



Published by Fox Chapel Borough

Winter 2022

Mayor's Memo

Two of our Council members have retired at the end of 2021. We are thankful for the many contributions of time and talent made by Jay Troutman and Fred Leech as Council members. The leadership they provided cannot be understated.

We welcome new Council members Brad Harrison and Sarah Hanna, who have joined as of January. Our new Council members were introduced to the leadership of the Volunteer Fire Department. The latter was recognized at the December Council meeting and thanked for their excellent and dedicated service to the Borough.

The Fox Chapel Parks Conservancy has completed its first year of operation to support and enhance the Parks. Four lantern events were held at various Parks to raise awareness for keeping these facilities in excellent condition for residents. The timing was good, as the use of the Parks has increased dramatically in the past two years. The Conservancy welcomed two new advisors, Carolyn Sanford and Fred Leech. As the Conservancy committee grows, we are also looking for someone to assist with correspondence. Please get in touch with me if you have interest in this role. Thus far, the Conservancy has helped facilitate tree planting in several parks and has helped facilitate work done by the Whittingham family in their playground at McCahill Park. Plans are in the works for more projects this year. We are grateful for all the support received by donors during the year and at year-end, which will allow for continued enhancements to your parks!

-Alex Scott-



Important Phone Numbers

Borough Office	412-963-1100
Building Permits & Zoning	412-850-5023
Police Department (non-emergency)	412-963-7220
Public Works Department	412-850-5026
Sanitary Sewer Department	412-850-5030
Vogel Disposal Service, Inc	855-494-3345

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

Driveway Improvement Permit Protects Motorists From Water Runoff and Ice on Borough Roads

Since 1944, the Borough of Fox Chapel has required driveway permits for anyone installing a driveway in the Borough's right-of-way. The Borough's right-of-way is fifty (50) feet in most cases. This means about twelve (12) feet from the edge of the paving in a resident's front yard.

The right-of-way is used for underground utilities such as sewer, gas, water, cable, and stormwater piping. Anyone working within the Borough's right-of-way must call PA One Call at 811 before digging or excavating in the right-of-way or on the property, and digging without a One Call risks damaging one of the buried utilities and can disrupt you or your neighbor.

The Borough regulates driveways because water from the gutter line or the driveway may be directed onto the asphalt road's surface and freeze. This can create a hazardous condition for motorists or walkers. The permit process is the Borough's way of protecting residents from accidents, and it reduces residents' liability by not allowing the driveway to create a hazardous condition.

While planning property improvement projects for the spring, please be aware that driveway modifications require a Driveway Improvement Permit from the Borough before starting any work such as repaving, changing the material, grade, or drainage pattern. The Driveway Permit Application and information are available on the Borough's website. The permit fee is \$100. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Smith at 412/850-5030.

Council Reorganizes

On January 11, 2022, Borough Council held its Organizational Meeting. Andrew C.Bennett and Harrison S. Lauer were appointed President and Vice President, respectively, and Thomas A. Karet as President Pro-Tem. Other members of Council include Mandy Steele, Betsy Monroe, Bradley D. Harrison, and Sarah Hanna. Borough Council meets at 6 PM on the third Monday of the month at the Borough Building. Residents may attend the public meetings either in person or via ZOOM. The link to each meeting is posted 24 hours before on the Borough website.

Borough Website

The Borough encourages residents to visit the Borough's website www.fox-chapel.pa.us for general information and get answers to frequently asked questions such as garbage collection holidays, bin hours, and office closings.

From the Desk of the Chief of Police

As your Chief of Police, I receive numerous calls about the community's safety. My number one topic of discussion is traffic safety. The Borough's primary roadway system was designed in the 1930s and 1940s. The Boroughs' topography dictates our roadways are windy and hilly, creating challenges. The easiest way to prevent crashes is to drive defensively and obey traffic laws. The posted speed limits are 25 MPH, with Fox Chapel Road and Dorseyville Road 35 MPH. Please, Please, Please, slow down and follow all traffic warning signs. School buses in transit mean school children will enter and exit the school buses. Expect a school bus to stop around the next bend with its red lights activated. This defensive driving tactic will prevent the numerous school bus violations the department has received notice of. School bus violations result in heavy monetary fines and driver's license suspensions. Together we can make our roadways safer and easier to traverse as we enjoy the beauty of this community.

For a non-emergency police matter, please call the police office at 412/963-7220. Leave a voicemail message if no answer. Remember always to call 911 for any emergency.

• Michael J. Stevens, Chief of Police

What are the Regulations for ...?

