

# O'HARA NEWSLETTER

Township of O'Hara—A Council Manager Community  
Township Office: 412-782-1400  
Fall/Winter Edition 2021  
[www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us)



## Councilmembers Sworn-in

On January 3, 2022 three new members of Township Council were sworn into service. Richard Hughes, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward; Michael Hammill, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and Olivia T. Payne, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward.

These new members were sworn in alongside reelected Councilmembers George Stewart, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward and Cassandra Eccles, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward.

Please join at-large Councilmembers Robert Smith and John Denny and Township staff in congratulating our new and reelected Councilmembers.

Please also join Council and staff in thanking outgoing members Charles Vogel, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward; Greg Caprara, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and Allison Berger, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward for their years of service to the community. Their guidance and leadership has been appreciated by Council, staff and residents. □

## Travel Through Time

The Township has installed six historical markers along the trail loop in O'Hara Township Community Park. These markers tell some of the history of our Township. The markers were developed with help from our local historian Tom Powers, the Seneca Iroquois National Museum and the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center.

If you enjoy the markers and would like to learn more about the history of the Township, you can purchase the Township history book "Portrait of an American Community" written by Tom Powers at the municipal building. Call 412-782-1400 to learn more. □

## One of our Finest Honored

Congratulations to Sergeant Ben Wolfson on being given the Top Gun Award by the PA DUI Association.

The PA DUI Association Top Gun Award winners are selected by an independent panel of highway safety experts. Entries are evaluated by a statistical method that considers several factors, including department size, total DUI arrests made by the department, hours worked by the officer, and number of DUI arrests made by the officer.



The award winners are comprised of law enforcement officers who have excelled in the apprehension of driving under the influence offenders during the 2020 calendar year.

Ben received the award for performing over 50 drug influence evaluations in 2020. □

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## **Stormwater Myths and Facts**

Stormwater runoff is a serious source of pollution for rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. During every rainfall or snow melt, water picks up pollution on its way to the nearest storm sewer grate. Due to the damage caused to water bodies from stormwater pollution, it is important to dispel these common myths:

***MYTH: The pollutants in stormwater are not typically harmful.***

As stormwater flows down roads and lawns, it picks up sediment loaded with nutrients, spilled oil and paint, herbicides and pesticides, grass clippings, leaves, etc. All these end up deposited into bodies of water.

Extra nutrients from plant debris and soil overload streams and lakes, feeding algae which in turn depletes the dissolved oxygen in the water when it decomposes. Due to low oxygen levels aquatic life may perish.

***MYTH: Stormwater flows only to local streams.***

Stormwater can make its way into our rivers and where ever they flow.

***MYTH: Stormwater is mainly an urban problem and industries are the greatest source of water pollution.***

Agricultural fields and pastures are a huge contributor to stormwater pollution due to herbicide, fertilizer, nutrient and sediment runoff.

Pollution can be classified into two categories: point source and nonpoint source. Point source pollution can be tracked to a single identifiable source, like a pipe leading directly from a manufacturing plant into a stream. Non-point source pollution comes from a diffuse source, like stormwater runoff over a large area.

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, agricultural nonpoint source pollution is the leading source of water quality impacts on rivers and streams, the third largest source for lakes and the second largest source to wetlands.

***MYTH: Stormwater pollution will eventually go away.***

Pollutants carried in stormwater may wash away, but the sources still remain a problem. You would not throw your trash over your neighbor's fence and declare that pollution is over.

Everyone has a responsibility to ensure that pollutants are properly disposed of and not picked up by stormwater.

Make sure that your car is not leaking oil and properly clean up any chemical spills. Dilution is not the solution to pollution.

***FACT: Plenty of solutions exist to combat stormwater pollution.***

- Rain gardens and infiltration basins can be installed in yards and next to parking lots.
- Rain barrels can be placed under gutters.
- Driveways can be converted to permeable pavers.
- Lawns can be converted to native plantings to soak up more rainwater.

