

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

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Fox Chapel Borough



Mayor's Memo

Spring 2020

As I sit down to prepare this memo, I am confined to home like most of you. The Borough office is closed, administrative staff is working from home, and our police continue their valuable work to see that our residents and roads are safe.

This is a time where we hear more than ever how important our parks, trails and abundant green spaces are to our well being. We hope to open our new park soon where we will have another 17 acres to enjoy. This park addition would not have come to be without many generous donors, the Hardie family and the hard work of Borough staff. We have received support from organizations such as the Fox Chapel Garden Club, Fox Chapel District Association and Fox Chapel Rotary. Hikers will soon be able to walk from Fox Chapel to Hartwood Acres and beyond to the Rachel Carson Trail. The Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy has enlisted a committee to connect the Rachel Carson Trail to Beechwood Farms via Hartwood Acres. John Stephen is the committee chair and is working on obtaining the necessary easements. John and the committee recently had a trail building day working on another section of the connection.

Thanks to our Park Commission members and Trail Stewards for getting us through another winter. These volunteers are most important to the health of our green space! There is still some work to be done by our Public Works Department who always finds a way to get it done.

If you have not visited Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve lately, don't miss it. Stop and see the recent improvements to the headquarters of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. We are fortunate to have this 134-acre parcel in the Borough - thanks to the Whetzel family donation many years ago. It will be in the center of the trail that extends from the Allegheny River all the way to the Rachel Carson Trail. The "Rachel" is over 30 miles in length running from North Park to beyond Natrona Heights where it ends in Harrison Hills Park (another Allegheny County park).

-Alex Scott-

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information

The health and safety of our residents and employees is our highest priority. With the current state of this pandemic, the Borough is unsure of how this will affect the 2020 Budget as well as Borough projects for the year. We will continue to update residents on these matters in future newsletters and on our website. Please refer to our website (www.fox-chapel.pa.us) under Resident Announcements for current information on the Borough as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Borough would like to remind residents of the following:

- The Borough Office is CLOSED to the public and is operating under emergency circumstances. The closure includes the Administrative offices and Public Works Department. Administrative staff is still answering emails and returning phone calls during the closure.
- The rubbish bins/recycling center is CLOSED until further notice.
- Brush Collection is currently suspended.

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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/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.

Saying Goodbye to a Borough Legend

After almost 40 years working as the Borough Secretary, Dana Abate is stepping down from her role on May 1st, which coincidentally is also her birthday! Dana started her career here back in 1980 and has since become a wealth of knowledge on anything Borough-related. She has seen countless Council elections, and multiple Police Chiefs, Managers, Code Enforcement Officials, Public Works Directors, and Finance Directors.

Dana keeps residents up-to-date on Borough related issues by writing the quarterly newsletter, sending out Nixles, and updating the website. She is also responsible for creating Council Agendas and writing the meeting minutes each month. Her job also consists of dye test permits, tree permits, and No-Lien applications. She is also the Borough's Right-to-Know Officer and Notary.

There are many hats that Dana has worn here during her career, but the one we will all miss the most is her friendship. Dana is a true friend to all here at the Borough. She listens with great intensity, and is always willing to help out whenever needed. Dana can make anyone around her feel comfortable and most people who walk in the front door a stranger, leave feeling like they have a new friend. We will all miss Dana when she leaves, but we know that we have a friend for life, and we wish her all the best!



Hard-to-Recycle Collection Scheduled

The Pennsylvania Resources Council will hold a Hard to Recycle Collection at Pittsburgh Mills Mall on Saturday, May 9th, 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.



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. Intersections not cleared by residents will be cleared by the Borough's contractor using a boom mower. The work performed by the contractor may not be to residents' liking so for this reason it is recommended that the property owner clear the intersection. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Thank You!

