

# O'HARA NEWSLETTER

Township of O'Hara—A Council Manager Community  
Township Office: 412-782-1400  
Winter Edition 2023  
[www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us)



## Council President Retires



Long time Council President Robert John Smith is retiring from Council. Bob served on Council from January 1998 until December of 2001 as Second Ward Representative. He then served from January 2004 until December 2023 as Council's distinguished President.

Over the years, Bob served on many committees including the Township History Book Committee. He was also involved with the North Hills Council of Governments.

At their December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Council recognized President Smith and At Large Representative John Denny who did not seek reelection for their commitment to the community.

During the meeting, Bob was honored with the naming of the O'Hara Township Community Park Pond in his honor. It will now be known as the Robert John Smith Fishing Pond.

Please join Council and staff in thanking John Denny for his service to the community and congratulating Bob on a well-deserved retirement. □

## It's Electric

The Township of O'Hara Council is proud to announce the addition of three new Level 2 car charging stations. Two join the Level 2 charger at O'Hara Township Community Park and one is at the Township Municipal building. This brings the Township station count to a total of five.

The new stations were paid for in part by a grant from Driving PA Forward. An electrical upgrade to the service at O'Hara Township Community Park was done for free by Duquesne Light. The estimated cost of the upgrade was \$45,000.

The effect of the Township charging station fleet is like planting 437 trees and letting them grow for 10 years. With their use, we have avoided 17,054kg of greenhouse gas emissions.

In December, Township Council approved the addition of two Level 2 stations at the Lauri Ann West Community Center. These stations will be made possible by a free electricity upgrade provided by Duquesne Light. The cost of the upgrade is approximately \$45,000. The cost of the stations is \$23,246. The stations will be the only cost to the Township.

Happy charging!

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## ***Safety Tips from Jay Davis, Police Superintendent***

The O'Hara Township Police Department wishes all a happy and safe holiday season. From late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes, safety should be a top priority for all of us. We have included some tried-and-true advice to assist you in helping your family stay safe and injury-free throughout the season. We encourage all to follow the helpful tips listed below.

### **Traveling for the Holidays: Be Prepared**

If you're traveling this year, be sure your vehicle is in good running condition, get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. Traveling by car during the holidays has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. Hundreds of people die every year in crashes on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Alcohol impairment is involved in about a third of these fatalities.

### **Stay safe on the roads over the holidays - and every day:**

- Prepare your car for winter and keep an emergency kit with you.
- Get a good night's sleep before leaving and avoid drowsy driving. Leave early, plan ahead for heavy traffic.
- Make sure every person in the vehicle is properly buckled up no matter how long or short the distance is.
- Put that cell phone away; many distractions occur while driving, but cell phones are the main culprit.
- Practice defensive driving.
- Designate a sober driver to ensure guests make it home safely after a holiday party; alcohol or over-the-counter prescription medication including medical marijuana and illegal drugs can cause impairment.

### **General Safety and Crime Prevention Tips:**

#### **At Home:**

- Make sure doors and windows have secondary locks (window pins, deadbolts, dowels, etc.) and use them.
- Don't hide spare keys in mailboxes or planters, or under doormats.
- Ensure that dark areas and entrances have outdoor lights that are on after dark or are activated by sensors.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed so they do not conceal doors and windows. Remember, overgrown foliage can provide a hiding place for criminals.
- Place gifts where they can't be seen from the outside.
- Do not advertise to criminals expensive gifts received over the holidays by putting boxes out for the trash. All boxes should be cut up so the contents they held are not easily recognizable. For added security, the cardboard boxes may be taken to a recycling center such as the O'Hara Township's cardboard drop off bin located at the far end of the Township building parking lot.
- Consider safe deposit boxes for coin and stamp collections, seldom-worn jewelry, stock bonds, etc.
- Be sure to mail cards, checks or gift certificates from the Post Office. Due to recent thefts of mail from outside postal drop off boxes, we strongly recommend all mail be dropped off inside the post office.
- Lock your vehicle, remove the keys and remove all the valuables. Especially in your driveway or when parked on the street in front of your home.