***FACT: Residents can make virtually no-cost changes in their daily routines to help.***

- Sweep up or "mow-in" grass clipping to keep them out of streets.
- Clean up dog poop in your yard, even if its not near a body of water.
- Avoid dumping any substance besides rainwater down a storm drain.
- Use organic herbicides.
- Do not over fertilize lawns and plants.

These practices, big and small, all help to keep our water ways clean. □

## Stormwater Management Fee

The Township of O'Hara adopted a Stormwater Management Fee in the fall of 2020. Most residential homes are charged 1 Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) a year which equals \$96.00. Residents have the option of paying it all at once with a 2% discount or paying it quarterly. Residential homes with over 1 acre and commercial businesses may be charged more based the amount of impervious surface they contain. Impervious surface is hard surfaces including items such as rooftops, driveways and patios.

Jordan Tax Service bills and collects the Stormwater Fee for the Township. An example of how the bill looks is below. If you believe you have not received a bill or have questions regarding your bill please call Jordan Tax at 412-345-7962.

**Jordan Tax Service, Inc. on behalf of Township of O'Hara**  
102 Rahway Road - McMurray, PA 15317-3349  
(724) 731-2317

**TOWNSHIP OF OHARA**  
325 FOX CHAPEL RD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

**2021 Stormwater Fee Billing**  
Period Ending: 12/31/2021  
Bill Date: 01/22/2021

**Office Locations**  
102 Rahway Rd McMurray, PA 15317  
7100 Baptist Rd Bethel Park, PA 15102

**My Billing Details**

Account #	# ERU	Fee per ERU
293104277	1.00	\$96.00

Block/Lot: 168-C-175-0014  
Service Address: 2 MEADOW PARK LN

**Payment Options**

Discount Payment	Discount Amount
2% Discount if paid by 02/22/2021	\$94.08

Face Payment	Face Amount
Face Amount if paid by 3/22/2021	\$96.00

If fees are not paid by 3/22/2021, a 10% penalty plus interest at the rate of 10% per year shall be added.

**Installation Option**

Installation Option*	Installation Amount
1st Installation Due on 02/22/2021	\$24.00

\*No discount is available on the Installation Option.

Amount Paid	Date Paid	Check No.
\$		

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR YOUR RECORDS  
RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

**Jordan Tax Service, Inc. on behalf of Township of O'Hara**  
102 Rahway Road - McMurray, PA 15317-3349

Account Number: 293104277

Make Check or Money Order Payable To: Township of O'Hara

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$

Stamp 0157

**TOWNSHIP OF OHARA**  
325 FOX CHAPEL RD  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238-2301

**JORDAN TAX SERVICE INC**  
TOWNSHIP OF OHARA  
PO BOX 945990  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15264-5257

64593700000293104277000096000315202102

## Social Media

“Like” us on Facebook or “Follow” us on Twitter at the Township of O'Hara to learn about Township news and events. □

## Stormwater Management Fee Reduction Program

The Township has established a Stormwater Fee Reduction Program intended to provide incentives to reduce the Stormwater System User Fee.

This is done by encouraging Single Family Residential Property, Large Single Family Residential Property and Non-Single Family Residential Property owners to take measures which would supplement or add additional capacity to any new or existing stormwater management facilities (“SWMF”) that are required by the Township’s Stormwater Management Ordinance or any other Township ordinance. These measures can reduce the impact impermeable surfaces have on waterways and on the Township’s storm sewer infrastructure. This includes measures to reduce the rate and volume of stormwater runoff generated from impervious surfaces, along with reducing the amount of pollutants entering the stormwater system.

Further explanation of the Stormwater Reduction Program and the application can be found by clicking the Stormwater button on our website. □

## 2022 Trash/Recycling Holidays

When a *major* Holiday falls on or prior to the regular trash/recycling collection day, collection will be one day later. Collection is not affected when a Holiday falls on a weekend day.

Please note there will be no change for Christmas 2022 and New Year’s Day 2023 as these Holidays occur on a weekend day.

Listed below are the 2022 Holidays and rescheduled Collection days.

Holiday	Date	Collection Day
Memorial Day	May 30	Friday, June 3
Independence Day	July 4	Friday, July 8
Labor Day	Sept. 5	Friday, Sept. 9
Thanksgiving	Nov. 24	Friday, Nov. 25

Thank you for your cooperation!

