



Forest Hills Borough Community Newsletter

Halloween Hours and Safety Tips

Forest Hills Borough has set Trick-or-Treat times from 6 to 8 p.m. on Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31. Borough officials remind motorists to drive slowly and watch for children as they travel through neighborhoods during Halloween hours.

The American Safety Council offers these “SCARE SAFE” tips for trick-or-treaters:



Stay in groups

Costumes should be well fitting and flame resistant

Always test makeup

Remember to look both ways when crossing

Examine all treats before eating

Stay on sidewalks when possible

Avoid dark houses

Flashlights and glow sticks for visibility

Enjoy with caution!

Forest Hills Hayride on Oct. 11

On Saturday, Oct. 11, the Forest Hills community will once again celebrate a 24-year tradition. At 6 p.m., the Borough’s annual hayride, sponsored by the Forest Hills Police Department, the Forest Hills Volunteer Fire Department and the Forest Hills Public Works Department, will begin at the Forest Hills/Westinghouse Lodge on Barclay Avenue.

All ages will be entertained with a three-mile ride on decorated hay wagons. Free refreshments will be served in the lodge, so come and enjoy a fun-filled evening under the autumn stars, and meet and thank those who protect and serve our community.



Municipal News



Manager's Message: Moving Into Fall

Submitted by Seth Abrams, Borough Manager

The pool is closed for the season, kids are back in school and there is much to do. By the time you read this, we should be nearing the completion of our 2025 paving season, and be close to finishing the stairs and walkways projects at Koch Park and Woodside Road. We hope that you will take advantage of the improved paths and walkways to help you get outside, enjoy the Borough or simply make it easier to get to wherever you are going.

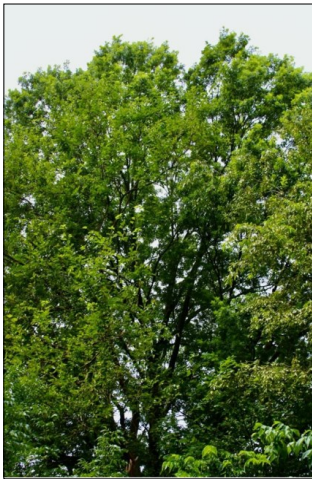
For those of us in the Borough office, all eyes are on the annual budget. I encourage all residents to look at the draft budgets when they are published on the Borough's website and to

come to Council meetings during budget discussions. This is an excellent opportunity to observe and even participate in one of the core functions of local government.

On the fun side of the Borough, we have family friendly activities to look forward to. The annual Hayride will be on Oct. 11 and Light Up the Hills on Nov. 15. Both events are free, full of activities and an excellent chance to interact with your neighbors and others in the Borough. Don't forget that the Savvy Citizen app will help you stay informed about all of the happenings in Forest Hills.

My final note is one of safety. Traffic safety is important, especially while road construction continues through the early fall. Detours and unfamiliar roads — or even too-familiar roads — create opportunities to speed or look away from the pavement while driving. Wet leaves can make the road slick and increase stopping time. Please be sure to stay alert for pedestrians and dangerous conditions. If you are aware of a dangerous road condition, please contact us with the location and hazard.

Share Your Favorite Forest Hills Trees



Our featured tree is recognized by all Forest Hills residents — the Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). These magnificent trees are found in every neighborhood and shade many of our streets. Because of their size, they may lower temperatures by 7 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit.

The Pin Oak pictured here is 10 feet, 10 inches in circumference and towers above neighboring trees. In addition to the way Pin Oaks contribute to our quality of life, Oaks support wildlife by offering habitat and shelter. Bird lover? Pin Oaks support over 500 species of insects that form an essential part of the food chain.

Concern: Pin Oaks are under threat from Oak Wilt, an incurable fungal disease. It is spread through insects attracted to wounds such as pruning cuts, especially from April through October. For any tree, consulting a certified arborist for maintenance services is best.

Share your favorite Forest Hills Trees! If you'd like to nominate a tree to be featured in Tree City Times, email Pat at goodboyrocky18@gmail.com and tell us its location, its type and why it's special to you.

