

O'HARA NEWSLETTER

Township of O'Hara—A Council Manager Community
Township Office: 412-782-1400
Summer Edition 2018
www.ohara.pa.us



Police Superintendent Retiring

Police Superintendent James R. Farringer is retiring effective July 30, 2018.

Jim was hired as a police officer on April 9, 1978. He was promoted to the position of Superintendent on January 11, 2005. Jim also is the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator.

During his over 40 years of service, Jim has selflessly and valiantly served the residents of the Township of O'Hara and surrounding communities. After his retirement, Jim plans to enjoy riding his motorcycle and traveling with his wife.

Please join Township Council in thanking Jim for his years of service and congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

Sergeant Scott K. Slagel has been appointed as the Superintendent of the Township of O'Hara Police Department. Scott joined the Township Police Department on March 2, 1994 as a patrol officer. He was promoted to Sergeant on December 11, 2007.

Scott plans on maintaining Jim's legacy of providing excellent police services to our community. He also plans on focusing on school safety and community policing. He believes it is imperative to maintain the trust and respect of the community.

Please join Township Council in congratulating Scott on his promotion and wishing him great success as the Superintendent for the Township of O'Hara Police Department. □

"Cool" Park Updates

The Township has some very cool things happening in our Parks this Spring/Summer.

In May, Township Council rededicated Beulah Frey Park. Ms. Frey was a beloved educator and pioneer in environmental studies in the Fox Chapel Area. Her surviving family joined us at the rededication to share in the unveiling of a plaque in her memory.

In June, Council held a ribbon cutting to open The Edible Trail at Woodland Park. This trail is lined with edible plants including apples, plums, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, paw paws, pears, peaches, cherries, mint and hops. All edible plants are clearly labeled. Once mature, the fruit, berries and plants can be eaten while walking the trail.

Other park upgrades this year include a Sky Coaster in Squaw Valley Park; the placement of concrete corn hole games in Squaw Valley, Woodland, Sacco and Meadow Parks with a BYOBB policy (bring your own bean bags) and new activity panels for the adaptive playground in Squaw Valley Park.

Have fun enjoying the great outdoors! □

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Real Estate Tax Collection

A representative from Jordan Tax Service will be available to accept Township and School District Real Estate Tax payments at the O'Hara Township office on Thursday, August 23 from 9 am to 12 pm and Thursday, August 30 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.

Jordan can be reached at 412-345-7962 or their address is 102 Rahway Road, McMurray, PA 15317. □

Waste Management Message

Waste Management is requesting that no plastic bags be placed in your recycling container. Plastic bags will cause a load of recyclable material to be considered contaminated. If you need to bag your recycling to carry it to the container use a brown paper grocery store bag. This will not interfere with the recyclability of your container's contents and the bag will be properly recycled.

So the next time you are asked paper or plastic, paper is the answer. □

Recycling Reminder

Please be reminded that the following items are recyclable: metal (steel and tin) food cans, beer/soft drink aluminum cans, plastic containers (#1-8) including bleach, detergent, household cleaner bottles, yogurt containers, cottage cheese containers, margarine tubs, shampoo bottles, glass beverage bottles and food jars (clear, brown, amber and green), paperboard boxes (cereal, tissue, etc.), office/computer paper, magazines, newspapers, advertising inserts, junk mail and envelopes, catalogs, phone books, paperback books, hardback books with covers removed, coupons and non-thermal receipts, paper bags and paper shopping bags (handles removed) and corrugated cardboard.

All recyclables should be placed in the recycling container provided by Waste Management. Items do not need to be separated. The containers should be placed at the curb prior to 6 am each Thursday. □

Fall Leaf Collection

The Fall leaf collection program will begin on October 15. The final collection round will begin December 1. This means that ***once an area is collected after December 1, any leaves placed at the curb will not be picked up.***

As in the past, the east and west sections of the Township have been divided into zones. This enables the Public Service Department to follow a set collection route and better communicate with the residents as to where leaf collection is currently being conducted, where it has been done and where it will be done next.

