

# FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

*Published by*  
Fox Chapel Borough



## Mayor's Memo

Fall 2020

We continue to have record-breaking usage of our parks and trails and encourage people to keep them litter-free. There is very little litter on the wooded areas of the trails, so we continue to attract many users to the beauty of our woodlands. Our trail and park stewards continue to be great volunteers. Please be sure to have your parking permit where needed (available at the library). This will ensure that we have room for all those wanting to use the trails and parks.

Thanks to another great year from our volunteers, our Fire Department continues to take care of all our residents in need! This group is from all walks of life, including students, medical doctors, business owners, and retirees. Chief Dee Humes continues to lead us, with able assistants Brian Zimmerman and Zack Friday. Thanks go to residents who have supported the Department financially, to be sure we have the best equipment and supplies. If you see one of our firefighters, please give them a big "thank you" to let them know of our gratitude for their service.

We continue to lose trees due to many reasons, especially disease. This is a great time to plant, and if we all manage to plant a tree or two annually, we can fix the problem. A list of recommended native species is available at the Borough office and on the website.

-Alex Scott-



### Remember To Vote!

Election Day is November 3. Pennsylvania allows any registered voter to request a ballot by mail. You may also vote in person. Due to the ever-changing status of things due to COVID-19, please visit the Allegheny County Election Department's website to find your polling place ([www.alleghenycounty.us/elect](http://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.

### Roads, County and State

Delafield Road and Dorseyville Road are owned and maintained by Allegheny County. Fox Chapel Road, from Freeport Road to Guy's Run Road, is owned and maintained by Allegheny County. From Guys Run Road to Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel Road is owned and maintained by the State. Powers Run Road is also a State Road.

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## Spotted Lanternfly

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) will be flying around and laying eggs. If you have seen one, you will have experienced the best that this invasive insect has to offer, its beautiful vivid colors and large size. Do not let its beauty fool you, however, as this insect will become a more significant nuisance than the stinkbug. It tends to leave sticky secretions on all your outdoor surfaces and swarm around you when you are outside. This will create an ongoing cleaning issue as well as the annoyance of being surrounded by the insects. It will then start laying eggs everywhere to increase the population for the next year.

Currently, the main infestations in our area are near train rail yards (our closest is in Etna) and will continue to spread from there over the next few years. It is believed that they came to our area riding on the trains from the East. The adults are not good flyers and will most likely spread by attaching to cars, outdoor furniture, and many other surfaces where we may unknowingly take them to our homes. You should inspect your



vehicle and anything else that sits outside to prevent carrying the SLF to your home. Businesses that travel across the quarantine border (in which we reside) are required to inspect their vehicles.

The good news is that they will not kill your landscape plants. However, they have the potential to damage some plants in your garden. Based on the experiences in the Eastern part of the State where the SLF entered the US, it will take a few years for the populations to become unbearable. Please use only licensed Pest Applicators for treatment, as they are educated on the best and most current practices and products for controlling this invasive pest. If you do decide to treat the SLF yourself, please use approved controls as directed on the label, rather than home remedies that often do harm to our environment and are not particularly useful in controlling the insect. The time to learn more about this insect and its impact is now. To learn more, go to the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly>.



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### Holiday Garbage Collection Delays and Borough Office Closings

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 contact Vogel directly.

## Halloween Hours

The Borough recommends that residents follow the County, State, and Federal guidelines when it comes to trick-or-treating this year. It is too early to tell what will be recommended or mandated. The Borough will post this information on the website under General Information, as well as Nixle the information when it becomes available. If trick-or-treating does take place, the Police Department will be out in force patrolling Borough streets to make sure that all speed limits are 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 Fall Admissions Visit Opportunities

This Fall, Shady Side Academy is offering a variety of opportunities for interested families to learn more about its four campuses, which include the Country Day School (PK-5), Middle School (6-8) and Senior School (9-12) in Fox Chapel and the Junior School in Point Breeze. Virtual visit opportunities include monthly Zoom information sessions with the admissions director at each campus, student-led campus video tours, day in the life videos, campus photo slideshows, virtual interviews and virtual classroom visits. If permitted by state and county guidance, a limited number of in-person campus tours will be held on Saturday, October 24, November 7 and December 5. Families must register in advance for a time slot, and safety protocols such as masks and temperature checks will be required. Weekday tours for individual families may be available as well by appointment. For more information, visit [www.shadysideacademy.org/visit](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/visit) or email [admissions@shadysideacademy.org](mailto:admissions@shadysideacademy.org).



