



FOX CHAPEL

BOROUGH

NEWSLETTER

Published by Fox Chapel Borough



FALL 2022

MAYOR'S MEMO

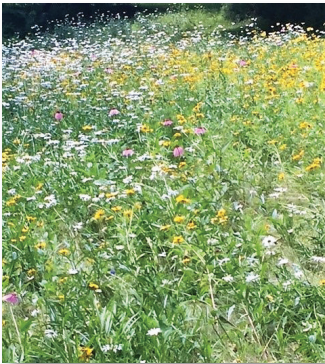
Why should we consider putting a wildflower meadow on our property to replace some grass? Here are some pros and cons to consider:

PROS:

- It is beautiful to look at and ties the landscape into the surrounding environment.
- Less grass cutting. A well-manicured lawn needs frequent watering, annual fertilization, and heavy use of pollution producing mowers and lawn trimmers.
- Better stormwater management than grass as it serves as an infiltration area for stormwater and prevents soil erosion.
- Once properly planted and maintained, meadows require almost no water, fertilizer, or energy inputs.

CONS:

- Labor to install or start-up cost.



In looking at the pros and cons, I hope more of us will consider this enhancement and improvement to our properties. Fox Chapel is a nature reserve. We should lead the way in reducing lawn size and increasing more natural grass. Adding even a small area of native wildflowers and meadow grasses to a property can provide a habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. I can answer questions regarding this, so please get in touch with me at wscott@fox-chapel.pa.us.

Also, a salute to Paul Mayercik who constantly works to improve our parks and trails during his daily walks!



REMEMBER TO VOTE

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 8th**. 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). 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 24, 2022 – Last day to register before the November election

November 1, 2022 – Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

November 8, 2022 – General Election Day

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

Rutting Season is Here	2
Halloween Hours.....	2
Garbage Collection Schedule	2
Police Chief Michael Stevens	3
Burning Permits Not Required.....	3
Junior Council Person Program.....	3
Important Tax Information.....	3
Welcome New Residents.....	4
Tennis Shoes Recycling	4
Managing Leaves This Fall	5
New Emergency Management Coordinator Deputies	6
Deer Management	7
Congratulations Officer Chad Lippert..	7

RUTTING SEASON IS HERE: A REMINDER TO ALL BOROUGH RESIDENTS TO BE EXTRA VIGILANT

Each year, an average of 20 vehicle-deer collisions occur in our Borough, especially along Fox Chapel Road. These collisions are dangerous and can be very costly. The fall and winter months are peak seasons for collisions in the Borough as deer become more active during daylight hours and move in higher numbers.

Please be extra careful when driving during this time, and consider the following simple yet effective precautions to prevent collisions:

- Ensure you observe the Borough speed limits: the lower your speed, the lower your risk of hitting an animal. The Fox Chapel Police Department will deploy speed signs in collision hotspots – be on the lookout!
- Be mindful of the time of day: use extra caution at dusk and dawn. If you drive during the night, use your high beams, as appropriate, and look for eye-shine reflections by the roadside.
- If you see one deer, more will likely follow since deer often travel in groups.
- Blow your horn. This will confuse the animal.
- If you see a deer approaching, do not swerve to avoid it. Stick to your lane, break. Swerving may cause collisions with other cars or roadside objects.



If you hit a deer, only attempt to move it from the road if you are certain you can do so safely. Remember to switch on your hazards to alert other drivers and alert the Borough police by calling 911.

To see information on deer/vehicle collisions in the Borough of Fox Chapel, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/7jw3auhz>.

SCAN ME

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.

HALLOWEEN HOURS

Halloween will be celebrated on Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6 PM – 8 PM. The Police Department will be 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.



HOLIDAY GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE AND DRIVEWAY REMINDER

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 following Christmas Day and New Year's Day. As these two holidays fall on a Sunday, 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/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 for a missed garbage collection or any collection problems toll-free at 1-855/494-3345 and press 1 for Customer Service.**



FROM THE DESK OF CHIEF OF POLICE MICHAEL STEVENS

School is back in session! Now is a great time to remind all residents and motorists that school bus stops and area roadways are being monitored for vehicle code violations. Passing a school bus with its red flashing lights activated places our young students in harm's way. Stiff fines and driver's license suspensions are the consequences of school bus stop violations.

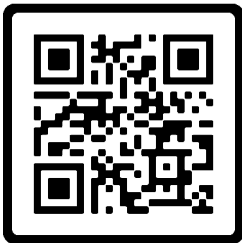
Please, for the safety of our children, watch for stopped school buses, obey speed limit signs, and eliminate distracted driving. The phone call, text, email, or social media post can wait until you reach your destination.

