

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Published by

Fox Chapel Borough

Information for Our Residents



Fall 2019

Mayor's Memo

The Hardie property acquisition has become a reality for the Borough and will add a vital missing link to our parks and trails. I would like to thank the Hardie family, and many others, for helping to make it possible. We still have work ahead! Our goal is to raise over one million dollars to pay for the acquisition and work needed to open the park for public use. We have raised approximately \$250,000 from generous donors, including over \$50,000 from Borough Council, Mayor and staff members. Thank you to all who have donated!

This property fits in perfectly to our existing group of parks and has been of interest to the Borough for over 20 years when discussions first began with the Hardie family. Residents have made expansion of our parkland available in the past through generous donations of land and funds to buy land. There will be a series of public meetings later this fall to get resident input in planning for the use of this parcel. The Borough is in the process of engaging a Park Planner to help with the process. Please watch for dates for these discussions.

If you wish to join the donor group, please make checks payable to the Fox Chapel Borough Park Fund or contact me with donation questions. A map of the Hardie property is enclosed in this newsletter.

-Alex Scott-



New Website – Information to Residents

On the Home Page of the redesigned Borough website, there is a heading entitled “Announcements to our Residents” highlighted in red. Some of the announcements are for informational purposes; some contain information that we need to reach our residents immediately such as temporary rubbish bin or road closures. Important information is also Nixed. The Borough encourages its residents to periodically view the alerts for up-to-date information about the Borough.

The Borough website is the source of factual information and residents are encouraged to Bookmark the page. Please email dabate@fox-chapel.pa.us for any suggestion(s) on information you would like to see available on the website or to report errors on the site. Our goal is to make the new site another source of open communication between the Borough and its residents.



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Remember to vote

Election Day is November 5th. Polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. Go to Allegheny County Election Department's website if you need to find your polling place at www.alleghenycounty.us/elect. You can also register to vote or obtain an Absentee Ballot application on the site. Forms are not available at the Borough office.



Update - Borough Building Site Improvement Project

The first phase of the public works facilities upgrade is underway. Council budgeted \$1.1M this year for the site preparation. Work continues regarding compliance with environmental mandates such as storm water control and stream setback which are required. As a reminder, this work will disrupt parking at the Borough office during reconstruction of the front parking area as well as the entrance into the driveway. It is anticipated that completion of the first phase will be in December, and the Borough rubbish bins will remain closed until then.



Nixle

Residents are reminded that the Borough is using Nixle Communications Service that allows important Borough information to be sent directly to residents. Nixle 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, garbage collection holidays and other relevant Borough information. The service is free, reliable and has no hidden costs. Visit www.nixle.com for additional information or to register for this service. The rubbish bin reopen date will be announced via Nixle.



What's a Person to Do? - Recycling Awareness

Recycling is in transition. How did this happen and what opportunities do the changes present? Please join us for a community forum as we answer these questions.

When: October 21, 2019, 7 – 9 PM

Where: Laurie Ann West Community Center

The program is part of the Community Center's Speaker Series. The panel will be led by the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) - Nancy Martin and will include panelists from O'Hara and Fox Chapel's trash and recycling vendors. The panel will address global and local recycling challenges and will answer common questions such as lids on or off? Which plastics? Textiles? Hazardous waste? Pharmaceuticals? Where does it all go? We will get answers on how each of us can effectively recycle and support local efforts.



Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule and Driveway Reminder

Garbage will not be collected on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day thus delaying garbage collection one day following the holiday for the remainder of the week.

With winter weather approaching, Vogel Disposal would also like to remind residents to keep driveways clear of snow and ice. If the driveway is not accessible due to dangerous/slippery conditions, garbage will not be collected. If bad weather is predicted on collection day, it is recommended that the garbage cans be placed at the curb to ensure pickup. Your cooperation is appreciated. *Call Vogel directly for a missed garbage collection or any collection problems toll free at 1-855/494-3345 and press 1 for Customer Service. Please do not call the Borough office – you will be instructed to call Vogel directly.*



Fall Leaf Collection

Leaf composting and placing leaves in wooded areas of your property is highly recommended and remind landscapers to do the same. Your help in removing leaves from the collection program is needed and appreciated.

