

BOROUGH OF CHURCHILL

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MAY 2012

YOU CAN'T BEAT OUR OWN "BLACK GOLD"

We call it "black gold" because of its rich, dark color and its great value in the garden. It's a finished, fibrous compost that the borough makes over the winter and spring from autumn leaves that residents rake into special, biodegradable, paper bags.

Pick up a supply from the Joint Compost site located at the corner of Business Route 22 and Rodi Road on Saturday, June 9 or 16 between the hours of 8AM-1PM. 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. Call the Borough Office for delivery arrangements.

Use it liberally as a mulch around all plants, including vegetables, flower beds, shrubs, and trees, leaving a 6-8" mulch-free "moat" around tree bases to discourage rodents from nesting and feeding at the bark. soil additive and conditioner for re-potting or topping the surface of house plants or garden transplants. Mix equal parts black gold and topsoil (not potting mix or seed starter). Add some of your own garden compost if available and some coarse river sand if desired (especially if you are potting succulents like cacti or planting vegetables). You will have a well-aerated medium without spending money on compacted peat moss that is harvested from bog wetlands better left in nature as carbon sinks.

Your black gold will continue to age, retaining moisture, releasing plant nutrients (minerals), and improving the texture of your soil. After several years of applying it, there will be a garden for you to enjoy and others to envy.

COURTESY REMINDERS.....

It's great to see many home improvement projects are underway in the Borough. Please remember to remove contractor signs from your yard. Borough ordinance prohibits these types of advertising signs.

Also, to help keep the borough aesthetically pleasing and as a courtesy to your neighbors, make sure garbage cans are not visible from the street. The cans may be stored at any side or rear yard location properly screened/shielded from adjoining residential properties.

BOROUGH SUMMER PROJECTS:

Road paving will be conducted on sections of Garden Terrace, Black Forest Drive, Hollywood Drive and Marbury Road.

The Borough continues to upgrade its sanitary sewer system as required by the federally mandated consent order. The order requires the removal of extraneous water sources from entering the system. The Borough has spent \$1,100,000 over the past seven years on these upgrades. Repair work will take place this year on Garrick Drive, Thornberry Drive, Henley Drive, Kings Dale Road, Stevendale Drive, and Greensburg Pike. Homeowner properties that are affected will be notified in advance so we can schedule the work causing as little disruption as possible.

GOING GREEN.....

If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please e-mail your address to office@churchillborough.com and we will remove you from the mailing list.



Spring and Summer Happenings in Churchill

2012 Bunny Parade Snapshots are Now Online On April 7th, the Churchill Bunny emerged from Bullock Pens Park, sniffed the beautiful spring morning, and dashed back into the burrow for a basket of goodies to share with Churchill's children; and one live pet rabbit! The Churchill bunny paraded the streets of the borough with the help of a dozen volunteers, including our mayor, borough council members, and official police escort. Residents were seen racing from their houses in anxious anticipation to greet her and her raucous motorcade! Our Churchill Bunny presented balloons and chocolate treats to over 200 residents, and met even more in the Yagle Community Room at the Borough Building after the parade.

To see our photos, visit our Facebook page. You are invited to upload your own snapshots to the Facebook albums and your comments to Events: Past Events: Bunny Parade; or send them to dyankes@churchillborough.com and they will be posted for you. Thank you to all who participated, especially our student volunteers, friendly parents, and residents who came out to greet us on our way! To volunteer for other Recreation Board events, contact dyankes@churchillborough.com or just drop by one of our monthly meetings, third Mondays of the month, 7-9pm, in the Borough Building.

