

# FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

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Fox Chapel Borough



Fall 2021

## Mayor's Memo

We welcome our new police chief, Michael Stevens! Mike is a long-time member of the force and has the full support of the officers, staff, and Council members. Also, officers Jeff Clark and Craig Sorg have been promoted to Sergeant. Jeff and Craig have both been with us for many years. These changes should give us a smooth leadership transition with the recent retirements we have had. Our police remind us to call 911 if your call requires an immediate police response. If it is a non-emergency, you can call 412 963 7720.

Our first Fox Chapel Day was planned for September 25 and was enthusiastically organized by Craig Sorg. By the time this newsletter reaches you, this event should have given our residents a chance to meet and interact with the men and women who safeguard the community. A successful day will ensure that we can repeat this in future years and give us all a chance to thank our police, volunteer fire department, and EMS service members.

The past summer was a busy one in our parks and on our trails! The Parks Commission was very involved with all this activity and should be recognized for their efforts. Volunteer park stewards and trail stewards play an essential role in maintaining these recreational opportunities. Thanks to Bart Griffith and Shady Side Academy for trail improvements near Riding Meadow Park.

We are happy to have our Community Library open again to full hours for all to enjoy!

-Alex Scott-



### Remember to Vote

Election Day is November 2. Pennsylvania allows any registered voter to request a ballot by mail. You may also vote in person. 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.

#### Important Deadlines:

**October 18, 2021** ..... Last day to register before the November election

**October 26, 2021** ..... Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

**November 2, 2021** .... Election Day

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## Stormwater Management

Rainwater from storms carry pollutants from impervious surfaces, like roads and roofs, into local waterways, potentially compromising drinking water supplies and making recreation in, on, or near these waters unsafe. Additionally, flooding caused by stormwater can endanger private property and critical infrastructure.

Effective stormwater management can address both of these challenges by reducing flooding and flood-related damages while also preventing pollutants from threatening public health. In Pennsylvania, nearly 20,000 miles of streams are impaired due to polluted runoff, negatively impacting water supplies, recreation, and fish consumption. Unfortunately, these challenges are only going to worsen as more frequent and intense downpours increase.

It is important to recognize that everything we do in our homes and on our properties can affect the water quality of our local waterways. Here's how you can help be a part of the solution to this issue:

- 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 the water.
- Dispose appropriately of motor oil or other hazardous household chemicals. Never pour them down a storm drain.



## Managing Leaves This Fall

Autumn is a beautiful season until it is time to rake leaves. In Fox Chapel Borough, Public Works crews start collecting leaves at residential curbsides in October and continue their collection until December. This practice has improperly come to be viewed in certain circles as “environmentally friendly.” In reality, it is a compromise between collection for landfilling and at-home recycling.

Borough trucks and staff pick up leaves and haul them for composting. The time, vehicle trips, air pollutant emissions, and consumption of fossil fuels stack up, as do the costs, merely to recycle and reuse a renewable natural resource (compost).

As with all forms of solid waste, reduction should be the underlying objective. Leaf waste can easily be reduced, reused, and recycled right where it is produced. Here's how yard waste can become yard wealth:

### ***Leave Them Be:***

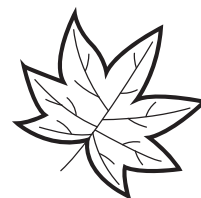
In heavily wooded areas with native stands of trees, let the leaves lie as they fall. The trees need natural leaf litter. Leaves enrich the soil's nutrients and quality for maximum root growth. However, if you have lawn beneath the trees, the leaves must be removed, for the grass may be smothered.

### ***Use Organic Mulches:***

Reuse leaves, wood chips, grass clippings, and other yard trimmings as mulch to retain soil moisture, reduce weed growth, moderate daily and seasonal soil temperatures, and reduce soil erosion.

### ***Plan and Evaluate Your Yard:***

Reconsidering your routines may require a little time and discipline instead of proceeding as usual. But good, environmentally friendly ideas should emerge. The key is to lessen the waste problem by reducing, reusing, recycling, and rethinking.



## Fall Leaf Collection

Leaf composting, mulching, and placing leaves in wooded areas of your property are highly recommended. Your help in removing leaves from the collection program is a sustainable solution.

Collection will begin on October 12th (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 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.** Leaves placed in the street can become soggy from street runoff, making it extremely difficult to vacuum and increasing the time required to remove the leaves. It also creates a safety problem by reducing the cartway available to motorists and pedestrians. (Article III of the Borough Code prescribes a penalty of \$1,000 for anyone placing such materials on the road.) Leaves will not be collected if there are vehicles parked on the street blocking leaf piles.

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 6th. Any leaves placed after December 6th 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.

