

O'HARA NEWSLETTER

Township of O'Hara—A Council Manager Community
Township Office: 412-782-1400
Spring Edition 2021
www.ohara.pa.us



Hometown Hero Program

The Township of O'Hara is proud to honor our servicemen and servicewomen by facilitating the Hometown Heroes Banner Program.

This program is a banner tribute created for communities to recognize and honor current or previous residents who are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces. Each banner will honor a specific service person and will include their name, branch of service, medals of valor and a photo (if provided). Banners will be displayed along Township roads to honor and celebrate their dedication to our country.

O'Hara's Hometown Hero applications are chosen on a "first come, first served" basis. Applications will be closed upon reaching the space limitations that the Township has available.

More information and applications are available at the Township office or on the Township's website at www.ohara.pa.us under Hometown Heroes. □

Designation of Distinction

Township of O'Hara Council is pleased to announce that the Township has once again been named a Banner Community by the Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM). This indicates that O'Hara Township implements the best practices in all aspects of their operations and that it is governed in an inclusive, collaborative manner. O'Hara, along with over 45 other municipalities in Allegheny County have received this designation.

Please join us in congratulating Council and Staff on a job well done. □

Road Improvement Program

Bids were opened on Monday, March 15 for the milling and resurfacing portion of the Township's 2021 annual road improvement program. The Township will once again bid with neighboring communities.

Roads scheduled for *milling and resurfacing* are:

Alleyne Drive	Meadow Heights Drive
Division Street	Sacco Park parking lot
Dowling Drive	Village Drive
Joanne Street	Weir Drive
Kappa Drive	

Alternates:

Davonshire Drive	Fox Ridge Farms Drive
Emily Drive	Papercraft Avenue
Fairgrove Drive	Queens Court

During construction season, residents should keep in mind the following:

- ☺ Obey posted speed limits and keep alert for temporary barricades and equipment.
- ☺ Do not remove signs, barricades, covers or cones that are in use in construction areas.
- ☺ When driving past workers or equipment, please follow the directions of the traffic control personnel.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation. □

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Halloween Movies



Kick off the Halloween season with two “frightful” movies. Put on your favorite Halloween costume and come out for a fun Saturday night at the movies.

The Goonies - October 2

Two brothers find a treasure map and set out with their friends to find the “X”. They must overcome booby traps and a gang of desperate thieves in their race to find “One-Eyed Willy’s” loot. (PG)

Happy Halloween Scooby-Doo - October 16

When toxic ooze brings the pumpkin patch to life, Scooby and the gang must join forces with Bill Nye and Elvira to save everyone from the evil intentions of Dr. Jonathan Crane. (PG)

Both movies will be shown at dusk at O’Hara Township Community Park.

**Come out and enjoy a
“HAUNTINGLY FUN” evening!**

****All CDC recommended COVID-19 guidelines must be followed****

Police Department Changes

At the end of February, Officer John Millburn retired from the Township of O’Hara Police Department. John began his career with the Township in April of 1984. He has served with distinction and honor throughout his long career.

The newest face in the Police Department belongs to Officer Ian Hill. Ian joined the department in March of 2020.

Please join Township Council and staff in congratulating John on his well earned retirement and welcoming Ian to the Township. □

Movies in the Park



Everyone is invited to another season of *Movies in the Park* at O’Hara Township Community Park.

The free movies are held on Tuesday and start at dusk, weather permitting. If necessary, the rain date will be the following Thursday.

June 8 - *Jumanji - the Next Level* (PG)

June 22 - *Trolls World Tour* (PG)

July 6 - *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* (PG)

July 20 - *Nightmare Before Christmas* (G)

August 3 - *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* (PG-13)

August 17 - *Raya and the Last Dragon* (PG)

Throwback Thursday Movie

“Throwback Thursday” continues on June 17. This year the movie will be *The Karate Kid* starring Ralph Macchio and Pat Morita (PG).

Date Night Movie

Leave the kiddies at home and come out for the “Date Night” showing of *Knives Out* on Thursday, July 15. Put on your Investigator hat and see if you can figure out “Who Done It?” before debonair Detective Benoit Blanc does. (PG-13)

Come and join the Fun!

