

# O'HARA NEWSLETTER

Township of O'Hara—A Council Manager Community  
Township Office: 412-782-1400  
Fall/Winter Edition 2016  
[www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us)



## New DARE Vehicle



Once again, two local businesses have partnered with the Township of O'Hara Police Department to teach area youngsters about the danger of substance abuse through the DARE program – the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program.

Township Council and staff would like to once again thank Mike Auffenberg of Monroeville Chrysler Jeep for donating the use of a 2017 Dodge Ram 1500 Sport Quad Cab Pick-up Truck for use by our DARE officers.

Also thanks again go out to Jeff Goodwin of Auto-graph Signs for donating a special created colorful DARE graphics package placed on the exterior of the vehicle.

By all of us working together we can DARE area youth to stay away from drugs. □

## Learn More About Stormwater

If you would like to learn more about stormwater and talk to the experts, please attend the Open House Event hosted by the Township of O'Hara and Fox Chapel Borough at the Lauri Ann West Community Center on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 am - 12 pm.

Also, if you are interested in having a Township staff member come and speak at your school, business, homeowners' association, church or synagogue, club, organization or group about stormwater, please call 412-782-1400 and ask to speak with the Township Engineer, Charles Steinert.

Knowledge is key to improving water quality. □

## New Police Officer Hired

The Township of O'Hara has a new face on our police force. Ben Wolfson joins the Township as our newest police officer. Please join Township Council and staff in welcoming Ben and wishing him a long career with our Township. □

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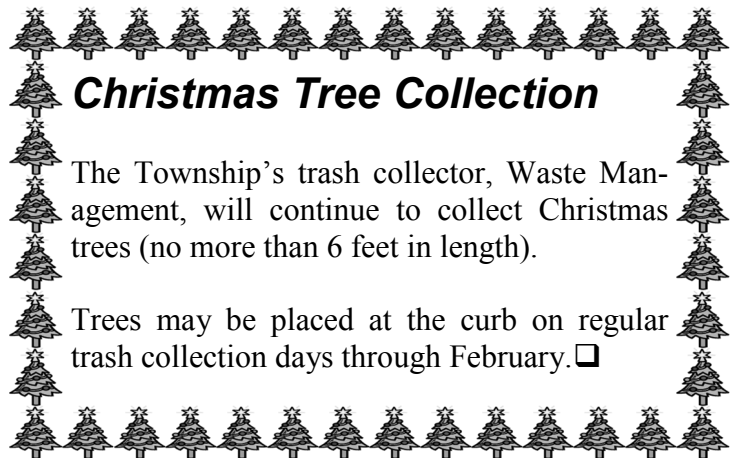
## Frequently Asked Questions

The Township staff is here daily to assist our citizens with their needs, provide helpful information and answer questions. The staff has compiled a list of frequently asked questions to aid citizens.

- Q. What are the Township's hours of operation?
- A. The Township administrative offices are open 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday. The Police department office is open 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday - Friday.
- Q. When does Township Council meet?
- A. Council meets the first two Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building. The first meeting is a workshop and the second meeting is the business meeting. Time is set aside at both meetings for communications with residents.
- Q. Does the Township have a Facebook page or Twitter account that I can follow?
- A. The Township has both a Facebook page and a Twitter account. Look for us under the Township of O'Hara.
- Q. Who are the Township volunteer fire departments/companies?
- A. The Township is home to two volunteer fire departments/companies. Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company and Parkview Volunteer Fire Department and EMS.
- Q. Do I need a permit for a fence, deck, pool etc.?
- A. In most cases the answer is yes. Both small and large permit applications can be found on the Township website under *Documents and Forms*. These application packages give further detail on what projects need permits and the appropriate rules and regulations.
- Q. How long does it take to get a building permit?
- A. State law allows 30 days for the issuance of a permit. Township staff tries to turn them around as quickly as possible, but it is best to apply a number of days in advance to wanting to start your project.
- Q. If I am a resident of the Township when may I rent a park shelter?
- A. You may rent a park shelter a year in advance of your event.