Joggers, walkers, and cyclists should wear bright reflective clothing while on the roadways. Joggers and walkers should face the flow of traffic so they can see incoming vehicles and react to them. Cyclists should ride with the flow of traffic and obey all traffic laws. Be safe and enjoy this beautiful time of the year.

BURNING PERMITS ARE NOT REQUIRED

Burning permits are not required to be issued in Fox Chapel. Like most neighboring municipalities, the Borough follows the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) Air Quality Program. Anyone who violates the ACHD guidelines will be subject to fines and/or penalties.

SCAN ME



On January 1, 2015, the Allegheny County Health Department implemented a new Open Burning regulation. This regulation pertains to all burning that occurs outside of a contained device – campfires, bonfires, chimineas, and even small fire pits in your backyard fall under this regulation.

Some facts to remember:

- The maximum size allowed for any burn pile is three (3) feet wide x three (3) feet long x two (2) feet high.
- The distance required from an open-air fire to the nearest property line is fifteen (15) feet.
- All recreational burning is prohibited when Allegheny County is forecasted to have an Air Quality Action Day.
- The only allowable fuel used in open burning, other than propane or natural gas, is clean, dry wood.

To view a full copy of the ACHD Regulations, visit: alleghenycounty.us/airquality

JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON PROGRAM

The Borough of Fox Chapel adopted the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs' Junior Council Person Program on February 20, 2017. This past year, Council members Bradley Harrison and Sarah Hanna wanted to reinvigorate the program and work as mentors to an appointed Junior Council Person.

Mr. Harrison and Ms. Hanna reached out to the Dean of Student Life at Shady Side Academy and government educators at Fox Chapel Area High School to see if there were juniors and seniors who would be interested in joining the program. The Borough received cover letters along with resumes from applicants listing their many achievements. After interviewing the candidates, Mr. Harrison and Ms. Hanna recommended the appointment of Miss Bree Murphy, a senior at Shady Side Academy, and Logan Dressman, a junior at Fox Chapel Area High School, both residents of the Borough.

In their role, Miss Murphy and Mr. Dressman will participate in Council meetings and Borough business and observe all Council rules. Junior Council Persons cannot vote or participate in executive sessions but are encouraged to attend budget meetings, public hearings, and community events.

Miss Murphy and Mr. Dressman will be sworn in as Junior Council Members at the October 17, 2022, Council meeting.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

The Borough will provide two curbside pickups of Christmas trees this season. (Brush is not included in the collection.) All trees must be brought to the curb by Monday, January 3rd, or 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.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

If you pay off your mortgage and your mortgage company is currently paying your taxes out of escrow, or if you move, please contact Jordan Tax Service at (412) 345-7962 with the new mailing information.

NEW RESIDENTS: WELCOME!

The Borough website, fox-chapel.pa.us, offers a section just for you!

The Newcomers button on the left of the Home Page has information such as Important Phone Numbers, FAQs and concerns regarding recycling and garbage collection, Fox Chapel Trails Brochure, and much more.



Glitter & Glow

Ladies, grab your girlfriends to shop our holiday boutique of fresh arrangements, fabulous plants & festive décor.

Presented by Fox Chapel Garden Club
Wednesday, December 7, 2022
@ the Fox Chapel Golf Club

Tickets go on sale November 1st
fox-chapel-garden-club-glitter-and-glow.ticketleap.com/gandg2022

Event details please visit our website at
www.foxchapelgardenclub.org

Proceeds support the club's mission to further the appreciation and knowledge of gardening and to advocate sound environmental stewardship.



THE BOROUGH SAYS THANK YOU TO JAMES W. PASHEK AS HE RETIRES FROM THE PARK COMMISSION

At the August 15th Council Meeting, Mayor Alex Scott presented a Proclamation to James W. Pashek, honoring his many years of dedicated service to the Borough as Mr. Pashek stepped down from his position on the Park Commission after fourteen years.

Mr. Pashek has distinguished himself as a hard-working and dedicated volunteer to his community and has provided invaluable leadership and guidance on many significant projects like the Welcome Garden on Fox Chapel Road; the Design and Implementation Proposal for the McCahill Park Improvements; the Joint Comprehensive Plan with O'Hara Township; the Trail Layout and Construction of the Trail Segment between Scott Park and Riding Meadow Park; DCED and DCNR Grant Writing for McCahill Park; the Hardie Valley Master Plan; and the Borough Park Master Plan.

