

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Published by

Fox Chapel Borough &
Fox Chapel District Association



Winter 2010

2010 BUDGET APPROVED

On December 21st, Borough Council approved the 2010 Budget and set the real estate tax rate at 2.30 mills which means for a house assessed at \$500,000, the real estate tax will be \$1,150 or \$25 more than 2009. As the figure on Page 3 clearly illustrates, the Borough tax is a very small portion of your total real estate tax bill.

The 2010 Budget predicts that total General Fund revenue will be \$5,933,500, an increase of \$442,100 over 2009 actual revenue. This increase consists of \$125,800 in real estate tax, \$131,400 in earned income tax and \$77,600 in State pension aid which will be offset by increased pension costs in 2010. Earned income tax continues to be the greatest source of income comprising 44.7% of total income.

The 2010 Budget proposes General Fund expenditures equal to \$5,933,500, an increase of \$168,300 over 2009 actual expenditures. Mandated pension contributions increase \$119,600 in 2010; refuse collection costs increase \$36,700 and parks expenditures increase \$24,900. However, public works will decrease by \$42,300 along with an expected decrease in real estate and earned income tax refunds of \$21,000.

The allocation for Public Safety will be \$1,624,000 which represents 27.4% of total expenditures. This allows for contracted increases in salaries and benefits.

The allocation for Garbage Collection Service will be \$916,600 in 2010 as per the garbage contract executed in 2005.

In 2010, the cost of garbage collection will represent 15.4% of total expenditures. Council will be considering multiple options in 2010 to reduce the cost of the manpower-intensive refuse collection contract currently in place.

The allocation for the Public Works Department will be \$1,690,900 in 2010. This represents 28.5% of the 2010 expenditures.

The Borough's contribution to the community center and library operations will remain at \$282,000 in 2010 or 4.8% of total 2010 expenditures.

The 2010 Budget may be reviewed in the Borough office during normal business hours or on the Borough's website at www.fox-chapel.pa.us. 

Recycling reminders

All Borough residents are reminded that all households are required by Pennsylvania law to recycle all of the following materials:

Glass, food and beverage containers

Aluminum and bimetal cans, including food and beverage containers, plus aluminum foil

Steel food cans

All plastic containers having the international recycling symbol on the bottom, regardless of the number

Newsprint, magazines, catalogs, phone books, corrugated paper, cardboard, junk mail, etc.



Your recyclables will be picked up the same day as your trash. ALL recyclable materials are to be placed in the recycling container provided by the Borough. **Newsprint should be bound or placed in a separate paper bag before placing it in your recycling container.** Many residents are encouraged to follow this requirement. Your recyclables should be cleaned and paper labels removed. 

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Sewer rates adjusted

For the second time in the last fifty years, Council has approved increasing the sewer rate. The rate was last adjusted in 1991. The rates have changed from \$0.65 per thousand gallons of water used to \$1.65 per thousand gallons of water used. This action was taken because:

- The State of PA report prepared by the Governor's sustainable infrastructure Task Force published in November 2008 states "after examining all options, the Task Force finds that consumer rates that reasonably reflect the full cost of the service received are needed to assure reliable and sustained investment in our water infrastructure".
- The recommendations of the Borough's Engineer that the cost of service should be reflected in rates.
- The Borough Sewer Fund is faced with near term future liability of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Consent Decree with Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) and Allegheny County Health Department Consent Order with the Borough. These Decrees and Orders will prevent sewer overflows into streams and rivers and has an estimated cost to the Borough from \$442,000 to \$2,200,000.

The Borough has been subsidizing sewer rates for several years with real estate and earned income taxes. Sewer rates are used to pay for repair, replacement, cleaning and inspection of over 77.04 miles of sewer line in the Borough. Most of the sewer lines are constructed of clay pipe installed in the 1930's through the 1970's.

