

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

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Fox Chapel District Association



Summer 2015

Storm water management Understanding the MS4 Program

There is no doubt about it – stormwater management in Pennsylvania is a multi-layered, multi-jurisdictional, ever-changing quagmire of rules, regulations and requirements. Borough residents are often angered by the need to have the sewer lateral tested prior to the sale of property or the stringent stormwater controls required for construction. It is hoped that this article will help residents understand why these requirements are in place. As you will see, these requirements are mandated by Federal and State laws.

What is the MS4 Program?

Untreated or uncontrolled storm water runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our local waterways. Polluted runoff is often transported through municipal drainage systems until it eventually discharges into streams, lakes, and rivers untreated. An MS4, or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, is comprised of drainage systems including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ponds, ditches, man-made channels and storm pipes owned by a state, county, city, town, township, borough or other public entity. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Phase II regulations require a permit for storm water discharges from MS4s, mainly those located in urbanized areas. Therefore, most townships and boroughs, including Fox Chapel, are required to comply with the MS4 Program.

MS4 Programs are intended to improve our nation's surface waters by reducing the quantities of pollutants that are picked up by runoff and transported into the storm sewer systems during rainfall events. As part of the MS4 Program, municipalities must obtain a permit to discharge storm water into local waterways. This permit requires the municipalities to implement and maintain a storm water management program that (1) reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible; (2) protects water quality; and (3) satisfies the water quality requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act. In Pennsylvania, the MS4 program is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The MS4 program has six elements termed “minimum control measures” that when implemented should result in significant reduction in pollutants discharged into receiving waters. The six minimum control measures and the actions required include the following:

Public Education and Outreach - Distribute educational materials and conduct outreach to inform citizens about the impacts that storm water runoff has on water quality.

Public Participation/Involvement - Provide opportunities for citizens to participate in the storm water management program or other programs which improve water quality.

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Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination - Develop and implement a plan to detect and eliminate non storm water discharges into the storm water system.

Construction Site Runoff Control - Develop, implement and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction site activities that disturb one acre or greater.

Post-Construction Runoff Control - Develop, implement and enforce a program to address discharges of post-construction storm water runoff from new development or redevelopment areas.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping - Develop and implement a program that reduces or prevents pollutant runoff from municipal operations.

All municipalities should be committed to improving water quality through better management of storm water runoff. Every resident can participate in their municipal storm water program by reducing or preventing pollutant runoff from their own property and by reporting any non-storm water discharges into the Borough's drainage system.

What can we do to help keep waterways clean?

There are numerous things we can all do on a daily basis to keep pollution out of our waterways. The following are just a few things we can all do to help improve water quality in our streams, rivers and lakes:

1. Never dump anything into storm drains, swales or streams.
2. Pick up litter from the street before it gets into storm drains.
3. Use limited amounts of fertilizer.
4. If you must use pesticides, search for an environment-friendly brand.
5. Recycle motor oil, paint, and other hazardous chemicals. Never dump such materials down the drain or into the storm system.
6. Recycle glass, plastic, and aluminum.
7. Always pick up your pet's waste or harmful bacteria can get into our water!

What types of connections are prohibited?

The following connections are strictly prohibited:

- Any drainage pipe, channel or ditch, whether on the surface or subsurface, which allows non-storm water discharge, including sewage, process wastewater, and wash water, to enter the storm sewer system, and any connections to the storm drain system from indoor drains and sinks.
- Roof Drains - Roof drains shall not be connected to streets, sanitary or storm sewers or roadside ditches, except when it is more advantageous to connect directly to streets or storm sewers. Connection of roof drains to street or roadside ditches may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. Roof drains shall discharge to infiltration areas or vegetative BMPs (Best Management Practices) to the maximum extent practical. This will help to promote groundwater recharge and reduce runoff.
- Waste disposal prohibitions – It is illegal to dispose of or leave any refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded materials in any public or private property, driveway, parking area, street, alley, sidewalk or other component of the Borough's storm sewer system so that such materials may cause or contribute to pollution. Garbage deposited in streets in proper waste receptacles for the purposes of routine collection is exempted from this prohibition.
- Any drain or pipe connected to the municipality's storm sewer system from a commercial or industrial land use which has not been documented in plans, maps, or equivalent records, and approved by the municipality.

Please continue to read future newsletter articles on the MS4 program as the educational phase continues.





Stormwater regulations enacted

At its March meeting, Borough Council enacted Ordinance Nos. 695 and 696 revising the Borough's stormwater and discharge regulations to comply with certain State and Federal clean stream laws. Enactment of the new regulations is mandated under the MS4 permit the Borough is now subject to and is another step of many that must be undertaken. While the Borough has always prided itself on having very comprehensive stormwater management regulations, the new ordinances provide even more controls in certain key areas, particularly as relates to land development. The Borough will be providing educational/informational materials in a variety of venues to advise residents, contractors and design professionals of their responsibilities under the new ordinances.