#### **Leaving for the Vacation:**

- Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to watch your home.
- Use timers for lights and radios while you're away.
- Remember to make arrangements to stop delivery of mail and newspapers.
- Complete a Vacation Check form advising the O'Hara Township Police Department you will be away.

#### **Avoid Porch Theft - 5 Tips to Protect Your Packages:**

- Network with neighbors.
- Have packages delivered to your work.
- Leave specific drop-off instructions.
- Use a smart lock.
- Install security cameras.

## 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 on 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. If you believe you have not received a bill or have questions regarding your bill please call Jordan Tax Service at 412-345-7962.☐

## Stormwater Management Fee Reduction Program

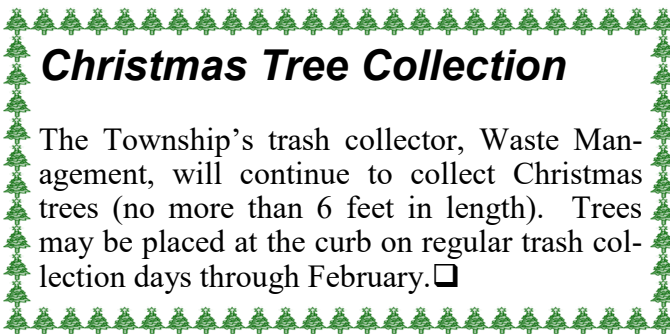
The Township has established a Stormwater Fee Reduction Program intended to provide incentives to reduce the Stormwater System User Fee.

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.☐

## Social Media

“Like” us on Facebook or “Follow” us on “X” (formerly Twitter) at the Township of O’Hara to learn about Township news and events.☐



### 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



Spring leaf collection will be conducted from March 25 - April 5, 2024.

**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 see which Zone your home is in or where collection is taking place, go to [www.ohara.pa.us](http://www.ohara.pa.us) and click the Leaf Collection tab on our homepage. Collection locations will be updated daily.☐



### 2024 Trash/Recycling Holidays

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

Listed below are the 2024 Holidays and re-scheduled Collection days.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Collection Day</u>
Memorial Day	May 27	Friday, May 31
Independence Day	July 4	Friday, July 5
Labor Day	Sept. 2	Friday, Sept. 6
Thanksgiving	Nov. 28	Friday, Nov. 29
Christmas	Dec. 25	Friday, Dec. 27

Thank you for your cooperation!

## Prom Anyone?

Everyone enjoys going to or watching family members attend the prom. But what becomes of the dresses, shoes and jewelry after the exciting night? Township of O'Hara Council has the answer. The Township is partnering with Allegheny County's Project Prom to be an official drop off location for gently used prom style dresses, shoes and costume jewelry. Starting January 15<sup>th</sup> you may drop off your prom gear in the Township building lobby Monday – Friday, from 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. There will be a designated area to hang the dresses and deposit shoes and costume jewelry.

Let's help area teens have an enchanted evening at their Prom! □

## Holiday Light Burn-out

Have burned-out holiday lights and want to recycle them? We have a solution for you. The Township is a drop off site for Michael Brothers and Project Bundle Up. Your burned-out holiday lights are recycled and turned into funds that are then used by project Bundle Up to provide warm winter outerwear for local seniors and children. Lights may be dropped off in our lobby from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, Monday – Friday.

Let your burned-out holiday lights, light up and warm up someone in need. □

## Fun Fact Time

On August 31, 1928, the Township had a very famous visitor. Pilot Amelia Earhart literally fell in a ditch at Rogers Field. She said that she did not take the precaution of flying low over Rodgers Field to examine it from the air. She misjudged the field and after landing smashed her landing gear on a shallow ditch hidden in the grass. She and her passenger were fine, but the plane was damaged.