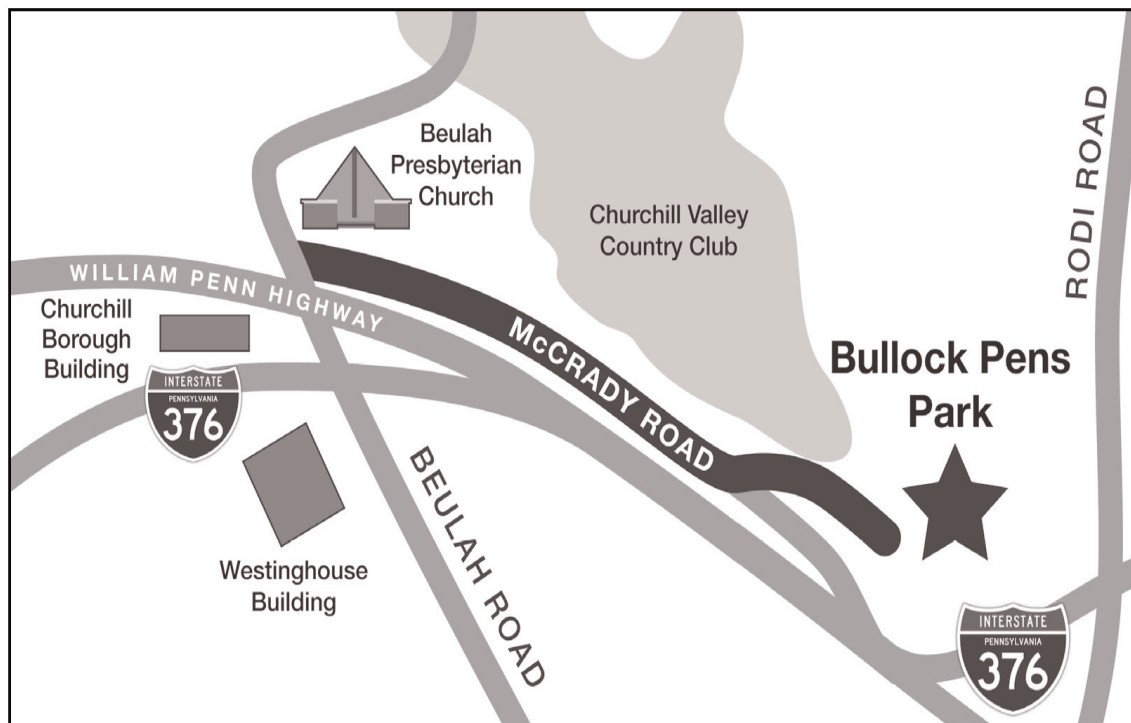
Our Upcoming Events:

Annual Spring Opening and Picnic at Bullock Pens Park with Tour of our Nature Sanctuary You are invited to bring your family to our nature hike and cookout at 10:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday May 19th at Bullock Pens Park. Local experts Joan and Milton Gottlieb will educate us on caring for our native Allegheny woodlands. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for a short, but steep climb to a mile-long path cleared through woods and meadowlands. Bring gloves and weeding tools and practice how to protect your own gardens from invasive species! We'll have plenty of grilled hot dogs on hand, but

seating is limited, so pack lawn chairs or a blanket just in case. All borough residents are welcomed and encouraged to use our nature trail for exercise in the fresh air any day of the year. Dogs are welcome but must be on leash at all times. We set aside one morning for residents to come together to learn about identifying, appreciating and conserving local fauna while enjoying our natural sanctuary in each other's company. If we have a soaking rain on Saturday, we'll postpone to Sunday, meeting at noon. This will be posted on the Churchill Recreation Board

What is the Churchill Book Club reading?