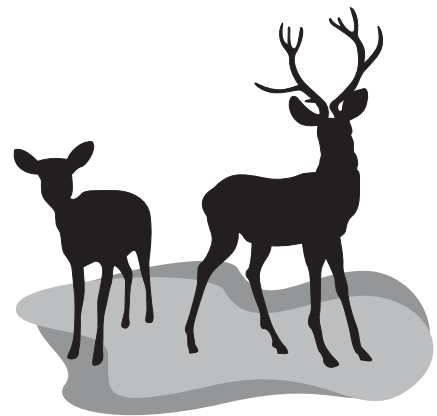
Please be aware that should the Borough experience the steady falling of leaves this fall, it could take as long as three weeks between collections. (Sometimes, it takes Borough personnel an entire day to collect one street.) The Public Works Department keeps a daily log of streets collected, so the Borough is aware of the number of collections made on the road. If you would like to track where Borough crews collected, you can access the information on the Borough website every Friday afternoon during collection. Your patience during leaf collection is much appreciated.



## Deer Management

During the 2020-2021 hunting season, 180 deer were removed: 22 by vehicles, 19 by archers, and 139 by police sharpshooters. This compares with 118 deer removed the year before.

Archery season begins Saturday, September 18, 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 Officer Donald Stoner [dstoner@fox-chapel.pa.us](mailto:dstoner@fox-chapel.pa.us). 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 using police officers to remove deer at night at selected sites. Four thousand five hundred and twenty-eight pounds of venison was obtained in this manner and donated to Hunters Sharing the Harvest. This aspect of the program extends from February 1st through September 30th, 2022, 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 Michael Stevens at 412/850-5024.

## Look Out for Jumping Earthworms!

Asian jumping worms are a relatively new invasive species, but they rapidly spread across the United States. These invasive worms live in organic matter or the topmost layer of soil. This upper layer of organic matter protects the soil from erosion. Many of the tree roots establish in this duff layer of the forest floor, and wildflowers grow. Asian jumping worms are greedy feeders, and they quickly consume the organic matter and degrade the soil. Nutrients from their castings are rapidly released, with a small amount reaching the roots of plants. During heavy rainstorms, the nutrients are quickly lost, and the soil may not support plant growth. Where there was once lush vegetation and wildflowers, there is only bare soil. When such a disturbance happens, it provides an opportunity for an invasive plant species such as garlic mustard or stilt grass to move in.

One telltale sign of an infestation is a very uniform, granular soil created from worm castings, the nutrient-rich soil that the worms leave behind. The texture of this soil is often compared to coffee grounds.

It is challenging to remove an invasive species once it is well established in an ecosystem, so the focus must be on preventing the spread of Asian earthworms. The cocoons, which are very small and difficult to see, can be easily introduced to your garden compost, bark, or leaf mulch or when swapping plants with friends.

Consider reducing the amount of organic matter that you add to your garden each year. Most importantly, when purchasing bulk mulch or compost, use a reputable producer that has heat-treated the material to a temperature of 130 degrees Fahrenheit for at least three days to destroy the cocoons. The other option is to purchase bagged mulch.

Diligence in following preventative measures and implementing control methods for cocoons and adult worms can impact the health of your soil by eliminating these destructive invasive worms. For more information, please visit the Penn State Extension website at <https://extension.psu.edu/look-out-for-jumping-earthworms>.

*Penn State Extension, Nancy Knauss, Look Out for Jumping Earthworms, The Pennsylvania State University, 2021*



## From the Desk of Chief of Police, Michael Stevens

I want to express my gratitude to the Fox Chapel Borough Council for appointing me as the new Fox Chapel Police Chief. It has been my privilege to serve the residents of Fox Chapel for the past thirty-three years as a police officer.

One of my duties as Chief is to share services the Police Department offers. The Fox Chapel Police Department has a Vacation Check program. Secured in the Police Department is a card for every resident of the Borough. That card is used to note times, dates, and emergency contact information while you are away. When you are planning to be away, call us at 412/963-7220, and we will note the information on your card and conduct extra patrols of your residence.

The Borough of Fox Chapel experiences very little crime, but we are not immune to it. The Borough and surrounding communities have been experiencing a rash of vehicle break-ins. Items are being stolen from unlocked vehicles. Vehicles with keys left inside have been stolen as well. I ask all residents to lock their homes and cars and remove valuable items from inside their vehicles. Please dial 911 if suspicious activity is observed. The residents are the eyes and ears of our community, and together we can keep the Borough of Fox Chapel safe.

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or to say hello. I look forward to serving the residents of Fox Chapel for many years to come.

-Chief Michael J. Stevens-  
412/850-5024  
[mstevens@fox-chapel.pa.us](mailto:mstevens@fox-chapel.pa.us)

## Hazardous Household Waste & Electronic Waste Collection

The next Hazardous Household Waste and Electronic Waste Collection will be Monday, December 13, 2021. Please call Vogel's Customer Service Department at 724-625-1511 a minimum of ten (10) business days before the collection day to schedule a pickup. Be prepared with detailed information about the products you are requesting to be picked up during the call. For more information, please visit the Borough website [www.fox-chapel.pa.us](http://www.fox-chapel.pa.us), under Government, Trash & Recycling.



