

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Published by

Fox Chapel Borough &
Fox Chapel District Association



Winter 2015

2015 BUDGET

The 2015 General Fund budget of \$7,152,300 contains a deficit of \$303,000 which will be made up from reserves for projects that were delayed from 2014 to 2015 due to a delay in receiving DEP permits. General Fund revenues are expected to rise 9% over 2014 with expenses rising 13%.

The Borough operates with an administrative staff of five, eleven police officers, and nine public works employees, two of which are primarily dedicated to sewer work. The Borough has been bidding its road paving jointly with O'Hara for a few years enabling us to get an excellent joint bid price. Fox Chapel was able to pave Old Mill Road and Berkshire Drive in 2014. The 2015 budget proposes \$726,200 of contracted road paving. Another \$266,300 has been allocated for storm drain materials. The public works crew has been saving the Borough hundreds of thousands of dollars by doing the drainage work in-house rather than paying a contractor.



The Borough's two main sources of revenue are real estate tax and earned income tax accounting for 70% to 75% of our revenue. The 2015 budget includes a real estate tax increase of .2 mills, taking our millage from 2.3 mills in 2014 to 2.5 mills in 2015. A real estate tax increase is necessary because earned income tax revenue has not been rising in Fox Chapel as it has in neighboring communities. In fact, we bring in less earned income tax revenue today than we did in 2007 and 2008.

The 2015 budget includes \$554,100 for the replacement of a fire pumper truck, \$134,400 for 17 SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) units for the fire department, \$182,000 for a 10T dump/salt truck, \$44,000 for a pickup truck, \$35,000 for a police vehicle, \$13,500 for a walk-behind saw to cut our roads, \$13,100 for 3 in-car video systems for the patrol cars and \$11,000 for new ballistic vests. The fire department has applied for a grant to offset the cost of the SCBA units. We will also be leasing Geographic Information System (GIS) database management software beginning in 2015 at an approximate cost of \$20,240 in 2015 and \$16,240 annually thereafter. This software is cloud-based, links to the Borough's GIS system and allows for real-time updating of inspections and infrastructure upgrades. It is expected to be used by every department in the Borough to increase productivity and reduce costs.

An ALCOSAN sewer rate increase of 11% will be passed through by the Borough. An additional 11% ALCOSAN rate increase can be expected in 2016.

The 2015 Budget is available on the Borough's website at www.fox-chapel.pa.us.

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Mayor's Memo

With the coming of spring, it is good to remember that the Borough has a list of native plants available to residents. Anyone planning to add to their landscape should consider this for a number of reasons: The native species are essential to the health of birds and other wildlife, capture maximum storm runoff which can reduce erosion and help to mitigate extreme temperatures. The erosion issue is more serious due to the loss of many Ash trees, and we all need to think about adding native shrubs and trees. Copies are available on the Borough's website or Borough office.

We are looking for volunteers to help clear a new trail from Riding Meadow Park to Scott Park. This will help get this trail "off road" and give hikers a lot more distance in our trail system. Details will be available in an upcoming newsletter.

It is great to see our longtime institutions improving and adding to their facilities. We note there are plans for new improvements at Shady Side Academy, and work is proceeding at the Fox Chapel Golf Club to expand facilities. Just outside the Borough the new Laurie Ann West Community Center is under construction. This, along with our new Library, will give us the best amenities any community could hope for and will be used by Borough residents as well as all communities of the school district. Fox Chapel Borough residents have been very generous in supporting both projects and fund raising continues. I am happy to answer questions about the projects.

Longtime residents of Fox Chapel know that if they need to stop at the Borough Building for any reason there are pleasant people there to greet them and help them solve a problem or get them to the right person. Many of us take this for granted including myself, and by spending more time at the Borough offices the last few years, I have seen Dana, Joy and Debbie in action. There is always a smile and a kind word for everyone and a willingness to help!

-Alex Scott-



Nixle



Just a reminder to residents that the Borough is using a new communications service that allows important Borough information to be sent directly to residents. The Nixle Community Information Service allows the Borough to deliver messages to those who subscribe via cell phone, text message and/or e-mail. Messages may include road closures, public safety issues and other relevant Borough information. The service is free, reliable and has no hidden costs. Residents can choose how they wish to receive the information: e-mail, text message or over the web. Visit www.nixle.com for additional information or to register for this service.



Want to get involved?