## FAQ's cont'd.

- Q. What are the do's and don'ts in the Township Parks?
- A. The Township has various rules and regulations regarding activities and use of Township parks. These rules and regulations are available at the Township website [www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us) under the *Parks* page.
- Q. Do I need a permit to have recreational fires in my back yard?
- A. Yes, applications for annual recreational fire permits can be found on our website [www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us) under *Documents and Forms*. There is no fee associated with this permit.
- Q. If I am away on vacation will the Police check my home?
- A. Yes, if you fill out a vacation check request and submit it to the police department prior to your vacation the police will check on your home while you are away. This form is available on the Township website at [www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us) by clicking on the *Documents and Forms* tab.
- A. How do I find out when trash is delayed for a holiday?
- Q. The Township places this type of information in the Township newsletter, on the Township calendar on our website, on our Facebook page; we also Tweet it on our Twitter account, broadcast it on Nixel and CallFire it. By visiting our website you can find out how to sign up for these information services. You can also call the Township offices at 412-782-1400. □



## Snow Removal

The Public Service Department has the responsibility of clearing municipal streets of snow and ice. Our



goal is to provide you with the highest possible level of service. When snow begins to lay on the roads, road crews are called out, but all roads cannot be treated at once. Untreated roads may be slippery and treacherous. If possible, stay off the roads during this period.

Plowing operations usually occur with the accumulation of 1 to 3 inches or more of snow. During snowfalls when plows are used, the initial passes of the snowplow are to open the road for traffic. Expect to have snow pushed back to the curb on a later pass.

To minimize the amount of snow that gets deposited in front of your driveway, stand at the street facing your driveway and shovel snow to the left side of your driveway. This will reduce the amount of snow deposited in front of your driveway.

Property owners and businesses are reminded that snow and ice must be removed from the sidewalk along the frontage within 24 hours of the beginning of a snowfall. **Blowing or shoveling of snow into the street is a violation of municipal ordinances** and can cause accidents. Property owners assume a serious liability for such a practice.

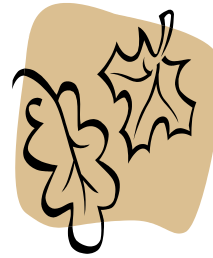
To assist the Public Service Department during snow removal, please adhere to these suggestions:

1. Do not drive unless absolutely necessary. If possible wait a while to give salt crews a chance to treat roads.
2. **Remove your vehicles from the street. Park in your driveway or yard. If it is necessary to park along the street, leave enough room for plow trucks to fit between parked cars.**
3. Do not shovel or plow snow from your driveway or walkway into the street.
4. If you hire a plowing service, advise them not to push snow into the street or in front of neighboring property.
5. Clear pedestrian crossings at intersections.

## Snow Removal . . . cont'd.

6. Remove snow from around fire hydrants.
7. When you notice a salt truck approaching from the opposite direction, slow down and move away from the center of the road to avoid having salt hit your vehicle.
8. When following a salt truck, keep a safe distance as trucks may make sudden stops or turns. □

## Spring Leaf Collection



Spring leaf collection service will be conducted from April 3 - April 13, 2017.

**All leaves must be placed along the curb within four (4) feet of the edge of the street, but not in the street.** No other materials should be mixed with the leaves.

Crews from the Public Service Department will collect leaves in an orderly fashion on all streets using the Zones previously established. Residents do not need to call the Township for this service.

To find out which Zone your residence is in or where collection is taking place, check the Township website at [www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us) and click Leaf Collection on our homepage. Collection locations will be updated on a daily basis. □

## Vacation Checks

During the Holidays, residents may be traveling for vacation or to visit family members.

So you can enjoy your time without worrying about your home, any resident wishing to have a Police Officer check their home on a regular basis while they are away should complete a request form available at the Police station.

You can print the form from our website. Just click on the Documents/Forms link, print, complete and drop it off at the Police station. □

## Spring Brush Collection

Spring brush collection service will be offered from April 17 - April 28, 2017. Residents must contact the Township at 412-784-1784, Ext. 203 during that period to request collection services. Callers should say that they are requesting brush pick-up and be prepared to leave their name, address and telephone number. Requests are for one pick-up only. If, after collection, additional material is placed at the curb, another request for collection must be made.

**Requests for pick-up will not be accepted after 4:30 pm on April 28.** However, collection will continue until brush is collected from all residents who have called in requests.

Residents who do not contact the Township for the Spring collection prior to April 28 will have the opportunity to participate in the monthly collection service provided by Waste Management or the Fall 2017 brush collection program. Watch for details on these programs in future Newsletters.