The Borough receives many calls questioning regulations for signs, lighting, grass height, etc. You can get an answer by going to the Borough website (www. fox-chapel.pa.us). All Borough ordinances are available under the Government/Code of Ordinances. Type a keyword in Search to find the desired information.

Dog License Applications

State law requires dogs to be licensed. A license application can be purchased from Allegheny County online at www.alleghenycounty.us/treasurer/dog.aspx.

NEW! Fox Chapel Resident Concern Portal

The Borough has added a new feature to our website: the Fox Chapel Resident Concern Portal. This Portal allows residents to submit non-emergency concerns or requests for service in the Fox Chapel community. Users can upload a photo with each submission to help communicate the issue. Reports will be directed to a Borough staff member who will address the concern. Updates will be provided when possible. Information will be addressed during regular Borough business hours, Monday-Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM. If a report comes in after hours, on the weekend, or a holiday, it will be addressed the next business day. For emergencies, please dial 911 for immediate assistance. To access this new feature, visit the Borough website, www.fox-chapel.pa.us, and click on the Resident Concern button located on the left-hand side of the screen.

2022 Brush Collection

The Borough will provide a spring brush collection beginning Monday, March 7, 2022. The schedule is included in the newsletter. Please inform your landscapers of the collection schedule. Weather conditions or other emergencies could cause delays in the collection. It can take 2-3 days to complete the route.

All brush must be placed at the roadside with the cut end toward the street. No tree limbs larger than five inches in diameter or eight feet in length will be collected. Hedges, vines, rose bushes, shrubs, multi-flora hedges, etc., must be securely tied in bundles not exceeding 16 inches in diameter. Christmas trees with all ornaments removed can also be placed at the curb. Items not collected as part of the brush program include leaves, grass clippings, loose hedges, vines, bushes, firewood, rotten wood, ornamental grass, or similar debris. Please make certain no metal objects are in the branches for our Public Works employees' safety. Borough personnel cannot enter private property to collect brush or trimmings. The volume of material collected by the Borough must be limited to a single pile per property. The pile is not to exceed four feet in width by six feet in height by eight feet in length.

Residential Recycling Information

Did you know that nine-tenths of all solid waste in the United States does not get recycled? Landfills are among the most significant contributors to soil pollution. Roughly eighty percent of the items buried in landfills could be recycled. Let's take a closer look at what can be recycled here in Fox Chapel.

INCLUDE THESE:

- •Cardboard: flattened cardboard boxes, dry food boxes, clean pizza boxes
- •Paper: newspaper, junk mail, office paper, and magazines
- •Plastic: water and soda bottles, milk and water jugs, plastics #1, #2, and #5
- •Metal: empty aluminum cans, steel and bi-metal cans, clean aluminum foil

A reminder to residents that cardboard, metal recycling, and glass recycling containers located at the Borough Building's rubbish bins can be accessed during regular bin hours Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM. Please note that electronic (e-waste) cannot be brought to the rubbish bins. State law requires all electronics to be recycled.

2022 Garbage Collection Schedule

Vogel Disposal is closed in observance of the following holidays each year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. If your scheduled collection day falls ON or AFTER a weekday holiday, your collection will be 1 DAY LATER that week.

Vogel Disposal reminds residents that all garbage must be in a tied bag before placing it in the garbage container. Bags need to be 33 gallons or less and cannot weigh more than 45 pounds (no contractor bags). Do not place waste in individual grocery store plastic bags. Loose garbage will not be collected. Please note that it is not the collector's responsibility to clean debris strewn in the driveway resulting from an animal. Cardboard needs to be broken down into pieces no larger than four feet. Place cardboard lose in the recycling bin.

Vogel Disposal also reminds residents to keep driveways clear of snow and ice. Garbage will not be collected if the driveway is not accessible due to dangerous/slippery conditions. If bad weather is predicted on collection day, it is recommended that the garbage cans be placed at the curb to ensure pickup.

Large items such as lamps, large toys, vacuum cleaners, small household appliances, and aluminum/resin lawn furniture 45 pounds or less can be picked up by Vogel Disposal on your scheduled garbage day, eliminating the need to bring it to the Borough rubbish bins. Garbage calls should be directed to Vogel Disposal at 855/494-3345.

2022 Budget

We are pleased to report there will be no tax increase for residents this year. The millage rate has remained at 2.95 mills since 2019. Of the 130 municipalities in Allegheny County, Fox Chapel is proud to be the 113th lowest compared to other municipal millage rates. Your taxes include garage door garbage service unique to Fox Chapel. The Borough is a small residential community and is almost fully developed; according to the 2020 US Census Bureau, the Borough's population is 5,343 residents and 1,797 households, compared to O'Hara Township with approximately 9,284 residents and Hampton Township with 18,479 residents. Our revenue sources are limited to other municipalities because we have no commercial business district and limited income growth from additional residents. As a result, we rely on Real Estate Tax and Earned Income Tax as our primary sources of revenue. In 2022, this is 76% of total revenue.