The average household sewer rate will change from \$118.42 to \$150.73 per quarter or \$10.77 a month which includes both the Borough's and ALCOSAN's rate increase. 🐾

Driveway improvement permit

While planning property improvement projects for the spring, please be aware that driveway modifications require a Driveway Improvement Permit from the Borough before starting any work such as repaving, changing the material, grade or drainage pattern. The Borough would appreciate residents making the contractor aware of the requirement for a permit. The Driveway Permit Application is available at the Borough office or on the Borough's website. If you have any questions, please contact **Bob Smith** at 412/963-1100 x 13 🐾

Borough website

The Borough strongly encourages residents to visit the Borough's website www.fox-chapel.pa.us to get answers to frequently asked questions such as garbage collection schedules, office closings, meeting agendas and minutes. 🐾

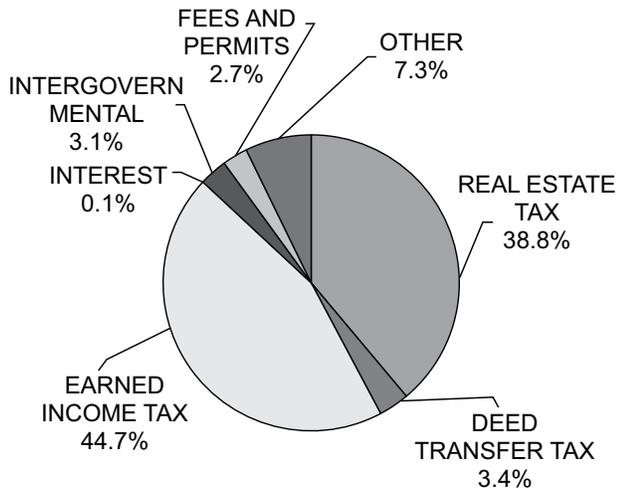
Brush collection

The Borough will provide spring brush collection beginning March 8th according to the schedule found in the back of this newsletter.

All brush must be placed at the roadside with the larger end toward the street. No tree limbs larger than five inches in diameter or eight feet in length will be collected. Hedges, vines, rose bushes, shrubs, multi-flora hedges, etc. must be securely tied in bundles not exceeding 16 inches in diameter. Loose hedges, vines, bushes, etc., will not be collected. No leaves, grass clippings or other debris will be collected as part of the brush program. Please make certain no metal objects are in the branches.

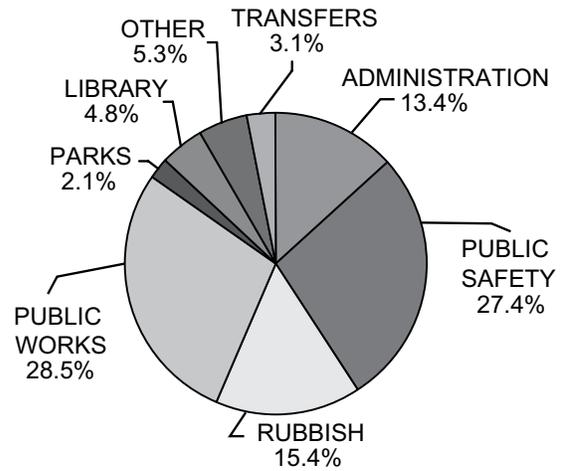
Borough personnel are not permitted to enter onto private property for the collection of brush or trimmings. Of necessity, the amount of brush or tree trimmings to be collected from individual properties must be regulated. Accordingly, the volume of material that will be collected by the Borough must be limited to a *single* pile per property, said pile not to exceed four feet in width by six feet in height by eight feet in length. 🐾

BUDGETED REVENUES 2010



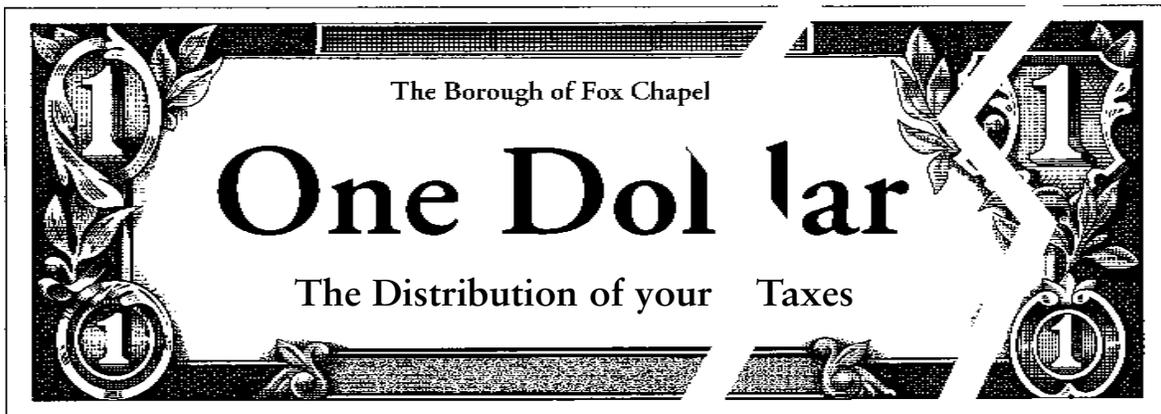
	AMOUNT	PERCENT
REAL ESTATE TAX	\$2,301,600	38.8%
DEED TRANSFER TAX	\$200,000	3.4%
EARNED INCOME TAX	\$2,650,000	44.7%
INTEREST	\$4,000	0.1%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	\$185,100	3.1%
FEEES AND PERMITS	\$159,400	2.7%
OTHER	\$433,400	7.3%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,933,500	100.0%