Once again, the Borough of Fox Chapel would like to thank Mr. Pashek for a job well done!



FOX CHAPEL GARDEN CLUB: DON'T WANT YOUR OLD ATHLETIC SHOES – WE CAN HELP! TENNIS SHOES RECYCLING 2022

The Fox Chapel Garden Club is happy to announce its 15th year of tennis shoe recycling! Once again, the brightly colored boxes can be found at local churches, gyms, schools, Cooper-Siegel Community Library, Lauri Ann West Community Center, and more! All brands of athletic shoes are accepted, except for shoes with cleats.

The collection will begin at the end of August and run until early October. Once collected, the shoes will be sorted into usable and not usable groups. The usable shoes will be given to local charities. The worn-out shoes will be packed and shipped to Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program, where they will be ground up and reused in playground mats, running tracks, carpet underlayment, basketball courts, and more.

Each year the Garden Club has collected 1,000 pairs of shoes, of which approximately 10% are given away. The program is a triple win - the shoes never reach a landfill, new products are made with recycled material, and the local community gets involved with this environmental cause. Get involved! Save your old shoes and bring them to a collection box.



HELP KEEP LEAVES OUT OF OUR WATERWAYS

Actions you take in your yard impact our sewers, streams, and rivers. For example, leaves and grass clippings left on the ground can block and clog storm drains and sewer pipes, contributing to street flooding when it rains. Fertilizers and yard waste can also cause nutrient pollution and oxygen depletion in our streams and rivers when carried through storm drains and sewers. Not only does this hurt our waterways, but it can also harm fish and wildlife.

It is recommended that residents fertilize their lawns in the fall to promote root growth and prevent nutrients from washing away during spring rains. It is also good to select slow-release fertilizers and pesticides, if necessary, and not overapply.

Read Managing Leaves This Fall to see how leaf waste can easily be reduced, reused, and recycled in your yard. Remember, never dump yard waste, trash, or other waste near or into storm drains.

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).

When leaves are removed, they take the nutrients they have sucked up from the soil. Over time, this decreases soil health and leaves the trees more vulnerable to stressors like drought, infection, pest predation, human damage, and storms.

Healthier soil has the added benefit of reducing lawn and tree care by promoting more vigorous grass growth, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers, and holding moisture to minimize the need for irrigation.

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:** Let the leaves lie as they fall in heavily wooded areas with native stands of trees. 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 17th (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 vehicles are parked on the street blocking leaf piles. Due to equipment limitations, leaves set further than 6 feet from the curb cannot be collected.

The final collection will start on Monday, November 28th. Once the crews have collected on a roadway after November 28th, they will not return. Please notify landscapers of the cutoff date and the need to keep the leaves off the street.

This tentative schedule may change if the Borough encounters a steady falling of leaves. 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 knows the number of collections made on the road. If you want 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.

NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR DEPUTIES



At the August 15, 2022, Council meeting, both Randy Scott and Michael Pohl were appointed to a six-year term of Emergency Management Coordinator Deputies.

The deputies will work closely with the Emergency Management Coordinator, Chief of Police Michael J. Stevens, in a team effort to review, update and maintain the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan. The deputies will assist with establishing, coordinating, and managing the Borough's organization goals and objectives related to the Borough's preparedness and readiness programs that deal with disasters or crises. They will assist with establishing, coordinating, and managing risk assessment activities before, during, and after a disaster or emergency.

Mr. Pohl brings with him the experience of volunteering since 2010 at the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department and over five hundred hours of formal training from institutions including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), PA State Fire Academy, PA Department of Health, Allegheny County Fire Academy, and the American Red Cross.

Mr. Scott worked for the New Mexico Office of Emergency Management and has managerial experience in administrative, financial, investigative, and personnel issues dealing with emergency management, investigations, and personnel security in federal and state government and the private sector.

Chief Stevens stated at the Council meeting that both gentlemen are highly trained individuals who would make a strong team, with the three working together on the Borough's Emergency Operations Plan.