Just a reminder to residents to notify the Borough in writing or email if you are interested in serving on a Borough committee. The three most active committees are the Environmental Advisory Council, Park Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board.



Park grants

In 2015, the Borough will receive \$252,700 in grants from the State to enhance our parks. A Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) Grant in the amount of \$56,850 will be used to purchase and install a pedestrian bridge across Squaw Run opposite the Pittsburgh Field Club driveway. A Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Grant for \$139,000 has been awarded to purchase and install a second pedestrian bridge over Squaw Run and extend a trail. The third grant is a GTRP Grant for \$58,850 to extend the trail from Scott Park to the Trillium Trail lower parking lot. The Borough must put up matching funds in the form of materials, labor and engineering. The total cost of the three parks projects is estimated at \$419,900. These projects will link the majority of the Borough parks with a trail network. The Fox Chapel Trails Map is available on the Borough's website. The Borough would like to thank Jim Pashek, Jim Pashek & Associates, and his staff for their tireless efforts in obtaining these grants.



Latex paint disposal tips

To dispose of latex paint, solidify and place in your trash...

- latex paint can be solidified by mixing in an equal amount of absorbent material (such as cat litter, sawdust, plaster of Paris or oil dry) and allowed to dry
- place thin layers (about 1") into a cardboard box lined with plastic; allow paint to dry one layer at a time until all paint has hardened
- for faster results, use "Waste Paint Hardener" available at hardware stores



DO NOT

- pour the paint on the ground or down storm drains where it will pollute the surface and/or groundwater
- pour it down the drain or throw liquid paint into weekly trash



PLEDGE TO DRIVE 25!



WE USE THE ROADS. WE CAN TAKE SIMPLE STEPS TO MAKE OUR ROADS SAFER.

- Driving the speed limit ensures everyone behind you is also driving the speed limit
- Come to a complete stop at stop signs
- No Pittsburgh lefts, or going through the traffic light after it's red
- When on bicycle, use lights and make yourself visible
Learn hand signals for turning and stopping
- Yield to pedestrians when you see them approaching a crosswalk
Learn where the crosswalks are in your neighborhood
- When on foot, only cross in designated areas - don't j-walk
- Don't park illegally. Even if it's not properly painted and signed, park your car 15 feet away from stop signs, 3 feet away from driveways, and 20 feet away from crosswalks

Tax collectors

All employees whose primary place of business is located in Fox Chapel Borough must pay a \$52 Local Services Tax for emergency services and road maintenance. Each employer in the Borough, including residents with home occupations, is charged with the duty of deducting the tax from each of his employees and remitting payment to Keystone Collections Group, 546 Wendell Road, Irwin, PA 15642 (724/978-0300), within thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter. Keystone also collects earned income tax (EIT) for the Borough. All tax forms are available on-line at www.keystonecollects.com. (Reminder that the Borough's PSD Code is 710403.)

Real Estate taxes are collected by Jordan Tax Service. Jordan is located at 102 Rahway Road, McMurray, PA 152317, 412/345-7962, www.jordantax.com. Questions regarding tax payments, refunds or tax receipts should be directed to Jordan Tax Service.

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 Chuck Smith at 412/963-1100 x 126.

Borough website

The Borough strongly encourages residents to visit the Borough's website www.fox-chapel.pa.us for general information and to get answers to frequently asked questions such as garbage collection holidays, bin hours and office closings.



Brush collection

The Borough will provide spring brush collection beginning March 9th. The schedule is included in the newsletter. Please inform your landscapers of the collection schedule. Weather conditions or other emergencies could cause delays in the collection.

All brush must be placed at the roadside with the cut 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.



Office/Rubbish Bin Closings

The Borough office will be closed Friday, April 3rd, in observance of Good Friday. The bins will be closed Easter Sunday, April 5th.



Dog license applications

State law requires dogs to be licensed. A license application is available at the Borough office or license can be purchased online at www.alleghenycounty.us/treasurer/dog.aspx.

Dogs running loose

State law prohibits any dog to run at large. All dogs must be under control. The Borough receives many complaints about dogs running loose in the Borough. Should the Public Works Department retrieve a dog, a fine of \$125 will be charged to the dog owner with payment required before release of the dog to the owner.



