

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

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Fox Chapel Borough



Spring 2016

Earned Income Tax

The Borough has two main sources of income – real estate tax and earned income tax – and the more the Borough collects in earned income tax, the more we can stabilize your real estate tax rate. Recently, a situation occurred in which a resident had paid his earned income tax to the Borough correctly through our collector, Keystone Collections Group. However, the taxpayer’s accountant filed the annual Local Earned Income Tax Return with Keystone Collections using the taxpayer’s business address in RIDC Park which caused the taxpayer to be reclassified as an O’Hara resident and \$32,000 of tax revenue was taken from Fox Chapel and given to O’Hara. Fortunately, the Borough was able to investigate and recover the funds. To avoid similar situations in the future, please confirm that your residential address is used on all filings related to local earned income tax. If you use an accountant to prepare your returns, please verify that they are using the proper address. Also confirm that the proper code is used (PSD Code 710403) on all estimated or employer withheld payments. Thank you.

Fox Chapel Road Resurfacing

The Borough has received notice from Allegheny County that Fox Chapel Road will be resurfaced this year. The road work will include repairing catch basins, replacing guide rail, milling and repaving the roadway. The schedule for the work is not yet available.

Fox Chapel Designated Banner Community

The Banner Community Award has been awarded to Fox Chapel Borough because the Borough has distinguished itself as a model community. This means the Borough has proven a commitment to effective, efficient and accountable governmental principals and has implemented the best practices in providing services. Some of the benchmarks required were attendance at Allegheny League of Municipalities training and conferences, employee pension funding ratio of 80% or more, participation at 50% or more for COG meetings and conducting local community education such as the Borough of Fox Chapel/MS4 Open House which occurred last October. These achievements were compiled in the format required by the Banner Community Committee and submitted to the Allegheny League of Municipalities on the Borough’s behalf.

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Mayor's Memo

Thanks to our Police and Public Works Departments for getting us through another winter! Although we escaped with a relatively mild one, both Departments were working long hours to maintain safety and deliver excellent snow and ice removal.

Many Borough residents are volunteering for a campaign to make improvements at Beechwood Farms. As part of the W. PA Audubon Society, Beechwood is a special asset in Fox Chapel. Please take time to learn about the plans and try to get involved.

We are still looking for additional "trail stewards". If you like to spend time in the outdoors, this is a minor time commitment while enjoying the excellent trail system we have here in the Borough. It will involve walking the chosen section once a month and performing trimming maintenance and litter pick-up including notifying the Borough of any tree blocking the trail. Thanks to Richard Wendell and the Scott family for being early volunteers!

It is time to think about replanting! We continue to lose ash trees which need to be replaced. Do not forget you can pick up a list of native plants at the Borough office or on the Borough website if you need guidance in the best species to use in Fox Chapel.

~ Alex Scott



Private Storm Water Facilities/MS4 State Law

As part of past construction activity on property in the Borough, a storm water management facility may have been constructed to control excessive storm water generated from the impervious surfaces created including roofs and driveways. The Borough would like to restate that the property owner is responsible for the proper operation and maintenance of storm water facilities in perpetuity to protect downstream properties from erosion and flooding. Storm water facilities are not inspected as part of the sanitary sewer dye test process. It is the property owner's responsibility to verify any storm water facilities are functioning properly at all times.



Earth Day

Come join us for a walk in the woods on Saturday, April 23rd, from 1 PM to 3 PM as we celebrate Earth Day, pick up litter that may have accumulated over the winter and get some exercise after a long season indoors. Cleanup supplies



will be provided and people who care about the Squaw Run valley will provide the energy and enthusiasm. Park at McCahill Park parking lot. See you there!



Support Your Fire Volunteer Department

Watch for a letter in the mail from the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department requesting financial support for a new truck. Please show your appreciation of the great work they do by donating. The Department is an ALL volunteer group that keeps your homeowners'/fire insurance rates low because of their high level of training, modern firefighting equipment and willingness to stop what they are doing to come to your aid no matter what time of day or night. Please donate if you are able. Donations are tax deductible. Thank you!