SHADY SIDE ACADEMY ADMISSIONS VISIT OPPORTUNITIES

Shady Side Academy Admissions Visit Opportunities Families interested in learning more about Shady Side Academy or applying for the 2023-2024 school year are invited to attend an upcoming Zoom Information Session for any of SSA's four campuses:

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

Grades PK-K: Tuesdays, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6, at 10 AM and 4 PM

Grades 1-5: Tuesdays, Nov. 15 and Dec. 6, at 12 PM

Junior School (Point Breeze, Grades PK-5)

Grades PK-K: Wednesdays, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, and Dec. 7, at 10 AM and 4 PM

Grades 1-5: Wednesdays, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7, at 12 PM

Middle School (Fox Chapel, Grades 6-8)

Tuesdays, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6, at 9 AM and 7 PM

Senior School (Fox Chapel, Grades 9-12)

Tuesdays, Oct. 11, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6, at 12 PM and 7 PM

Learn more and register online at www.shadysideacademy.org/ visit or email enrollment@shadysideacademy.org to schedule a personal campus tour for your family.



**Fox Chapel Area
Adult Education**

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

**FCAAE Turns 60 Years Young
Join The Fun!**

Fall 2022 Registration Is Open

More classes than ever!



Join our email list
and know the
minute registration
opens plus get class
offering updates.
Scan this QR code
or click [here](#) to add
your name.

www.fcaae.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO OFFICER CHAD LIPPERT AND THE NORTH HILLS SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM CRISIS NEGOTIATORS!

A Special Response Team (SRT) is a group of highly trained and specially equipped police officers who respond to emergencies requiring advanced police tactics. The team is dedicated to safely ending critical incidents using special tactics, tools, and weapons.

Three months ago, Officer Chad Lippert of the Fox Chapel Police Department joined the North Hills Special Response Team (NHSRT) as a Crisis Negotiator. Officer Lippert and other crisis negotiators aim to gather intelligence and negotiate a peaceful situation outcome.

The NHSRT was created in 2005 with approximately fifteen volunteer Crisis Negotiation Team members (CNT). Nine of those members competed at the regional Best of the Best Crisis Negotiators Competition hosted by the FBI on August 11, 2022. The NHSRT CNT competed against eight other teams from across Western Pennsylvania. The competition was approximately eight hours long. Each group was given two separate scenarios, and they had to gather intelligence, make contact with the role players, and come to a successful end. The North Hills Special Response Team skillfully went up against some arduous scenarios and won first place!

Chief Michael Stevens stated that the NHSRT is highly rated, and the CNT is the lifeline to the SRT by trying to resolve the critical incidents that come before them.

Congratulations to Officer Chad Lippert and the Crisis Negotiation Team of the North Hills Special Response Team on their first-place win!



DEER MANAGEMENT

During the 2021 - 2022 hunting season, 196 deer were removed: 25 by vehicles, 20 by archers, and 151 by police sharpshooters. This compares with 180 deer removed the year before.

For white-tailed deer in Allegheny County, archery season begins Saturday, September 17th. As in previous years, the Borough assists residents who want 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 at dstoner@fox-chapel.pa.us. Experience gained over the years 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. This aspect of the program extends from February 1st through September 29th, 2023, but generally, all such activity ceases from April through August.

Over 4,000 pounds of venison were obtained and donated to Hunters Sharing the Harvest this past season. Hunters Sharing the Harvest is Pennsylvania's venison donation program where hunters share their extra venison with participating butchers, who distribute the meat to area food pantries and community assistance centers.

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

BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 FOX CHAPEL ROAD

PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

(412) 963-1100

www.fox-chapel.pa.us



FOX CHAPEL
BOROUGH



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

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

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Andrew C. Bennett, *President*
Harrison S. Lauer, *Vice President*
Thomas A. Karet
Mandy Steele
Betsy Monroe
Bradley D. Harrison
Sarah Hanna
Walter A. Scott, III, *Mayor*
Jeanine A. Mancuso, *Treasurer*
Gary J. Koehler, *Manager*

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Austin Henry, *Chairman*
Thomas J. Murphy
Peggy G. Jayme
Jay S. Troutman
Nanette Bennett
Donald H. Newman
Brenda McEver

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.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

Donald F. Smith, Jr.
Kyra Tucker
Jeremy Callaway Sphar

Meets as needed on the Wednesday
following the 3rd Monday of the month
at 7:00 P.M.

PARK COMMISSION

Wesley W. Posvar, *Chairman*
Jay Troutman
Liz Nelson
Susan Crookston
Jessica Demoise
Carrie Casey Leemhuis
Jessica Handron
Steve Whittingham

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

TRAIL STEWARDS

Britton Wean
Rich Wendell
Chip Crawford
Max Wolfanger and Scott
Peterson
Scott Family
Jim and Mardi Royston
Pat Scully
Scott and Rachel (Lockhart)
Stevens

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Harrison S. Lauer- Chairperson
Carolyn C. Sanford
Andrew C. Bennett
Thomas A. Karet
Enzo J. Santilli

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