

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Published by
Fox Chapel Borough



Winter 2019

Fox Chapel Borough 2019 Budget Proposes More Aggressive Road Rebuilding

In 2012, a long-term road rebuilding program began that in addition to paving included installation of catch basins and underdrains to eliminate winter icing and lengthen the lifespan of Borough roads. The previous policy of tar and chip sealing, unfavorable to Borough residents because of damage to their vehicles, resulted in significant deterioration of all Borough roads. In 2017, program funding increased by over \$500,000 to \$1.4M in contracted rebuilding and \$300,000 in catch basins and underdrain materials. Borough Council proposes to commit over \$2M, or 23% of the General Fund budget, to road rebuilding in 2019 since it is a top priority for Borough residents. To facilitate this expanded road rebuilding while maintaining the level of other services expected by our residents, it is necessary to increase real estate tax millage by .45 mills to 2.95 mills in 2019. The real estate millage was last increased in 2014. It remains the lowest real estate tax bill residents receive. Allegheny County is currently 4.73 mills and Fox Chapel Area School District is 19.57 mills (6.5 times greater than Borough real estate tax). Of the 131 municipalities in Allegheny County, our millage will remain one of the 19 lowest (bottom 14%). A home assessed at \$500,000 will pay an additional \$225 a year, or \$18.75 per month, in 2019 as a result of this tax increase.

The Borough bids its road paving jointly with O'Hara enabling both communities to attract larger paving companies and get lower bids due to volume. In 2018, Fox Chapel installed drainage and rebuilt Chapel Hill, Grandview North, Guyasuta, Hidden Spring, Old Indian Trail, Old Indian Court, Pasadena North and South, Riverview Terrace, Sweet Gum, Tree Farm, Wildberry, Woodcock, and Wynnwood at a cost of \$1.4M in contracted paving and \$300,000 in storm sewer materials with public works doing all of the installation.

The Borough has also agreed to increase support to Foxwall EMS from \$25,000 to \$39,000 provided Aspinwall Borough increases their contribution to \$25,000. These new contribution rates were established by call volume in each community.

In 2019, the Borough will be in the 4th year of a 5-year contract with Vogel Disposal for refuse collection. Vogel has been the collector for the past eight years. The cost of refuse collection is paid by Borough taxes and amounts to 10% of the General Fund budget and .7 mills of the proposed 2.95 mills assessed for real estate tax. In other words, garbage accounts for 24% of a resident's real estate tax bill. Fox Chapel Borough is the only community in the North Hills that provides its residents with garage door pickup and weekend rubbish bins for bulk items. When comparing our real estate millage with other municipalities, one must subtract the .7 mills that covers garage door garbage service and compare the resulting Borough millage of 2.25. In 2010, the Borough paid \$900,900 for refuse collection under contract with Waste Management. Since Vogel Disposal became the low bidder in 2011, garbage costs for the same services have been reduced so much that the \$834,200 projected cost for 2019 is actually \$66,700 less than what was paid in 2010. The Borough has been awarded a \$350,000 State performance grant for past recycling efforts that will be received in 2019 reducing the need for an even larger tax increase.

The Borough's main source of revenue is real estate tax which accounts for 42% of our revenue. This is followed by earned income tax at 38% of revenue and it can vary widely up or down from year to year. State grants and other revenue from the State accounts for 10%, followed by other taxes (real estate transfer, local services, and RAD sales tax) at 5%, and all other revenue at 5%. Since Fox Chapel Borough is an entirely residential community, our sources of revenue are limited when compared to other municipalities. For instance, O'Hara Township collects approximately \$500,000 per year in local services tax (the \$52/year tax withheld by employers) while the Borough only collects \$40,000 because we have no commercial business district. The Borough has no business privilege or gross receipts tax which is a huge source of revenue to communities with large business districts. Fox Chapel is almost a fully-developed community which limits the potential for revenue growth from new residents such as in other communities. (Continued on Page 2)

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Fox Chapel Borough 2019 Budget Proposes More Aggressive Road Rebuilding (Cont.)

