

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Published by
Fox Chapel Borough



Spring 2019

Stream Protection – Stormwater Fee

The Borough owns and operates a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) consisting of a system of collection, conveyance, detention and treatment infrastructure used to manage stormwater runoff and protect the Squaw Run Watershed. Infrastructure associated with the Borough's MS4 includes inlets, catch basins, storm drains, conveyance pipes, detention basins, and other post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) best management practices (BMPs). This infrastructure has been installed in accordance with local, State and Federal requirements and must be maintained to manage impact of stormwater runoff and minimize the potential negative effect of runoff to public and private property for the public good throughout the Borough. To this effect, the Borough's MS4 operates as a public utility serving each property owner, or user of the MS4, throughout the Borough.

The Borough is required to hold a permit, as issued by PADEP under Federal EPA regulations, for operation of its MS4. The permit requires the Borough to comply with a variety of requirements to protect, maintain and improve water quality. Issuance of the Borough's new NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4 Permit) by PADEP has continued the pattern of increased regulatory requirements and subsequently increased expenditures with regard to management of stormwater within the Borough.

Renewal of the Borough's MS4 Permit in 2018 introduced significant new regulatory requirements. The MS4 Permit requires the Borough to implement capital improvements in the form of stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) to achieve pollutant reductions in impaired waters throughout the Borough. During the 5-year permit period, the Borough must achieve a minimum reduction of 10% of the annual sediment loading discharged to the Squaw Run and Pine Creek watersheds. It is anticipated the DEP will require further reduction in future permits as well. To comply with the pollutant reduction requirements, the Borough has identified projects that include restoration of eroded streams and retrofit of existing detention basins. Implementation of the required Pollutant Reduction Plan will result in significant capital investment to comply with these new regulatory requirements. These unfunded mandates pose significant stress on Borough funds.

The Fox Chapel Sanitary Authority authorized a study to be conducted for establishment of a Stormwater Utility Fee...(Continued on Page 2)

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Stream Protection – Stormwater Fee (Continued)

The study concluded that to partially fund the nearly \$1M in annual costs of the MS4 program and as encouraged by the DEP and environmental organizations a fee was needed. The fee, established by Resolution of the Authority at their March 2019 meeting created a dedicated funding source to address the increased MS4 Permit regulatory requirements and continued maintenance of the aging storm sewer system. The Stormwater Utility Fee is similar to those which have been previously established for other public utilities such as sanitary sewer or potable water services. The fee amount was established based on impact to the utility, rather than property values. The impact to the MS4 and contribution of stormwater and pollutants is best evaluated based on the impervious coverage that exists on a property. In addition, similar to sanitary sewer or potable water utilities, tax-exempt properties will also be responsible for payment of the fee, thus limiting the fee impact on the average residential property. The study established an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) used as the basis of fee assessment. This ERU was established to best represent the average impervious area (and subsequently the proportionate impact to the MS4) for a typical single-family residential property. One ERU in Fox Chapel was designated as 8,400 square feet of impervious area that includes the dwelling, driveway, sidewalk, sports, court, etc. This serves as the basis for consideration of a flat fee for most single-family properties. Each single-family property will be assessed the fee at a rate of one ERU. To achieve an equitable assessment of fees, this ERU will be used at the benchmark for evaluation of non-residential properties to assign a proportionate fee.

Based on a review of the anticipated expenditures associated with operation and maintenance of the Borough storm sewer system, and in the increased expenditures associated with regulatory requirement of the Borough's MS4 permit, the rate has been established at \$12.50 per month per ERU. Revenues collected are anticipated to fund approximately one-third of the \$1M annual stormwater expenditure budget including operation and maintenance of infrastructure and compliance with EPA and PADEP regulatory requirements. This fee will be annualized and appear on each property owner's Borough real estate tax bill sent from Jordan Tax each June.

The Sanitary Authority was reluctant to impose such a fee but due to the high cost of the work required to be done and no Federal or State money allotted to municipalities to cover the extreme costs, based on the mandate, it had no choice but to apply a fee. The Stormwater Fee Study is available online under Stormwater Management on the Borough's website.



Borough Building Site Improvement Project



In March, Borough Council approved a contract for the first phase of the new public works facilities. It is part of a \$5M, multi-year project to replace the aging public works facilities. The existing steel structures are rusting and are functionally and energy inefficient. Council budgeted \$1.1M this year for site preparation. Work is expected to last six months and includes stormwater retention facilities, new water and electric lines, paving, material bins and removal of fill material. Plans include compliance with environmental mandates such as storm water control and stream setback requirements which are required even if the new building is not constructed. Work is expected to begin in April. This work will disrupt parking at the Borough office during reconstruction of the front parking area as well as the entrance into the driveway.



