

# FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

*Published by*  
Fox Chapel Borough



Summer 2019

## Mayor's Memo - Borough Acquires Hardie Property

Fox Chapel Borough continually strives to protect and maintain its unique ambiance. Our wooded hills and parklands with miles of walking trails and residential developments with lot sizes that average one acre or greater are a valuable regional asset. Fox Chapel is a classic example of what can be done to preserve a rural atmosphere that includes tree protection and steep slope preservation in the very midst of urbanization. The Borough's parkland mainly consists of a longitudinal park system and trail that starts at the southern border at O'Hara Township's Squaw Valley Park and bisects the Borough for over four miles where the system connects on the northern border with Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve/Audubon Society. The longitudinal park system, consisting of approximately 345 acres, was complete except for a 17-acre parcel known as the Hardie property. With permission of the Hardie's, the Borough used a trail on the property to complete the north-south trail connection.

Thanks to the conservation interests of the Hardie family, the Borough had a unique opportunity to obtain the property. Borough Council authorized the purchase, and a sales agreement was signed on May 20, 2019. The Hardie property located on Old Mill Road is a unique property with the high-quality Squaw Run stream running through it, a pond, waterfall, and meadow. Squaw Run stream is one of two high-quality streams in Allegheny County. Borough Council's evaluation of the property and park system needs determined that the property was of exceptional character that needed to be protected. The purchase by the Borough would allow for this protection and enable the trail and park system to be complete. Councilperson Jay Troutman stated "The Hardie property is the missing link that connects our existing parks and nicely fits our long-range master plan."

The Borough, like most municipalities, does not tax residents to accumulate a large fund balance but instead taxes residents based on yearly budget needs. Therefore, disposable funds are not available for purchase of parkland. Since there is a narrow window of time to close on the purchase, the Borough intends to temporarily borrow funds to purchase and perform remedial repairs/demolition as needed to make the property safe and usable. Our goal is to repay this temporary loan, with interest, by seeking funding from public and private donors that recognize the significant environmental and recreational value of the Hardie parcel.

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## Recycling Changes

The future of recycling is uncertain as revenue continues to fall. It has been well publicized in the media that drastic changes are occurring to recycling. Many items that were once acceptable recyclables are no longer. This includes glass and some plastics. Enclosed in this newsletter is an updated recycling guideline prepared by Vogel. As you will see, glass is no longer accepted and permitted plastics is reduced to #s 1, 2 & 5. There are residents in the Borough actively pursuing scheduling glass recycling pop-up collection events in the area. When an event is scheduled, residents will be alerted via the Borough's website and Nixle.



## Would You Like to Serve the Borough?

The Park Commission is interviewing for members. The Commission meets the second Monday in April, June, September and December (and other times as needed), 9 AM, in the Borough Building. The Commission serves as engaged stewards for the Borough's park system. Interested residents should email their resume to [dabate@fox-chapel.pa.us](mailto:dabate@fox-chapel.pa.us). Resumes submitted in the past will also be considered.



## New Borough Website

The Borough's updated website is up and running. It is hoped that residents take the time to view the new site. One of the goals was to make the website more user friendly. Hopefully we succeeded! Many of the questions asked by residents can be answered by viewing the site such as garbage collection schedule, tax payment information and permit application forms. Very soon, Borough residents will be able to apply for building, driveway and tree removal permits on-line and pay the applicable fee, if any. There will also be a kiosk installed in the Police Department lobby for residents and contractors to use when applying for various permits. Once available, a notice will appear on the Borough's website.



## Borough Right-of-Way

A reminder to Borough residents to refrain from placing permanent structures in the Borough right-of-way adjacent to the pavement such as pillars and mailboxes and other items that include sprinkler heads and invisible dog fences. Should the Borough need to work along the right-of-way of your property, all items will need to be removed, and the Borough is not responsible to replace. This also includes landscaping. Your cooperation is appreciated.



## Paving Underway

This year a record amount, \$1.7M, is being spent on road rebuilding including stormwater controls and paving. Borough crews have prepared several roads for new asphalt. The paving contractor has mobilized and has begun work in the Borough. The paving is months ahead of last year thanks to the work of the public works department who were able to complete much of the preparation work during the winter and spring months.



## Real Estate Tax Drop-Off

Jordan Tax Service is the designated real estate tax collector. A representative from Jordan Tax will be available at the Borough office to accept real estate tax payments on Wednesday, July 31st, the final day of the discount period, from 9 AM to noon. Jordan Tax can be reached at 412/345-7962, [www.jordantax.com](http://www.jordantax.com) or at 102 Rahway Road, McMurray, PA 15317.