Mayor's memo

We welcome back Rob Katich to the police force after some surgery! Good to have him back at 100% with the rest of the group!

Trail clearance for the new, off-road trail along Squaw Run East is underway. This trail will run from Riding Meadow Park to Scott Park. There will be a road crossing at Squaw Run, and the trail will go on to the Trillium Trail or down to McCahill Park in the other direction. Two pedestrian bridges will soon be installed for the stream crossings. When all work is complete, we will have an off-road trail through the entire Borough from Beechwood Farms to Squaw Valley Park in O'Hara Township. Many thanks to Jim Pashek and the Park Commission for their efforts.

We are grateful for all the work of the local garden clubs in Fox Chapel. They are continuing to do beatification projects in the area, and their fundraisers benefit local charities. I would like to name them all but do not want to make the mistake of forgetting anyone! Know that any garden in a public place was most likely their doing! Speaking of beautiful gardens, take a look at the work done by the Mitnicks at the Library! Also improving the landscape at the Library is Greg Schaffer and GreenPrints Landscaping.

One of the "treasures" in the Borough is Beechwood Farms, part of the W. PA Audubon Society. Look for upcoming news about planned improvements at Beechwood. Also, we will have news about a history day at the Borough Building, perhaps in the fall. This will be a chance to gather and talk about the early days in Fox Chapel.

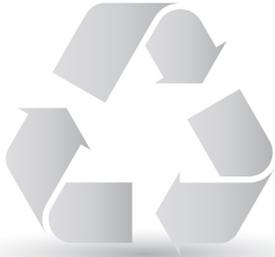
- Alex Scott



Office closings/holiday garbage collection delay/bins closed

In observance of the 4th of July holiday, the Borough office will be closed Friday, July 3rd. Garbage WILL be collected on Friday, July 3rd. The rubbish bins will be closed Saturday, July 4th. The office will also be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 7th. Garbage collection for Labor Day week will be Tuesday through Saturday (delayed one day following the holiday).





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. There are also recycling bins at the Borough's rubbish bins for cardboard and metal. The bins are open Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM – 4 PM.

	<u>2014</u>
All Recyclables except leaves	855.04 Tons
Leaf Waste	8,590.00 Tons



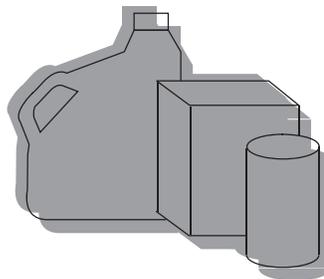
Hard-to-recycle collections

Residents are reminded to visit prc.org to find information on various hard-to-recycle collections scheduled throughout the Pittsburgh area. The website also provides useful information, workshops and provides a resources guide on places that will accept items such as TV's, electronics, Freon-containing appliances, batteries, useable building materials, etc. One can also sign up for the E-newsletter. With all of us environmentally conscious these days, it certainly is a website worth viewing.



Household chemicals collection

The Pittsburgh Resources Council will hold a household chemicals recycling event on Saturday, August 15th, 9 AM – 1 PM, at the Boyce Park Ski Lodge parking lot. Please visit www.orc.org or call 412/488-7452 for additional information.



Roadside vegetation maintenance

Residents are reminded of the responsibility to keep the vegetation along all property lines trimmed back three (3) feet from the road pavement. Vegetation not properly maintained can create vision problems and other hazardous conditions. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Fox Chapel (Water) Authority

The Fox Chapel (Water) Authority is a separate entity from the Borough and is located in RIDC Park, 255 Alpha Drive. Calls at the Borough office for the Authority have increased resulting in this reminder to residents to please call the Authority for any questions regarding billing, water pressure, water breaks, etc. (412/963-0212). Also, water/sewer bill payments cannot be accepted at the Borough office. Thank you.



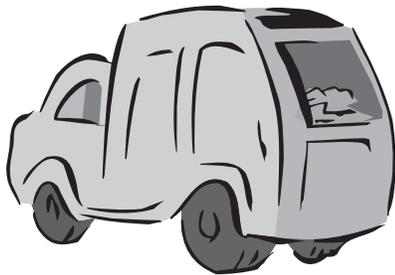
Garbage collection – blocked driveways

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.



Fire truck fundraiser underway

By now residents should have received a solicitation letter from the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department seeking donations for the purchase of a new fire truck in 2018. Please support these volunteers who protect your homes and loved ones.



