

FOX CHAPEL BOROUGH NEWSLETTER

Published by
Fox Chapel Borough



Mayor's Memo

Summer 2020

We are often reminded by residents of the excellent and professional way that our police handle situations that arise in the Borough. Our officers have many years of experience, and it shows. It has led to Fox Chapel always being ranked as one of the safest communities in Allegheny County. We had several officers out in the past year, due to injuries and health considerations, but I understand we are at full strength at this time. Our department remains committed to keeping Fox Chapel a safe and healthy community. Chief David Laux reminds 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 officers are here to serve the needs of the residents, and we are grateful for their service.

As the Borough office gets back into high gear and fully opened, we know there are new faces to greet residents. Jeanine, Finance Director, Shawn Marie, Borough Secretary, and Emily, Assistant Finance Director, will help with your questions and welcome you with a smile as they solve problems. They have big shoes to fill with the retirement of Dana Abate (40 years) and Joy Hardt (24 years) and are learning quickly!

This is a busy summer for Wes Posvar, Chair of the Parks Commission, and all committee members, as they roll out plans for the new park, formerly the Hardie property. We look forward to finalizing some plans and opening the park to residents this summer. We have noticed the parks have been heavily used this Spring, as many of us were so happy to get outside and enjoy the trails and open space.

Many thanks to Dan Sliger, who has retired after years of service on the EAC committee, most recently as Chairman. We all appreciate the excellent work. Austin Henry has stepped in as the new Chair.

We are getting compliments on our glass recycling bin, located at the back of the Borough Building, which was recently introduced. Thanks to some persistent residents, and manager Gary Koehler's quick response, we are one of the leaders among municipalities in offering this service.

-Alex Scott-



Police Training

The Fox Chapel Police do not employ any use of neck or head restraints during any use of force events. They do not train, condone, permit, or allow any restraint that reduces the subject's ability to breathe. To that end, the Fox Chapel Police have received training on "Positional Asphyxiation." This training mandates that all arrested suspects are monitored every 30 seconds by a "cover" officer to verify that the suspect is not suffering from any unforeseen medical condition that would endanger their lives.

All Fox Chapel officers receive refresher training on all policies and procedures regularly. The Police Department's policies

are drafted with the guidance of the Allegheny County District Attorney, and the Allegheny County Chiefs of Police Association. Guidance is also obtained from the International Chiefs of Police Association. The Fox Chapel Police Department also stands committed to providing professional, non-biased, law enforcement services to their community. They strive to provide the highest level of professional law enforcement to their valued stakeholders, the residents of Fox Chapel Borough.

Chief of Police,
- David Laux-

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We All Live Downstream

In natural areas, stormwater is not a problem. Nature has managed stormwater through the Hydrologic Cycle. Stormwater has been recycled since the dawn of time.

In developed areas, both urbanization and agriculture have altered the Hydrologic Cycle and the natural management of stormwater. People have tried to control stormwater runoff, but in many cases have created more significant problems, increasing flooding, erosion, and pollution.

Legislation was passed that requires municipalities and developers to install best management practices that will help manage stormwater following the principles of the Hydrologic Cycle. Practices have also been implemented that decrease non-point source pollution.

Non-point source pollution is all the stuff stormwater picks up as it runs over land to the sewer and eventually the stream. Non-point source pollution includes oil, sediment, nutrients, and bacteria from pet waste, chemicals, and nutrients from garden and lawn chemicals, litter, etc. You can help decrease stormwater runoff and prevent non-point source pollution by following these tips:

- **Use Rain Barrels-** Rain Barrels capture and store rain, making it available for watering gardens, washing cars, and for other activities that you would use your hose for. The collected rainwater is used in place of your utility or well water, therefore reducing costs. The stored rainwater will not contribute to stormwater runoff, which causes flooding and carries pollution to our streams.
- **Minimize Lawn Chemicals-** Stormwater can carry pesticides and herbicides into the stream. Try natural lawn care methods instead of chemicals. If using chemicals, make sure to follow directions, and do not apply when the forecast is calling for rain.
- **Properly Dispose of Hazardous Waste:** Do not dump anything down storm drains-they drain directly to the creek. Check with your Borough for the location of a hazardous waste pickup site or visit the Borough website for details.
- **Pick Up After Your Dog:** Pet waste can contribute nutrients and bacteria to our stream. In drinking water areas, bacteria can form algae, which can be costly to treat. These costs can be passed on to you.
- **Only Rain in the Drain:** Never put anything into storm sewers, including oil, paint, soap, debris, leaves, etc. Storm sewers do not go to the sewer plant but discharge directly into our streams. You might be pouring oil into your drinking water!
- **Plant Native Trees and Shrubs:** Riparian buffers are the vegetated areas alongside streams. They are an essential part of the natural ecosystem and vital to the health of streams and their organisms, including plants, fish, and other aquatic organisms.