### Brush Collection Regulations

- Limbs and brush should be placed along the curb, within four (4) feet of the edge of the street, **but not in the street**. Limbs that are four (4) inches or less in diameter may not exceed eight (8) feet in length. Limbs more than four (4) inches but less than six (6) inches in diameter may not exceed four (4) feet in length.
- Hedges, vines, shrubs and other brush must be separated from tree limbs and securely tied in bundles less than sixteen (16) inches in diameter.
- Each property is limited to one (1) truckload of brush. This equals about six cubic yards.
- Wood chips may be available upon request by calling Loren Kephart, 412-784-1784 Ext. 206.

A notice will be left at homes where the brush is not properly prepared for pick-up. The notice will explain why the brush was refused for collection.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. □

## Holiday Gift Idea

Are you looking for a unique gift for the person who has everything? The O'Hara Township history book, "Portrait of an American Community" makes a great gift.

The history book is the story of how O'Hara Township evolved from frontier land to a modern community and is packed with information and photographs unique to the Township and surrounding communities.

Stop in to the Township office to pick up a copy for the special Holiday price of \$26.75 (check or money order only). □

## Volunteer Needed

O'Hara Township currently has one (1) vacancy for an alternate on the Township Zoning Hearing Board. The Zoning Hearing Board meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Residents who are interested in the position should submit a letter of interest and a short resume to Township Council at 325 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 or e-mail [JJakubec@ohara.pa.us](mailto:JJakubec@ohara.pa.us) by January 6, 2017. □

## 2017 Trash/Recycling Holidays

When a **major** holiday falls on or prior to the regular trash/recycling collection day, collection will be one day later.



Listed below are the Holidays and rescheduled Collection days for 2017.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Collection Day</u>
Memorial Day	May 29	Friday, June 2
4th of July	July 4	Friday, July 7
Labor Day	Sept. 4	Friday, Sept. 8
Thanksgiving	Nov. 23	Friday, Nov. 24
Christmas	Dec. 25	Friday, Dec. 29

## Stormwater Facts

**What is Stormwater?** Stormwater is the excess runoff water that comes primarily from precipitation (rain or snow) that runs off of impervious surfaces like streets, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and building rooftops. These impervious surfaces block the ability of the precipitation to absorb into the soil, which creates runoff. As the stormwater travels across these and other surfaces, like lawns and construction sites, it picks up pollutants along the way, such as fertilizers, trash, debris, leaves, litter, pet waste and sediment, and carries it all straight to the nearest receiving river, creek or stream. The stormwater is transported overland or by way of an open ditch, swale, or underground storm pipe, the latter of which collects the stormwater through a catch basin or a drainage inlet in a parking lot or along the street curb.

Household wastewater travels from toilets, sinks, and showers to a wastewater treatment plant through the underground sanitary sewer system. However, stormwater runoff is not treated! Thus, most pollutants that end up on the ground ultimately end up in the area's local waterways, where they have a direct effect on water quality.

**What are the Main Pollutants in Stormwater?** Polluted stormwater may carry a host of different contaminants, which can be divided into three main categories:

- (1) Natural - leaves, shrubs and grass clippings, sediment, pet waste;
- (2) Chemical - detergents, grease, gasoline, pesticides, oil, fertilizers; and
- (3) Litter - cigarette butts, plastic bags, drink containers, food wrappers, etc. How these products affect waterways varies somewhat. For example, sediment clouds waters, clogs storm drain pipes, smothers fish eggs and limits the ability of water plants to use light as their energy source. Organic material (leaves, grass, etc.) uses up vital oxygen in water, making it hard for fish and other critters to breathe. Litter clogs pipes and waterways; it also causes toxicity from the breakdown of materials. The latter negatively affects plants, fish, and wildlife.

## Stormwater Facts cont'd.

**What is an Illicit Discharge?** This is generally anything, except rainwater, that enters the Township's storm drainage system. Illicit discharges may include pet waste, motor oil, trash, lawn/leaf debris, kitchen grease, discarded household chemicals, or even chlorinated pool backwash.

If you see someone placing anything into the storm drainage system, which includes storm drainage inlets, roadside ditches, curb and gutter systems and underground drainage pipes, please report the activity to the Township by calling 412-782-1403.

If possible, take a picture of the illicit discharge activity when it is occurring and forward the pictures to the Township at [info@ohara.pa.us](mailto:info@ohara.pa.us) or bring them in to the Municipal Building. Township staff will investigate the incident and attempt to resolve the issue. □

## Comments Encouraged

Township Manager, Julie Jakubec is again encouraging residents to let her know any of their concerns and comments.