Garbage collection

The following is the 2015 garbage holiday collection schedule. Garbage will NOT be collected on these days resulting in a 1-day collection delay:

Memorial Day,
Monday, May 25th

Labor Day
Monday, September 7th

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 26th

Christmas
Friday, December 25th

New Year's 2016
Friday, January 1st

Vogel Disposal reminds residents to please place trash in large garbage bags – not small grocery bags. Loose garbage will not be collected. Also, large items such as lamps, large toys, vacuum cleaners, small household appliances and aluminum/resin lawn furniture 45 pounds or less can be picked up by Vogel Disposal on your scheduled garbage day eliminating the need to bring it to the rubbish bins. Garbage calls should be directed to Vogel Disposal at 855/494-3345.



Summer jobs

Even though it's still winter outside, it is 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. Please stop in the Borough office to obtain an employment application.



FCV Fire Department Call Summary

| | 2013 | 2014 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| False Alarm | 151 - 42.8% | 112 - 39.6% |
| Motor Vehicle Accident | 77 - 21.8% | 64 - 22.6% |
| Structure Fire | 28 - 7.9% | 20 - 7.1% |
| Transformer Fire/Wires Down | 27 - 7.6% | 17 - 6.0% |
| Brush Fire | 6 - 1.7% | 5 - 1.8% |
| Vehicle Fire | 7 - 2.0% | 3 - 1.1% |
| Other Types of Fire | 5 - 1.4% | 6 - 2.1% |
| Carbon Monoxide | 12 - 3.4% | 10 - 3.5% |
| Natural Gas | 11 - 3.1% | 18 - 6.4% |
| Other (Flooding Condition, Physical Rescue, Assist EMS, etc.) | 29 - 8.2% | 28 - 9.9% |
| Total Calls | | |
| | 2012 - 301 | |
| | 2013 - 353 | |
| | 2014 - 283 | |



Fox Chapel District Association

By: Ashby Daniels

As winter arrives, I find myself thankful that thus far we haven't seen as much snow or cold weather as we had by this time last year. (Hopefully, I won't eat my words by the time this prints). Winter can be long here in Pittsburgh.

With that in mind, the Fox Chapel District Association (FCDA) is planning some neat events this year. To get the most up to date information, you can find information via our website at foxchapedistrictassociation.org or talk to your local FCDA Board Member.

At our heart, we are a community-sponsored organization that supports the entire Fox Chapel School District Area. The FCDA plans and implements projects to enhance and beautify the community, but are not taxpayer funded. We rely on our fundraising efforts through various events and our membership dues go exclusively to those projects. The FCDA Board is made up of volunteers representing all the townships/boroughs that are eager to see improvements being made across our great community.

We'd love to continue funding some very important projects, so please consider becoming a member by sending \$35, \$75, or \$125 to FCDA, P.O. Box 111595, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 or by making a donation. Feel free to check out the website noted above for more information. We live in a wonderful community and invite you to become part of the excitement. Thank you in advance.



Shady Side Academy

Fall Open House

Summer Programs

Shady Side Academy offers a wide array of affordable, fun programs all summer long for kids ages 3-18 on its Senior and Middle School campuses in Fox Chapel. Offerings include: day camps for elementary and middle school kids; sports, arts and science camps; and for-credit summer school classes. Register by March 1 to receive a 10% discount. For more information, visit www.shadysideacademy.org/summer or call 412-443-2230.

Hillman Performing Arts Series

Don't miss these upcoming Hillman Series shows! All shows are Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on the SSA Senior School campus at 423 Fox Chapel Road. Learn more and buy tickets at www.thehillman.org or call 412-968-3040.

Feb. 28: ArcAttack: Tesla Coil Music

March 7: National Dance Company of Ireland: Rhythm of the Dance

April 11: Popovich Comedy Pet Theater

Admissions Tours and Testing

Families interested in applying to Shady Side Academy for the 2015-2016 school year are encouraged to call the Admissions Office at 412-968-3180 now to schedule a personal tour and admissions testing. Learn more at www.shadysideacademy.org/admissions.