However, Fox Chapel provides services that other municipalities do not such as leaf collection, weekend disposal bins and salting/snow removal on the State and County roads that are major arteries through the Borough. Again, these are factors to consider when comparing real estate millage between communities.

The 2019 General Fund budget of \$8,689,700 has been allocated to public services as follows: Public Works 46%, Police 19%, Garbage Collection 10%, Administration 8%, Library 4%, Depreciation Transfer to Capital Reserve 3%, Fire 2% with the remaining 8% split between Tax Collection, Code Enforcement, Building & Grounds and Insurance.

The proposed 2019 Capital budget includes the replacement of a fire pumper truck at a cost of \$675,000 with \$350,000 of this cost covered by donations to the Borough of Fox Chapel Fire Truck Fund over the past 3 years. Other planned capital purchases include a new phone system to better serve the needs of our residents, replacement of a 2013 police Expedition with a pickup truck to transport barricades, deer, and large evidence, and replacement of a 2011 Chevy Tahoe with a smaller Ford Explorer to enable the Code Services Director to save on fuel costs and better navigate tight construction sites in the Borough.

Borough sanitary sewer rates will remain the same in 2019 thanks to a \$658,417 Green Revitalization of Our Waterways (GROW) grant from ALCOSAN for demonstrating a measurable reduction in groundwater infiltration of our sanitary sewer lines through pipe lining projects conducted over the past several years. These grant funds will offset additional pipe lining projects mandated by DEP. Unfortunately, we will be passing through a 7% rate increase from ALCOSAN which will show on sewer bills since the Borough bills for ALCOSAN.

The Borough has begun a multi-year plan to replace aging and rusting public works steel buildings. We have proposed spending \$1.1M in 2019 to prepare the existing site for the new construction including compliance with unfunded environmental mandates that must be done even if a new building is not constructed. In 2020, we plan to borrow the remaining funds needed to complete the \$5M project.



What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater runoff is precipitation (rain or snowfall) that flows across the land. Stormwater may infiltrate into soil, discharge directly into streams, water bodies, storm drains or evaporate back into the atmosphere. In the natural environment, most precipitation is absorbed by trees and plants or permeates into the ground which results in stable stream flows and good water quality.

Things are different in the built environment in the Borough. Rain that falls on a roof, driveway, patio or lawn runs off the surface more rapidly, picking up pollutants as it goes. This stormwater runoff flows into streams or storm drains that empty into waterways like Squaw Run and the Allegheny River.

Why can stormwater runoff be a problem? Poorly managed runoff can cause many problems. These include:

- **Flooding.** As stormwater runs off roofs, driveways and lawns, large volumes quickly reach streams causing them to rise and flood. When more impervious surfaces exist, flooding occurs rapidly and can be severe resulting in damage to property and harm to people.
- **Pollution.** Stormwater runoff over roofs, driveways, roads and lawns will pick up pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, dirt/sediment, trash and animal waste. These pollutants “hitch a ride” with the stormwater and flow untreated into local streams polluting our water.
- **Stream Bank Erosion.** When stormwater flows into streams at unnaturally-high volumes and speeds, the power of these flows can cause severe stream bank erosion. Eroding banks can eat away at streamside property, create dangerous situations and damage natural habitat for fish and other aquatic life. This erosion is another source of sediment pollution in streams. The majority of the Borough parks suffer from streambank erosion. Repair of the streambanks is needed to slow down the rapid waters.
- **Threats to Human Health.** Stormwater runoff can carry many pollutants such as toxic metals, organic compounds, bacteria and viruses. Polluted stormwater, especially coming from combined sewer overflows, can contaminate drinking water supplies and hamper recreational opportunities as well as threaten fish and other aquatic life.

Borough Council is studying options to help control stormwater runoff and to comply with Federal and State mandates including MS4 requirements.



Wage Tax Payments

The Borough encourages residents to verify with Keystone Collections Group (724/978-0300) that wage tax payments are current in order to avoid interest and penalties. Often times when wage tax payments are verified due to a home sale or refinancing, a large sum of money is due plus penalty and interest which could delay the closing. Renters of property in the Borough must also pay wage taxes and are required by ordinance to register with the Borough.