Residents are also reminded that garbage must be bagged and tied inside garbage containers and placed outside the garage door by 7 AM. Check the Borough's website at www.fox-chapel.pa.us for changes in the collection schedule.



Fill soil available

The Borough's Public Works Department often has fill soil available during road construction projects. If interested in fill soil, please contact Dempsey Bruce, PWD Superintendent, at 412/850-5026.



Real estate tax drop-off

Jordan Tax Service is the Borough's real estate tax collector. A representative from Jordan Tax will be available at the Borough office to accept real estate tax payments on Friday, July 31st, from 9 AM to noon. Jordan Tax can be reached at 412/345-7962, www.jordantax.com or at 102 Rahway Road, McMurray, PA 15317.



Soliciting

As you know, the Borough has a permitting system intended to keep commercial solicitors and peddlers away from homes where the homeowners have registered with the Borough as not wanting such visitors. However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that non-commercial solicitations cannot be regulated. In order for a property owner to keep all solicitors away, a "No Solicitors" sign must be posted on their property.





Shady Side Academy

Fox Chapel Farmers' Market

The Fox Chapel Farmers' Market is open every Wednesday, 3-6 PM, June through October on the Shady Side Academy Senior School campus at 423 Fox Chapel Road. The market features locally-sourced, seasonal produce, food and specialty items from farms and vendors within a 120-mile radius, including SSA's own campus farm. In addition to fresh fruits and vegetables, vendors offer cheese, honey, eggs, grass-fed meats, desserts and handmade items. Enjoy live music and cooking demonstrations, play horseshoes or corn hole, or grab a seat at a bistro table to enjoy dinner or a snack. Learn more at www.ShadySideAcademy.org/FarmersMarket.

SSA Summer Programs – Register Now!

Shady Side Academy offers a wide array of affordable, fun summer programs for kids entering grades K-12 on its Middle and Senior School campuses here in Fox Chapel. Offerings include day camps, sports camps, specialty camps, for-credit summer school classes, enrichment classes and more. Camps are filling quickly so register now! Learn more at www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Summer or call 412/-447-2230.

Fall Admissions

Shady Side Academy has limited openings in certain grades for the 2015-2016 school year. Interested families are encouraged to contact the Admissions Office as soon as possible at 412/968-3180 or admissions@shadysideacademy.org.



Phone numbers

The Borough receives many phone calls requesting phone numbers. Some of the most requested phone numbers are listed below for your use. We ask that residents refrain from calling the Borough for phone numbers thus keeping the phone lines open for other Borough matters. We also encourage the use of the Borough's website for information regarding office closings, garbage collection delays, meeting schedules, etc., at www.fox-chapel.pa.us. Thank you for your cooperation.



Comcast	412/771-8100
Community Center	412/828-8566
Cooper-Siegel Library.....	412/828-9520
Duquesne Light Company	888/393-7000
Fox Chapel Police (Non-Emergency).....	412/963-7220
Fox Chapel (Water) Authority	412/963-0212
Fox Chapel School District.....	412/963-9600
Foxwall EMS.....	412/963-6611
Jordan Tax Service (Real Estate Tax)	412/345-7963
Keystone Collections Group (Wage Tax)	724/978-0300
O'Hara Township (Squaw Valley Park)	412/782-1400
Verizon.....	800/837-4966
Vogel Disposal (Garbage Collection)	855/494-3345



Visit Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania for Summer Fun!

Events take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve or Succop Nature Park (SNP) located at 185 West Airport Road, Butler, PA 16002.

Birding & Nature Hikes
Birds & More Naturalist Led Morning Walks
Every Wednesday at 9 AM; Free
SNP – Every Thursday 9 AM; Free

Fall Warbler Migration Hike
August 29 at 8 AM

Audubon at Night
Full Moonrise Hike
July 1 at 8 PM

Preschool Programs
Babes in the Woods
July 2, August 6, September 3 at 10 AM
Little ones get outdoors and enjoy nature with a parent or caregiver. Baby backpacks and trail friendly strollers are welcome!

Fledglings
July 9, August 13, September 10 at 10 AM
SNP – May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 8 at 10 AM – 11 AM
Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. Fledglings programs incorporate stories, a walk and activities to introduce new and fun nature themes to young participants.

Don't miss our native plant and citizen science programs, too! A full listing is available at aswp.org or call 412/963-6100.



 **Audubon Society**
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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**

Walter A. Scott, III, *Chairman*
Bruce H. Laswell
Peggy G. Jayme
Daniel H. Sliger
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
Brian Shema
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*
John B. Montgomery
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

Direct Dial Numbers:

Building Permits..... 412-850-5023
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.**