Deer Fence and Volunteer Garlic Mustard Pull Restore Trillium Trail Habitat to Health and Vibrancy



Figure 1: Shown here is the red trillium which is one of the 200+ wildflowers found in our parks

For the past five years, the Fox Chapel Borough Park Commission has led a volunteer effort to remove garlic mustard from Trillium Trail, Scott Park, and Salamander Park giving the wildflowers a chance to recover and thrive.

Since 2011, we have had 120 volunteers pull, bag, and haul 334 bags of garlic mustard. This labor translates into approximately \$3,340.00 of free labor to the community. Their efforts have resulted in about 10% of the total area cleared of the garlic mustard within the fenced part of the Trillium Trail and thus have successfully removed the poisonous chemicals produced by the garlic mustard that attack the root system of the trillium. The trillium and many of the other forest wildflowers depend on the fungus in the soil to bring water and nutrients to the plant's root. It has a "symbiotic relationship" with the fungus and is in a way networked to all other trilliums in the forest. Garlic mustard disrupts this natural "supply chain system" by killing the fungus and without the fungus the chain is broken thus

starving the trillium. By removing the garlic mustard, we remove the poison chemicals and allow the fungus to grow and provide water and nutrients for the trillium to thrive. By fencing, we prevent the deer from eating the trillium.



Figure 2: Garlic Mustard



Figure 3: Healthy Forest Floor covered with Wildflowers

The deer eat the trillium making room for the garlic mustard to move in which poisons the soil thus clearing an area for it to drop thousands of seeds. Without the deer, the garlic mustard cannot find a place to take seed so it is very important to fence thus preventing the initial assault. Professor Susan Kalisz received a National Science Foundation Federal grant to help pay for the fence at the Trillium Trail to exclude deer and prevent the migration. "When people walk in the woods where deer are overabundant, they don't realize what's missing," reports Professor Kalisz. The Fox Chapel Garden

Club provided funds and support as well for the deer fence. As gardeners, they too recognize the importance of preventing the deer from eating the trillium.

Volunteers Needed for the 2016 Garlic Mustard Pull

Please come, rain or shine, with four large plastic garbage bags, bug spray, and gardening gloves. The plants are easy to pull by grasping them at the base, but you can bring a small hand trowel to loosen surrounding earth and ease removal of the few difficult individuals. *Parents must attend children. No drop-offs.* If student community service – bring your form! Email: Maria C. R. Harrington, Ph.D. at mariaharrington_2000@yahoo.com

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

Saturday April 30th
9:00 am – 12: pm and
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Sunday May 1st
9:00 am – 12: pm and
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm



What we feed into our storm drains can poison our rivers.

When the rain falls and the snow melts, a flood of water runs off our roofs, roads and yards and down into our streets. Everything the water touches is swept down those streets and fed directly into our storm drains. And then flows out into our rivers—the major source of our drinking water.

Trash. Paint. Oil. Fertilizers. Animal waste. Anything in the path of the storm water can find its way to our rivers through our storm drains.

But there is something we can do about it. In fact,



a lot of dedicated people and municipalities are working on it right now. You can help too.

Use environmentally friendly lawn and garden products. Properly dispose of oil, paints and other household chemicals. And please, don't litter the street or the landscape.

To find out more, visit our website. And discover how to keep our rivers from going down the drain.



Clean water starts in our own backyard. Go to 3riverswetweather.org for a free guide on how you can help.

Recycling Update

Pennsylvania law requires residents of the Borough to recycle and mandates that municipalities update residents annually on recycling requirements and to recap the recycling efforts to date. All residents and institutions are required to separate the following materials from their household garbage and place them in a separate container for recycling: glass containers, food and beverage cans, plastic containers #1-#6, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, corrugated and pressed cardboard cartons, cereal boxes, tissue boxes and shoe boxes.



Hard To Recycle Collection Events

Visit the website prc.org for its 2016 schedule for hard-to-recycle event locations.

Primary Election

The 2016 Primary Election will be held Tuesday, April 26th. Polls are open from 7 AM – 8 PM. If you do not know your voting location, please go to the County website at www.alleghenycounty.us/elect and select Find Your Polling Place under *Additional Information*. Type in your address and your polling location will be displayed.



Park Donation

The Park Commission would like to thank the Fox Chapel Garden Club for its \$1,000 donation towards hemlock tree plantings and/or the stabilization of stream banks with plantings.