An identical plane was flown in from New York and parts were stripped from it to repair Amelia Earhart's plane. She and her passenger left Rodgers Field on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Rodgers Field was in the Yorkshire Drive area. □

## Spring Brush Collection



Spring brush collection service will be offered from April 8 - April 19, 2024. 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 19.** 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! □

## **Battery Bucket Recycling**

The Township of O'Hara now offers two ways to recycle Alkaline-Nickel batteries. One is our Household Hazardous Waste program where you call Waste Management at 1-800-449-7587 and they will arrange a pickup of your batteries. The other is our Battery Bucket program where you can drop off your used batteries that fall into one of the below categories:

- Alkaline
- Carbon-Zinc
- NiCad
- NiMH
- Silver Oxide
- Mercury

The battery terminals must be covered in clear packing tape. They may be deposited in the battery bucket in our lobby Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

Look for an announcement soon on how to recycle your rechargeable ion batteries. □

## **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). □



## 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](http://www.wmatyourdoor.com), by e-mail at [atyourdoor@wm.com](mailto: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](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. □

## 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. □

# Community News

## **Cooper-Siegel Library**

### **WINTER PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY**

#### **ADULTS:**

A History of Kaufmann's: Tuesday,  
January 30, 6:30 pm

Open Mah Jong: Play: Fridays at 1:30 pm

Creative Citizens Studio Workshop:

Third Monday, 10:30 am

Chair Yoga: Mondays (4) beginning January 8



#### **TEENS/TWEENS:**

Anime & Cosplay Club: Second Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Creative Corner: Wednesdays, 4:30 pm (Ages 11 – 18)

Crochet-n-Things: Thursdays, 6:00–7:00 pm (Adults are welcome)

Teen After Hours: Third Friday, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

#### **CHILDREN:**

##### **Winter Scavenger Hunt**

Stop by from Dec. 17 – 30 for a Winter Scavenger Hunt.

Find all the hiding snowmen to win a special prize.

Ages 2-11

**Noon-Year's Party**, Saturday, December 30, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

#### **Monthly Programs:**

Chess Club: First Saturday, 1:00–3:00 pm (Ages 6 – 11)

Chinese & English Storytime: Second Saturday, 10:30 am

Pokemon Club: Third Saturday, 1:00 pm

Reading Rockets K-2 Book Club: Third Sunday, 3:30 pm

#### **Weekly Programs:**

Wiggle Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 am (Ages 2 and under)

Make & Take: Tuesdays, 4:30 pm (Grades K - 6)

Preschool Storytime/Spanish Storytime (Alternates):

Fridays, 10:30 am

#### **BOOK CLUBS FOR ADULTS (YEAR-ROUND)**

Booked for Lunch - All genres: Second Friday, Noon – 1:00 pm

Evening (Fiction): Fourth Monday, 7:00 pm

Memoir/History: Third Wednesday, 6:30 pm

#### **FUN HOLIDAY FAMILY EVENT:**

##### **Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol**

Sunday, December 17, 7:00 – 8:30 pm Ages 10+ are welcome. Storytime/crafts available for ages 3 - 9.

Enjoy Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" Live!

Performed/read by candlelight by an actor in period costume!

For more information please call 412-828-9520 or visit

[www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org](http://www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org). □

## **Lauri Ann West Community Center**

Looking to get in shape for the New Year? The Lauri Ann West Community Center in O'Hara Township would like to help you reach your goals!

Members can use the indoor track, group exercise classes, shower facilities, a snack bar, and more.

Memberships also include the fitness center, which offers Peleton bikes, cardio and strength training equipment, and free weights. Members also have access to pickleball and open gym.

Several membership options are available, including those tailored to families, individuals, and seniors. A discount for first responders or military members is also offered.

To learn more about the Lauri Ann West Community Center programs, visit <http://lauriannwestcc.org> or call 412-828-8566. □

## **Fox Chapel Area Adult Education**

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! □

## **Fox Chapel Area AAUW**

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

### ***Fundamentals of Downsizing***

Speaker: Paul Regan ("Paul the Organizer")

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 10:00 am

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

### ***The Bradley Center and Its Mission***

Speaker: Pat Hargest, Director of Development

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 10:00 am

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

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA  
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## TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA MEETING SCHEDULE

### Township Council

Robert J. Smith, At-Large    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 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  
 Thomas Gray    Richard Lockwood  
 Emily Glick, Alternate    Judie Lai, 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.