The Township website will be updated daily with this information. Visit www.ohara.pa.us and look for the link to Leaf Collection.

Residents are reminded that leaves must be placed within four (4) feet of the curb, ***but not in the street.*** Leaves left in the street can create a safety hazard, especially if it rains or snows. Ordinance #1273 provides for fines for those who unlawfully and substantially interfere with, obstruct or render dangerous for use or passage any street, road, sidewalk, river or public way or place.

Remember that no other debris may be mixed in with the leaves. Also, placement of obstacles in front of the leaves may hinder collection. A request is made that cars, trash cans or other objects not block access to the leaves. A notice will be left at any home where there is a problem with the collection of leaves. This door hanger will give the reason for the non-collection and give a phone number to call for further collection information.

Please call the Township at 412-784-1784, ext. 203 with any questions or comments regarding the leaf collection program. □

Building Code Changes

O'Hara Township, along with everyone else in Pennsylvania has been operating with and enforcing the 2009 I-Codes for the past several years. The Department of Labor & Industry Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council has recommended the adoption of the 2015 I-Codes.

The 2015 I-Codes will take effect in October 2018. Please familiarize yourselves with the significant changes should you be undertaking a building project. All new applications as of October will be subject to the new regulations.

A summary table of the changes is available at: www.ohara.pa.us/doc/2015-I-Code.pdf. If you have further questions about these changes, feel free to contact the Township Building Official at 412-782-1400. □

Fall Brush Collection

It's Summer but Fall is not far away. So that you may plan ahead, here is information that may be important to your Fall landscaping plans.

Requests for the Township's Fall brush collection service will be accepted from September 24 to October 5. Requests for collection **will not** be accepted after 4:30 pm on October 5. However, collection will continue until brush is collected from all residents who have called in requests. Brush **will not** be collected from homes not on the list.

Residents should call 412-784-1784, ext. 203 to request collection and be prepared to leave their name, address and telephone number. Requests are for one pick-up only. **If additional material is placed at the curb after collection, another request for collection must be made.**

Township Brush Collection Regulations

- Limbs and brush must be placed along the curb within 4 feet of the street, **but not in the street.**
- Limbs 4 inches or less in diameter may not exceed 8 feet in length. Limbs 4 to 6 inches in diameter may not exceed 4 feet in length.
- Limbs/logs larger than 6 inches in diameter will not be picked-up.
- Hedges, vines, shrubs and other brush must be separated from tree limbs and securely tied in bundles not to exceed 16 inches in diameter.
- All root balls or dirt must removed. Brush with root balls or dirt attached will not be picked-up.
- Residents are reminded that this is not a tree removal service. Each property is limited to one truckload of brush equal to 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 collection explaining why the brush was not collected and will give a phone number to call for further information.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation. □

Movies in the Park

Everyone is invited to another season of Movies in the Park at Squaw Valley Park.

The free movies start at dusk, weather permitting. If necessary, the rain date will be the following Thursday.