Between these two income sources, we expect to collect a total of \$6.7 million: Real Estate Tax \$3.5 million and Earned Income Tax \$3.2 million. Our most significant expenditure is for the Contracted Road Paving Program at \$1.2 million. In addition, Fox Chapel Borough provides \$360,000 annually to the Cooper-Siegel Community Library, \$44,000 to Foxwall EMS, and fully supports the Fox Chapel Volunteer Fire Department. Your donations to the annual Fire Department Fund Drive are greatly appreciated, and 100% goes to the purchase of a new Fire Truck.

Operating expenditures in the General Fund are \$8.7M, and budgeted revenue in the General Fund is expected to be \$8.9M; thus, 2022 has a surplus budget of over \$200,000.

The Borough bids its road paving jointly with O'Hara Township enabling both communities to receive lower bids due to the economies of scale. The Borough's Public Works Department performs the necessary storm sewer work before paving to lengthen the roads' lifespan and control stormwater. This year's storm sewer construction project is budgeted for \$315,000, in addition to the \$1.2M road paving project.

In 2021, Fox Chapel installed drainage and paved the following roads: Chapel Ridge Court, Chapel Ridge Place, Chapel Ridge Road, Old Chapel Trail, Foxhurst, Westchester Drive, West Chapel Ridge Road, Haverford Road, Staffordshire Place, West Waldheim Road, Windsor Road, and Glenhaven Lane.

In 2022, tentative road paving and drainage installation is scheduled for the following roads. Please note this may change due to the actual bid amount received and other variables.

- St. James Place Windsor Road to Valley Drive
- East Waldheim Road Delafield Road to Alpine Circle
- The Maples Delafield Road to East Waldheim Road
- Longfellow Road
 — Guyasuta Road to Cul-de-sac
- Buckingham Road Guyasuta Road to Hunt Road
- Shannon Drive Fairview Road to Cul-de-sac
- Springhouse Lane Fox Chapel Road to Cul-de-sac
- Glenhaven Lane Field Club Road to Springhouse Lane
- Riding Meadow Road area to be determined

In 2021, Capital Equipment purchases included video equipment for public meetings allowing residents to attend meetings in person or via Zoom. The Zoom link is available by clicking on the calendar on the Borough's website at fox-chapel.pa.us. In addition, Public Works purchased a new riding mower.

In 2022, Capital Equipment purchases include solar panels installed on the new Public Works garage to provide electrical power for Borough operations. The Public Works Department will also purchase a leaf machine and three dump trucks, one of which was previously scheduled for 2021 but was unavailable for purchase. The Borough Building is budgeted to have the boiler replaced, and the Police are budgeted for two new vehicles and in-car and body cameras.

McCahill Park upgrades will continue in 2022; phase two includes new backstops, a walking trail, innovative stormwater controls, a seasonal multi-use pad that will allow pickleball courts, basketball, and an ice rink.

In 2019, the Borough issued \$5.4M in general obligation bonds to be repaid over 25 years at an annual cost of \$300,000. Our excellent AA+ credit rating from Standard and Poor's helped reduce the financing costs to Borough taxpayers, and the Borough has no other outstanding debt. The Bond was issued to cover the construction of an energy-efficient Public Works garage and repurpose two existing garages built in 1959 and 1985. It is expected that the Borough will spend \$2.7 million in 2022 on this project.

Borough sanitary sewer rates will remain the same in 2022 due to the receipt of over \$950,000 since 2019 from ALCOSAN's Green Revitalization of Our Waterways (GROW) grant. The Borough demonstrated a measurable reduction in groundwater infiltration into our sanitary sewer lines. ALCOSAN has a 7% rate increase again this year; this will show on sewer bills since the Borough bills for ALCOSAN and AVJSA. We have also been notified that AVJSA intends to increase its rates in April.

Where Does Your Property Tax Dollar Go?

- Many people do not realize that there are three different property taxes: School District, County, and Borough
- The Borough has no control over the County and School District taxes
- The current 2022 rates for each taxing body is as follows:

Taxing Body	Millage Rate	Portion of each Tax Dollar
Fox Chapel Area School District	19.8686 mills	\$0.72
Allegheny County	4.7300 mills	\$0.17
Borough of Fox Chapel	2.9500 mills	\$0.11

For each one dollar in property taxes you pay, the School District gets seventy-two cents, the County receives seventeen cents, and the Borough gets eleven cents. With the 11-cent Borough share, the Borough provides Police and Fire protection, road paving, snow/ice removal, leaf and brush removal, trash collection, code enforcement, parks, communications, library, and other services. These services are highly visible and vital to your everyday well-being.