Landscaper Information

If you have not already done so, please forward your landscaper's name, phone number and email address to dabate@fox-chapel.pa.us. The Borough is compiling a list of landscapers who work in the Borough to notify them directly regarding leaf and brush collection services and issues relating to blocked driveways for garbage collection service.



Garbage Collection – Blocked Driveways

With the warmer weather approaching and lawn care soon to begin, the Borough would like to remind homeowners to instruct landscapers and other contractors not to impede the garbage collector's access to the garbage containers. If the driveway is blocked and Vogel Disposal's collectors do not have clear access to the garbage,



the collectors are authorized to pass by until the following week.

If the landscaper normally comes on the day that garbage is collected, it is recommended that the garbage be brought to the curb to avoid being skipped for the week.

Residents are also reminded that garbage must be bagged and tied inside garbage containers and placed outside the garage door by 7 AM. Residents are advised that the garbage trucks are equipped with GPS tracking devices – meaning Vogel is aware of the time the truck is at the property to collect the garbage. Check the Borough's website at www.fox-chapel.pa.us for changes in the collection schedule or call Vogel at 1-855/494-3345.



K-9 Officer



The Borough welcomes Falco, a 2-year-old Dutch Shepherd who recently joined the police force after completing 12 weeks of training. Falco took the place of Havoc who served 12 years before retiring at the end of 2015 to live with Falco and their handler, Officer Rob Katich. Officer Katich is responsible for bringing the K-9 unit to Fox Chapel. He has been a member of the Fox Chapel Police Department for 20 years, 17 of which as the K-9 handler. In a recent article in The Herald, Officer Katich stated that having a marked police K-9 unit clearly states the police department's pro-active intent to keep the community safe. Falco can assist in searches for a missing person or conduct drug searches in homes and schools. Officer Katich spends at least four hours a week maintaining Falco's training. He spent his own funds to obtain the dog in order to minimize the costs to the Borough. The Borough recently created the

“Borough of Fox Chapel K-9 Fund” for the residents and general public to donate to help offset the cost of the program. All donations are used solely for canine expenses. Anyone interested in donating can send a check to “Borough of Fox Chapel K-9 Fund”, 401 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Your donations will help ensure that Falco continues as a valuable member of the police force.



Address/Name Corrections

Please view the mailing label on the newsletter to confirm the accuracy of the information and report any changes to dabate@fox-chapel.pa.us. Thank you.



Holiday Garbage Collection Delays and Office Closings

Memorial Day
(Monday, May 30th)
4th of July

Garbage collection for both holidays will be Tuesday through Saturday. The Borough office will be closed both of these holidays.



MADD PowerTalk21

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is sponsoring the nationwide event *PowerTalk21 Day* on April 21, 2016 – the national day for parents to talk with their children about alcohol. This initiative is being launched at a crucial time because many teens will be attending celebratory events like proms and graduation parties. This program encourages parents and caregivers to embrace their important role in influencing America's youth and their decisions about drinking alcohol. Parents are encouraged to visit madd.org/powerofparents to learn more and download a copy of the *Power of Parents* handbook.



State Representative Hal English and Comcast Paper Shredding Event

State Representative Hal English and Comcast will host a free paper shredding event on Saturday, May 21, 9 AM to noon in Hampton High School's parking lot, 2929 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA. Limit 2 bags or boxes. No books, magazines or metal other than staples. For more information, please call the office of State Representative Hal English at 412/487-6605.



Summer Employment Opportunity

The Fox Chapel (Water) Authority is looking to fill its four seasonal positions (May 1st to September 30th) with college students of at least 18 years of age. The job entails augmenting its existing crew during the summer construction period. The starting wage is \$10/hour. Overtime is generally available and the position entails being on call for emergencies every other week. Normal work hours are 7:00 AM – 3:30 PM daily with potential to work on Saturday, weather and crew availability permitting. Applicants will be required to pass a physical and drug screening test in addition to a driver's license check. Applications are available at the Authority office located at 255 Alpha Drive, RIDC Park, O'Hara Township.