### Noise

Residents are reminded that no person or firm shall carry on any building or road constructions, excavating, trucking, or operation of heavy construction equipment or trucks in connection therewith from 8 PM to 7 AM daily, or anytime on Sunday or holidays, except by special permission of the Borough Manager. Such approval shall be granted only if it is shown that the construction work must proceed as a matter of emergency or that it can be carried on in such a manner or in such a place that the residents of the Borough will not be annoyed or disturbed by said construction work.

The emergency repair of water lines, gas lines, sewer lines, or other utilities shall not be subject to the foregoing restrictions.



### Ice Skating Rink

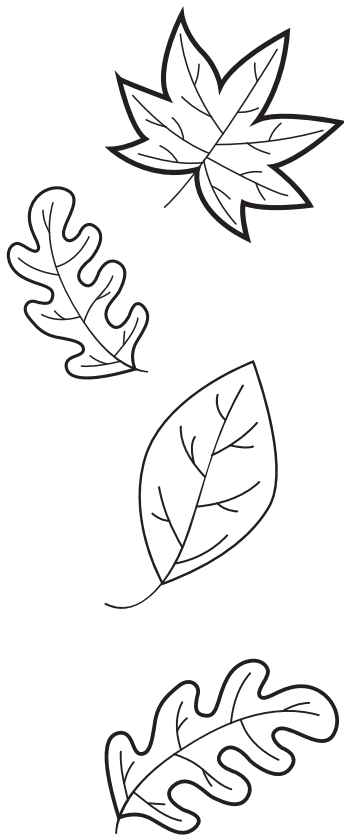
We are asking those who use the ice-skating rink at McCahill Park during the winter months to please observe the "Closed" sign when posted. The main reason for closure is the ice surface is not completely frozen. Borough personnel post the sign as well as place yellow tape across the entrance, and yet 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 the Borough desires to continue the tradition for years to come.

## Fall Leaf Collection

**Leaf composting, mulching and placing leaves in wooded areas of your property is highly recommended and please remind landscapers to do the same. Your help in removing leaves from the collection program is the sustainable solution.**

Collection will begin on October 13 (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 the road.) Due to equipment limitations, leaves set 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 on December 1. Any leaves placed after December 1 will not be picked up. Please make sure 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](mailto: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 the road. Your patience during leaf collection is much appreciated.



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### Christmas Tree Recycling

The Borough will provide a curbside pickup of Christmas trees. (Brush is not included in the collection.) All trees must be brought to the curb by Monday, January 11, 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 regular bin hours (10 AM to 4 PM, Saturday & Sunday). Vogel Disposal does not collect Christmas trees.



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### 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 safely and sensibly. 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 much appreciated.



## Deer Management

During the 2019-2020 hunting season, a total of 118 deer were removed: 20 by vehicles, 15 by archers, and 83 by the police sharpshooters.

Archery season begins Saturday, September 19, 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 if there is an adequate safety zone on the property. While the law allows you to permit 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 after January 24 through May 15, 2021, 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.



### Nixle Communications Service

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 email. Notifications 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](http://www.nixle.com) for additional information or to register for this service or visit your App store and search Everbridge.



**Fox Chapel Garden Club announces with regret that our event**

*Glitter & Glow 2020  
has been cancelled.*

We thank our entire community for their generous and steadfast support, and we look forward to 2021. Please join us for Glitter & Glow 2021 on Thursday, December 9. Wishing you and your loved ones a very safe, peaceful, and heartwarming holiday season.

