

O'HARA NEWSLETTER

Township of O'Hara—A Council Manager Community
Township Office: 412-782-1400
Winter Edition 2022
www.ohara.pa.us



New Employee Roundup

The Township of O'Hara has had an exciting year with the addition of many new faces and a new department.

Officer Natalie Richards joined the Township of O'Hara Police Department in May. Natalie joined us from another area Police Department. Her positive and can-do attitude is a great addition to our wonderful Police Department.

Beth Olejarz joined the Township staff as our Bookkeeper in June upon the retirement of our long time Bookkeeper. Beth joins us with much municipal government experience. Beth has hit the ground running and is enjoying all the debits and credits of her position.

Jay Davis joined us as our new Police Superintendent in August. Jay has over 32 years of law enforcement experience. Jay plans on focusing on additional training opportunities for our officers and more community and officer interaction events. He also plans on continuing Pizza with the Police and Cookies and Cocoa with the Cops and much more. Many great things are to come for our Police Department with Jay at the helm.

Todd Giammatteo joined the Township staff in August as our new Public Service Superintendent. Todd has experience in both the construction and municipal government areas. Todd plans to focus on additional training opportunities for our Public Service Department and to continue the fine work of the department. He also plans on continuing the Touch a Truck Event for the community in early summer.

In November, Jalen Byrd started with the Township as our Social Services Coordinator and head of our Social Services Department. Jalen is the start of an exciting new department that offers new services to our residents.

Jalen is charged with assisting the Police Department and other Township Departments if they believe an individual may need the assistance of social services. Residents may also seek the assistance of the Social Services Coordinator. Help with Social Services may include drug and alcohol treatment, mental health treatment, hoarding treatment and obtaining food and shelter.

All new employees can be reached by calling 412-782-1400.

Please join Council and staff in welcoming all of our new employees.

Please also join Council and staff in congratulating our recent retirees. Scott Slagel, Police Superintendent retired in June after more than 28 years of service. Carol McDermott, Bookkeeper also retired in June after more than 12 years of service. Loren Kephart, Public Service Superintendent retired in August after more than 32 years of service to the Township. □

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Trash and Recycling Contract Changes

In fall of 2022, the Township along with several other communities, bid our trash and recycling contract through the North Hills Council of Governments. Waste Management was the successful bidder. Based on changes in the trash and recycling industries, the Township trash service will be changing. These changes will take effect in March or April of 2023. Until then, trash and recycling will continue as they have.

Under the new contract trash pickup is moving to automated service. Waste Management will be surveying the residents on the trash can size they want. It will be assumed that you want a 96-gallon trash can unless you respond back to the survey requesting a 64 or 32-gallon trash can. All trash must be placed in the can; nothing will be picked up that is not in the can. In case someone feels one can is not enough, you will be able to get an additional can for a one-time fee. You may have up to two additional cans for a total of three cans permitted per household. For an additional 96-gallon cart, the fee is a one-time charge of \$100, paid to Waste Management. Additional information will be mailed and placed on social media around six weeks before the program implementation.

Information on dimension and size of containers is below. Additional information will be available on the Township's social media page, web page and examples will be in the Township building lobby closer to when the surveys will be sent. Individuals who qualify for back door pick up will not have their service changed in any way.

Once the cans are delivered if a resident finds the can delivered is the wrong size for their family there is the opportunity to swap it out for another size. The Township will be handling the swapping of carts. Additional details will be available on our website, social media and by calling the Township at 412-782-1400 near the cart delivery date.

Bulk pick up will be once a month on a day yet to be selected. One qualifying bulk item will be picked up on that day. If additional bulk items need collected there will be a minimal charge for their collection. The collection and payment for the charge will be arranged through Waste Management.

There will be no changes to the items that may be placed in the Township recycling stream including glass. The Township will also continue to offer the glass recycling bin in the municipal parking lot.

There will be no change to the Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling program or to Waste Management's Yard Waste collection program.