## All About Yards

### Q. I Cleaned up My Yard Now What Do I Do?

A. The Township has options for yard debris based on when and what it is. **The Township** has two brush collections; one in the Spring (April) and one in the Fall (September). This is for tree limbs, bushes, shrubs, hedges and similar items. **You must sign up** for this service. Visit our website to learn how to register.

Regulations surrounding this collection are:

- 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 be 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

The Township also offers a yard waste collection service through **Waste Management**. This occurs on the third Wednesday of each month May-August and October-November. Residents **must register** at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled date to request this collection. Call-in end dates are also shown on the Township calendar. Visit our website to learn how to register.

The Waste Management pick up includes:

- Yard waste includes leaves in biodegradable bags
- Garden residue
- Shrubbery trimmings
- Limbs, twigs, brush, tree trimmings and similar material
- All tree trimmings and limbs must be cut in lengths less than 48 inches and limbs must be less than 3 inches in diameter. All material must be securely bundled and each bundle must weigh less than 40 lbs.
- **NO** grass clippings

### Q. Does the Township still offer their leaf collection service?

A. Yes, the Township still offers our leaf collection service. This is offered in the Spring and Fall. You do not need to call in for this service. The Spring collection is usually March/April and the fall collection usually starts in October with the final round of collection starting December 1. Residents can follow leaf collection progress on our website.

Resident reminders for leaf collection are:

- 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 #1226 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. Door hangers will be left at residents' homes if 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.

All leaves and yard waste collected in the above programs are composted in Department of Environmental Protection approved sites. □

## Spring Brush Collection

The Township's Spring 2022 brush collection will be conducted from April 11 - April 22, 2022.

For more information on the Township's brush collection process please see Page 4. Visit our website for information on how to sign up for this service.❑

## Yard Waste Collection

The Township's waste collection contract with Waste Management provides for curbside collection of yard waste on the third Wednesday of each month from May - August and October - November. Following are the 2022 dates for collection:

<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Last Day to Call-in</u>
Wednesday, May 18	Friday, May 6
Wednesday, June 15	Friday, June 4
Wednesday, July 20	Friday, July 8
Wednesday, August 17	Friday, August 5
Wednesday, October 19	Friday, October 7
Wednesday, November 16	Friday, November 4


Please see Page 4 for more information on Waste Management's Yard Waste Collection Service or search Yard Waste on our website.❑

## Spring Leaf Collection

Spring 2022 leaf collection will be conducted from March 28 - April 8, 2022.

Please see Page 4 for more information on the leaf collection process. You can also follow the leaf collection progress on our website.❑






### Christmas Tree Collection

The Township's trash collector, Waste Management, will continue to collect Christmas trees (no more than 6 feet in length).

Trees may be placed at the curb on regular trash collection days through February.❑



## Message from Your Police Superintendent Scott Slagel

The O'Hara Township Police Department strives to give our residents the best and most professional police service in the area. Our officers are always there to help. We are frequently asked if a resident can provide us with information about a family member or themselves related to special needs or circumstances so, if called, we are aware of the individual's requirements. The answer to this question is a resounding YES. If you want to provide the department with information that will help us assist you or your family then please call 412-782-1403 and ask to speak with me or e-mail me at [SSlagel@ohara.pa.us](mailto:SSlagel@ohara.pa.us). All information will remain confidential.

I also want to ensure that our residents know that you can install a residential Knox Box at your home. This is a locked box that holds the keys to your home. First responders have the ability to access the box and get the key to gain entry to your home if an emergency arises. Many commercial establishment in the area use Knox Box. If you would like more information on how to get a residential Knox Box, please contact me.❑

## Vacation Checks

Thinking of taking a winter vacation or heading south for the winter? 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 Vacation Check Request.