****All CDC recommended COVID-19 guidelines must be followed****

Website Under Construction

The Township website has a completely new look and feel. Please bear with us as we work with the design team to construct the best website possible.

Please check out the new look at www.ohara.pa.us. □

Yard Waste Collection

The Township’s trash collection contract with Waster Management provides for curbside collection of yard waste on one Wednesday each month from May - August and October and November.

The following Wednesdays are scheduled as collection days for 2021 - **May 19, June 23, July 21, August 18, October 20 and November 17.**

Residents **must** call 412-784-1784, ext 203 at least **ten (10) days** prior to each scheduled date to request collection. Anyone who fails to notify the Township in time to be put on the list will not qualify for collection that month.

Yard waste includes leaves in biodegradable bags, garden residue, shrubbery trimmings, limbs, twigs, brush, tree trimmings and similar material, but **NOT** grass clippings. All tree trimmings and limbs must be cut in lengths less than 48” and limbs must be less than 3” in diameter. All material must be securely bundled and each bundle must weigh less than 40 lbs.

The Township continues to provide Spring and Fall Brush Collection. For info on the Fall 2021 collection, check the Summer Newsletter or our website at www.ohara.pa.us. □

Real Estate Tax Rebates

On December 8, 2020 O'Hara Township Council adopted Ordinance No. 1377 establishing a real estate tax rebate program for senior citizens.

If you are age 60 or older, have lived in the Township for ten years or more, have an annual income of less than \$30,000 and your Township real estate taxes increased in 2021, you may be eligible for a real estate tax rebate. The rebate equals 25% of the increase in 2021 Township real estate taxes over 2020 Township real estate taxes.

Forms are available at the Township office or on our website by searching for Real Estate Tax Rebate Application. For more information call the Township at 412-782-1400. □

Stormwater - a Multi-Municipality Challenge

Stormwater knows no boundaries. It flows from one community to another until it ultimately reaches the river. In solving stormwater issues, a municipality cannot be an island unto its self. This is why the Township of O’Hara is collaborating with our local neighbors, Allegheny County, Alcosan and PennDOT to address various stormwater concerns.

It is hoped that by working together on possible solutions we will begin to manage problematic stormwater in a more effective manner. □

Help Reduce Stormwater Run-off

One of the most common questions we receive is “How can I help reduce stormwater runoff from my property and possibly reduce my stormwater fee?”. In the Township’s Stormwater Fee Reduction Guide available on our website www.ohara.pa.us or at the Township office, there are many options for reducing stormwater runoff. Some of these are the installation of rain barrels, grass swales and rain gardens.

If you would like to discuss any of these options with the Township Engineer, please call 412-782-1400 and ask to speak with Chuck Steinert, P.E. □

2021 Trash/Recycling Holidays

When a *major* holiday falls on a weekday, 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 remaining 2021 Holidays and rescheduled collection days. Please note there is **no change** for Independence Day, Christmas Day or New Year’s Day 2022 as these Holidays occur on a weekend day.

<u>Holiday</u>		<u>Collection Day</u>
Memorial Day	May 31	Friday, June 4
Labor Day	Sept. 6	Friday, Sept. 10
Thanksgiving	Nov. 25	Friday, Nov. 26

Why the Township of O'Hara Adopted a Stormwater Fee

As a result of the EPA establishing a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (“MS4”) Mandate and the heavy rainfalls in 2018 and 2019 that caused extensive flooding and damage in the Township to residential properties, businesses and municipal infrastructure, various projects and mitigation measures have been designed or are being developed to help ease flooding and stormwater runoff in the future.

The EPA established an MS4 Stormwater Management Program to improve the waterways by reducing the number of pollutants and sediment that stormwater carries into a system during rain. The Township is an MS4 community, as adopted by Ord. No. 1296 in July 2015, and is required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit to discharge stormwater runoff into waterways. The permit also requires the development, implementation and enforcement of a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Program approved by the PADEP. The program includes reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff, educating the public about stormwater, and protecting water quality.