Temporary Bin Closure

The Borough rubbish bins will be closed during the site preparation phase for the new public works facilities. It is anticipated the closure will begin mid/late April and remain closed for four months, weather permitting. A Nixle, the Borough's messaging service, will be sent when a definite date is known. Per the Borough's garbage contract, Vogel Disposal will collect large items, 45 lbs. or less, with the weekly trash collection. These items include lamps, bicycles, large toys, vacuum cleaners and other small household appliances, aluminum and resin plastic lawn furniture. There is no limit on the number of garbage bags, weighing less than 45 lbs., to be placed out for collection and up to two bags of yard waste is also accepted weekly. Disposal of larger items can either be disposed of when the bins reopen or call Vogel Disposal to pay for an extra pickup (855-494-3345).



Mayor's Memo

As we do every year, Fox Chapel Borough will partner with Aspinwall to sponsor the Memorial Day Parade. This is an event not to be missed! It starts on Commercial Avenue in Aspinwall and has to be one of the greatest little parades in the country! It is a time for us all to honor and thank our Veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We get to see our Police, Volunteer Fire Departments and many community volunteers participating in the event, and it can be a time to thank them for what they do for us. Spectators, some three generations strong, will line the streets of Aspinwall to recognize and applaud Veterans from our communities and celebrate the occasion. If you have not attended for a few years, or are new to the area, please do not let this opportunity go by.

Thanks to our vigilant Police and Public Works staff, we have survived another winter of freeze and thaw conditions. Ice and freezing rain were a challenge, but our roads were kept as well as anywhere in the County.

We expect to have all parks and trails in good shape for spring and summer recreation. It has been a hard winter and a wet 2018/2019, but we should be ready to go. Our many volunteers and Parks Commission members have been needed more than ever to get us back in shape.

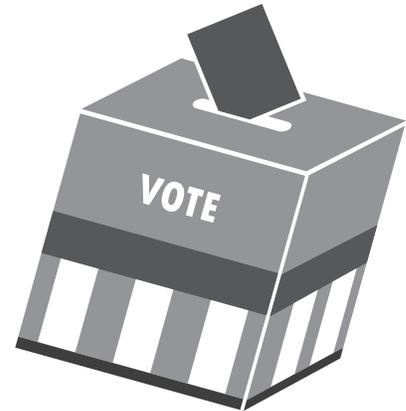
Spring time calls for more tree and shrub planting to keep up with the loss of many trees due to excessive rain, windstorms and disease. We remind residents every year at this time to take advantage of the list of native species available at the Borough office and on the Borough's website.

-Alex Scott-



Primary Election

The 2019 Primary Election is Tuesday, May 21st. Polls are open 7 AM – 8 PM. If you do not know your voting location, please go to www.pavoterservices.pa.gov and select Find Your Polling Place. Type in your *mailing* address and your polling location will be displayed



Holiday Garbage Collection Delays and Borough Office Closings

- Memorial Day (Monday, May 27th)
- 4th of July (Thursday)

Garbage collection for Memorial Day week will be Tuesday through Saturday. July 4th collection week will be Monday through Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The Borough office will be closed both holidays.



Hard-to-Recycle Collection Scheduled

The Pennsylvania Resources Council will hold a Hard to Recycle Collection at Pittsburgh Mills Mall on Saturday, May 11, 9 AM – 1 PM.

Acceptable items collected free of charge include: CPUs (towers), laptops, keyboards, mice, home/ cell phones, tablets, PDAs, UPS units, servers, routers, modems, computer speakers, web and digital cameras, hubs, external drives, VCRs, DVD players, stereos, cable boxes, DVRs, paper shredders, microwaves, copiers, fax machines, scanners, zip drives, video game consoles, electronic cables, compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), expanded polystyrene packaging material.

Fees will be charged for the following items: Televisions, computer monitors, small household appliances, printers, large stereo speakers, vacuum cleaners, alkaline batteries, small freon containing appliances, CDs, DVDs & floppy disks, tires, and fluorescent, incandescent, halogen and neon lighting, projector bulbs. Hard Drive Data Destruction Verification is available. For a complete list of acceptable items and any associated fees, please visit www.prc.org.