Please feel free to stop and see Julie at the Township building, call her at 412-782-1400 or send her an e-mail at [JJakubec@ohara.pa.us](mailto:JJakubec@ohara.pa.us). □

## Annual Holiday Tradition

The Township of O'Hara is continuing its annual Holiday tradition of collecting nonperishable food items to be delivered to local food banks.



Donations may be placed in the marked container located in the Municipal Building Lobby through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please join Council and staff in helping those less fortunate this Holiday Season. □

## Selling Your Home?



While your real estate agent and closing company will handle many of the matters related to selling your home, there are some things you can do to make the process easier.

Unpaid taxes can hold up your closing so make sure all of your taxes are paid. This includes both real estate taxes and earned income taxes. If you are not sure if you owe taxes, you should contact the appropriate tax collector.

Make sure all utility bills (phone, water, sewer, electricity, etc.) are current.

All homes are required to have a backflow prevention device installed on the waterline prior to the final water reading. Contact Fox Chapel Authority at 412-963-0212 or Hampton Shaler Water Authority at 412-486-4867 for further details.

Township of O'Hara Ordinance No. 1299 requires that prior to a property sale or transfer to other than a spouse, a Sanitary Sewer Certificate must be obtained from the Township. The Sanitary Sewer Certificate is issued after a registered plumber performs a test verifying that no storm, ground or surface water is directed into the sanitary sewer system. Property owners arrange and pay for a registered plumber to perform the test. The Township witnesses, inspects and certifies the test at a cost of \$100 for residential buildings and \$200 - \$400 for commercial buildings based on square footage.

If violations are found, they **must** be corrected prior to closing or if the property is not sold, within one hundred eighty (180) days of testing.

Once the Certificate is issued, it is valid for one year from the date of the test.

For more information on the Sanitary Sewer Certification, check the Township website or contact the Township at 412-782-1400. □

## Stormwater Trivia

Use the word bank below to fill in the blanks:

1. Cars should be washed in the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Only \_\_\_\_\_ should go in stormwater inlets.
3. I should \_\_\_\_\_ my grass clippings.
4. I should make sure not to \_\_\_\_\_ my yard.
5. I should always \_\_\_\_\_ my dogs waste.
6. Oil and antifreeze are \_\_\_\_\_ into the stormwater system.
7. Leaf waste should never be placed in the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Regulating storm water helps with water \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Cigarette butts are \_\_\_\_\_ biodegradable and should \_\_\_\_\_ be tossed on the street to be washed into and contaminate our waterways.
10. By working \_\_\_\_\_ we can help improve water quality.

### Word Bank

Rain, Road, Mulch, Not, Grass, Over Fertilize, Scoop, Together, Illicit Discharges, Quality

For more information on MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System please see our website. □

## Vacant Property Registration

Township Council recently passed Ordinance No. 1311. This requires owners of vacant residential structures to register the property with the Township. The owner of the vacant property is also required to perform regular inspections to ensure the house is secure and the property is properly maintained. This Ordinance will aid the Township in knowing if a property is vacant from an emergency services perspective and also in knowing who to contact if there is an issue with the structure and/or yard.

The Ordinance is available on the Township website under *Documents and Forms* for review. Please feel free to call the Code Enforcement Officer Joe Boehm at 412-782-1400 ext. 205 with any questions. □

# Community News

## **Glitter & Glow: A Girl's Night Out**

Fox Chapel Garden Club will present its major fund-raising event of the year which benefits area conservation groups and environmental education including a significant scholarship for a graduating Fox Chapel High School senior girl who intends to pursue a degree in an environmental science related field. Other beneficiaries of our fund raising activities include Cooper-Seigel library gardens, Fox Chapel Area School District's elementary and high school gardens, St. Margaret Foundation's "Garden of Hope", Pittsburgh's Botanic Garden, Fox Chapel Parks Commission and other related organizations.

The Fox Chapel Garden Club creates one-of-a-kind live plants and greens works of art for your homes or offices. The evening also includes a delicious light dinner buffet, cash bar, silent auction and significant raffled baskets. What could be more relaxing than spending a nice evening out with friends and colleagues, enjoying great food and drinks while being able to shop and cross off many on your holiday lists!