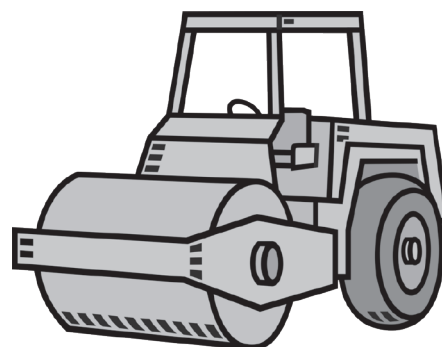
Do your part for your neighborhood. Help prevent stormwater pollution and Keep Our Streams Clean!

Borough Website

Our new website is a year old! Have you had 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 schedules, tax payment information, and permit application forms. Borough residents are now able to apply for driveway, and tree removal permits on-line and pay the application fee if any. We are currently working on enabling the street opening, zoning, and grading permits as well. Residents, contractors, and vendors can also take advantage of our "Pay Online" option on our Home page. This option can be used to pay for invoices, dye test payments, or donations.

Congratulations, 2020 Graduates!

The Borough of Fox Chapel would like to congratulate all of the 2020 graduates from Fox Chapel High School and Shady Side Academy. Good luck with your bright futures!



Paving Underway

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Paving Project had to be modified. The Borough's primary sources of revenue, such as earned income tax and real estate transfer tax, have been impacted a great deal. This has caused some roads on the paving schedule to be postponed. The Public Works Department has been busy this Spring preparing the roads for paving.



Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine

Department of Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding announced that Allegheny County is one of twelve counties that has been added to the spotted lanternfly quarantine zone. Allegheny County is not completely infested, but rather has one to three municipalities with a known infestation, which led to a quarantine being placed on the entire county out of an abundance of caution.

Homeowners with questions about treatment are encouraged to contact the local Penn State Extension office at 412/263-1000. Fox Chapel residents should also review and sign the Compliance Checklist at www.agriculture.pa.gov and type "Compliance Checklist" into the search bar. For more information on the spotted lanternfly, visit www.agriculture.pa.gov/spottedlanternfly.



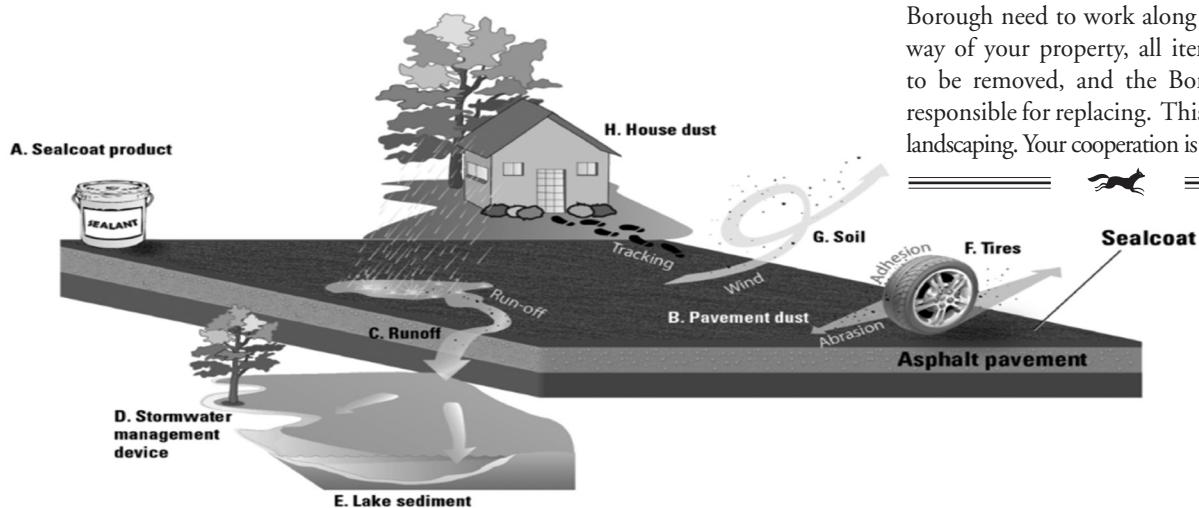
Fox Chapel Borough bans Coal-Tar Sealcoat