Property Taxes – Dates to Remember

Allegheny County Taxes

Due at discount March 31st
Due at face April 1st – April 30th
Penalty after April 30th

Fox Chapel Borough Taxes

Due at discount July 31st
Due at face August 1st –
September 30th
Penalty after September 30th

Fox Chapel School Taxes

Due at discount August 31st
Due at face September 1st –
October 31st
Penalty after October 31st



Dog License Applications

State law requires dogs to be licensed. A license application can be purchased from Allegheny County online at www.alleghenycounty.us/treasurer/dog.aspx.



Tax Collectors

All self-employed persons whose primary place of business is located in Fox Chapel Borough must pay a \$52 Local Services Tax for emergency services. 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 15317, 412/345-7962, www.jordantax.com. Questions regarding tax payments, refunds or tax receipts should be directed to Jordan Tax Service. If your mortgage has been paid off, please be sure to contact Jordan with the new mailing address to send tax statements to avoid delinquency.



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, have a valid PA driver's license and be capable of performing manual outdoor labor. Please stop in the Borough office to obtain an employment application.



Dogs Running Loose

State law prohibits any dog to run at large. All dogs must be under control. The Borough receives complaints about dogs running loose. The Borough has a contract with Hoffman Kennels to retrieve stray dogs and bring them to the Borough Building. A fine of \$125 will be charged to the dog owner with payment required before release of the dog to the owner.



Driveway Improvement Permit Protects Motorists From Water Runoff and Ice on Borough Roads

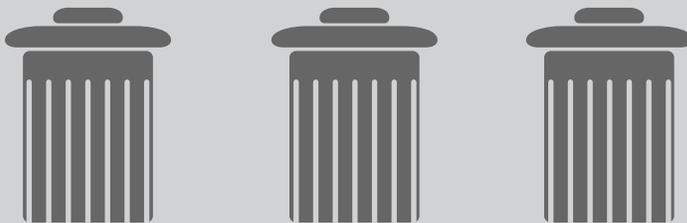
While planning property improvement projects for the spring, please be aware that driveway modifications require a Driveway Improvement Permit from the Borough before starting any work such as repaving, changing the material, grade or drainage pattern. The Borough would appreciate residents making the 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 412/850-5030.



2019 Garbage Collection Schedule

The following is the 2019 garbage holiday collection schedule. Garbage will NOT be collected on these days resulting in a 1-day collection delay: Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's 2020.

Vogel Disposal reminds residents to please place trash in large garbage bags – not small grocery bags. ***Loose garbage will not be collected.*** Please note that it is not the responsibility of the collector to clean garbage strewn in the driveway resulting from an animal. 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.



Animal Control

The Borough often gets calls to trap animals or remove dead deer from private property. The Borough does not provide animal control services, and the Police Department does not remove dead deer from private property. Residents should contact an animal control service to trap or remove a dead animal from their property. Big Daddy Wildlife Removal (412/436-3834) will remove dead deer from private property.



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
- Pour 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 (also an MS4 violation)
- Pour it down the drain or throw liquid paint into weekly trash



2019 Office/Rubbish Bin Closings

The Borough office will be closed on the following holidays in 2019: Good Friday, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The rubbish bins will be closed Easter Sunday, **April 21, 2019**. A reminder to residents that there are cardboard and metal recycling containers located at the rubbish bins behind the Borough Building that can be accessed during normal bin hours Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM. Please note that electronics cannot be brought to the rubbish bins. State law requires all electronics be recycled. **Please see the Borough's website for extensive e-cycling and other recycling information as well as paint disposal tips.**



Mayor's Memo

Thanks to our Public Works Department who have been working to get our parks and trails back in shape for the coming season. We sustained a tremendous amount of damage during the July floods and continued rainy weather. All trails will be open for spring and summer hikes. I would like to recognize our trail stewards who were out to survey damage and report conditions back to the Borough: Britton Wean, Rich Wendell, Lois Folino, Scott Peterson (and Shady Side Academy), Cris Scott, Gregg Scott, Mardi and Jim Royston, Pat Scully and Rachel and Scot Stevens. I would also like to thank the Park Commission who have been most helpful in overseeing the parks. There is still work to be done. We are in the process of clearing downed trees on the new Riding Meadow bypass trail to have it ready for spring. The trail map is available in the Borough office or on the Borough's website for anyone not familiar with the trails. We have future plans to connect more of our trails as time permits.