Recyclables

Below is the total amount that was recycled in the Borough by residents and institutions:

	<u>2018</u>
All Recyclables (except leaves)	796 Tons
Leaf Waste	729 Tons



News on Recycling in Fox Chapel

Across the metropolitan Pittsburgh area changes are happening to how municipalities are able to deal with recyclable materials. The most dramatic change that IS coming is that glass is seen as contaminating “single-stream recycling”. Picture what goes in your green recycling barrels; that’s single-stream recycling.

Currently, Vogel Disposal collects **clean** and **dry**:

- Aluminum, steel & bi-metal cans
- #1 (PETE) & #2 (HDPE) plastic jugs and bottles (no other numbers, and no other shapes!)
- Newsprint, magazines & catalogs, cereal & shoe boxes, office paper & junk mail
- Corrugated cardboard
- And Glass: clear, brown (amber) and green

Many of us wish that more could be recycled, but anything else that’s put in your green recycling barrel **contaminates** the whole load. Soon, even Vogel will not be able to take our glass ... except as trash. Glass breaks and gets stuck in other recyclables, like the cardboard!

In preparation for that time, the Borough is looking at being a participant in a series of Pop-up Glass Recycling Events that the Pennsylvania Resources Council is orchestrating in the Pittsburgh area. If you choose to save your glass for a Pop-up Glass Recycling Event, you will be doing a good thing, as even now Vogel is using the glass that they collect as an alternate daily landfill cover. As with other Borough communications that are made between our quarterly newsletters, sign up with NIXLE to receive news blasts and other notifications, such as when we have a date, time and place for a local glass collection.

For more information on current glass collection events please see:
<http://prc.org/programs/collection-events/glassrecycling/>

The Simple Six

How to Maintain the Squaw Run Watershed from Home

- **If you don't drink it, you don't dump it!**

Anything you would not put in your body's system should not go into your sanitary or storm sewer system.

- **Do not treat your lawn before it rains.**

That is like rinsing the contents of your wallet right down the drain, and it contaminates the watershed!

- **Sweep sidewalks and driveways.**

Rinsing debris or spills down the storm drain puts chemicals and unnatural sediment into the water system.

- **Pick up after your pet.**

In addition to keeping your neighborhood clean, picking up pet waste prevents harmful bacteria from entering Squaw Run or the Allegheny River.

- **Properly dispose of chemicals.**

Call the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD or visit the website at www.achd.net to dispose of cleaners, automotive products (motor oil, antifreeze, etc.), and other hazardous materials. If it is dangerous for you, it is dangerous for our water!

- **Make a difference with your lawn.**

Redirect your downspout into your garden, create a rain garden or install a rain barrel. They will keep your property from eroding and could lower your water and sewer bill.



County and State Road Repairs

The Borough receives pothole complaints and other calls for roads that are not maintained by the Borough. The Borough cannot repair a State or County road.

Potholes on County roads should be reported to 412/350-2513 and include: Fox Chapel Road (from Freeport Road in O'Hara Township) to Guys Run Road; Delafield Road (from Fox Chapel Road to Borough/Aspinwall line), and Dorseyville Road.

Potholes on State roads should be reported to 412/781-3260 and include: Fox Chapel Road (Guys Run Road to Dorseyville Road) and Powers Run Road.

As a service to our residents, the Borough does provide winter maintenance (salt/plow service) on County and State roads and is reimbursed for salt



Thank You!

The Fox Chapel Garden Club has donated \$1,000 to the Park Commission that is earmarked for establishment of a native meadow along Fox Chapel Road between Delafield and Squaw Run Roads. The Borough and Park Commission would like to thank the Fox Chapel Garden Club for its continued support of the park system in Fox Chapel.