The forms are available at the Police station or on our website. Click the Documents/Forms tab, click Other Forms & Applications, print and complete the form. You can then drop it off at the Police station, e-mail it to [info@ohara.pa.us](mailto:info@ohara.pa.us) or fax it to 412-782-3291.❑

## Know What's Below - Dial 8-1-1

Safe digging is no accident! If you plan any excavation projects or activities that disrupt the underground, Pennsylvania law requires you to call 8-1-1 or 1-800-242-1776 before digging - every time.❑



## 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.

## More Snow Removal . . .

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. □



## “At Your Door” Special Collection

As part of the Township's residential solid waste and recycling contract with Waste Management, residents have a convenient opportunity to dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) safely, easily and responsibly.

The “At Your Door” Special Collection Service is a residential service offered by WM to provide year-round HHW collection. Some items that are included are paint, household and garden chemicals, automotive fluids and batteries, fluorescent lights, televisions, computers and other electronic equipment.

A flyer with information on the specific items that can be collected, items that will not be collected and how to schedule an appointment is available by typing “At Your Door” in the search box on our website or for more information on the “At Your Door” Special Collection Service you can visit <https://www.wm.com/us/en/home/common-hazardous-waste>.

You can schedule a collection appointment by calling 1-800-449-7587, on-line at [www.wmatyourdoor.com](http://www.wmatyourdoor.com), or by e-mail at [atyourdoor@wm.com](mailto:atyourdoor@wm.com). □

## Comments Encouraged

Township Manager, Julie Jakubec is again encouraging residents to let her know 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). □

# Community News

## 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, cable, etc.) are current.

Backflow prevention devices must be installed on all waterlines prior to final reading. Depending on where you live in the Township you should contact either 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 attend 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](http://www.ohara.pa.us/forms.asp) or contact the Township at 412-782-1400. □

## 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 join 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
- Pickleball
- An indoor track
- Beautiful individual dressing/shower rooms
- Access to Dunlap Gym for Open Gym

To learn more call 412-828-8566 or visit the Lauri Ann West Community Center. □

## Cooper-Siegel Library Reading Challenge

The Winter Reading Challenge runs from January 2 - February 28. The Challenge encourages people of all ages to read and attend library programs to earn cool prizes from Alta Via, the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium, Spark Books or Zone 28. Register at the Cooper-Siegel or Sharpsburg Library, online at [camegielibrary.beanstack.org](http://camegielibrary.beanstack.org) or download the Beanstack app.

Many other programs are now available virtually via ZOOM or on the Library's YouTube channel so you can enjoy them from home.

For more information please call 412-828-9520 or visit [www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org](http://www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org). □

## Fox Chapel Area Adult Education Classes

Enriching the community for 50+ years Fox Chapel Area Adult Education is a non-profit outreach program of the Fox Chapel Area School District. Since 1962, we have provided high-quality, low-cost adult enrichment classes to the community.

A wide variety of courses are offered throughout the academic year: Fall, Winter and Spring. Please browse the offerings at [www.fcaae.org](http://www.fcaae.org) and join in - as a student or as an instructor - for an enriching learning experience! □

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA  
 325 FOX CHAPEL ROAD  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15238  
 412-782-1400  
[www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us)

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## TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA MEETING SCHEDULE

### Township Council

Robert John Smith, At-Large, President      Cassandra Eccles, Ward 5, Vice President  
                                  Richard S. Hughes, Ward 1,                      George Stewart, Ward 2  
 Michael F. Hammill, Ward 3,                      Olivia T. Payne, Ward 4,                      John R. Denny, At-Large

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

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

### Planning Commission

Edward M. Crates, Chairperson  
 Charles F. Bleil                      Richard Citrin  
 Joseph M. Kelly                      Jerry Nist  
 Giovanni Scolieri                      Joseph Zgurzynski  
 Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm

### Zoning Hearing Board

Scott Duffy, Chairperson  
                                  Karl Kline                      Richard Lockwood  
 Emily Glick, Alternate                      Thomas Gray, Alternate  
                                  Vacancy, Alternate  
 Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7:00 pm

### Parks and Recreation Commission

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

### Civil Service Commission

David R. Schaffner, Jr., Chairperson  
 Judy Bossart                      Jeffrey Reese  
 Jason J. Riley                      Robert R. Ward  
 Meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 6:00 pm

All meetings are open to the public. Check [www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us) for specific meeting details.  
 All Township citizens are cordially invited to attend.