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Fall and Winter Recreation Programs

Dog Obedience

This class is open to dogs of all ages and tailored to cover all stages of training. Arlene Halloran, certified dog trainer and breeder, will give a basic introduction to obedience commands, teach basic disciplines such as house breaking and chewing, and show you how to develop an enjoyable relationship with your new puppy. Class size is limited to 10 dogs; if necessary, a second class will be added. Fall Session (8 weeks) is Thursdays, Sept. 4 to Oct. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Pool Lodge. Fee is \$30.

Mat Pilates

Mat Pilates is a way to stretch and strengthen your body, primarily the muscles of the core that span from your hips to your shoulders. Increase your flexibility as you move through a series of dynamic movements that restore balance to core muscles of the lower back and abdominals.

For over 15 years, instructor Julianne Robinson has been teaching a variety of classes, such as HIIT, Boot Camp, Metabolic Conditioning, Mat Pilates and Cardio Kickboxing. Classes are formatted for all fitness levels and modifications are available for anyone with injuries or physical limitations. Please bring a mat, water, small towel and a great attitude to class! The Fall Session (10 Weeks) will take place on Tuesdays, Sept. 9 to Nov. 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pool Lodge. The fee is \$40 (No class on Nov. 4 – Election Day.)

You may register for all classes at www.foresthillspa.gov, and click on Parks, Rec & Rentals.

Create Your Own Pollinator Haven

By Meg Bledsoe, Forest Hills Bird Town, PA



Certified Backyard Habitat was the way to go. They are thrilled that they did! Both describe the initial consultation as very positive and encouraging. They like that they were not asked to take out existing plants but were rather given suggestions for adding beneficial plants that suited their yard. They also appreciate that they were able to make additions at their own pace. Now, Melissa says, they have a beautiful ecosystem in their yard that they love watching every day and they are excited to continue to add to their creation.

If you choose to enroll in the program, ASWP will arrange a visit to your property. After that, you will receive a customized report, including plant recommendations. ASWP provides ample support and resources, and as you make your improvements, you will be rewarded with the arrival of new birds and pollinators. Your backyard will become part of a larger network of habitats that becomes a network of mini-nature reserves and makes an important difference for our environment.

Consider creating an oasis in your own yard. Visit www.aswp.org or call 412-963-6100 to get started.

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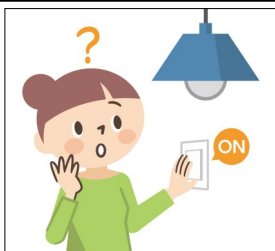
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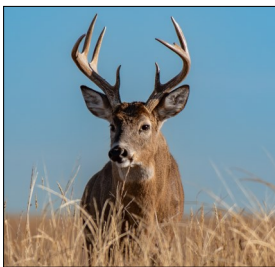
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Why Does My Power Keep Going Out and What Can We Do About It?

This workshop at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, hosted by the Forest Hills Environmental Advisory Council and Patricia DeMarco, will share ways that neighbors can come together to build up the resilience of their community, as well as advocate for policies that can be passed by local governments to make extended blackouts less likely. From shared fridges and micro grids to municipal utilities, this event at the Borough Building will explore solutions that go beyond generators. To register: <https://tinyurl.com/3427p5rn>.



Archery Hunting to Reduce Deer

Interested residents who are trained and experienced in bow hunting may apply to hunt in Borough-owned areas. This program is an effort to reduce deer population. If you have an interest, please email admin@foresthillspsa.gov and provide a copy of your current deer hunting license and explain your training and experience in archery hunting. Requirements are Borough residency and a current hunting license.

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Forest Hills Presbyterian Church Fall Fest Sept. 13

The storms forced us to cancel our annual "May Market" event earlier this year, but we've replaced it with "Fall Fest" on Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, 1840 Ardmore Blvd. Join us for the Flea Market, Food Sale, Car Cruise and other entertainment throughout the day. If you need a flea market space, we still may have some available when this newsletter "goes to print." Call us at 412-241-1647 to reserve a spot and we'll make room for you!

We invite you to join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Nancy Titus will be starting a fall sermon series this month entitled "Burning Questions," with reflections and thoughts on life and on the after-life.

Our weekly Bible study groups will be resuming in September after a summer hiatus! There is a virtual group that meets on Monday evenings, "Women in the Word" meets on Wednesdays in the midday and an in-person group meets on Wednesday evenings.