## Halloween Hours

Halloween will be celebrated on Sunday, October 31, 2021, from 6 PM – 8 PM. The Borough recommends that residents follow the County, State, and Federal guidelines for trick-or-treating this year. The Police Department will be out in force patrolling Borough streets to ensure 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.



## Fox Chapel Gardens Club's Glitter & Glow

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Fox Chapel Golf Club

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



## Public Meetings

Beginning in September, the Borough of Fox Chapel will hold public meetings at the Borough Building, 401 Fox Chapel Road, and via Zoom. RPC Video installed microphones, televisions, and a camera in the Council chambers to allow hybrid meetings. Residents are invited to attend any public meeting either in person or via Zoom. Information for public meetings can be found on the Borough website, [www.fox-chapel.pa.us](http://www.fox-chapel.pa.us), or the main lobby of the Borough Building.



## Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule and Driveway Reminder



Garbage will not be collected on Thanksgiving Day, thus delaying garbage collection one day following the holiday for the remainder of the week.

Garbage collection will not change the week leading up to Christmas Day and New Year's Day. As these two holidays fall on a Saturday, there will be no change to the regular schedule.

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/slippy 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.



## Holiday Office and Bin Schedule

The Borough Administration Office and Public Works Department will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after (November 25 & 26). The rubbish bins behind the Borough Building will be open the weekend after Thanksgiving (November 27 & 28).

The Borough Administration Office and Public Works Department will be closed on Christmas Eve (December 24). The rubbish bins will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day but will be open Sunday, December 26, 2021, and January 2, 2022.



### Roads: County and State

Delafield Road and Dorseyville Road are owned and maintained by Allegheny County. From Freeport Road to Guy's Run Road, Allegheny County owns and maintains Fox Chapel Road. 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.



## Parks Commission Vacancy

The Fox Chapel Park Commission has a vacancy due to the resignation of one of its members. Borough Residents interested in serving on the Park Commission are invited to apply for this opening. The Park Commission meets four times per year per statute, but special meetings and communications often occur between statutory meetings. Current Park Commission Members bring diverse skillsets, knowledge, and experience, but all share a love for our green spaces and community. Accordingly, if you feel you have something to offer our community and its Parks, please send a CV with a cover letter to [speterson@fox-chapel.pa.us](mailto:speterson@fox-chapel.pa.us) by October 22, 2021.



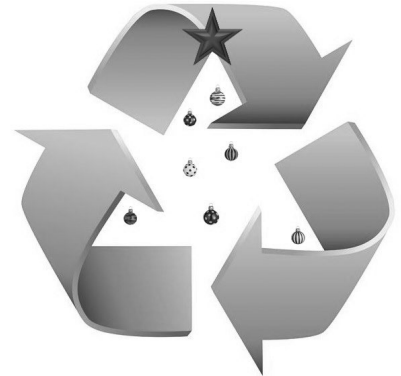
## Snow Removal / Street Parking

Residents are reminded that street parking is prohibited during 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 streets 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.



## 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 10th, 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.



## Shady Side Academy Admissions Visit Opportunities

Families interested in learning more about Shady Side Academy or applying for the 2022-2023 school year are invited to visit the school virtually or in person. Fall visit opportunities include monthly Zoom Information Sessions and Saturday Campus Tours at each of the four SSA campuses.

### **Country Day School** (Fox Chapel, Grades PK-5)

Saturday Campus Tours: October 16, November 13, December 11

Zoom Information Sessions, Grades PK-K: October 12, November 9, December 7

Zoom Information Sessions, Grades 1-5: October 14, November 11, December 9

### **Junior School** (Point Breeze, Grades PK-5)

Saturday Campus Tours: October 16, November 13, December 11

Zoom Information Sessions, Grades PK-K: October 12, November 9, December 7

Zoom Information Sessions, Grades 1-5: October 14, November 11, December 9

### **Middle School** (Fox Chapel, Grades 6-8)

Saturday Campus Tours: Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Zoom Information Sessions: Oct. 6, Nov. 1, Dec. 1

### **Senior School** (Fox Chapel, Grades 9-12)

Saturday Campus Tours: Oct. 16, Nov. 13, Dec. 11

Zoom Information Sessions: Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

Learn more and register at [www.shadysideacademy.org/visit](http://www.shadysideacademy.org/visit) or email [admissions@shadysideacademy.org](mailto:admissions@shadysideacademy.org).

## 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

Anyone interested in being considered for future openings should submit their resume via email to [speterson@fox-chapel.pa.us](mailto:speterson@fox-chapel.pa.us)

#### 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  
Susan Crookston  
James W. Pashek  
Jessica Demoise  
Carrie Casey Leemhuis  
Jessica Handron

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.  
Kyra Tucker  
Jeremy Callaway Sphar

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)

All meetings are open to the public. See our website for further details. All Borough shareholders are cordially invited to attend.