EARTH DAY is April 22. We would like to suggest a special effort this year to get our roadways clear of litter and debris. We hope neighbors will cooperate with each other to make this a bigger event this year and in the future. We do not recommend work on the main "through streets" for safety reasons, but know that our Public Works department takes pride in our roads and will pick up litter when time permits.

Jill McConnell and the staff at the library continue to put excellent programming together. Please check the library website for the latest list of events and activities. Also, please view the Shady Side Academy website for the latest schedule at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts.

Spring planting season is soon here and the need continues to grow for adding trees!!

-Alex Scott-



Squaw Run Garden Club

The Squaw Run Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at Squaw Valley Park, O'Hara Township, from 9 AM to 2 PM. On sale will be a wonderful selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and planters as well as the always popular perennial plants dug from the member's gardens. Proceeds from the sale benefit community projects such as Squaw Valley Park, Aspinwall Riverfront Park, Cooper Siegel Library, Laurie Ann West Community Center, Camp Guyasuta and Beechwood Farms. Additionally, the Club provides educational grants to local schools.

Be sure to mark your calendars so you'll remember to come to Squaw Valley Park on Saturday, May 4 from 9 AM – 2 PM to browse and shop the lovely selections of plants and to help support the community.



Hillman Performing Arts Series

The 2018-2019 Hillman Performing Arts Series features a great lineup of family-friendly shows. All shows are Saturdays at 7:30 PM at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on the Shady Side Academy Senior School campus at 423 Fox Chapel Road. Learn more and buy tickets at www.TheHillman.org. Upcoming shows include:

March 9 – Poor Man's Gambit (Celtic music trio)

March 16 – The Amazing Max (magician)

April 13 – The Flying Karamazov Brothers (zany acrobats)



Shady Side Academy 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, sports and specialty camps for kids entering grades PK-9, plus for-credit summer school classes for grades 9-12. New this year are more than 25 different Droboots STEM camps! Register by March 15, 2019 to receive a 5% early-bird discount. For more information, visit www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Summer or call 412/443-2230.





Shady Side Academy Admissions Tours and Testing



American Association of University Women

Families interested in applying to any of Shady Side Academy's four campuses for 2019-2020 are encouraged to call the SSA Admissions Office at 412/968-3180 to schedule a personal tour and admissions testing as soon as possible. Learn more at www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Admissions.



The Cooper-Siegel Library & Tech Lab: Community Resources

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 9:30 AM (coffee); 10:00 AM (meeting and program)
Location: Cooper-Siegel Community Library (403 Fox Chapel Road)
Speaker: Jill McConnell, Executive Director, and Brad Wulfkuhle, Technical Services Librarian
Cooper-Siegel Community Library

Libraries aren't just about books anymore. Join us as two of Cooper-Siegel Community Library's experienced staff members introduce us to some of the facility's innovative new resources: They'll be demonstrating the library's 3-D printer and explaining how it's being incorporated into programming for children. Another recent addition is the Digitization Lab, where items such as photographs and tape recordings are transcribed into digital formats. A new 'Library of Things', containing dozens of items patrons can 'do things with' awaits those who like to bake (an assortment of different kinds of cake pans), take pictures (a GoPro camera), or build things (tool kits). Come take a look at what today's library has to offer besides books.

Please note: This program will be held at Cooper-Siegel Community Library instead of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, philanthropy, education, and research.

For more information contact Lindsay Bond Totten: lbtotten@comcast.net

Brush Collection

The Borough will provide spring brush collection beginning March 11. 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. It can take 2-3 days to complete each route.