## Office Closings/Holiday Garbage Collection Delay

The Borough office will be closed Thursday, July 4th, and Monday, September 2nd, (Labor Day). Garbage will not be collected on July 4th and September 2nd. Garbage collection will be delayed one day following each holiday.



## Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania invites you and your family to get outdoors this summer! We offer programs for people of all ages, and free naturalist-led Birds and More Walks every Wednesday morning at 9 AM—all year! Our native plant nursery is also open for the season, and our Nature Store has everything you need for summer birdwatching and bird feeding.

Visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) or call 412/963-6100 to register for these upcoming programs at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, 614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel.

July 13 - Firefly Family Fun  
July 20 - Native Plants for Challenging Spaces  
July 20 - Monarch Larva Monitoring  
August 1 - Fledglings Preschool Program  
August 1 - Babes in the Woods Toddler Program  
August 21 - Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk  
August 21 - Chimney Swifts: Life on the Wing  
August 24 - Family Night Hike  
September 4 - Birds & More Naturalist Led Walk  
September 5 - Babes in the Woods Toddler Program  
September 7 - Fall Migratory Hike  
September 12 - Fledglings Preschool Program

Be sure to check the calendar of events at [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) for a full list of events!

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### Dog Park Rules

These Rules are intended to protect use and enjoyment of the park. Violation of the Rules may result in a citation and/or loss of park privileges.

1. Use at own risk. Dogs are off leash!
2. Open dawn to dusk.
3. Owner must control and be in view of their dog(s) at all times: prevent aggressive behavior, biting, fighting or excessive barking.
4. Handlers must have leashes accessible when dogs are off-leash.
5. Handlers must pick up after dogs and dispose in approved containers – no littering!
6. Professional/Commercial dog walkers prohibited.
7. Max of 2 dogs per handler permitted.
8. Owner responsible for injury/damage caused by dog(s).
9. Dogs must be properly licensed/vaccinated with tags on collar.
10. Dogs and horses only – no other animals permitted.
11. Dogs not permitted include: less than 4 mos. old, in heat, sick, designated dangerous by the Courts or history of aggressive behavior.
12. Rules enforced by State Dog Warden and Police.

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### Dog Walkers

Residents are asked to please be respectful and responsible when walking their dogs by cleaning up and disposing of waste properly. The Borough receives many complaints about waste left along roads and trails as well as bags of waste thrown in trees along the trails. Please do the right thing when walking your dog. The Borough and fellow residents thank you!

## Phone Numbers

The Borough receives many phone calls requesting phone numbers. Some of the most requested phone numbers are listed below for your use. We ask that residents refrain from calling the Borough for phone numbers thus keeping the phone lines open for Borough matters. We also encourage the use of the Borough's website and Nixle for information regarding office closings, garbage collection delays, meeting schedules, etc., at [www.fox-chapel.pa.us](http://www.fox-chapel.pa.us). Thank you for your cooperation.



• Fox Chapel (Water) Authority .....	412/963-0212
• Fox Chapel School District .....	412/963-9600
• O'Hara Township (Squaw Valley Park) .....	412/782-1400
• Keystone Collections Group (Wage Tax).....	724/978-0300
• Jordan Tax Service (Real Estate Tax).....	412/345-7963
• Vogel Disposal (Garbage Collection).....	855/494-3345
• Cooper-Siegel Community Library.....	412/828-9520
• Lauri Ann West Community Center.....	412/828-8566
• Duquesne Light Company .....	888/393-7100
• Fox Chapel Police (Non-Emergency) .....	412/963-7220
• Foxwall EMS .....	412/963-6611
• Fox Chapel Public Works Department.....	412/850-5026
• Fox Chapel Code Services/Building .....	412/850-5023
• Fox Chapel Sewer Department .....	412/850-5030



## The Simple Six: How to Maintain the Squaw Run Watershed in Fox Chapel from Home

1. **If you don't drink it, you don't dump it!** Anything you would not put in your body's system should not go into your sanitary or storm sewer system.
2. **Do not treat your lawn before it rains.** That is like rinsing the contents of your wallet right down the drain, and it contaminates the watershed!
3. **Sweep sidewalks and driveways.** Rinsing debris or spills down the storm drain puts chemicals and unnatural sediment into the water system.
4. **Pick up after your pet.** In addition to keeping your neighborhood clean, picking up pet waste prevents harmful bacteria from entering Squaw Run or the Allegheny River.
5. **Properly dispose of chemicals.** Call the Allegheny County Health Department, Public Drinking Water & Waste Management Recycling Program, at 412/578-8390 to dispose of cleaners, paint, automotive products (motor oil, antifreeze, etc.), and other hazardous materials. If it is dangerous for you, it is dangerous for our water!
6. **Make a difference with your lawn.** Redirect your downspout into your garden, create a rain garden or install a rain barrel. They will keep your property from eroding and could lower your water and sewer bill.