Call the church at 412-241-1647 if you'd like more information on participating. You do not need to be a member of the church to participate.

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church is hiring for various part-time positions. Visit our website at FHPCpa.org for more information.

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The Garden Club of Forest Hills



The Garden Club of Forest Hills and its members weathered the hot, dry summer and kept things growing in their own yards as well as in their public gardens. They did a lot of watering!

They welcomed visitors to the club's Hillside and Pollinator gardens in the Main Park on Community Day, leading tours and answering questions. Both gardens have been refurbished this year, thanks to hours of hard work and grants from the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, the National Garden Club and the Borough of Forest Hills. Members also tended the greenspace at Avenues A & E, visited the Frick Environmental Center in July, then learned about Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, in August.

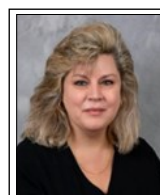
They closed out another busy summer at the annual potluck picnic, enjoying good food — some from their own gardens. Members will continue to share knowledge and know-how at the annual potluck picnic on Sept. 4, "Tablescapes Throughout History" on Oct. 2 and "Healing Therapy for Senior Gardening" on Nov. 6. They will end 2025 at "A Holiday

Horticultural Happening" on Dec. 4.

The club's Garden of the Month program continued to honor Borough residents' outdoor efforts. In July, longtime homeowners Adele and Bob Eley were recognized for their garden at 129 Washington Road and, in August, the honorees were Barbara and John Lech of 838 Sherwood Road.

Meetings are on the first Thursday of each month (except in January and February), usually at Christ Lutheran Church on Barclay Avenue. Coffee and tea are ready at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting, program and a light lunch to follow. Guests are always welcome.

For more information about the club and its activities, talk with any member or contact Amy Shugerman Glasser at amyshugermanglasser@gmail.com or 412-271-1697. Please also check out the club's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TheGardenClubOfForestHills or www.foresthillspa.gov/.



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Eagle Scout Project Benefits Parks

By Brayden Spencer

My name is Brayden Spencer and I am going into my senior year at Central Catholic High School. I joined Scouting in second grade as a Cub Scout. It's been a large part of my life for all of those years, giving me great memories and friends.

My Eagle project involved refurbishing picnic tables behind the Westinghouse Lodge, which included sanding and staining. I also built two benches for the Borough. One bench was placed in the pickleball courts at Koch Park and the other at the playground behind Westinghouse Lodge. I could see there was a need for quality seating, and when I saw the dilapidated picnic tables, I knew that would be my project. I hope that the tables and benches last for a long time and serve the community well.



Late Bloomers



The Late Bloomers have been busy bees this summer, planting and caring for the flower beds that add to the beauty of Forest Hills. New this year are Perennial Hibiscus, which can be seen in the garden at Ardmore and Bevington. These stunning, red flowers can grow to 8 inches in diameter and are a haven for pollinators. They are ideal for their Ardmore showcase because they thrive on full sun.

The Farmers Market may have gotten off to a very rainy and hot start but the produce is in full swing. Two successful scavenger hunts for our younger market visitors were held in July and August. The next event will be on Oct. 17 where young visitors will be able to decorate a pumpkin to take home. We are also hosting our Harvest for the Hungry event every month on the second Friday during the season.

They would also like to welcome Jenafer Dunn to the garden. Thanks for buzzing in!

If you desire to be a part of a community of nature-minded individuals who like to explore the surrounding beauty this world has to offer and spread a little beauty by helping to care for the lovely median gardens along the Ardmore, the Late Bloomers invite you join them at their next meeting. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. The location may vary, so be sure to email latebloomersgardenclub@gmail.com for the site of the next meeting. All are welcome!



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This September, Show That You ‘Love Your Library’

C.C. Mellor Memorial Library has an exciting lineup of programs coming this fall for all ages. Go to ccmellorlibrary.org to learn more.

Save the date! Our annual Adopt-a-Book party will be held on Sept. 19. Join us for an enchanting after-hours fundraiser in the library. Enjoy food, drink, and conversation while perusing hundreds of “adoptable” books for our collection. All proceeds support the library.