Due to southwestern Pennsylvania’s hilly terrain, clay soils and land development, the natural absorption of water runoff is compromised. Recent storm events produced a greater amount of rainfall in a short period of time causing faster water runoff, which pooled to the bottom of valleys and resulted in flash flooding. Also, clay soils absorb very little rain water and land development creates more impervious surfaces, which may cause the storm sewer system to have untreated, polluted water, contaminated with oil and grease from roads, lawn or farm fertilizers, pesticides, sediment from land development sites, carelessly discarded trash, such as cigarette butts, paper wrappers, plastic bottles, soda cans and other pollutants that enter the rivers, lakes and creeks we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

In the past, the Township funded stormwater projects from tax revenue. Due to the severe storms, particularly in the last two years, and increased regulatory requirements, a stormwater funding program was determined to be the fair and equitable mechanism for the Township to maintain its stormwater services and plan and construct new stormwater facilities. Therefore, on August 11, 2020 the Township adopted a Stormwater System User Fee which is used to provide funds for improving drainage, fulfilling MS-4 regulatory requirements, and reducing pollution carried by stormwater to our waterways by implementing the Comprehensive Stormwater Quality Management Plan required by the EPA. This money is specifically designated for this purpose.

An Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) has been developed for equitable assessment of the fee. Based on a study conducted by Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, Inc. dated March 2020, one ERU contains 3,200 square feet of impervious area, as determined based on a sample of typical residential properties within the Township. A Single Family Residential Property of less than one acre is assessed a fee of 1 ERU. A Large Single Family Residential Property of one acre or greater and a Non-Single Family Residential (commercial, industrial, institutional, etc.) Property is assessed based on the actual amount of impervious surface. The fee for 1 ERU is \$8.00 per month and can be paid on a quarterly basis or annually at a 2% discount.

The Township has also established a Stormwater Fee Reduction Program intended to provide incentives to reduce the Stormwater System User Fee 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, which can reduce the impact their impermeable surface has on waterways and on the Township’s storm sewer infrastructure. This includes measures to reduce the rate and volume of runoff generated from impervious surfaces, along with reducing the amount of pollutants entering the stormwater system. Further explanation of this program and the Stormwater Fee Reduction Application can be found in the “How Do I?” section the of Township’s website www.ohara.pa.us under Stormwater Fee Reduction Guide. □

Polling Place Changes

Allegheny County Elections Division reminds voters that the Polling Place for some O'Hara Township Wards/Districts has changed. Voters in the affected districts were notified by letter from the Elections Division last year.

The Polling Place for Ward 1 - District 1 has been moved to the Fox Chapel Yacht Club -Middle Door Entrance, 1366 Old Freeport Road (formerly Light-house Pointe).

The Polling Place for Ward 2 - Districts 1 and 2 and Ward 4 - District 2 has been moved to St. Joseph Church - Rear Entrance, 342 Dorseyville Road (formerly Kerr Elementary School).

The Allegheny County Elections Division also reminds residents who intend to vote in any election that they may verify their registration, look up their polling place and view a sample ballot online at the County's "On Election Day" webpage located at: <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/elections/on-election-day.aspx>. □

Veterans' Real Estate Tax Exemption

Pennsylvania residents who are honorably discharged veterans with qualifying disabilities may be exempt from paying real estate taxes "on any building" that serves as the veteran's principal residence with a five-acre land limit where the building stands. Qualifying disabilities include but may not be limited to the following:

- You must be a 100% service-connected disabled veteran.
- The disability should have occurred during a *war service period*.
- The disabled veteran must also demonstrate the financial need for tax exemption.

To apply for the Veteran's Real Estate Tax exemption, contact Allegheny County Veterans' Services at 412-621-4357. For more information on this program or other Veterans' Services available to Allegheny County residents visit <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Veterans/index.aspx>. □

Important Phone Numbers

Animal Control

Hoffman Kennels..... 724-468-5505

Community Center / Library

Lauri Ann West Community Ctr ... 412-828-8566

Cooper-Siegel Community Library 412-828-9520

Fire/EMS Departments (Non-Emergency)

