soil. That's why we have dubbed it "black gold." It's the gift that your composted autumn leaves return to us each spring. Pick up your share in June and use it liberally. It even looks nice, giving a woody, natural appearance to your garden.



## 1-DAY, MULTIPLE ITEM RECYCLING

CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING  
LOWER LEVEL PARKING LOT  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011 - 10A-2P

Construction Junction, 214 N. Lexington St., Pittsburgh PA 15208, 412-243-5025, is a non-profit retail store that sells donated building materials at a greatly reduced cost. Waste generated by construction can be reduced through the socially and environmentally responsible act of donation. They provide an itemized receipt of your donations for tax deductions. You assign the value to your item. They inspect all donations and reserve the right to reject material that cannot be resold or items that they currently have that are overstocked.

Please call if you have questions on what types of items are acceptable. Remember, they are NOT A DISPOSAL SERVICE. A small list of acceptable items are: doors, flooring, sinks and toilets, lighting, windows, trim, cabinets, metal studs and much, much more. To find more items visit their website at [www.constructionjunction.org](http://www.constructionjunction.org).

Bicycles will also be collected on behalf of Freeride. Freeride is a non-profit bicycle recycling restoration operation located at Construction Junction. They are also open to the public and their website is [www.freeridepgh.org](http://www.freeridepgh.org).

Electronic items will be collected by eLoopllc.



## 2011 SEWERLINE CONSENT ORDER WORK

Throughout the next several months, Roto Rooter Services Company will be performing sewer work for the Borough in the following areas: Kings Dale Road, Stevendale Drive, Rural Court, Garden Terrace, Margate Road, Henley Drive, Burnaby Drive, Thornberry Drive, Garrick Drive, Lear Drive, Beulah Road, Marbury Road, Elmhill Road and Barton Drive.

## RECREATION BOARD - SUMMER 2011

The mission of the CRB is "To promote community involvement, interaction, awareness and unity within the Borough through planned activities for all ages." Please consider volunteering to become a member of the Board since two vacancies now exist. We are delighted to welcome Melanie Henninger as a new Board member. She will bring new programming ideas that can appeal to the young families in our Borough.

**THE CHURCHILL BOOK CLUB** will meet on Wednesday, June 15 at 7 pm in the Borough Building's Yagle Room to discuss *Back Roads* by Tawnie O'Dell. The CBC will not meet over the summer but will resume meeting on the third Wednesday of each month on September 21. That book will be selected at the June meeting. All Churchill residents who love to read are invited to join the club.

**THE CHURCHILL RECREATION BOARD (CRB)** is sponsoring a group outing to a Sunday matinee at the Civic Light Opera on July 10 to see Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Love Changes Everything". By the time you receive this newsletter the deadline for ordering

tickets will have passed. If, however, you missed the opportunity to order your ticket, you can call the Borough Office to be placed on a waiting list, in case any of the tickets that were ordered in May become available by last minute circumstances.

**CHURCHILL "BLOCK PARTIES"**: As the weather improves, the CRB hopes our residents will make an effort to get to know their neighbors. You are encouraged to organize a "Block or Street Party," which everyone on the street or block is invited. If it isn't a busy street, arrangements can be made with Churchill Police to block off the street with detour. If it is a very busy street, perhaps a level driveway can be offered for use. It could be an outdoor Pot Luck Dinner, Hot Dog Roast, or just a gathering for dessert. The important thing is for neighbors to get to know each other because that leads to people looking out for each other, which makes your street safer for everyone.



**BULLOCK PENS PARK** is our community park. It is there for the use and enjoyment of all Churchill residents. If you are having a family reunion this summer, consider reserving the use of the shelter for the day. It can bring back fond memories to your offspring of the good times they had at the Churchill Summer Programs many years ago. If you'd like to take a walk in the woods (without burning a lot of gas to take that walk), just go to Bullock Pens Park. It is located at the far end of McCrady Road, past Beulah Churchill. If you walk your dog there, be sure to take a plastic bag.

# SOME SUMMERTIME ITEMS

## AIR CONDITIONER

**CYCLING:** Local electricity providers like Duquesne Light are offering modest monetary incentives for permission to install a remotely operated electrical switch next to the compressor on your air conditioner. In hot weather this device will cycle the unit 15 minutes on and 15 minutes off for 3 - 5 hours on weekday afternoons and evenings ("peak" usage time). Most AC compressors are rated for at least 100,000 on-off switchings over their 20-year life expectancy. The installed relay may increase the number of compressor closures/openings 1,600 times (about 1.6%). This is not a significant shortening of the compressor life and there should be a reduction in your electric bill (in addition to the offered incentive) as well as an environmental benefit of fuel saving and greenhouse gas (CO2) reduction at the power plant.