Collection will begin on October 15th (brush and decorative grasses are not included). Once a complete pass has been made through the Borough, the crews will start over on the first street and continue again throughout the Borough. All leaves should be deposited on the lawn BEHIND the curb or road edge, not on the pavement or in the gutter. **LEAVES PLACED ON THE ROADWAY WILL NOT BE COLLECTED.** This is important because leaves placed in the street can become soggy from street runoff which makes them extremely difficult to vacuum and increases the time required to remove the leaves. It also creates a safety problem by reducing the cart way available to motorists and pedestrians. (Ordinance No. 535 prescribes a penalty of \$1,000 for anyone placing such materials on a road.) Due to equipment limitations, leaves placed further than 6 feet from the curb cannot be collected. Borough personnel will not rake leaves down to the curb that are located outside the 6-foot limit. The final collection will start December 3. *Any leaves placed after December 3 will not be picked up.* Please make certain to notify landscapers of the cutoff date and the need to keep the leaves off the street. (Please email Dempsey Bruce at dbruce@fox-chapel.pa.us if you would like a load or more of leaves delivered to your home.)

Please be aware that should the Borough experience the steady falling of leaves this fall, it could take as long as three weeks between collections. (Sometimes it takes Borough personnel an entire day to collect one street.) The Public Works Department keeps a daily log of streets collected so the Borough is aware of the number of collections made on a particular street. Your patience during leaf collection is greatly appreciated.



Brush Collection

A reminder to residents that there is no brush collection in the fall. Brush collection occurs in March and April and information is placed in the Winter Newsletter.



Christmas Tree Recycling

The Borough will provide a *curbside* pickup of Christmas trees. All trees must be brought to the curb by Monday, January 13th, with the cut end facing the street. All trimmings must be removed. Barring inclement weather, the collection usually takes only three days to complete. If you miss the curbside collection, Christmas trees can be brought to the bin area behind the Borough Building during normal bin hours (10 AM to 4 PM, Saturday & Sunday). Vogel Disposal does not collect Christmas trees.



False Fire Alarms

Every year the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department responds to numerous false alarms and a typical response involves people leaving their jobs, dinner tables, family functions, holiday celebrations and sometimes getting up in the middle of the night. It also involves responding with almost \$1,000,000 worth of sophisticated equipment. Every response to a false alarm means needless wear and tear on that equipment and increases the chances for an accident involving volunteers and fellow residents.

Our firefighters are local property owners and residents of the surrounding communities just like you. As volunteers, they care enough about the lives and property of our neighbors to willingly invest in many volunteer hours of training, education and preparation in order to properly respond to true emergency situations.

The Borough is not trying to discourage the use of alarm systems. Early fire detection equipment can save both lives and property. We just want residents to be familiar with their alarm system, maintain it properly and follow the standard operating procedures as outlined by the alarm company. Please take the time to review the alarm system and call the alarm company to have the system checked and repaired if necessary. All property owners should instruct contractors to cover all interior smoke detectors to avoid false alarms. **Most false alarms are caused by contractors not covering the smoke detectors.** We feel that by following these guidelines, we can significantly reduce the amount of needless false alarms and risk to our men and equipment.

The Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department meets every Tuesday at 7:30 PM at the Borough Building if you would like to meet them, have any questions or would like to learn more about the work they do. The Department can also be reached by e-mail at info@foxchapelvfd.com. Again, thank you for your cooperation in helping the Fire Department better serve you.



What are the Regulations for...

The Borough receives many calls questioning regulations for items such as signs, lighting, grass height, etc. You can get an answer by going to the Borough website (www.fox-chapel.pa.us). All Borough ordinances are available on the website under Government/Code of Ordinances. Type a keyword in Search to find the desirable information.