Coal-Tar based seal coat is the black, viscous liquid sprayed or painted on many asphalt parking lots, driveways, and playgrounds to protect and enhance the appearance of the underlying asphalt. It is a toxic byproduct of coking coal. Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), academic institutions, and State and local agencies have identified coal-tar-based pavement seal coat as a major source of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) contamination in urban and suburban areas and a potential concern for human health and aquatic life. (pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2016/3017/fs20163017.pdf)

Fox Chapel has taken action to ban the dangerous chemical from our community, citing concerns for the health of residents and abundant aquatic life in our streams. Asphalt based sealers are a much safer alternative, comparably priced, and sold widely in home improvement stores.

Residents may contact the Borough office if they have concerns related to the use of coal tar-based sealants.

For more information, please visit www.usgs.gov and search coal-tar based seal coat.



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 ALCOSAN. Please call FCWA for all water issues and water or sewer billing questions at 412/963-0212. FCWA use white trucks, and Borough personnel use green vehicles.



NIXLE

Nixle has made some changes to the way messages are delivered. Informational messages such as Advisory and Community messages will only be delivered to the email address on file (if any) and the Everbridge Mobile App. This effectively reserves the SMS channel (text message) for Emergency Alerts, while still getting the informational messages out via email and Mobile App. Residents with an email on file will only receive an email, not SMS. Residents with only an SMS number on file will receive an SMS. Emergency alerts will always go out via SMS, email, web, and Mobile Push channels. The service is free, reliable, and has no hidden costs. Visit www.nixle.com or your App Store (search Everbridge) for additional information or to register for this service.



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, 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 for replacing. This also includes landscaping. Your cooperation is appreciated.



Firetruck Fundraiser Underway

Residents have received a solicitation letter from the Fox Chapel Borough Volunteer Fire Department seeking donations for the purchase of a new rescue truck in 2023. 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 reminder will be sent in October to those households who have not yet donated this year.



Soliciting

In order for a property owner to keep all solicitors away, the property must be posted "No Trespassing" or "No Soliciting." The Borough does have an ordinance to keep commercial solicitors and peddlers away from homes; however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that non-commercial solicitations cannot be regulated. The Borough maintains a list of homeowners not wanting commercial solicitors. We strongly recommend posting your property to eliminate unwanted soliciting.



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 beneficial should you be unavailable, and entrance into your home is needed. Systems need to be checked yearly to guarantee your safety.

Be Thankful For Our Volunteer Firefighters

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. Our new goal for this annual campaign is to raise funds to replace a 25-year-old rescue truck in 2023 at an estimated cost of \$700,000. All donations are tax-deductible and will be received by Fox Chapel Borough and placed in a restricted account to be used exclusively for the purchase of fire vehicles and equipment.



*This firetruck was purchased in 2019
through your donations.*

The Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department is a 100% volunteer organization serving the Borough since 1953. Volunteer firefighters, along with other local emergency responders, are the community's first line of response when a severe event occurs. Our volunteers invest a significant amount of time serving this community. 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. Many residents have given generously in the past, and we thank you. If you have not yet contributed, we ask that you consider donating this year.

We are your neighbors, your co-workers, and your friends. Twenty-four hours a day, three hundred sixty-five days a year, we volunteer our time to protect your lives and property. Please consider the value of their service to the Borough when you are asked to support a fund drive for the new rescue truck in the coming months.




Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee

The Borough is seeking residents to serve with the Planning Commission by becoming a member of the Joint Comprehensive Plan Committee with O'Hara Township.