BUDGETED EXPENDITURES 2010



	AMOUNT	PERCENT
ADMINISTRATION	\$797,800	13.4%
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$1,624,000	27.4%
RUBBISH	\$916,600	15.4%
PUBLIC WORKS	\$1,690,900	28.5%
PARKS	\$123,100	2.1%
LIBRARY	\$282,000	4.8%
OTHER	\$314,100	5.3%
TRANSFERS	\$185,000	3.1%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,933,500	100.0%

WHERE YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLAR GOES



SCHOOL
20.78 mills
74.8%

COUNTY
4.69 mills
16.9%

BOROUGH
2.30 mills
8.3%

Tax collection

Newly-elected Tax Collector **A. Bruce Bowden** has deputized Jordan Tax Service as the tax collector for collection of Borough and School District taxes. Tax statements will be mailed to residents by Jordan Tax Service and payments should be mailed directly to Jordan, **not the Borough office**. Any questions regarding the payment of either tax should be directed to Jordan Tax Service at 412/345-7962. 

Snow removal

Help reduce the possibility of a broken mailbox post. While plow operators are urged to take precautions to avoid hitting mailbox posts, experience has shown that reduced visibility during a storm can make it difficult for a driver to see a post in time to avoid striking it or pushing it over with plowed snow. Any installation within the street right-of-way, including a mailbox, is placed there at the owner's risk. Therefore, homeowners are encouraged to install mailboxes at the maximum usable distance from the edge of the roadway. Posts should also be checked for deterioration to reduce the possibility that the weight of the plowed snow could simply topple the post.

If possible, wait until the road in front of your house has been plowed before cleaning out the end of your driveway since there is no practical way for the Borough to plow its roads without depositing snow into your driveway.

Do not shovel snow into the road or have your driveway plowed into the road. This can cause a serious traffic hazard and subject the property owner to a hefty fine. If possible, it is best to place snow on the side of the driveway opposite the direction that the Borough's plow travels. By implementing this technique, the plow will carry snow away from your driveway rather than back into it. 

Snow-covered driveways

Unplowed driveways make it dangerous or impossible for the garbage collectors to get to many homes. *It is the homeowner's responsibility to make certain that driveways are plowed and ice/snow free to permit the garbage collectors to access homes.* The garbage collectors cannot be expected to trudge through snow- and ice-covered driveways to collect your garbage and then carry it out to the street. The collectors are authorized to skip any property where the driveway has not been cleared and will not be required to make a return visit before the normal collection date the following week. If a driveway is inaccessible or blocked by vehicles and the garbage needs to be picked up, it will need to be at the curb. 

Local Services Tax

Borough Council voted to enact the Local Services Tax of \$52 per year and repeal the Occupational Privilege Tax of \$10. Beginning in 2010, any person who works within the Borough of Fox Chapel, including home occupations, will now need to pay \$52. To register, please call JTCA at 412/767-4027. 

Garbage collection

The following is the 2010 garbage holiday collection schedule. Garbage will NOT be collected on these days resulting in a 1-day collection delay:

Memorial Day,
Monday, May 31st

Labor Day,
Monday, September 6th

Thanksgiving Day,
Thursday, November 25th

Summer jobs

Even though it's still winter outside, it's not too soon to start thinking about summer employment for your college student. The Borough is currently accepting applications for summer employment in the Borough's Public Works Department. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and capable of performing manual outdoor labor. Preference is given first to individuals who have previously worked for the Borough and second, to Borough residents. Please stop in the Borough Office to obtain an employment application. 

FOX CHAPEL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Spring 2010

As we dig out from the long, cold winter and enjoy the lengthening days of spring, our local trail system, too, is in the process of lengthening. The FCDA, in conjunction with the Friends of the Riverfront (FOR), is actively involved in Phase 2 of the trail system. Public meetings were held throughout the winter on the trails initiative. (If you weren't able to attend, please check the FOR web page for updates and further information.) This is a continuing activity that the FCDA will be a major player in over the summer months. Also, please check our website for information on the trails that impacts our member communities.