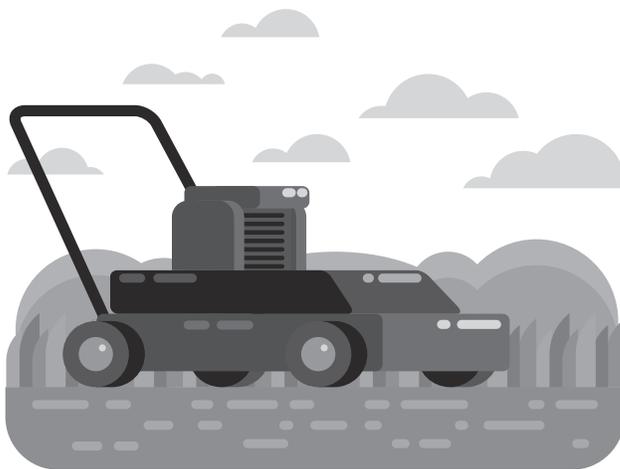
2019 Road Construction and Paving

The Public Works Department is installing underdrains, repairing/replacing catch basins, repairing manholes and replacing storm and sanitary sewers in preparation for road paving. The Borough hopes to install drainage and rebuild as many of the following roads as the budget permits: The Oaks, White Fawn Lane, Old Timber Trail, Fair Oaks Drive, Fawn Meadow Court, Hunt Road, Indian Hill Road, Pheasant Drive, Ridgedale Lane, Glenover Place, Old Mill Road (Fairview Road to Old Squaw Trail), and Quail Hill Road. During construction season, please remember to obey posted speed limits and keep alert for temporary barricades and equipment. Do not remove signs, barricades, covers or cones that may be in use in construction areas and follow directions of traffic control personnel when driving past workers, equipment and flaggers. Paving will begin later in the summer. Your cooperation is appreciated.



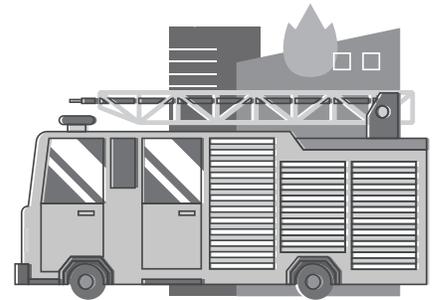
Yard Maintenance

With spring weather arriving, the Borough would like to remind residents of yard maintenance requirements. Please note that grass cannot exceed six (6) inches in height. Hedges located in the road right-of-way must be trimmed back six (6) feet to allow for proper sight distance. *The Borough encourages residents not to plant shrubs or trees in the road right-of-way because of public safety concerns.* The Borough does not maintain trees or shrubs located in the right-of-way, regardless of who originally planted them. The Borough does trim along guide rail and removes tree branches that block traffic signs. The Borough receives many complaints every year for tall grass or overgrown intersections. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Fill Dirt Available

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



Support Your Fire 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 fire fighting 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!



Cooper-Siegel Community Library

403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
Phone: 412/828-9520 • Fax: 412/828-4960 Email: coopersiegelref@einetwork.net
<http://www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org>

Children's Earth Day Celebration – Saturday, April 27th, 2 PM – Join us to learn about how flowers and plants grow. Each child will decorate a mini flower pot, then plant a flower to take home and watch it grow!

Pirates Storytime – Saturday, May 4th, 11 AM - Ahoy Matey! Don't miss this special Saturday storytime about pirates. We will read pirate books, sing songs, and do a craft. We may even find some sunken treasure!

Kind Kids – Sunday, May 5th, 1 PM – We will be learning about ways to promote kindness at home and in the community. Have fun decorating a Kindness Jar to take home with you or give to Mom as a special Mother's Day gift. (If possible, please bring a jar with you.)

Adults and General

- Coffee with a Cop: April 22
- Lloyd Stamy author talk: April 25
- Let's Talk 2019 Series:
- Brexit: May 6
- Facebook and Social Media: May 15
- American Politics: May 23



Shady Side Academy

Shady Side Academy Spring Open Houses

Families interested in applying to Shady Side Academy are invited to attend upcoming open houses at all four campuses to tour, meet the faculty and administration, and learn more about SSA. RSVP online at www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Visit.

Country Day School (PK-5, Fox Chapel): Friday, May 3, 9:30 AM

Junior School (PK-5, Point Breeze): Thursday, April 25, 9:15 AM

Middle School (6-8, Fox Chapel): Tuesday, April 30, 9:00 AM

Senior School (9-12, Fox Chapel): Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM

Register Now for SSA Summer Programs

Shady Side Academy offers a wide array of fun, flexible affordable summer programs for kids entering grades K-12 on its Senior and Middle School campuses in Fox Chapel. Offerings include day camps, sports camps, arts camps, STEM camps, and for-credit summer school classes. For more information or to register, visit www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Summer or call 412-443-2230.

Hillman Series Presents The Flying Karamazov Brothers April 13

On Saturday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m., the Hillman Performing Arts Series presents The Flying Karamazov Brothers, a troupe of four self-proclaimed eccentric lunatics in a zany showcase filled with laugh-out-loud comedy, wild theatrics and astonishing juggling feats. The show takes place at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on the Shady Side Academy Senior School campus at 423 Fox Chapel Road. Tickets are only \$24-\$30 so bring the whole family! Buy tickets online at www.TheHillman.org or call 412-968-3040.



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.**