Come find out by joining us for stimulating discussion every third Wednesday of the month. We meet in the Borough Building Community Center Yagle Room. CC Mellor Library provides copies of the next month's book on request: let us know at the office if you need one. Discover what your neighbors have experienced and think about the issues raised in the books, and the merits of the literature. We learn much more about our community and the times on which we live than we would without our meetings. We have identified some favorite authors. And we often find some ties to Pittsburgh in the literature or learn that an author will be in town. May 16 we will be discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, who is on the roster for next season's Drue Heinz lecture series. This book is a true story in the U.S. annals of biomedical research. June 20th it's the highly recommended *The Tiger's Wife*, Téa Obreht's beautifully woven fiction that gives insight into the long history of conflict in the Balkans, especially in the youthful author's native Yugoslavia. Visit Events on our [Facebook.com/Churchill_Recreation_Board](https://www.facebook.com/Churchill_Recreation_Board) page for literary links regarding our selection; and if you are not the club's email list, be sure to confirm book, location, and date information on Facebook, as they are subject to change after this newsletter goes to press.



Directions: From the Borough Building (Beulah Road and William Penn Highway), head north up Beulah 200 ft to the first right, McCrady Road. Travel east approximately one mile to the Do Not Enter signs which mark the exit ramp off 376. Take the left fork downhill and pass through a park gate that closes at dusk. The park is unmarked, but the shelters and gravel path are visible at the end of the road. Park on the right side of the access road.

On the Drawing Board for this Summer

The Recreation Board Summer Activities are still in the planning stages, but this year we are busy cooking up plans for appreciating and celebrating our community! Stay-cation anyone? First, we plan to host a photo contest for all you Churchill shutterbugs. Start gathering or creating your favorite online photos and prints of Churchill's seasonal beauty, elegant homes, people (and pets!), past and present. You may see your photography on the walls of our Borough building! Also, we are exploring options for an appreciation event for some of our favorite volunteers in the community. Volunteers not only keep our community safe, but make most of our borough events possible; even this newsletter you are reading now! Let's come together to say "thanks!" Stay tuned for date, place, and other details via EVENTS at [facebook.com/Churchill Recreation Board](https://facebook.com/ChurchillRecreationBoard), because this is the final newsletter issued before the fall. Or, come to our Recreation Board Meetings the 3rd Monday of the month 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Yagle Community Room. To RSVP, contact dyankes@churchillborough.com or call the office and leave a message.

The "Capture Churchill History" Initiative

Have you ever wondered about the history of your house? Who were the first tenants? How many tenants has it had? Churchill's history is captured in the architectural heritage, and layout of neighborhoods, but many of the stories are kept only in our neighbors memories. As our first generation ages, we are in need to capture the past, before it is too late. Gather your tales of neighborhood, stories of your property, photos of events, and memories about our area and neighborhood. We are especially interested in the borough before and during the construction of 1376; as well as stories about Bullock Pens Park and any previ-

ous parks and common public spaces that were used socially. We want to know about life in coal-heated homes, stories of neighborhood pride, and tales of neighborly support. Previous celebrations, stories of Churchill High School and other schools, events at the country clubs and civic associations are also highly valued. You are invited to load your photos and stories directly into the NOTES section of the Facebook Churchill Recreation Board page for all to share. We will also gladly accept hardcopy information to be scanned; and would be delighted to interview you, by phone or in person, at your convenience. All non-Facebook uploading can be handled by contacting dyankes@churchillborough.com or by leaving a message at the office.

Extra! Extra! Churchill Newsletters NOW ONLINE!

Our Churchillborough.com site now features current and archival newsletters back to 2007. This invaluable information is now easy to share with current and prospective residents; as it details some of our Borough's community events and community service announcements during the years since our 75th anniversary celebration. We hope you enjoy this feature. It's a great way to renew memories of events.

Keeping up with the Churchill Recreation Board:

Stay in tune with us via the churchillborough.com/recboard page for links to our volunteer board, archive of newsletters, and other Estate information. For updates, use our Facebook page. Some of our activities and reports, as well as local news and information, is also available at [Patch.com/Forest Hills-Regent Square](http://Patch.com/ForestHills-RegentSquare).

"When? Where? I'll be there!"

Feel like offering a small part of your time and talents to Churchill's thriving volunteer community?