Fire Safety Tips from the Fire Department

- Remember to check smoke detectors and change the batteries when the clocks are changed in the spring and fall.
- Service, clean and check fire alarm.
- Confirm ALL family members know what to do in the event of a fire - know the appropriate escape routes (should have more than one), practice them and have a pre-set meeting place.
- Always sleep with bedroom doors closed. This will keep deadly heat and smoke away allowing additional time to escape.
- If fire threatens the home, exit the home first and then call 911.
- Time is critical. Do not waste time getting dressed or searching for valuables. Just get out!



Snow Removal/Street Parking

Residents are reminded that street parking is prohibited during periods of snowfall, ice accumulation and inclement weather. Vehicles parked on public roads during the deposit or accumulation of snow or ice present a traffic hazard and impair the Borough's ability to effectively remove all snow or ice from the roads in a safe and expedient manner. The Police Department will tow any vehicle parked along any public roadway during inclement weather. In a related matter, it is also unlawful for residents to shovel any snow from any driveway/sidewalk/private road onto any public road. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Ice Skating Rink

We are asking those who use the ice-skating rink at McCahill Park during the winter months to **please observe the "Closed" sign when posted.** The main reason for closure is the ice surface is not completely frozen. Borough personnel post the sign as well as place yellow tape across the entrance and yet the tape is removed and skating occurs causing damage to the rink's liner. This has happened on several occasions since the rink has been installed and ruins skating for all. We are asking residents to help the Borough patrol the rink and notify police when usage occurs when closed. The rink has become a popular attraction during winter months, and it is the Borough's desire to continue the tradition for years to come.



WEAVING A NEW LIFE AFTER BRAIN INJURY

Date: Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 9:30 AM (coffee); 10:00 AM (meeting and program)

Location: Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (corner Fox Chapel and Field Club Roads)

Speaker: Deborah Brandon, PhD

Professor of Mathematics, Carnegie Mellon University

Dr. Deborah Brandon, author of the award-winning book *But My Brain Had Other Ideas*, will discuss her journey to recovery from a life-threatening brain injury. Weaving offered a therapeutic pathway and became her inspiration and her passion.

WHAT'S UP MOTHER EARTH?

Date: Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 9:30 AM (coffee); 10:00 AM (meeting and program)

Location: Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (corner Fox Chapel and Field Club Roads)

Speaker: Randy Weinberg, PhD

Randy Weinberg will discuss the "energy cost" of items – large and small – that we consume during our activities of daily living and how to reduce our own carbon footprint for the benefit of the planet. Dr. Weinberg retired from Carnegie Mellon University in 2018, where he was the head of the Department of Information Systems.



Cooper-Siegel Community Library

FUNDRAISER: Sip, Savor and Swing!

Saturday, October 19th, Fox Chapel Racquet Club

Age 21+.

VIP Event at 6:30/General Admission at 7:30/End Time 10:00

VIP Tix \$125 each - General Admission Tix \$85 each (includes appetizers, beer/wine, live music and dancing)

Cocktail attire, costumes encouraged. Prize for the best couples' costume!

Tickets available online at coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org or in person at the library

All proceeds benefit library programs.

Children's

Hands-on STEM: Scratch That Story! Sunday, October 6th at 2:00 PM

Spanish for Kids! Sunday, October 13th & November 10th at 3:00 PM

Mini Pumpkin Decorating! Sunday, October 20th at 2:00 PM

Spooky Stories! Sunday, October 27th at 3:30 PM

Hands-on STEM: Recommend a Book with AI! Saturday, November 9th at 1:00 PM

Thanksgiving Crafts! Saturday, November 16th at 2:00 PM

Tweens

Minecraft Mondays!

Choose from two fall sessions: Every Other Monday beginning on September 30th or October 7th

5:30-7:30 PM

Ages 10-15

Code Club!