Our mission is to further the appreciation and knowledge of gardening and to advocate sound environmental stewardship.

[www.foxchapelgardenclub.org](http://www.foxchapelgardenclub.org)

## Department Spotlight

In the next four newsletters, we will feature a different department at Fox Chapel Borough, as well as one article that features the elected officials, to help introduce residents to everyone that participates in the day-to-day operations of the Borough.

This newsletter will feature the Public Works Department. There is a total of nine full-time, and two part-time employees on the Public Works crew. These employees work each year meticulously to make the Borough a beautiful place to live, from collecting leaves in the Fall to snow removal in the Winter, brush collection in the Spring, and roadwork such as replacing underdrains, and catch basins in the Summer months to get roads ready for paving. We have



members of the Department who focus on dye testing the Sanitary Sewer System for the sale of homes, repairing and replacing the Sanitary Sewer Systems, mowing the grass around the Borough and parks, litter pick-up, trash removal at the parks, and keeping the trails safe and walkable. The Public Works crew also responds to all fire calls that come in during weekday working hours.



Because the Public Works crew repaired the Old Mill Slide and the Squaw Run Slide, without using an outside company, they were able to save the Borough a significant amount of money in 2019. Public Works worked diligently for months, repairing those slides to ensure that another slide would not occur in these areas.

This Summer, crews worked on the replacement of the Fairview Culverts. The culverts were originally constructed out of galvanized metal pipe and had been lined with concrete decades ago. Crews excavated and removed the collapsing culverts and replaced them with HDP (plastic) pipe and concrete head and end walls.

The Public Works crew is a group of hard-working individuals who take great pride in their daily work and it shows!



# Your Home. Your Rivers. Make the Connection.

**I**t is important to recognize that everything we do in our homes and on our properties can affect the water quality of our rivers, which serve as the drinking water source for 90% of residents in the region. Here's how you can help be a part of the solution to this wet weather problem:

- Use environmentally friendly lawn products and/or limit the use of fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides.



- Plant more trees and shrubs on your property or consider installing a rain garden.
- Rather than washing your car in your driveway, use a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Disconnect any roof or foundation drains that are connected to a

specific sewer system designed only to carry sewage.

- Install a rain barrel to capture storm water and use it later to water your garden.
- Dispose properly of motor oil or other hazardous household chemicals. Never pour them down a storm drain.

3 Rivers  
Wet Weather



*Improving our region's water quality*



## BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 FOX CHAPEL ROAD

PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

(412) 963-1100

[www.fox-chapel.pa.us](http://www.fox-chapel.pa.us)



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### BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

#### BOROUGH COUNCIL

Andrew C. Bennett, *President*  
Jay S. Troutman, *Vice President*  
Harrison S. Lauer  
Thomas A. Karet  
Frederick C. Leech  
Mandy Steele  
Betsy Monroe  
Walter A. Scott, III, *Mayor*  
Jeanine A. Mancuso, *Treasurer*  
Gary J. Koehler, *Manager*

Meets each month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of  
the month at 6:00 P.M.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Austin Henry, *Chairman*  
Walter A. Scott, III  
Thomas J. Murphy  
Peggy G. Jayme  
Jay S. Troutman  
Nanette Bennett  
Donald H. Newman

Meets as needed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of  
the month at 5:30 P.M.

#### PARK COMMISSION

Wesley W. Posvar, *Chairman*  
Jay Troutman  
Liz Nelson  
Lois Folino  
Susan Crookston  
James W. Pashek  
Michael J. Schiller  
Jessica Demoise  
Carrie Casey Leemhuis

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in April, June,  
September and December at 9:00 A.M.

#### ZONING HEARING BOARD

Donald F. Smith, Jr.  
J. Christian Hart  
Kyra Tucker

Meets as needed on the Wednesday  
following the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)