July 10 - *The Emjoi Movie (PG)*

July 24 - *The Santa Clause (PG)*

August 7 - *CoCo (PG)*

August 21 - *Justice League (PG-13)*

****NEW**** Date Night Movie

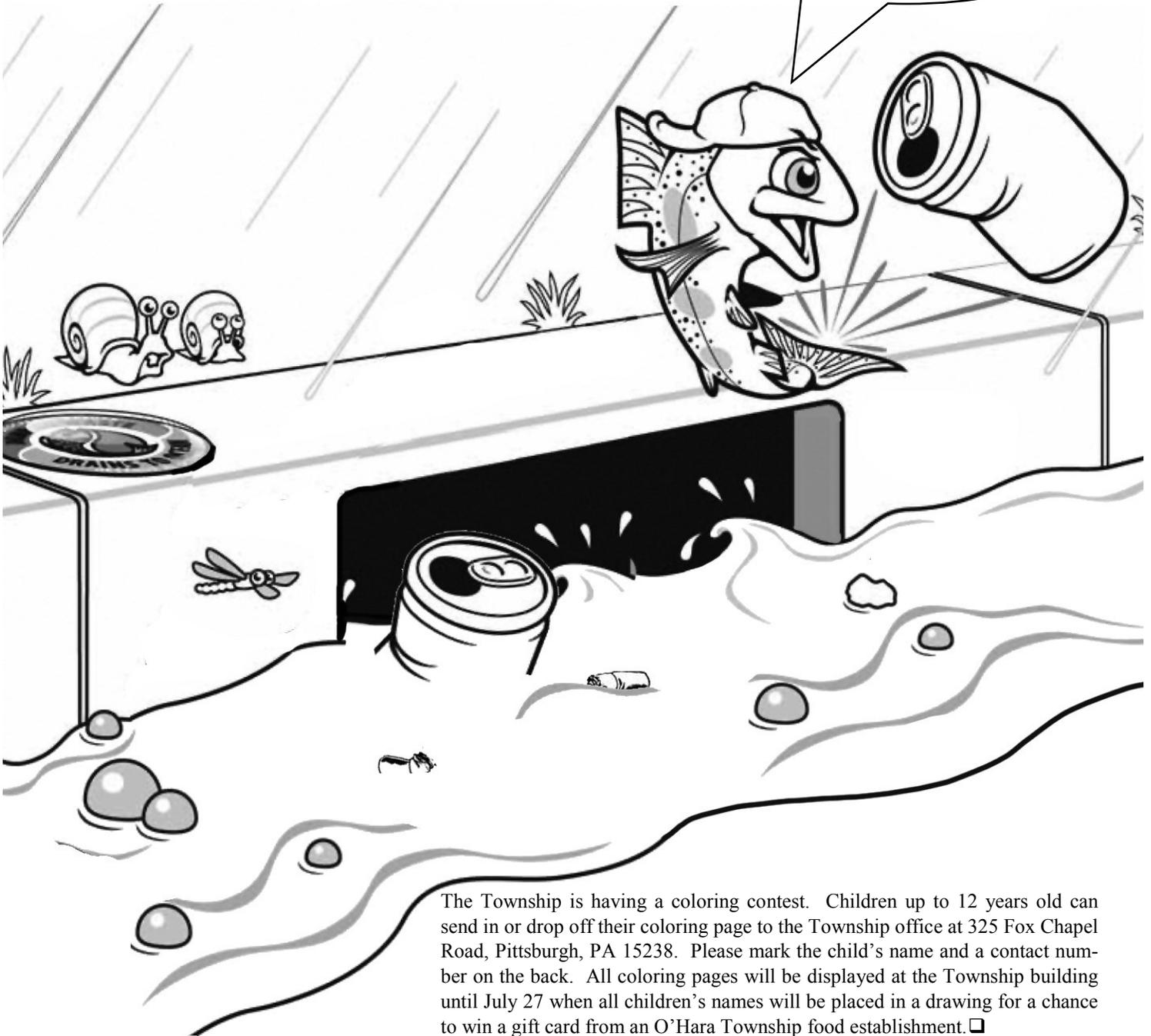
July 19 - *La La Land (PG-13)*

Come join the Fun!!!

Help STOP Stormwater Pollution!

Fish and other animals need clean water to survive. Did you know that pollution that enters storm drains goes straight to our streams, lakes or rivers? So never dump anything that you would not want to drink or swim in on the ground, in the street or down a storm drain. It will end up in a river, lake or stream.

*Hey!
I wouldn't dump trash in
your house, so why would
you dump it in mine?*



The Township is having a coloring contest. Children up to 12 years old can send in or drop off their coloring page to the Township office at 325 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Please mark the child's name and a contact number on the back. All coloring pages will be displayed at the Township building until July 27 when all children's names will be placed in a drawing for a chance to win a gift card from an O'Hara Township food establishment. □

Recreational Fire Permit Required

This is a reminder to all residents who like to tell ghost stories around and eat marshmallows roasted over a camp fire. Remember to get your recreational fire permit from the Township for 2018.