Duties to oversee:

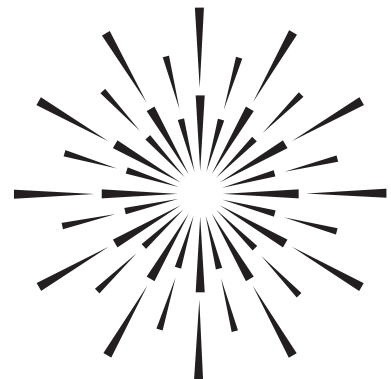
- The compilation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan updating the existing Plans in both O'Hara Township and Fox Chapel Borough
- The Plan incorporates input from a cross-section of the Township and Borough residents and represents the majority of the residents through public outreach
- To create a viable and implementable Future Land Use Plan designed to accommodate anticipated growth and redevelopment over the next 10 to 20 years

If you would like to be a part of Borough history, please send your request with any additional qualifications to the Borough Secretary at speterson@fox-chapel.pa.us.



Office Closings/Holiday Garbage Collection Delay

The Borough office will be closed Friday, July 3rd, in observance of Independence Day. The office will also be closed Monday, September 7th (Labor Day). Garbage will not be collected on September 7th. Garbage collection will be delayed one day following the holiday.



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 contributes 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 the 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.

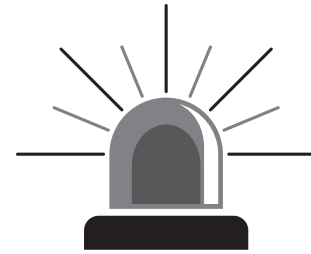
Anyone interested in learning more is asked to visit our website: www.foxwall.org, or you may contact Joshua Worth, Commander, Devin Landolfi, or Barbra Double, Assistant Commanders, at 412-963-6611.



Dog Park Rules

These Rules are intended to protect the 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. Owners 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 of in approved containers – no littering!
6. Professional/Commercial dog walkers prohibited.
7. Max of 2 dogs per handler permitted.
8. Owner is responsible for injury/damage caused by dog(s).
9. Dogs must be appropriately licensed/vaccinated with tags on collar.
10. Dogs and horses only – no other animals permitted.
11. Dogs not permitted include less than four mos. old, in heat, sick, designated dangerous by the Courts or history of aggressive behavior.
12. Rules enforced by State Dog Warden and Police.





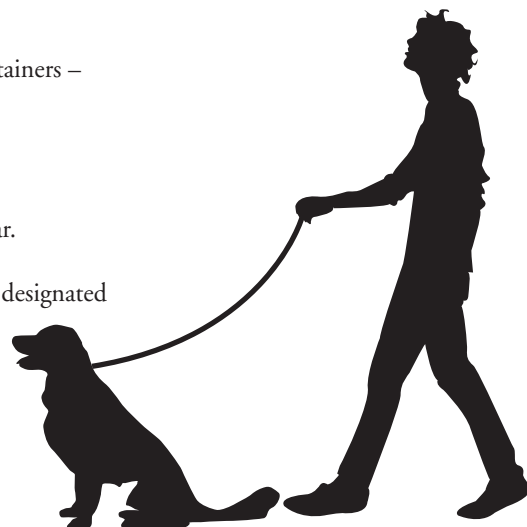
Real Estate Tax Drop-Off

Jordan Tax Service is the designated real estate tax collector. A representative from Jordan Tax will be available at the Borough Building Police Lobby to accept real estate tax payments on Friday, July 31st, the final day of the discount period, from 9 AM to noon. Please remember to wear a face mask and practice six-foot social distancing. Jordan Tax can be reached at 412/345-7962, www.jordantax.com or 102 Rahway Road, McMurray, PA 15317.



Dog Walkers

Residents are asked to please be respectful and responsible when walking their dogs by cleaning up, disposing of waste properly and policing others to do the same. The Borough receives many complaints about waste left along roads and trails or 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!



What To Do When You Spot A Coyote

Residents have spotted coyote for years around the Borough of Fox Chapel. While coyote are generally fearful of people, they can sometimes be spotted crossing yards or streets. This behavior is not unusual, especially in residential areas bordering on open space where they find their natural prey. They may also be taking a shortcut to their favorite hunting ground. This type of sighting generally requires no response-other than making sure that pets and children are secure and there are no likely food attractants present in the area.