We can find a way to help you utilize your energy and abilities with opportunities in the following endeavors:

Churchill Volunteer Fire Company – Help where it's needed most urgently! Our fire company will send you to the training academy at no expense. In the process, you will meet and work alongside neighbors who are truly local heroes. Besides firefighting, many other positions are available such as administrative and equipment maintenance and cleaning. Introductory meetings are held the second Thursday of each month—come see if this is where you belong. Contact info@churchillfire.org and someone will call you back. Read more at: www.churchill-fire.org/volunteer.htm

HANDICAPPED/SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS – In case of an emergency at your home it would be very helpful if the Borough's emergency responders, such as the Fire and Police Departments, were aware in advance of any medical circumstances. Examples would include people on oxygen, wheelchair bound individuals, hearing impaired, blindness, etc. Please call 412-241-7113 or send a letter with your information to the Borough Office.

CC Mellor Library, which serves as Churchill's designated branch of the Carnegie Library system, offers a special program

for teens seeking volunteer opportunities. For summer projects, teens need to call and speak personally with Lauren Miller, the Children's Librarian, at 412-731-0909.

Recreational Programs and Events – Churchill is a very lucky community to have a network of volunteers who find satisfaction in planning and performing the myriad of tasks that bring community celebrations, annual events and educational opportunities to us in our Community Center, our nature sanctuary at Bullock Pens Park, and other local venues. If you need a place to practice your talents, and you love to share laughter with others, come to a Recreation Board meeting! Visit us online at [Facebook.com/Churchill Recreation Board](https://facebook.com/ChurchillRecreationBoard) for some of our past and upcoming events. We look forward to meeting you!

Garden Brigade – Ever wonder who maintains the flower beds at the corner of Beulah and Churchill? The volunteer Garden Brigade does! Join the Mayor and his "gloved crew" for an hour or two a month (in season) for light weeding. A small task but it goes a long way in generating and sharing community pride! The Saturday schedule of 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. dispatches is posted in the Borough office.

Pre College Students – Yale, Harvard, and all other universities will be impressed with community service provided to your borough. We can find a way to use your talents, skills and abilities. A letter of recommendation from the mayor or a councilperson may make the difference between acceptance and rejection to your college of choice.

When in doubt about who to contact, email us at office@churchillborough.com or call the Borough Office at 412-241-7113.

The Borough of Churchill
2300 William Penn Highway
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KENNYWOOD

A CENTURY OF CHANGE

Do you know who was the last act to play at the amphitheater at Kennywood before it closed? You would if you were among the overflowing crowd that attended Churchill Recreation Board's latest event! Bill Henninger, 3rd generation owner/operator gave an engaging slideshow presentation, complete with behind the scenes photographs, stories and trivia. This event was held at the borough building on Sunday April 29th, and the show was followed by light refreshments in the Yagle Room. The Recreation Board and Bill Henninger, would like to extend their personal thanks to the overwhelming donations of food and money to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Collectively, we made donations of 5 boxes of food, and \$275. Thank you to all who attended, and we look forward to seeing you at future events!



GUYS

Men of Churchill – do you read? That is novels, biographies, journals etc... Have you ever considered joining the Churchill book club? We meet monthly for discussion of a current book chosen by the group. I joined this year and was pleasantly surprised that this formerly all ladies group read serious books. Last month we read *Unbroken* by Laura Hillenbrand. This is a hard hitting WWII biography of a Japanese POW. There is not a romance novel to be seen. So why not consider the next book on the schedule and join us next month?



Bird Feeding, Birdbaths and Skunks, Mosquitos

If we want to eliminate skunks and other nuisance critters, it is important to remove their food source. The hobby of bird feeding may be part of the problem. Supplying birds with seed also may disturb natural migratory patterns and contribute to disease from the communal trough. Please refer to this WSJ article regarding bird feeders www.masonperry.com/WSJBackyardFeeders.htm