There is no fee associated with this permit. The application form is available at the Township office or on the Township website at www.ohara.pa.us under **Documents and Forms/Code Enforcement Ordinances**. □

Door-to-Door Solicitors

Greta Garbo is famous for saying “I want to be left alone,” as many of us do when it comes to door-to-door solicitation. The Township regulates “for profit” solicitors who go door-to-door. The Township offers to residents the ability to place their home on our Do Not Solicit List. This list is given to solicitors when they apply for a permit from the Township and they are not permitted to solicit these homes.

Residents may place a Do Not Solicit sign on their door and solicitors are not permitted to solicit your home.

The Township cannot regulate “non-profit” solicitors in the Township per Federal law. We do ask that when they are in the Township they notify us and follow our Do Not Solicit List.

Please call the Police Department at 412-782-1403 with questions about soliciting in the Township. □

Attention all Dogs!

Great news, Squaw Valley Park is scheduled to get three new water fountains. One will have a water bottle filler and one will have a DOG BOWL attachment.

When walking your human at the park stop by for a nice long, cold drink for you and your human. □



Live Well Allegheny Distinction

The Township of O’Hara has been designated as a Live Well Allegheny Community by the Allegheny County Health Department. The Live Well Allegheny Campaign aims to improve the health and well – being of Allegheny County residents.

The Township was recognized for committing to improve residents’ health and wellness through initiatives that promote proper nutrition, physical activity and tobacco cessation. The Township will encourage the support of local farmer’s markets, open the areas first edible trail at Woodland Park and discourage smoking near our play grounds.

Please join us on congratulating Council and staff for achieving this distinction. □

Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Rain by its nature is important for replenishing drinking water supplies, recreation and healthy wild-life habitats. It becomes polluted when residue from activities like car maintenance, lawn care and dog walking are left on the ground for rain to wash away. Here are some important ways to prevent stormwater pollution:

- Properly dispose of hazardous substances such as used oil, cleaning supplies and paint. NEVER pour them down the storm sewer system.
- Use pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides properly and efficiently to prevent excess run off.
- Install innovative stormwater control on residential property, such as rain barrels or rain gardens.
- Pick up after pets and dispose of their waste properly. No matter where pets make a mess, even in your own back yard, stormwater runoff can carry pet waste from the land to the storm sewer system.
- Store materials that could pollute stormwater indoors or use water tight containers for outdoors.

Together we can all make a difference in our water quality. □

Vacation Checks

Summer is here and residents may be traveling out of town on vacation or to visit family members.



So you can enjoy your visit without worrying about your home, you may wish to have a Police Officer check your home on a regular basis while you are away.

The Vacation Check form is available at the Police station or on our website at www.ohara.pa.us under the Documents/Forms section. Print and complete the form and just drop it off at the Police station. □

Internet Commerce

Just a reminder to all residents that there are parking spots available at the Township building for individuals to safely meet someone to purchase or sell items from an internet posting. These spots are marked with signs and are under video surveillance. Hours of operation for these spots are dawn to dusk. □

Smoke Detector Reminders

Parkview Volunteer Fire Department and EMS and Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company wish to remind all residents about the importance of checking your smoke detector batteries on a regular basis. A smoke detector can save your life. So, plan on checking the batteries of all your smoke detectors on a monthly basis. Also, remember a good time to replace your batteries is every time the clock springs forward and falls back.

A reminder for everyone who has hard-wired smoke alarms with their security systems; Consumer Reports recommends the replacement of all hard-wired detectors every ten years. Hard-wired detectors can begin to deteriorate with age so replacement every ten years is a good rule of thumb.

Let's all have a plan so that if a fire starts everyone gets out safely! □

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. This includes both real estate tax and earned income tax. If you are not sure if you owe taxes, contact Jordan Tax Services, Inc. at 412-345-7962 for real estate tax information and Keystone Collections Group at 1-866-539-1100 for earned income tax information.

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

Backflow prevention devices must be installed on all waterlines prior to final reading. Contact Fox Chapel Authority at 412-963-0212 or Hampton Shaler Water Authority at 412-486-4867 for further details.

Township Ordinance No. 1299 requires that a Sanitary Sewer Certificate be obtained prior to the sale or transfer of property.