We will work together to navigate the new trash and recycling industry changes. □

96 Gallon Container



64 Gallon Container



32 Gallon Container



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 on the amount of impervious surface they contain. Impervious surface is hard surfaces including items such as rooftops, driveways and patios.

Stormwater Management Fee Reduction Program

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.


Social Media

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. □

Spring Leaf Collection



 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.

To see which Zone your home is in or where collection is taking place, go to www.ohara.pa.us and click Leaf Collection on our homepage. Collection locations will be updated on a daily basis. □

2023 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.

Listed below are the 2023 Holidays and re-scheduled Collection days.

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

Thank you for your cooperation!

Aquatic Trash

EPA's Trash Free Waters (TFW) program refers to the garbage polluting U.S. rivers, lakes, streams, and creeks as "aquatic trash." Most of the garbage that ends up in waterways comes from land-based activities.

Garbage can easily become aquatic trash if it is not properly disposed of or securely contained. When garbage is on the ground rather than placed in a recycle, compost, or trash bin, rain and wind often carries it into storm drains, creeks, and rivers. For example, a cigarette butt tossed on the ground might wash into a storm drain and travel through the stormwater system, which in some cases, leads directly into waterways. Cigarette butts contain plastic that will remain in the environment for many years.

Impacts of Aquatic Trash

Mismanaged trash that escapes into waterways can create a wide range of problems. Aquatic trash affects water quality and endangers plants and animals. Though all types of aquatic trash can have potentially harmful impacts, plastic waste is particularly concerning because of its tendency to persist in the environment and its widespread production, use, and disposal.

Environmental Impacts

When exposed to trash pollution, wildlife in aquatic and terrestrial environments face physical hazards from ingestion and entanglement. The impact that trash has on wildlife depends on a diverse range of factors, including the debris size, type, shape and quantity, the type of animal or plant that is exposed, and the type and frequency of exposure. Animals that become entangled in debris risk suffocating or drowning. Many species mistake plastic debris for food or inadvertently ingest plastic debris while feeding or swimming. Once ingested, this debris can damage their digestive tract and interfere with an animal's ability to feed, leading to starvation or other negative health effects.

By working together to ensure that trash is properly secured, recycled or composted we can limit the aquatic trash in our waterways and make our creeks and rivers a safe and happy place for our aquatic friends. □

Spring Brush Collection



Spring brush collection service will be offered from April 10 - April 21, 2023. 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 21. 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 21 will have the opportunity to participate in the monthly collection service provided by Waste Management or the Fall 2023 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 by calling Todd Giammatteo, 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. □

Winter Stormwater Tips

When snow melts at your home it can create lots of problems that are both similar to spring rains and unique to winter weather.

Winter snow often puts a pristine white coat over every surface that makes for beautiful photos and lots of family fun. However, it's not long before the sun comes out to expose a host of issues created by the melting snow. Just like when rain falls the rest of the year, melting snow turns into stormwater runoff. Heavy rains sweeping across your yard and driveway carry pollution and high volumes of water into our nearby streams, lakes, and other waterways. Melting snow does the same things. Both rain and snow melt can seriously harm waterways when they travel over the land in our developed communities. They can also cause problems with water infiltration in your home.

In winter, melting snow actually causes a few unique stormwater problems. Because the ground is often frozen at the surface, melting snow can't infiltrate into the soil the way a light or moderate rain would be able to. When snow builds up over several small storm events without melting in between, it can turn into large winter storm impacts when it finally does melt. The standing and then flowing water on the ground can pick up all kinds of debris, pollutants (especially de-icing salts and chemicals), and litter that will find their way into nearby streams.

Here are some tips for managing your property for winter stormwater this season:

- When piling your snow after shoveling and plowing, choose locations where the snow will have the most opportunity to infiltrate instead of becoming stormwater runoff. Pile your snow in areas where you don't usually have ponding in the spring rains, on relatively flat areas, and away from sensitive areas like streams, ponds, and your private well if you have one.
- Clear your downspouts to allow melting roof snow to flow and not collect at your foundation.
- Make sure your nearest storm drains are clear. Do not pile snow on storm drains. Clear away any snow that may have been kicked onto the drains by passing cars.
- Postpone outdoor construction projects in winter, when you can't establish new vegetation to reduce soil loss and muddy runoff.