Property Taxes – Dates to Remember

Allegheny County Taxes
Due at discount March 31st
Due at face April 1st – April 30th
Penalty after April 30th

Fox Chapel Borough Taxes
Due at discount July 31st
Due at face August 1st –
September 30th
Penalty after September 30th

Fox Chapel School Taxes

Due at discount August 31st

Due at face September 1st –

October 31st

Penalty after October 31st

Tax Collectors

All self-employed persons whose primary business is Fox Chapel Borough must pay a \$52 Local Services Tax for emergency services and road maintenance. Each employer in the Borough, including residents with home occupations, is charged with the duty of deducting the tax from each of his employees and remitting payment to Keystone Collections Group, 546 Wendell Road, Irwin, PA 15642 (724/978-0300), within thirty days after the end of each calendar quarter. Keystone also collects earned income tax (EIT) for the Borough. All tax forms are available online at www. keystonecollects.com. (Reminder that the Borough's PSD Code is 710403.)

Jordan Tax Service collects Real Estate taxes. Jordan is located at 102 Rahway Road, McMurray, PA 15317, 412/345-7962, www. jordantax.com. Questions regarding tax payments, refunds, or tax receipts should be directed to Jordan Tax Service. If your mortgage has been paid off, please be sure to contact Jordan with the new mailing address to send tax statements to avoid delinquency.

Wage Tax Payments

The Borough encourages residents to verify with Keystone Collections Group (724/978-0300) that wage tax payments are current to avoid interest and penalties. Often when wage tax payments are verified due to a home sale or refinancing, a large sum of money is due plus penalty and interest, which could delay the closing. Renters of property in the Borough must also pay wage taxes and are required by ordinance to register with the Borough.

Insurance Reporting

All volunteer fire departments in Pennsylvania receive distributions from the Commonwealth as a percentage of the premiums paid by residents of a municipality for homeowner's insurance. However, the correct municipality must be indicated on your homeowner's insurance policy for the distribution to be made properly. It is essential that you check your insurance policy and/or contact your agent to ensure that your home is listed in Fox Chapel, not Pittsburgh, 15215 or 15238.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and E-Waste Collection

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION are by appointment only with the following dates for collection in 2022; March 28, 2022 & September 12, 2022. Contact Vogel Disposal Service, Inc.'s Customer Service Department, 855/494-3345, to schedule at least ten business days before the collection date. Please be prepared with detailed information about the products you request be picked up during the call. You will need the following information for Hazardous Household Waste: the brand name, container size, quantity remaining in the container, and possible information from the label. For Electronic Waste, you will need the brand name, screen size, style, and approximate weight. For more information on HHW and E-Waste Collection, please visit the Borough website, click on Services, then Trash.

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 roads 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.

2022 Office/Rubbish Bin Closings

The Borough office will be closed on the following holidays in 2022:

- Good Friday Friday, April 15, 2022
- Memorial Day Monday, May 30, 2022
- Labor Day Monday, September 5, 2022
- Veteran's Day Friday, November 11, 2022
- Thanksgiving & day after Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25, 2022
- Independence Day Monday, July 4, 2022 Christmas Eve (Observed) Friday, December 23, 2022
 - Christmas Day (Observed) Monday, December 26, 2022

The rubbish bins will be closed on the following holidays in 2022: Easter, April 17, 2022, and Christmas, Sunday, December 25, 2022

Helping Our Streams With Thoughtful Lawn Care

Despite the cold weather, it's never too soon to think about spring. Lawn care should be near the top of your list. An expert EPA panel reports that a healthy lawn contributes to clean water while adding oxygen to the air. A healthy lawn can better compete against weeds, insects, and diseases and require fewer or no pesticides. Here's what you need to know to get started.

Established turf with its many blades of grass provides an excellent filter to capture sediments that may be carried in water from bare soil and hard surfaces, such as driveways. Lawns tend to slow the flow of water during rain, allowing water to permeate the soil.

In this article, we will address nutrients, an essential element. Nutrients, especially phosphorus and nitrogen, are essential to healthy turf, but misusing them can cause harm to our streams and environment. The goal is to provide the nutrients that the lawn can utilize and no more.

Our clay-based topsoil usually has enough phosphorus to maintain a healthy lawn in Pennsylvania. Phosphorus has been removed from lawn fertilizer as it is an unnecessary additive (except fertilizers used for new yards that require it only to become established).