## Be Thankful for our Volunteer Firefighters

Volunteer firefighters provide an enormous economic benefit to our community and our nation. It is estimated that volunteer firefighters save American taxpayers billions per year that can be reinvested in infrastructure, police protection, and social and other community programs. The role of emergency responders changed with the events of September 11, 2001. These attacks against America changed the expectations of local emergency providers who are clearly each community's first line of response, regardless of the event. The homeland is only secure when the hometown is secure.

Volunteer fire fighting is not a minor commitment. Training requirements keep increasing because volunteers are now being called upon to do more than put out fires. Terrorist attacks and improvised explosive devices, vehicle airbag deployments, malfunctioning solar panels and wind turbines, ethanol and natural gas fires, and electric-and-hydrogen-powered vehicle accidents – these are just some of the emergencies for which training is needed.

Voluntarily preparing to face such hazards requires certain kinds of personal and social qualities, the physical capacity to do the work, and the stamina to continue strenuous activity for hours with little rest. The work requires firefighters to “think on their feet,” rapidly assess the problem at hand, plan a course of action and react quickly when conditions change. A firefighter must maintain a constant and heightened awareness, never losing sight of the broader picture while tending to a specific task.

The time demands placed upon volunteers are significant. Americans spend about 1/3 of their time at work and 1/3 of their time asleep, which leaves only 1/3 of their time for family, household activities, and leisure time that, for our firefighters, includes volunteering. Today, there are more two-earner homes which means that housekeeping duties have to be shared. When you couple that with the expanding role that fire service is seeing – requirements to learn more, do more, and train more – it means that the time volunteers have available to dedicate to fire service is being reduced at the same time that fire service is requiring more time.

Here in Fox Chapel Borough, we are lucky to have a robust, experienced, and well-trained volunteer fire department comprised of firefighters that – in their “other” lives – include doctors, lawyers, students, landscapers, small-business owners, financial service professionals, and more. The Borough's goal is to keep the department well-equipped and ready to protect our community at all times. Please consider the value of their service to the Borough when you are asked to support a fund drive for a new pumper truck in the coming months.

## Fire Truck Fundraiser Underway

Residents have received a solicitation letter from the Fox Chapel Borough Volunteer Fire Department seeking donations for the purchase of a new fire truck in 2019. Please remember to support these volunteers who protect your homes and love ones. Mail checks made payable to Fox Chapel Borough Fire Truck Fund, to 401 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. For those who have donated, thank you! A new pumper costing \$659,077.00 was recently ordered and should be delivered around the beginning of 2020 to serve your needs. A reminder will be sent in October to those households who have not yet donated this year.



## Fox Chapel Water Authority

Fox Chapel Water Authority (FCWA) is a separate entity located at 255 Alpha Drive in RIDC Park that provides public water service to residents. The Borough contracts with FCWA to bill sewage for the Borough and for AL-COSAN. Please call FCWA for all water issues and water or sewer billing questions at 412/963-0212. FCWA uses white trucks, Borough personnel drive green trucks.



## Shady Side Academy

### Fox Chapel Farmers' Market

The Fox Chapel Farmers' Market at Shady Side Academy is open every Wednesday, June 12 through Oct. 23, 3:30-6:30 PM, and features seasonal produce, food, flowers and handmade items from area farms and vendors including SSA's own on-campus farm. The market is located on the SSA Senior School campus, 423 Fox Chapel Road, in the first parking lot off the entrance drive in front of the new McIlroy Center for Science and Innovation. Learn more at [www.ShadySide-Academy.org/FarmersMarket](http://www.ShadySide-Academy.org/FarmersMarket).



### Hillman Performing Arts Series

The 2019-2020 Hillman Performing Arts Series at Shady Side Academy features a diverse lineup of seven shows with something for everyone! Main stage shows include mentalist Wayne Hoffman, Six Appeal Vocal Band's Ugly Sweater Party, Tami Lee Hughes' The Legacy Show, and Bindlestiff Family Cirkus. Black box shows include musician Dom Flemons, jazz pianist Ariel Pocock and Celtic band Blackwater. All performances are at the Hillman Center for Performing Arts on the SSA Senior School campus, 423 Fox Chapel Road. See the lineup and buy tickets at [www.TheHillman.org](http://www.TheHillman.org).

### SSA Fall Admissions

Shady Side Academy has limited openings in certain grades for the 2019-2020 school year at all four campuses. Interested families should contact the SSA Admissions Office as soon as possible at 412/968-3180 or [admissions@shadysideacademy.org](mailto:admissions@shadysideacademy.org).