and soybean fields, and backyard veggie gardens. This insect is a "true bug" (Order: Hemiptera) with a shield-shaped back covering (marbled and brown in this case) and piercing, sucking mouthparts. Individuals may be found inside the home, sluggishly climbing or crawling. They are also capable of flight. Outside they can swarm under siding and into air-conditioning units. Our native stink bug species are held in check by natural predators (e.g. birds), but this import has few if any enemies. The stink bug (so-called for small amounts of defensive, odoriferous secretions that include cyanide) is generally harmless and the tomatoes, grapes, apples, et al. that it pierces while eating can be consumed safely after trimming away damaged areas. Only broad spectrum pesticides (e.g. Sevin) kill stink bugs and you should never use these around edible plants. Take a moment to admire the insect's interesting parts; then pick it up in a bit of newspaper, fold, squash, and dispose in the trash. Each squashed female eliminates up to 500 babies per season - excellent population control.

## INVASION OF THE STINK

**BUG:** The Asian brown marmorated stink bug is the latest insect to reach pest levels in our area, eating their way through vineyards, orchards, corn



**INVASIVE PLANTS:** This is the time of year to eliminate non-native, invasive weeds like garlic-mustard and Japanese knotweed from your property. Both species are easy to pull up by the roots when young,

although knotweed has underground stems (rhizomes) that persist and send up new shoots. Repeated pulling or mowing will eventually weaken the colony and get rid of it. The key is persistent vigilance. Round-up, Weed-B-Gone, and other herbicides will also do the job and may be necessary if an infestation is extensive. Garlic mustard leaves are edible and nutritious. Google "garlic mustard recipes" for some tasty treats.



**OAK WILT WATCH:** Check your oak trees as their new leaves mature. If there is discoloration (off-green to bronze), wilting, or unusual levels of leaf drop, the tree may have a lethal fungal infection. Prepare for its rapid decline and death, and have it removed promptly. There is no treatment or cure once the fungus is established. Healthy trees nearby can be treated with propiconazole by an experienced arborist (call the Borough Office for a recommendation).



# PAT BUS ROUTES FOR CHURCHILL AREA RESIDENTS\*

BUS	ROUTE	BOARDING LOCATION	SCHEDULED SERVICE
P16U & P16L	(Penn Hills Flyer)	Downtown Pittsburgh via East Busway Beulah Road near McCrady And along Wm. Penn Highway	M-F Rush Hour Only
67	(Monroeville)	Downtown Pittsburgh via Wilksburg, Point Breeze, Squirrel Hill & Oakland And along Wm. Penn Highway	McCrady Road across from Beulah Church Park and Ride
P69	(Trafford Flyer)	Trafford to Downtown Pittsburgh via East Busway Ardmore Boulevard at Forest Hills Park and Ride & Bryn Mawr Road And all stops between	M-F All Day Service; hourly on Saturday, Sunday & Holiday M-F Rush Hour Only
P76	(Lincoln Highway Flyer)	Versailles to Downtown Pittsburgh via East Busway Ardmore Boulevard at Forest Hills Park and Ride & Bryn Mawr Road And all stops between	M-F Rush Hour Only
69	(Trafford)	Trafford to Downtown Pittsburgh via Pitcarin, Wilmerding, Forest Hills, Wilksburg, Squirrel Hill & Oakland Ardmore Boulevard at Forest Hills Park and Ride & Bryn Mawr Road And all stops between	(Sat., Sun. & Holiday service operates from Trafford to Wilksburg only) M-F All Day Service; Saturday, Sunday & Holiday service operates between Trafford and Wilksburg only. Transfer to P1 to continue to Downtown or 61A for Squirrel Hill or Oakland
P1	(East Busway All Stops)	Downtown Pittsburgh via East Busway with stops in Swissvale, Hamnett, Wilksburg, Homewood, East Liberty, Negley Avenue & Herron Avenue Stations Park and Rides at Swissvale, Hamnett & Wilksburg	M-F All Day Service; service every 2 0 minutes on Saturday, Sunday & Holiday
P2	(East Busway Short)	Downtown Pittsburgh via East Busway with same stops as the P1; however, P2 does not go to Swissvale and Hamnett Stations Park and Ride at Wilksburg	M-F All Day Service; no Saturday, Sunday or Holiday service
P3	(East Busway Oakland)	Oakland via East Busway Park and Rides at Swissvale, Hamnett & Wilksburg	M-F All Day Service; no Saturday, Sunday or Holiday service
28X	(Airport Flyer)	Pittsburgh International Airport via Oakland, Downtown Pittsburgh, Robinson Town Centre On Forbes at Morewood (CMU), along Fifth Avenue in Oakland, along Seventh & Liberty Avenues in Downtown	M-F, Saturday, Sunday and Holiday – All Day Service every 30 minutes. Fare to the airport from Oakland & Downtown \$3.25