A Sanitary Sewer Certificate is issued after the Township and a registered plumber perform an inspection 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.

Once issued the Certificate is valid for one year from the date of the initial inspection. It is advisable to have the test done early in the sale process, since repairs **must** be made prior to closing.

To review Ordinance No. 1299 or for more information on the Sanitary Sewer Certification process, visit our website www.ohara.pa.us/forms.asp or contact the Township at 412-782-1400. □

Community News

Cooper Siegel Community Library

Summer Story Times - *All Story Times are 10:30 am*

Mondays – Little Learners (3-5 years old)

Tuesdays – Preschool (3-5 years old)

Thursdays – Toddlers (2-3 years old)

Fridays – Baby & Me Story Time (Infants–2 years old)

Evening Gentle Yoga - *Monday evenings at 6:30 pm*

This gentle, passive class is designed to promote relaxation and focus on breath and body. Postures are on the floor, either seated or supine, and held for 2 - 5 minutes. No prior yoga experience is necessary and all bodies are welcome!

Rock Stars in Smocks!-*Thursday, July 12, 19, 26 at 6 pm*

We will explore imaginative themes, color theory and painting techniques with watercolors, acrylic paint and mixed-media. A supportive studio environment to learn and create. Series of 3 classes. Ages 8-14.

Latin Dance Class - *Thursday, July 19 at 6:30 pm*

Join Los Sabrosos Dance Company for an hour of Latin Dance instruction. You'll learn a little about several dances: Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, and Cumbia with one of their talented and energetic instructors.

Art Rocks-Make Your Own Geode-*Friday, July 20- 1 pm*

An opportunity to be part scientist and part artist! Go home with a treasure!

Summer Concert Series sponsored by N'Stuff Music

Fridays at 7 pm - July 20, August 24, September 28

Friday Night Summer Concert Series in our Welcome Garden! Bring a blanket, a picnic, some wine. Bring the family! This is a casual family-friendly intimate evening concert in our beautiful outdoor garden space.

Owl Prowl - *Monday, July 23 at 8 pm*

Join a park ranger from Allegheny Parks at Hartwood Acres after dark! Who, who, who is out there in the park at night!? Owls of course! Learn about nature's ultimate nocturnal predator. Practice owl calls as we try to hear these amazing birds while we make our way through the park on the trails at night. Great for ALL ages, including adults!

Go to www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org or call 412-828-9520 for program descriptions, dates and fees. □

Lauri Ann West Community Center

Spend your summer at the Lauri Ann West Community Center! There are summer camps and adult programs for all ages, as well as college fitness memberships for the summer months.

Camp Lauri Ann West is a full-day summer camp for kids ages 5-12 and a half-day preschool camp for kids 3-5. Featuring sports, arts, Maker Studio, STEAM Discovery and outdoor time in the sunshine, there will be new adventures each day. Campers can be dropped off at 8 am and picked up by 5 pm. The cost per week is just \$250 for members and \$275 for non-members. Camp will run weekly June 11 through August 13.

Specialty Camps and Programs for all ages are available at the Center, too! Explore everything from the wilds of the Allegheny River to your dramatic side with a number of programs and camps designed especially for summer.

College Memberships are available for students who are home for the summer. Stop by the Center to learn more and to join today!

The full slate of programming and online registration is available at www.lauriannwestcc.org. □

Save the Dates for Pizzazz 2018!

Pizzazz will be held at the Fox Chapel Golf Club on:

Wednesday, October 24: 6 - 9 pm Preview Party

Thursday, October 25: 9:30 am - 4 pm and 5 - 8 pm

Friday, October 26: 9:30 am - 3 pm

Pizzazz brings designer boutiques from around the country to Pittsburgh for a unique shopping experience that benefits a great cause. Proceeds have enabled the Garden Club of Allegheny County to fund more than \$1 million in environmental and conservation projects throughout our community.

Join us, bring your friends and enjoy shopping for stylish apparel, classic and contemporary jewelry, home accessories, unique foods and gift items. For tickets and information visit: www.gcacpgh.org/pizzazz. □