Eastern coyotes are naturally timid animals and will typically flee at the sight of a human. If they linger or approach, it's time to begin "hazing." This is a term applied to the following actions that can be taken to scare coyotes and chase them away:

- Be as big and loud as possible. Do not run or turn your back.
- Wave your arms, clap your hands, and shout in an authoritative voice.
- Make noise by banging pots and pans or using an air horn or whistle. These sounds can also alert the neighbors.
- Throw small stones, sticks, tennis balls, or anything else you can throw. Remember, the intent is to scare and not to injure.
- Spray with a hose, if available, or a squirt gun filled with water and vinegar.
- Shake or throw a "coyote shaker"- a soda can filled with pennies or pebbles and sealed with duct tape.

The effects of hazing may not last unless all food attractants are permanently removed. This information should be shared with neighbors since hazing is most effective when the entire neighborhood is working together.

Hazing should never be attempted if the coyote is accompanied by pups or appears sick or injured. If it is the latter, please call the Borough Police Department at 412/963-7220 or the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 814/432-3187.

Small pets and children should never be left unattended. Problems are most likely to occur when the pet is out of the owner's control. It can be helpful to carry a noisemaker, squirt gun, or pepper spray. If a coyote approaches, pick up the pet or child, then start hazing. If the coyote does not leave, back away slowly while continuing to haze and go indoors if possible. Any aggressive behavior should be reported to the police department. If bites or other injuries are sustained, medical attention should be sought, and a report made. (Coyotesmart.org, 2014)



Wildlife Calls

Residents who find themselves with a snake, deer, raccoon, or other wildlife on their property and unsure what to do with it, are asked to call the Fox Chapel Police Department at 412/963-7220 or the Pennsylvania Game Commission at 814/432-3187. The Police Department will respond to all animal calls and refer residents to the animal control company that they use, as well as other options that may be available to the resident.



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. (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 the guide rails and removes tree branches that block traffic signs. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Tree Removal Process

While planning property improvement projects, please be aware that the removal of any live tree, 6-inches or greater in diameter, as measured 4- ½ feet off of the ground, needs to be approved by the Tree Committee. The Tree Committee has the authority to approve the removal of up to ten trees by issuing a tree removal permit. More than ten trees require the approval of the Environmental Advisory Council. A statement from a certified arborist may be required to attest to tree disease. Fox Chapel Borough encourages the replacement of each tree that is removed with a native hardwood tree.

To apply for a Tree Removal Permit, please go to the Forms/Applications area on the Citizen Action Center on the Borough's webpage, www.fox-chapel.pa.us. Under the Environmental Advisory Council, there is a link to the Tree Removal Permit Portal. Once the permit has been submitted, a member of the Tree Committee will come to your property to assess the tree(s) that are listed on the request form. They will then determine if the trees are permitted to be removed, and an email will be sent to the resident and contractor, as long as email addresses are provided on the form.

The trees must be marked with a ribbon and numbered. If the trees are not marked or identified, the request will be denied. Permits expire one year from the date of approval.



Forest Restoration Project



Thanks to a generous grant from the Fox Chapel Garden Club to the Fox Chapel Borough Park Commission, the Forest Restoration Project is underway!

Twenty-five American Sycamores were purchased from Tree Pittsburgh to restore the riparian forest along Fox Chapel Road just north of Delafield Road. The riparian forest is the wooded area of land adjacent to a waterway, providing a natural habitat for wildlife and protection of the stream or river. It also serves to reduce flooding by absorbing excess stormwater and runoff, much like a sponge. A healthy riparian buffer is essential for a thriving ecosystem.

The American Sycamore, native to Western Pennsylvania and abundant in Fox Chapel, was chosen for its tenacity, longevity, and tolerance of wet conditions. Floodplain trees like the Sycamore have proven useful in the rehabilitation of damp, boggy sites like the one being re-established. The young trees will be protected with guard tubes for the next few years. Once mature, we will not only receive the benefits of restoring the forest ecosystem but, the Sycamore's massive domed shaped canopy and striking white bark will be a stunning welcome into the community for years to come.



Phone Numbers

The Borough receives many phone calls requesting phone numbers. Some of the most requested phone numbers are listed here 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 (www.nixle.com) for information regarding office closings, garbage collection delays, meeting schedules, etc., at 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

BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 FOX CHAPEL ROAD

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
Donald H. Newman

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)