Just a few words... I am retiring May 1st after almost 40 years of serving the Borough. I was 20 years old when I interviewed with then-Manager, Dick Moore, and my 20-minute interview consisted of talking about the Steelers. I knew then that I found my lifelong job! It has been a pleasure working for this wonderful community. I want to thank the residents of the Borough, many of whom I have had the pleasure of knowing personally having been around for so long. I also want to thank past and present Mayors, Borough Councils, Managers and coworkers for 40 great years. You have been my second family for a very long time and are very close to my heart. I will miss everyone dearly! Thank you and may God bless.

- Dana

Notary Services

As a reminder to residents, the Borough no longer offers personal/private notary services. The Borough continues to notarize Borough-related documents such as building permits and stormwater management agreements. A few local notaries include the UPS Store at the Fox Chapel Plaza, Rose's Notary Service in Blawnox, and Vioral's Notary Service in Sharpsburg.



Holiday Garbage Collection Delays and Borough Office Closings

- Memorial Day (Monday, May 25th)
- 4th of July (Borough office will be closed Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day)

Garbage collection for Memorial Day week will be Tuesday through Saturday.

Garbage collection will be on schedule 4th of July week.

The Borough office will be closed both holidays.

Primary Election

The 2020 Primary Election has been postponed until Tuesday, June 2nd. 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. Information about elections postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak can be found at www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/state-action-on-covid-19-and-elections.aspx under Executive Action.



Coal-Tar-Based Sealcoat

Borough Council is considering an ordinance to protect residents regarding the use of coal-tar for sealing driveways and parking lots. Look for additional information in the summer newsletter or visit www.usgs.gov.



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.



Fox Chapel Designated Banner Community

Fox Chapel has been designated a Banner Community. The Borough has distinguished itself as a model community proving a commitment to effective, efficient and accountable governmental principals and has implemented the best practices in providing services. Some of the benchmarks required were attendance at Allegheny League of Municipalities training and conferences, employee pension funding ratio 80% or more, participation at 50% or more for COG meetings and conducting local community education such as the Borough of Fox Chapel/MS4 education provided to school-age children.

Welcome Our New Assistant Finance Director

Emily Davis is our new Assistant Finance Director. Emily comes from the Municipal Authority of the City of New Kensington, where she has worked for the last 14 years as the Office Accounting Manager. She enjoyed assisting staff at the New Kensington Water Authority with training, problem-solving, and challenges of technological changes to computer systems. Emily has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration majoring in Accounting and is a whiz at numbers. She looks forward to building a positive team environment, taking on new challenges and growing within her role as the Assistant Finance Director. Emily has two young children and hails from Lower Burrell.



Recycling

All residents and institutions are required to separate the following materials from their household garbage and place them in a separate container for recycling:

- Aluminum and metal cans such as food and beverage cans, empty, clean and dry foil containers
- Plastics (PET, HDPE) #1, 2 & 5 such as food and beverage bottles and jugs, water jugs, liquid detergent, bleach & softener bottles, and hair care bottles
- Paper such as office & computer papers, paper bags, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, and catalogs
- Cardboard that is flattened, or broken down into pieces no larger than 4 feet.

These are the only items that will be recycled by Vogel. Vogel does not accept wet paper, wet cardboard, or recyclables mixed with trash.



Support Your Fire Department

Thank you for your generous donations to the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department over the last four years. With your support, we were able to purchase a new Seagrave Pumper truck in 2019. The new vehicle was delivered in late November, and is now in use by the Fire Department.



This firetruck was purchased in 2019 through your donations.

Watch for a letter in the mail from the Fire Department requesting financial support for a new rescue truck to be purchased in 2023. This will replace a 25-year old vehicle. Our volunteers invest a significant amount of time serving the Borough. These time commitments include operational responses (often at a moment's notice), hours of training every year to ensure our readiness to respond when needed most, vehicle and station maintenance, and various administrative duties. Please show your appreciation for the great work they do by donating. Donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you!

BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

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PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

(412) 963-1100

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 3rd 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

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

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 2nd 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 3rd Monday of the month
at 7:00 P.M.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS Office 412-963-1100

Building Permits/
Zoning.....412-850-5023
Public Works412-850-5026
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.