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! RESIDENTS WELCOME OPEN HOUSE

Borough of Fox Chapel
& O'Hara Township
May 2, 2016
1-3 PM

Cooper-Siegel Community Library
403 Fox Chapel Road
McLaughlin Room

Learn about MS4 and
Storm Water Management



Cooper-Siegel

COMMUNITY LIBRARY



403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Phone: 412/828-9520 • Fax: 412/828-4960 Email: coopersiegelref@einetwork.net

ADULT PROGRAMS

- Sunday Music at the Library
- Summer Reading Program
- Guitar Classes for all ages
- Get Help with Your Gadget
- Eat at La Cappella
- Soul Food Cooking Demonstration
- Local Author Philip Beard
- Local author Dorit Sasson
- Monthly Teas
- Backyard Gardener Doug Oster
- Indian Cooking Demonstration
- Free Pancake Breakfast
- Divorce Workshop for Women
- Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council
- Save the Date – Fundraising Event!
- Become a literacy tutor
- E-readers are now available for loan
- Adventures in the Burgh
- Meditation with a Monk
- Computer Classes
- Free Continuing Education Courses Online
- Free Streaming Video and Music Downloads
- Free eBooks, eAudio, and eMagazines from our website
- Wise Walk Walking Program

For more information and a complete list of programs, send an email to coopersiegelref@einetwork.net or call the Reference Department at 412/828-9520 x 15. Consider donating your used books, DVDs, and more to the library - your donation is tax-deductible.

CHILDREN PROGRAMS

- Storytimes for Toddlers
- Storytime for Preschoolers
- Baby Lapsit Storytime
- Summer Reading Program
- Begins in June
- Learn about Robotics and the Lego League
- Bunny Hop
- Beechwood Farms Presents Hummingbirds at Home
- Lego Days and Movie Matinees
- Book Bingo
- PA One Book Every Young Child
- April Showers
- Earth Day
- Birthday Book Club

Registration is required. Please register by calling the Children's Department at 412/828-9520 x 18.

TEEN PROGRAMS

- Learn about Robotics and the Lego League
- Mother/Daughter Book Club
- Science Fiction Book Club
- Teen Newsletter
- Summer Reading Program

Registration is required. Please register by calling the Teen Department at 412/828-9520 x 10.



Summer Basketball League

Register now for i9 Sports' summer basketball leagues. i9 Sports basketball programs are designed to help kids learn the basics of dribbling, passing and shooting, all while learning what it means to be part of a team. The summer league is open for boys & girls, ages 5 - 12. Games take place at the Lauri Ann West Community Center and start July 9, 2016. Visit www.i9sports.com to register.

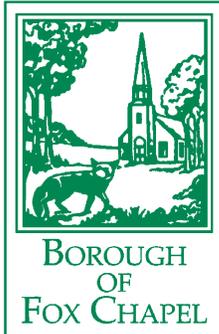
BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 FOX CHAPEL ROAD

PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

(412) 963-1100

www.fox-chapel.pa.us



**BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL
ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Andrew C. Bennett, *President*
Jay S. Troutman, *Vice President*
Harrison S. Lauer
Ann R. Meyer
James M. Royston
Thomas A. Karet
Frederick C. Leech
Walter A. Scott, III, *Mayor*
Joy A. Hardt, *Treasurer*
Gary J. Koehler, *Manager*

Meets each month on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:00 P.M.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Daniel H. Sliger, *Chairman*
Walter A. Scott, III
Bruce H. Laswell
Peggy G. Jayme
Jay S. Troutman
Nanette Bennett
Austin Henry

Meets as needed on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**

Harrison S. Lauer, *Chairman*
Nanette Bennett
Lane D. Dively
James M. Royston
Jeffrey B. Todd

Meets as needed on the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 P.M.

PARK COMMISSION

James W. Pashek, *Chairman*
Nancy Fales
Dotty Beckwith
Jay Troutman
Maria Harrington
Dotty Nielsen
Liz Nelson

Meets the 2nd Monday in March, June, September and December at 9:00 A.M.

**ZONING
HEARING BOARD**

Richard E. Jaynes, *Chairman*
J. Christian Hart
Kim Chrisman

Meets as needed on the Wednesday following the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M.

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Office 412-963-1100**

Building Permits/
Zoning 412-850-5023
Public Works 412-850-5026
Sewer Department.. 412-850-5030

Police Dept. 412-963-7220

**MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE BOROUGH BUILDING AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
ALL RESIDENTS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.**