\*Bus schedules for all routes listed above are available at the Churchill Borough Office and on the Port Authority Website [www.PortAuthority.org](http://www.PortAuthority.org)

PARK and RIDES LOCATION	NUMBER OF SPACES/TRANSIT SERVICE	PARKING FEE
Beulah Presbyterian Church (2500 McCrady Road, Churchill)	100 Spaces (parking is available throughout the day) Served by P16 Penn Hills Flyer & 67 Monroeville	None
Wilksburg (Wallace Avenue at Pitt Street)	748 Spaces (quickly fills to capacity weekday mornings) Served by P1, P2 & the P3	None
Forest Hills (Route 30—Ardmore Boulevard at Avenue B) Served by P69 Trafford Flyer, P76 Lincoln Highway & 69 Trafford	168 spaces (parking is available throughout the day)	None
Hamnett (Center Avenue off Penn Avenue, Wilksburg) Served by the P1 & P3	128 Spaces (quickly fills to capacity weekday mornings)	None
Swissvale (Vernon Street off Braddock Ave.)	163 spaces (quickly fills to capacity weekday mornings) Served by the P1 & P3	None

**FARES: Adults – Zone 1 (\$2.25), Zone 2 (\$3.25); Children (6-11) & persons with disabilities—1/2 fare; Children (1-5) Free;  
Seniors (65 & over) free with original Medicare card or Senior Transit Fare Pass available at all senior citizen centers, or from  
PAT Downtown Service Center, 534 Smithfield Street (between 5th & 6th downtown).**

Riders may purchase transfers for \$1.00/\$0.50 for children ages 6-11 or persons with disabilities. Transfers allow a one-zone ride in any direction aboard a connecting vehicle and are valid for 3 hours.

Note: Exact change is required on all busses; fares are subject to change over time.

Passes and tickets may be purchased at the PAT Downtown Service Center or from local sales outlets—Giant Eagle in Braddock Hills (Yost Blvd) & Penn Hills (230 Rodi Road & 9001 Frankstown Road);  
Shop-N-Save in Wilks (3335 William Penn Highway).

**PORT AUTHORITY CONTACT INFORMATION: (412)442-2000 or [www.PortAuthority.org](http://www.PortAuthority.org)  
COMMUTER VAN & CAR POOLING: [www.commuteinfo.org](http://www.commuteinfo.org) (1-888-819-6110) and [www.eRideShare.com](http://www.eRideShare.com)**

# CONTAINER CAUTIONS

**WATER:** Summer is mosquito season. Survey your property for any containers of standing, stagnant water. Empty and remove them. Even small saucers, tire rims, and toys can hold enough water for enough time to hatch out a brood of disease-carrying mosquitoes (think West-Nile virus!). All water features (ponds, statuary, et al.) should have dripping, circulating, or aerated (moving) water. Alternatively, stock a few inexpensive feeder fish (from Elmer's Aquarium), or toss in "Dunks" tablets (available at most hardware stores) all season. Dunks contain a bacterial larvicide that is harmless to animals other than insect larvae.



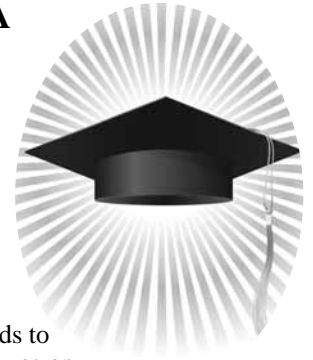
**GARBAGE:** A borough ordinance requires all garbage (food scraps, pet waste, and other organic matter) to be put into a can with a fitted lid for collection. This is especially important as summer temperatures rise. Odors can attract pest animals and scatter garbage in the area. Only trash (non-edible items) may be placed at the curb in bags or boxes. Better still, recycle these items!

## FROM THE CHURCHILL AREA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

### GRADUATION AWARD:

This year's monetary environmental award was given to

*Alexander Neal*  
of *Forest Hills Borough*.



Alex rehabilitated a pair of neglected library courtyards to make an attractive, "green" outdoor classroom. This was an Eagle Scout project and Alex had help from his troop members.

If you know a Woodland Hills High School student who will be a senior next year, encourage him/her to select and carry out an environmental project this summer or fall and to submit it by March 31, 2012. A simple, one-page application form (with suggested project ideas) is available at the Borough Building, the high school guidance office, or as a download from the CAEC web site [www.cpeg-inc.com/caec](http://www.cpeg-inc.com/caec).

**NEW ADVISORY:** The new CAEC advisory "Marcellus Shale Primer" will be on the information rack in the lobby of the Borough Building in early June. It is a factual reference piece focusing on local aspects of this timely issue. Also pick up a copy of the 2009 advisory "The State of Recycling" which lists places in our area for recycling or donating almost everything you are ready to discard after spring cleaning.

The Borough of Churchill  
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