January's Winterfest was a huge success as more and more families are coming out to explore the trail system and to see what impact the FCDA has on our area. We continue to support projects in our member communities that are not fully funded by tax dollars, yet are needed to keep our area a vital, happening place to live. The only way that we can continue with these worthwhile endeavors is through your support. A family membership is \$35 per year. It is through funds raised that we are able to play such an active role in our member communities. Please consider joining not only to know that you are playing a part in making our communities a better place to live, but to be among the first to be able to purchase tickets for the much anticipated 2010 Fox Chapel Follies! That's right! It's been a long three years since the last version. The Follies will be held on November 17, 18, 19, 20. Since the last Follies were sold out every night, be sure to join the FCDA so that you can be alerted as soon as tickets become available. While we don't want to wish away spring and summer, we can't wait for November! 🐾

BOROUGH COUNCIL PLEDGES \$1 MILLION TO NEW LIBRARY

Borough Council has pledged \$1 million from the Borough's Land Fund Reserve Account for the new Cooper-Siegel Community Library to be built adjacent to the Fox Chapel Borough Building on Fox Chapel Road. The Land Fund is a reserve that was set aside years ago to acquire vacant land for recreation and open space. According to Council President Nate Parker, with most of the land in the Borough now developed, this reserve is greater than the need it is designed to meet. Mr. Parker also stated that it is Council's hope that by assuming a leadership position in the drive for funds, the Borough's pledge will help the Community Center Library Association complete its fund drive. 🐾



Library Programs for Adults

Winter Reading Program



Enter to win a prize in the winter reading program. You only need to read four books during the winter to qualify. Sign up online by going to the library's web page at www.lauriannwestlibrary.org, or visit the library's reference department.



Chocolate! Thursday, February 11th, at 7 PM

The ecology of the cocoa plant, how chocolate is processed, how to use it in recipes and the different kinds of chocolate will be explained. Chocolates will be provided to sample and a chocolate baked good and recipes will be provided.

Leonard Bernstein: A Panoramic View Saturday, February 13th, at 1 PM

Arguably, **Leonard Bernstein** is the most important American musician of the 20th Century. Conductor, composer, pianist, lecturer, writer, and educator, his life was on a constant mode of creative and inquisitive quest. This lecture will focus on the extent in which Mr. Bernstein excelled in a multiplicity of areas. **Flavio** was a personal friend of **Mr. Bernstein**, having worked for him as a conducting assistant on several occasions. Mr. Chamis will share with the audience some of the exclusive personal recordings and mementos collected during the years of their friendship.

Unlocking the Classics Monday, March 15th, at 7 PM

Jim Cunningham from WQED and a Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra musician will discuss an upcoming performance by the orchestra and will take questions from the audience. Live excerpts may be performed.

College Admissions 101 Monday, March 22nd, at 7 PM

With over twelve years of selective college admissions experience, Eva Gelman will answer your tough college admissions questions and walk you through the admissions and financial aid process.

For the Love of Murphy's Monday, March 29th, at 7 PM

Lecture by **Jason Togyer**, author of *For the Love of Murphy's: the Behind-the-Counter Story of a Great American Retailer*. He will talk about the histories of G. C. Murphy Company (founded in McKeesport, PA) stores in the area.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra String Ensemble Monday, April 12th, at 7 PM

The ensemble plus bassoonist will provide an unusually fun program of chamber music. This family-friendly program for all ages includes performance and discussion.

UPMC St. Margaret Physician Library Lecture Series Wednesday, April 14th, at 7 PM

Contact the reference department for a schedule of topics.

Creating a Healthy Environment Thursday, April 15th, at 7 PM

This program will detail how you can make yourself healthier using natural products and your home environmentally safe.

Food for Life: Nutrition and Cooking Classes Four consecutive Mondays beginning April 19th, 10 AM or 7 PM

Board certified holistic health counselor Janet McKee will present a valuable program of information and cooking demonstrations with light meals designed to show how a healthy diet can cut down your risk of cancer. For the cost and details, please contact the library reference department.

Saving Money and the Environment Thursday, April 22nd, at 7 PM

Come to this informative program by Vox Energy Solutions whose goal is to provide education to help people better understand alternative energy and empower them via green technology to reduce or eliminate the carbon footprint and/or electric bill. The good news is there are now rebates as well as tax credits available that will also be explained.