## Foxwall EMS DID YOU KNOW?

Foxwall Emergency Medical Service is YOUR ambulance service, established in 1978. We are proud of providing 41 years of service to everyone in the Fox Chapel community! Foxwall delivers advanced emergency medical care to the residents of Fox Chapel and Aspinwall Boroughs, as well as neighboring communities whenever needed.

Foxwall relies on your continued participation in our annual subscription drive, happening right now! In addition, we depend heavily on donations and other support from the members of the Fox Chapel and Aspinwall community to sustain our operations. We are most fortunate to have the support from our dedicated EMS personnel. Our staff of 35 providers contribute their time and talent to caring for the sick and injured of the community whenever the need arises. All are educated as Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics with expertise in prehospital care. Many of our staff have additional advanced training in the treatment of stroke, heart attack, traumatic injuries, and technical rescue. Our team collaborates closely with the local police and fire departments to provide a coordinated response to any emergency residents and visitors may experience.

Foxwall's current roster includes many EMS trained college students from local universities, career EMS professionals and, volunteers who live in community. Foxwall's roster also includes volunteers and career personnel who do not live nearby but are willing to contribute many long hours assuring we provide the best quality EMS.

We are regularly recruiting EMTs and Paramedics to staff our base of operations 24/7. Would you consider volunteering? Foxwall is happy to assist any applicants in completing each level of training and certification.

Anyone interested in learning more is asked to visit our website: [www.foxwall.org](http://www.foxwall.org), or you may contact Worth, Commander, Devin Landolfi, or Barbra Double, Assistant Commanders, at 412-963-6611.



## Cooper-Siegel Community Library

Register for all programs by visiting us at [www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org](http://www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org)

### Children

#### Music and Movement

Wednesdays, July 10th and 31st at 10:30AM - Ages 3-6

#### Y on the Fly

Wednesday, July 24th at 10:00AM - Grades K-6

Rockets! - Presented by the Carnegie Science Museum  
July 26th at 11:00AM  
Ages 5-12.

#### Teddy Bear Picnic

August 7th at 11:00AM

#### Hatching Chicks

Drop-in on August 21st

#### Kind Kids

September 22nd at 2:00PM

### Summer Concert:

The Pittsburgh Armadillos  
FREE for the whole family! In the Welcome Garden.  
Friday, July 19th, 7:00-8:00PM  
Alternative folk quartet including guitar, mandolin, bass, and accordion.

### Tweens

#### Minecraft Mondays:

##### Space World!

Mondays beginning July 1st, 5:30-7:30PM

Ages 10-15

#### Code Club:

##### Summer Space Showcase

Wednesdays beginning July 3rd, 5:30-7:30PM

Ages 8-14

### Adults

#### Urban Biking 101

July 19th at 9:00AM

#### Succulent Wreath Workshop

July 20th at 11:00AM

#### Untold Stories of the Apollo

##### Moon Landing

August 3rd

#### Fall Frick Lecture Series:

Pittsburgh and the American Garden

September 20th

#### Drawing Workshop:

Beginner & Intermediate

Begins September 10

### **Sharpsburg Community Library Events and Programs**

1212 Main Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215 • 412/781-0783

#### Sunset Story Time

Wednesday, July 10th, 7:00-8:00PM

#### "Science in The Summer" Camp

Presented by Carnegie Science Center and sponsored by Glaxo Smith Kline

July 22nd through 25th

Two daily sessions: Grades 2-3 at 3pm, and grades 4-6 at 4:30pm.

#### Astrophobia Space Horror Film Series

August 7th at 6:30PM



## **Yard Maintenance and Safety**

The Borough would like to remind residents of yard maintenance requirements. Please note that **grass cannot exceed six (6) inches in height. Hedges and brush located in the road right-of-way along any side of the property must be trimmed back six (6) feet to allow for proper sight distance and pedestrian safety.** *The Borough encourages residents not to plant shrubs or trees in the road right-of-way because of public safety concerns. Also, the plantings may need to be removed should the road be paved.* (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. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## **Attention Homeowners with Fire and Security Systems**

If you have an alarm system in your home, please make sure to inform your security company of alternate phone numbers where you can be reached as well as a secondary contact and phone number. In the event the police and/or fire department are called to your home, a secondary contact is very helpful should you be unavailable and entrance into your home is needed. Systems need to be checked yearly to guarantee your safety.



## 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)



### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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*  
James W. Pashek  
Jay Troutman  
Liz Nelson  
Lois Folino  
Susan Crookston

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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)

MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE BOROUGH BUILDING AND ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.  
ALL RESIDENTS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.