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. Christmas trees with all ornaments removed can also be placed at the curb. **Items not collected as part of the brush program include leaves, grass clippings, loose hedges, vines, bushes, firewood, rotten wood, ornamental grass or other similar debris.** 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.

2019 BRUSH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

<u>MARCH 11 & APRIL 8</u>	<u>MARCH 14 & APRIL 11</u>	<u>MARCH 18 & APRIL 15</u>	<u>MARCH 21 & APRIL 18</u>	<u>MARCH 21 & APRIL 18</u>
Catalpa Ridge Road	Autumn Path Lane	Dorseyville Road	Alpine Circle	Berkshire Drive
Chapel Knoll Drive	Chapel Hill Drive	Fair Oaks Drive	Colbert Lane	Buckingham Road
Deer Spring Lane	Chapel Oak Road	Fairview Manor/Road	Delafield Road	Buckingham Place
Dogwood Lane	Chapel Ridge court	Flower Hill Road	E. Waldheim Road	Fieldvue Lane
Evergreen Road	Chapel Ridge Place	Hallsborough Drive	Edgewood Road	Grandview Drive N.
Fairway Lane	Chapel Ridge Road	Haverford Road	Elmhurst Road	Guyasuta Road
Fawn Meadow Ct.	Easton Road	Hidden Falls Court	Glendale Road	Hunt Club Lane
Field Club Road	Forest Drive	Hill 'n' Dale Lane	Glenover Place	Hunt Road
Fox Chapel Road	Foxhurst Drive/Road	Jamesborough Drive	Hampton Road	James Ross Place
Foxtop Drive	Foxwood Drive	Lakeside Drive	LaTourelle Lane	Longfellow Road
Glenhaven Lane	Greenwood Road	Mayflower Drive	The Maples	Marvelwood Lane
Hawthorne Road	Hidden Spring Lane	Millstone Drive	Meadowood Drive	Marvelwood Place
Hickory Hill Road	Highland Road	Millview Drive	Notre Dame Place	Nottingham Circle
Hillcrest Road	Long Meadow Drive	Nantucket Drive	The Oaks	Oakhurst Road
Indian Hill Road	Old Indian Trail	Old Mill Road	Pasadena Drive	Riding Trail Lane
Long Shadow Court	Old Timber Trail	Settler's Ridge Road	Pasadena Drive S.	Twin Pine Court
North Drive	Powers Run Road	Shannon Drive	Riverview Terrace	Twin Pine Road
Olde Chapel Trail	Quail Hill Road	Spring Forest Drive	Rutledge Drive	Wedgewood Lane
Pheasant Drive	Shadow Ridge Drive	Staffordshire Place	St. James Place	Westchester Drive
Poplar Drive	Silent Run Road	Stoney Camp Lane	Shady Lane	West. Farms Lane
Ridgedale Lane	Sweet Gum Road	Sweet Water Court	Valley Drive	Woodbrook Drive
Rockwood Drive	Tree Farm Road	Sweet Water Lane	Waldheim Road	Woodcock Drive
Royston Road	W. Chapel Ridge Rd.	Trillium Lane	Warwick Place	Wynnwood Drive
Shirl Drive	White Fawn Lane	Twin Stream Drive	West Drive	
South Drive	Wildberry Road	Wesport Drive	West Waldheim Road	
Springhouse Lane	Windmere Drive	Whispering Pines Drive	Windsor Road	
Squaw Run Road	Wise Hill Road	Willow Farms Lane		
Squaw Run Road E.	Woodland Farms Rd.	Willow Run Road		
Woodcliff Road		Wilmar Drive		



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
 Thomas J. Murphy
 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
 Wesley W. Posvar
 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
 Jay Troutman
 Maria Harrington
 Dotty Nielsen
 Liz Nelson
 Lois Folino
 Susan Crookston
 Wesley W. Posvar
 Meets the 2nd Monday in April, June, September and December at 9:00 A.M.

**ZONING
HEARING BOARD**

Richard E. Jaynes, *Chairman*
 J. Christian Hart
 Kyra Tucker

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
(Office/non-emergency)**

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