Winter Stormwater Tips cont'd.

- Use de-icing chemicals and salts judiciously. Use what you need to make your walkways and driveways safe, but try to avoid spreading around sensitive areas like waterways. Sweep up any excess when the area is dry.
- Pay special attention to places that are eroding during snow melt, and make a plan to improve these areas in spring using plants that can slow and stop erosion, like native grasses and meadow plants or native trees and shrubs

Together we can all help maintain healthy waterways! □

One of our Finest Honored



Congratulations to Sergeant Ben Wolfson on once again receiving the Top Gun Award from 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 2021 calendar year.

Ben received the award for performing over 50 drug influence evaluations in 2021. □

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. □

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 on-line at www.wmatyourdoor.com, by e-mail at atyourdoor@wm.com or by calling 1-800-449-7587. □

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 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. □

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 or contact the Township at 412-782-1400. □

Community News

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, 2023, new members can join for 50% off the join fee.

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. □

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 and join in - as a student or as an instructor - for an enriching learning experience! □

Fox Chapel Area AAUW Presentation

The Fox Chapel Area affiliate of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) presents:

FANNY KEMBLE AT THE SLAVE PLANTATION

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 10:00 AM

Location: Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church (corner of Fox Chapel and Field Club Roads)

Program: *Fanny Kemble at the Slave Plantation*

A one-woman play performed by Dr. Lydia Axelrod and produced by Ron Flucker.

In observance of Black History Month, Dr. Lydia Axelrod will perform *Fanny Kemble at the Slave Plantation*, a one-woman play lasting about 40 minutes at the February meeting of the American Association of University Women, Fox Chapel Area Branch.

The program is free and open to the public. □

Cooper-Siegel Library Reading Challenge

TEENS/TWEENS

The Amazing Library Race

Friday, December 16 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Use clues to search the library and answer questions that will get your team home first!

Crochet n Things: Thursdays at 6:00 pm (adults welcome also!)

CHILDREN

Weekly Programs:

Spanish & English Storytime: Mondays 10:30 am – 11:00 am (Ages 2 – 5 years old)

Wiggle Storytime: Tuesdays 10:30 am – 11:00 am (Ages 2 and under)

Chinese & English Storytime: Thursdays 10:30 am – 11:00 am (Ages 2 – 5 years old)

Preschool Storytime: Fridays 10:30 am – 11:00 am (Ages 3 -5 years old)

"Noon Year's Eve" Party

Saturday, December 31 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Get ready to ring in the New Year at noon instead of waiting until midnight!

We'll have crafts and activities from 10:00 am - 11:30 am and then end with a special storytime that ends at noon so that we can ring in the New Year. This family program is aimed at kids age 2 - 8, with other ages welcome.

Kids Winter Scavenger Hunt

December 18th through 31st

Find all of the snowmen hidden in the library and receive a special treat!

Read to Grey the Therapy Dog (Ages 6 – 11)

3rd Saturday of the month from 10:30 am – 11:30 am

ADULTS

Book Clubs

Evening Book Club – Fourth Monday of the month from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Booked for Lunch – Second Friday of the month from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Cookbook Club – First Thursday of the month from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

For more information please call 412-828-9520 or visit www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org. □

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
 325 FOX CHAPEL ROAD
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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 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: 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm

Zoning Hearing Board

Scott Duffy, Chairperson
 Karl Kline Richard Lockwood
 Emily Glick, Alternate Thomas Gray, Alternate
 Vacancy, Alternate
 Meetings: 1st 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: 4th Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Civil Service Commission

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

All meetings are open to the public. Check www.ohara.pa.us for specific meeting details.
 All Township citizens are cordially invited to attend.