Computer Classes

The library offers classes on Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, basic digital photography and beginning computer classes year round. Contact the reference department at the library or go to our website for more information.

Library Delivery to Homebound Residents

The library has begun a new outreach program specifically designed for patrons within the Fox Chapel Area School District who are homebound. Participants may select from any subject and type of material including books on CD, DVDs and more. A survey sheet will be made available to list what materials are needed.

For more information or to register to participate, please call the library at 412/828-9520, x 28. Leave a message with name and telephone number. You may also send an e-mail to farinaa@einetwork.net with name and contact information and include "Register for Outreach" in the subject field.



Library Programs for Adults



Book Discussion Groups

A Friday afternoon group meets at noon once a month and a Monday evening group meets at 7 PM once a month. The library will loan copies of the books.

Book Group Leader Packets

The Reference Department customizes a packet of information including book reviews, author information, discussion questions and more for your book group.

Book Group Leader Kits

Choose from eighteen book group selections. The kits include ten copies of the book and a book group leader packet.

Please register by calling the Reference Dept. at 412/828-9520 x 15 or by sending an email to lawstref@einetwork.net 

Art in Bloom

Carnegie Museum of Art, Thursday – Saturday, April 8-10, 2010

Spring truly blossoms with the return of Art in Bloom, a 2-day celebration featuring favorite works of art, fresh flowers and an array of festivities. Regional garden clubs, local organizations and florists will create stunning floral displays in a spectrum of styles to fill the CMOA galleries with the season's most vibrant colors and loveliest of fragrances.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the art collection complemented in an entirely new way! Art in Bloom is presented by the Women's Committee of the Carnegie Museum of Art. For more information on the Art in Bloom Exhibit, April in Paris Gala, Lecture & Luncheon with **Chris Giftos** or Family Activities featuring Monet's Water Lilies, please call 412/622-3325 or tabrumj@carnegiemuseums.org. 

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

It's Maple Madness time at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve on Saturday, March 27th, 10 AM – 3 PM. When the sap runs, it's maple syrup season! Our annual event features a pancake brunch and living history trail where the entire family can investigate the sweet mystery of turning sap to syrup. The cost is \$6/member, \$10/nonmember. Make your reservation by calling 412/963-6100. Please visit www.aswp.org for more information. 

Foxwall CPR classes

Date	Class	Time
Saturday, February 27	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, March 27	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, April 24	<i>BLS for Healthcare Providers</i>	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, May 15	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, June 26	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, July 24	<i>BLS for Healthcare Providers</i>	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, August 28	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, September 25	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, October 23	<i>BLS for Healthcare Providers</i>	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, November 20	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM
Saturday, December 18	Heartsaver CPR	Noon – 4 PM

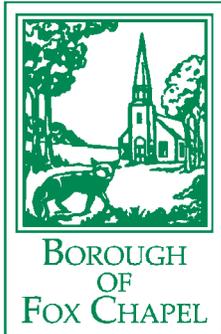
BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 FOX CHAPEL ROAD

PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

(412) 963-1100

www.fox-chapel.pa.us



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

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Kathleen Toole, *Chair*
David C. Cannon, Jr.
Thomas D. Cramer
Bruce H. Laswell
Walter A. Scott, III
Peggy G. Jayme

Meets each month on the 2nd Monday
at 7:30 P.M.

**BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Nathan K. Parker, Jr., *President*
Andrew C. Bennett, *V. President*
Louis P. Greulich
Harrison S. Lauer
Jay S. Troutman
Walter A. Scott, III
Kathleen Toole

Harry W. McLaughlin, *Mayor*
Edward L. McGrath, *Treasurer*
Gary J. Koehler, *Manager*

Meets each month on the 3rd Monday at
7:30 P.M.

**PLANNING
COMMISSION**

Louis P. Greulich, *Chairman*
Betty E. Butler
Lane D. Dively
George S. Hill
Harrison S. Lauer
James M. Royston
Jeffrey B. Todd

Meets each month on the Wednesday fol-
lowing the 2nd Monday at 7:30 P.M.

PARK COMMISSION

Nancy Fales, *Chair*
Dottie Beckwith
Jay Troutman
Brian Shema
Ferd J. Sauereisen
James W. Pashek
Maria Harrington

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

**ZONING
HEARING BOARD**

Richard E. Jaynes, *Chairman*
Elizabeth C. Kampmeinert
John B. Montgomery

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

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

Extensions:

Administration0
Building Permits/Zoning13
Public Works19
Sewer Department.....26

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.**