Fall Fun for Everyone

Pumpkin Decorating Contest: October 2025: Find your family, flag down your friends or scout out your troop: It’s time to gather your group and enter the C.C. Mellor Pumpkin Decorating Contest! Please go to ccmellorlibrary.org for the rules and important dates.

Kids & Family Programs

Play Dough Playdate: Saturday, Sept. 13 at 9 a.m. Drop in at CCM Edgewood to squish, roll, and play with play dough! We’ll have a variety of stations with activities and challenges to try. All ages welcome but best for ages 3-8.

Forest Hills Creation Station– Butterflies: Sept. 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Stop by the Forest Hills Library this September to see some hungry, hungry caterpillars as they transform into butterflies. Learn about what insects pollinate our gardens and wish them well before they fly off. Storytime is at 10:30 a.m. with a drop-in makerspace butterfly craft.

Pumpkin Storytime: Saturday, Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. Pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins will be rolling out at our Forest Hills branch. Come enjoy a special Saturday story time with pumpkin stories and a craft. For kids ages 4-8.

Tween Programs

Design Lives Here: Wednesdays in September and October at 5 p.m. Ready to think like an engineer? Join WQED’s *Design Lives Here!* We’ll work on a different challenge every week, engineering our own prototypes with supplies you might have around the house. For the last few weeks, we’ll consider design challenges in our own lives and create our own inventions to solve them! For tweens ages 8-12.

Tween Video Game Tournament at Forest Hills: Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5 p.m. Bring your friends for snacks and to compete in a Nintendo Switch video game tournament! Mario Kart, Mario Party, Switch Sports and more will be available to play. Ages 9-13.

Teen Programs

Teen Advisory Board: Second Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 9. Calling all teens! Interested in helping out around the library? Need some volunteer hours for school? Come to our Teen Advisory Board! We’re looking for a board of teens to meet every second Tuesday to help with planning teen programs and events, as well as purchasing any current books of interest. This group will be the perfect way to get involved with your community and meet other teens in the area!

Teen Board Game Club: First Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m., beginning Sept. 2. Come explore CCM’s extensive board game collection with snacks and friends!

Special Teen Programs at CCM Edgewood:

Bracelet Making Workshop: Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 4:40 p.m.

Fall Candle Making Workshop: Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 4:40 p.m.

Spooky S’mores: Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 4:40 p.m.

Headless Horseman Escape Room: Oct. 28 at 4:40 p.m.

Learn to be a Dungeon Master 101: Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 4:40 p.m.

- continued on pg. 8

Adult Programs

Meet Mark Fatla, author of “Pittsburgh’s Historic Ballparks” on Saturday, Sept. 6 at 6 p.m. Mark Fatla will be in to speak about his book “Pittsburgh’s Historical Ballparks,” as well as his next book coming out this year: “Pittsburgh’s Historic Stadiums and Arenas,” covering the pro football, hockey and basketball venues in Pittsburgh. Mr. Fatla will also be selling copies of his book for \$25 after the presentation.

Dying Curious Non-Fiction Book Club: Fourth Wednesday of each month at noon, beginning Sept. 24. A nonfiction book club for people who want to read about, think about, and talk about, death and dying.

Seed Swap: Saturday, Oct. 4 at 10 a.m. Come swap seeds to help fill your garden and replenish our seed library!

Financial Workshop for First-time Homebuyers: Saturday, Oct. 18 at 9 a.m. Learn how to shop for a home, navigate loan options and plan for down payment and closing costs. Experts cover everything from credit to closing with grants available for down payments in some areas. Please register in advance.

Portraits from the Homefront: Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. CC Mellor Edgewood will host a program by WQED about local librarian Elizabeth Black, who sketched hundreds of American servicemen during WWII. Join us for a video presentation and discussion with refreshments.

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

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Local Legislation and Actions

July 2025:

- Authorized drafting of an ordinance to codify the naming of unnamed streets, directional changes on Pacific Avenue and Wilkins Road, and speed limits throughout the Borough.
- Authorized a sewer lining project on Ardmore Boulevard as bid by Insight Pipe in the amount of \$32,345 from the sewer fund.