This event takes place on Wednesday, December 7 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Fox Chapel Golf Club, 426 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. The cover charge of \$35.00 includes your entrance fee and delicious dinner and dessert buffets. There is a cash bar. Tickets can be ordered directly by mailing your \$35.00 check made out to Fox Chapel Garden Club, c/o Cris Scott, 125 Catalpa Ridge Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Questions can be directed to [cris.scott125@gmail.com](mailto:cris.scott125@gmail.com). □

## **Lauri Ann West Community Center**

Don't miss the Art Bazaar – a festive opportunity to purchase your last-minute holiday gifts from a juried sale of fine arts and crafts! Over thirty participating artists will feature high-quality items including jewelry, ceramics, knitwear, soaps and unique handmade gifts for everyone on your shopping list.

Located at the Lauri Ann West Community Center, there are two opportunities to shop at this year's Art Bazaar: Friday, December 16 from 7 pm to 9 pm or Saturday, December 17 from 9 am to 3 pm. For more information on becoming a vendor, contact Melissa at 412-828-8566. □

## **Aspinwall Meals-on-Wheels**



***Providing much more than a meal...***

Our organization has been dedicated to helping members of **O'Hara, Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, Sharpsburg and parts of Indiana Township** for over 40 years. Our mission is to ensure that our customers have access to adequate nutrition and peace of mind, so they are able to live healthier lives in their own homes. We prepare and deliver fresh meals five days a week, 52 weeks a year.

We receive no government funding; our only income is derived from customer fees and generous donors. Discover how you can sign-up or help keep our wheels turning; volunteer or donate. Call 412-820-8350 or visit: [www.aspinwallmealsonwheels.org](http://www.aspinwallmealsonwheels.org). □

## **Fox Chapel Newcomers Club**

The Fox Chapel Newcomers Club is inviting anyone new (five years or less) to living in the Fox Chapel Area School District to join their monthly meetings on the second Friday of each month from September to May. Meetings are held at 9:30 am at Christ Church Fox Chapel, 630 Squaw Run Road East, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Babysitting is available at each meeting for a nominal fee.

The upcoming meetings are:

Friday, December 9 - Holiday Luncheon, Pittsburgh Field Club, RSVP in advance

Friday, January 13 - Karen Henery, certified tea master from Three Rivers Tea, will show us "The Way of the Tea"

Friday, February 10 - Rebecca Drake, author of "Only Ever You"

Friday, March 10 - Dr. Alan Lantzy, neonatologist and March of Dimes Board Member

The Fox Chapel Newcomers Club welcomes new residents, hears noteworthy speakers and organizes social and community outreach events at each meeting. For more information about the Newcomers Club visit: [www.FoxChapelNewcomers.org](http://www.FoxChapelNewcomers.org) or check Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/FoxChapelNewcomers](http://www.Facebook.com/FoxChapelNewcomers). □

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA  
325 FOX CHAPEL ROAD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238  
412-782-1400  
*www.ohara.pa.us*

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
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PITTSBURGH, PA  
Permit No. 2629

**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA**

**Township Council**

Robert John Smith, At-Large, President      Charles A. Vogel, Ward 1, Vice President  
Mark F. Rothert, Ward 2      Scott Frankowski, Ward 3  
Allison Garcia, Ward 4      Cassandra Eccles, Ward 5      John R. Denny, Jr., At-Large

Regular meeting: Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

Workshop meetings: First Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.; Second Tuesday following Regular meeting

**Planning Commission**

Edward M. Crates, Chairperson  
Charles F. Bleil      John J. Claus  
Richard Citrin      Bruce W. Gay III  
Joseph M. Kelly      Joseph Zgurzynski  
Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:30 p.m.

**Zoning Hearing Board**

Scott Duffy, Chairperson  
Alvin A. Kinsel      Richard Lockwood  
Barbara Simanek, Alternate      Lisa Steimer, Alternate  
Vacancy, Alternate  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation Commission**

Mark Yon, Chairperson  
Mary Jo Bisceglia      S. Joseph Jablonski  
Mary E. Lasher      Mary Lee Mahon  
Shamus Petrucelli      Michael J. Veltri  
Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

**Civil Service Commission**

David R. Schaffner, Jr., Chairperson  
Judy Bossart      Rabbi Ely Rosenfeld  
James R. Stahl      Robert Ward  
Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Building, 325 Fox Chapel Road and are open to the public.