However, nitrogen is a crucial nutrient for a healthy lawn but is a problem for our streams if it is not used entirely by the plant as the excess may migrate to our waterways. There are three primary contributors to this migration. The most obvious is that the fertilizer is over-applied, and the plant cannot utilize it, allowing the excess to flow to our streams. To avoid this, calibrate your spreader and only apply at the rate directed on the package...more is not better! The second is that the plant cannot absorb the nutrients. This occurs when the soil's acidity or pH keeps the fertilizer attaching to the plant roots. The pH of a healthy lawn in our Region is 6.0 to 7.0. You should do a soil test about every three years that includes pH. The third contributor, fertilizer that, after application, ends up on hard surfaces such as driveways, is not removed and then gets washed by the next rain to a stormwater pipe and carried directly to a stream. That's why careful application and cleanup are essential.

More lawn information is available at the Penn State Extension website: www.extension.psu.edu. You can also get soil test kits from them to give information about your soil's makeup, including the pH.

The other solution is to hire a PA Registered pesticide applicator. Their knowledge is certified by the state and acknowledged by a "BU" identification number on their vehicles. You often get the best value from them while protecting our waterways because they will deliver a healthy lawn with a minimal amount of product and environmental impact.

You can have a healthy lawn, save money, reduce pesticide use, and protect our streams if you do lawn care right!

Looking to Get in Shape for The New Year?



The Lauri Ann West Community Center, located in O'Hara Township, has a special offer for members of our community! Now through January 31, 2022, new members can join without a fee, no payments for the first month, and no long-term contract.

This promotion includes:

- · A large, clean fitness center
- · An extensive selection of group fitness classes
- Picklebal
- · An indoor track
- · Beautiful individual dressing/shower rooms
- · Access to Dunlap Gym for Open Gym

To learn more, visit The Lauri Ann West Community Center at 1220 Powers Run Road or call: 412-828-8556.

Animal Control

The Borough often receives calls to trap animals or remove dead deer from private property. The Borough does not provide animal control services, and the Police Department does not remove dead deer from personal property. Residents should contact an animal control service to trap or remove a dead animal from their property.

County and State Road Repairs

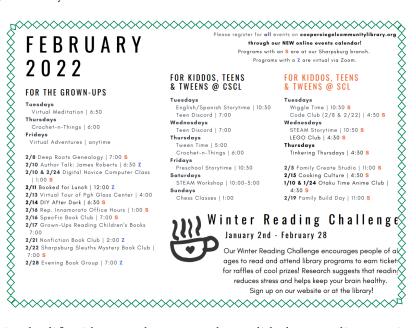
The Borough receives pothole complaints and other calls for roads that the Borough does not maintain. The Borough cannot repair a State or County road. Potholes on County roads should be reported to Hotline 412/350-2513 and include: Fox Chapel Road (from Freeport Road in O'Hara Township) to Guys Run Road; Delafield Road (from Fox Chapel Road to Borough/Aspinwall line), and Dorseyville Road.

Potholes on State roads should be reported to Hotline 412/781-3260 and include: Fox Chapel Road (Guys Run Road to Dorseyville Road) and Powers Run Road. As a service to our residents, and as allowed by the County and State, the Borough does provide winter maintenance (salt/plow service) on County and State roads and is reimbursed for salt.

Shady Side Academy News

Spring Admissions Visit Opportunities

Side Academy Shady offers interested families a variety of virtual and in-person opportunities to visit and learn more about its four campuses: the Country Day School (PK-5), Middle School (6-8), and Senior School (9-12) in Fox Chapel and the Junior School (PK-5) in Point Breeze. Register now for live Zoom Information Sessions in April and May or inperson Campus Tours on Saturday, April 23, at all four campuses. In addition, families can view



student-led campus video tours, day-in-the-life videos, and campus photo slideshows online anytime. For more information, visit www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Visit or email admissions@shadysideacademy.org.

2022 SSA Summer Camps

Shady Side Academy offers a wide array of fun, safe, affordable summer programs for kids entering grades PK-12 on its Senior, Middle, and Country Day School campuses in Fox Chapel. Offerings include day camps, sports camps, STEAM camps, and summer school classes. For more information, visit www.ShadySideAcademy.org/Summer, email summerprograms@shadysideacademy.org or call 412-443-2230.

BOROUGH OF FOX CHAPEL

401 FOX CHAPEL ROAD PITTSBURGH, PA 15238 (412) 963-1100





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* 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 COMMISION

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
James W. Pashek
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.