2015 BRUSH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

MARCH 9 & APRIL 6

Alpine Circle
Colbert Lane
Delafield Road
E. Waldheim Road
Edgewood Road
Elmhurst Road
Glendale Road
Glenover Place
Hampton Road
LaTourelle Lane
The Maples
Meadowood Drive
Notre Dame Place
The Oaks
Pasadena Drive
Pasadena Drive S
Riverview Terrace
Rutledge Drive
St. James Place
Shady Lane
Valley Drive
Waldheim Road
Warwick Place
West Drive
West Waldheim Road
Windsor Road

MARCH 12 & APRIL 9

Berkshire Drive
Buckingham Road
Buckingham Place
Fieldvue Lane
Grandview Drive N
Guyasuta Road
Hunt Club Lane
Hunt Road
James Ross Place
Longfellow Road
Marvelwood Lane
Marvelwood Place
Nottingham Circle
Oakhurst Road
Riding Trail Lane
Twin Pine Court
Twin Pine Road
Wedgewood Lane
Westchester Drive
West. Farms Lane
Woodbrook Drive
Woodcock Drive
Wynnwood Drive

MARCH 16 & APRIL 13

Catalpa Ridge Road
Chapel Knoll Drive
Deer Spring Lane
Dogwood Lane
Evergreen Road
Fairway Lane
Fawn Meadow Ct.
Field Club Road
Fox Chapel Road
Foxtop Drive
Glenhaven Lane
Hawthorne Road
Hickory Hill Road
Hillcrest Road
Indian Hill Road
Long Shadow Court
North Drive
Olde Chapel Trail
Pheasant Drive
Poplar Drive
Ridgedale Lane
Rockwood Drive
Royston Road
Shirl Drive
South Drive
Springhouse Lane
Squaw Run Road
Squaw Run Road E
Woodcliff Road

MARCH 19 & APRIL 16

Autumn Path Lane
Chapel Hill Drive
Chapel Oak Road
Chapel Ridge Court
Chapel Ridge Place
Chapel Ridge Road
Easton Road
Forest Drive
Foxhurst Drive/Road
Foxwood Drive
Greenwood Road
Hidden Spring Lane
Highland Road
Long Meadow Drive
Old Indian Trail
Old Timber Trail
Powers Run Road
Quail Hill Road
Shadow Ridge Drive
Silent Run Road
Sweet Gum Road
Tree Farm Road
W. Chapel Ridge Road
White Fawn Lane
Wildberry Road
Windmere Drive
Wise Hill Road
Woodland Farms Road

MARCH 23 & APRIL 20

Dietrich Road
Dorseyville Road
Fair Oaks Drive
Fairview Manor/Road
Flower Hill Road
Hallsborough Drive
Haverford Road
Hidden Falls Court
Hill 'n' Dale Lane
Jamesborough Drive
Lakeside Drive
Mayflower Drive
Millstone Drive
Millview Drive
Nantucket Drive
Old Mill Road
Settler's Ridge Road
Shannon Drive
Spring Forest Drive
Staffordshire Place
Stoney Camp Lane
Sweet Water Court
Sweet Water Lane
Trillium Lane
Twin Stream Drive
Wesport Drive
Whispering Pines Drive
Willow Farms Lane
Willow Run Road
Wilmar Drive





Save the Date

LOVE
the LIBRARY

April 17 - Teen Mini-Golf Tournament & Movie

April 18 - Mini-Golf for All Ages

April 18 Evening - Patron Mini-Golf & Cocktail Party

More details coming soon!

*Love the Library is an annual fundraiser to support the
Cooper-Siegel Community Library.*

403 Fox Chapel Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15238

412-828-9520 www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org

Construction Junction - used bicycles

Construction Junction located at 214 Lexington Street in the Point Breeze section of Pittsburgh accepts used bicycles for the Earn-a-Bike program. Many bicycles are scrapped in the Borough bins that could be donated to a great cause. Think about donating a bicycle instead of putting it in a landfill. For more information, please visit constructionjunction.org or freeridepgh.org. (Construction Junction also recycles appliances,



batteries,
lightbulbs,
scrap metal
and residential
electric waste.)



Recycling

All Borough residents are reminded that all households in the Borough 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.



Recyclables and garbage are picked up the same day. ALL recyclable materials are to be placed in the recycling container provided by the Borough. Please contact the Borough office if you need another container. One will be delivered to your home. Newspapers no longer need to be bound or placed in a separate paper bag before placing it in your recycling container. They can be comingled in the recycling bin. Recyclables should be rinsed but the labels are not required to be removed. Also a reminder to residents is that there is a cardboard recycling container located at the rubbish bins that can be accessed during normal bin hours Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM. Residents are reminded that electronics cannot be brought to the rubbish bins. State law requires all electronics to be recycled.



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

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**

Extensions:

Administration 0
Building Permits/Zoning..... 113
Public Works 119
Sewer Department..... 126

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.**