August 2025:

- Denied a zoning change request for 2060 Ardmore Blvd.
- Approved subdivision and lot consolidation plans as recommended by the Planning Commission
- Approved entering into an agreement with Bartlett Tree Service to perform a tree inventory in the Borough through a DCNR grant-funded project.
- Approved the application for grant funds in the amount of \$250,000 from the GEDTF grant program for necessary MS4 activities.
- Approved a purchase order for a Ford Explorer Hybrid for the police department.

2025 Council Meeting Dates

Council will meet on the dates indicated beginning at 7 PM at the Borough Building, 4400 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. Meetings are held in person and by virtual link found at www.foresthillspa.gov.

Council will conduct an agenda setting meeting on the first Tuesday of each month, except as noted below, for the purpose of discussing items for action at the regular meeting. Council may act on items and conduct any other business which may lawfully come before Council. Regular business meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month.

Agenda Meeting	Business Meeting
March 4, 2025	March 19, 2025
April 1, 2025	April 16, 2025
May 6, 2025	May 21, 2025
June 3, 2025	June 18, 2025
July 1, 2025	July 16, 2025
August 5, 2025	August 20, 2025
September 2, 2025	September 17, 2025
October 7, 2025	October 15, 2025
*November 5, 2025	November 19, 2025
December 2, 2025	December 17, 2025

2025 Advisory Council Meeting Dates

Advisory Councils will meet on the dates and times indicated below. Meetings may be held in person and by virtual link found at www.foresthillspa.gov.

Parks & Recreation	Tree & Shrub	Environmental
Mar 3, 2025	Mar 12, 2025	Mar 20, 2025
Apr 7, 2025	Apr 9, 2025	Apr 17, 2025
May 5, 2025	May 14, 2025	May 15, 2025
Jun 2, 2025	Jun 11, 2025	Jun 19, 2025
Jul -no meeting	Jul 9, 2025	Jul 17, 2025
Aug 4, 2025	Aug 13, 2025	Aug 21, 2025
Sep 3, 2025	Sep 10, 2025	Sep 18, 2025
Oct 6, 2025	Oct 8, 2025	Oct 16, 2025
Nov 3, 2025	Nov 12, 2025	Nov 20, 2025
Dec-no meeting	Dec 10, 2025	Dec 18, 2025
Arts & Culture	Planning Commission	Zoning Hearing Board
Mar 24, 2025	Mar 27, 2025	2nd Monday when advertised
Apr 28, 2025	Apr 24, 2025	
May 19, 2025	May 22, 2025	
Jun 23, 2025	Jun 26, 2025	
Jul 28, 2025	Jul 24, 2025	
Aug 25, 2025	Aug 28, 2025	
Sep 22, 2025	Sep 25, 2025	
Oct 27, 2025	Oct 23, 2025	
Nov 24, 2025	Nov-no meeting	
Dec 22, 2025	Dec 4, 2025	

How to Reach Us

Monday and Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday: Lobby closed to the public – phones are answered 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesday: 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- ♦ The Drop Box in front of the building is accessible 24 hours a day.
- ♦ The administrative offices are located at **4400 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh PA 15221**.
- ♦ Our phone number is **412-351-7330**.
- ♦ General emails can be directed to admin@foresthillspa.gov. Messages will be forwarded to the correct department.

Borough Staff

Seth Abrams, Borough Manager, x0

Annette Dietz, Executive Secretary, x200

Vacant, Finance Assistant/Billing, x201

Allison Serakowski, Finance/Treasurer, x202

Mike Smith, Public Works, x207

Walt Reamer, Recreation Director, x272

Chuck Williams, Police Chief, x0

Police Non-emergency, 412-473-3056

Elected Officials

Barbara Martin, Council President, bmartin@foresthillspa.gov

Angelo Baiocchi, President Pro-Tem, abaiocchi@foresthillspa.gov

Ian Bacon, Councilmember, ibacon@foresthillspa.gov

Joseph DeCrosta, Councilmember, jdecrosta@foresthillspa.gov

Richard Fosbrink, Councilmember, rfosbrink@foresthillspa.gov

John (Jack) Lawrence, Councilmember, jlawrence@foresthillspa.gov

An Lewis, Councilmember, alewis@foresthillspa.gov

Frank Porco, Mayor, fporco@foresthillspa.gov