Wednesdays beginning October 2nd, runs for 8 weeks

5:30-7:30 PM

Ages 8-14

Adults

- 10/14: An Evening with the Psychic Sisters 6:30-8:30 PM
- 10/13: Discover Walt Whitman 2:00-3:00 PM
- 11/2: After Hours Game Night 5:00-9:00 PM
- 11/4: The Power of the Pen with Public Source 6:00-8:00 PM
- 11/7: Mason Jar Salads 6:30-8:00 PM
- 12/6: Fall Frick Lecture Series: Tea and Victorian Holiday Traditions 1:00-3:00 PM



Halloween Hours

Halloween will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 31st, from 6 PM – 8 PM. The Police Department will be out in force patrolling Borough streets to make certain that all speed limits are being obeyed.

Parents should dress their children in light or reflective clothing and an adult or older child should accompany the very young.



Shady Side Academy

Shady Side Academy Fall Admissions Open Houses

Families interested in applying to Shady Side Academy for the 2020-2021 school year are invited to attend a fall admissions open house. Events will be held at all four campuses. RSVP online at www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Visit.

Country Day School (Fox Chapel, PK-5)	Friday, Oct. 18	9:30 AM
Junior School (Point Breeze, PK-5)	Wednesday, Oct. 16	9:15 AM
Middle School (Fox Chapel, 6-8)	Saturday, Oct. 26	10:00 AM
Senior School (Fox Chapel, 9-12)	Saturday, Oct. 19	11:00 AM

Fox Chapel Farmers Market Open Through Oct. 23

The Fox Chapel Farmers Market is open Wednesdays from 3:30-6:30 p.m. through Oct. 23 in the first parking lot on the Shady Side Academy Senior School campus, 423 Fox Chapel Road. The market features seasonal produce, food and specialty items from local farms and vendors, including SSA's on-campus farm. Learn more at www.ShadySideAcademy.org/FarmersMarket.

Hillman Performing Arts Series 2019-2020 Season

The 2019-2020 Hillman Performing Arts Series features a wide variety of shows for patrons of all ages and interests, including four family-friendly Main Stage Shows and three coffeehouse-style Black Box Shows. All shows are Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on the Shady Side Academy Senior School campus, 423 Fox Chapel Road. Learn more and buy tickets at www.TheHillman.org.

- Sep. 28 – Dom Flemons (folk musician)
- Oct. 19 – Wayne Hoffman: Mind Candy (mental/illusionist)
- Nov. 16 – Ariel Pocock (jazz pianist)
- Dec. 14 – Six Appeal: Ugly Sweater Party (a cappella group)
- Feb. 15 – Tami Lee Hughes: The Legacy Show (violinist/multimedia concert)
- Mar. 14 – Blackwater (Celtic band)
- Apr. 18 – Bindlestiff Family Cirkus (circus/vaudeville)



Deer Management

During the 2018-2019 hunting season, a total of 120 deer were removed: 15 by vehicles, 22 by archers and 83 by the police sharpshooters. This compares with 98 deer removed the year before.

Archery season begins Saturday, September 21, for white-tailed deer in Allegheny County. As in previous years, the Borough assists residents who want to have a hunter on their property by providing a pre-qualified archer as long as there is an adequate safety zone on the property. While the law allows you to give permission to any licensed archer to hunt on your property, we strongly encourage you to obtain a pre-qualified archer through the Borough by contacting Chief David Laux. Experience gained over the years clearly shows that the archers in the Borough's pool of archers are much more proficient at removing deer than non-pool archers.

The second part of the Borough's deer management program involves the use of police officers to remove deer at night at selected sites throughout the Borough. All meat obtained in this manner is donated to Hunters Sharing the Harvest. This aspect of the program extends from February 1st to September 30th but generally all such activity ceases from April through August.

If you have any questions about the Borough's program, please do not hesitate to contact Chief Laux at 412/850-5024.



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*
Jay Troutman
Maria Harrington
Liz Nelson
Lois Folino
Susan Crookston
Wesley W. Posvar
Jessica DeMoise
Carrie Casey Leemhuis
Michael Schiller

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.