Parkview EMS 412-449-1080

Parkview VFD 412-781-9728

Pleasant Valley VFC..... 412-781-8108

Fox Chapel Area School District

Fox Chapel High School..... 412-963-9600

Dorseyville Middle School 412-767-5343

Fairview Elementary..... 412-963-9315

Hartwood Elementary..... 412-767-5396

Kerr Elementary..... 412-781-4105

O'Hara Elementary 412-963-0333

Road Maintenance/Snow Removal

Allegheny County Public Works ... 412-350-4636

PA Department of Transportation . 412-781-3260

Tax Collection

Keystone Collection Group (EIT) . 866-539-1100

Jordan Tax Service (Real Estate)... 412-345-7962

Trash Collection

Waste Management 800-458-4090

WM "At Your Door" Service 800-449-7587

Utilities

Comcast Cable 800-266-2278

Verizon FIOS..... 800-837-4966

Duquesne Light - Emergency 888-393-7000

Duquesne Light - Customer Svc... 412-393-7100

Peoples' Natural Gas 800-764-0111

Fox Chapel Authority (Water)..... 412-963-0212

Hampton Shaler Water Authority.. 412-486-4867

County, State and Federal Elected Officials

Allegheny County Chief Executive

Rich Fitzgerald..... 412-350-6500

County Council

Anita Prizio - District 3 Rep 412-350-6490

PA State Senator / Representatives

Lindsey Williams - Senator 412-364-0469

Sara Innamorato - 21st Dist Rep... 412-781-2750

Lori Mizgorski - 30th Dist Rep..... 412-487-6605

Anthony DeLuca - 32nd Dist Rep.. 412-793-2448

U.S. Senators / Representatives

Robert P. Casey, Jr. - Senator 412-803-7370

Patrick J. Toomey - Senator..... 412-803-3501

Conor Lamb - Representative 412-344-5583

Magisterial District 05-2-04

District Judge/Magistrate 412-784-8555

Hard to Recycle Collection

The Pennsylvania Resources Council will hold a Hard to Recycle Collection at the Pittsburgh Mills Mall from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, May 22.

For a list of acceptable items and fees, visit <http://prc.org/programs/collection-events/hard-recycle-collections/west/>.

Household Hazardous Waste

Residents have the opportunity to safely dispose of common Household Hazardous Waste. This collection held by the Pennsylvania Resources Council, takes place at the North Park Swimming Pool parking lot on Saturday, May 1 from 9 am to 1 pm.

For a list of acceptable items and fees, visit <https://prc.org/programs/collection-events/household-chemicals/>.

Pre-registration is required for all PRC events. Please go to www.prc.org for more information. □

Same Face – New Position

The Township has a new Stormwater Coordinator/Code Enforcement Officer but he is not new to our staff. Chris Komora joined the Township's Public Service Department in 2006. Starting this January, Chris became a member of the Administrative staff. Some of Chris's duties will be inspecting stormwater facilities and catch basins, inspecting rental properties, maintaining required MS4 information and code enforcement.

Please join Council and staff in congratulating Chris on his new position. □

Recreational Fire Permits

This is a reminder to all residents who like to roast marshmallows and tell ghost stories while sitting around the campfire. Remember to get your recreational fire permit from the Township for 2021. There is no fee associated with this permit. The form is available at www.ohara.pa.us under Documents & Forms or at the Township office. □

Recreational Vehicles

The Township adopted an updated Zoning Ordinance in January 2020. One of the updates addresses recreational vehicles. The Ordinance allows for one recreational vehicle 25' or less to be parked in a driveway with a permit issued by the Township from the Sunday before Memorial Day to the Saturday after Labor Day.

Please see our Zoning Ordinance for further details and conditions. It can be found under Zoning in Documents & Forms at www.ohara.pa.us. The permit application is also available in Documents & Forms under Building Official/Code Enforcement. □

Attention Archery Hunters

Tryouts for the deer management program in O'Hara Township, run in conjunction with Whitetail Management Associates, will be held on Sunday, May 2 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Northside Sportsman's Association in Warrendale, PA. If interested, you **must** call the Police Department at 412-782-1403 for further information and mandatory program requirements. □

Long Range Joint Implementable Plan

The Township of O'Hara, jointly with Fox Chapel Borough, is undertaking an update to its Comprehensive Plan, the official policy document that establishes a vision, goals and objectives for local government in the long range. The Implementable Comprehensive Plan approach flips the script on the traditional way communities approach long-range planning, which all too often results in a document collecting dust on a shelf. Our project focuses on generating the capacity and momentum to take action on consensus community priorities. The process will provide the creative ideas and strategies to fuel action plans that can be readily undertaken. It makes implementation a well-supported, clear and feasible next step.

The committee charged with this project is made up of members from both communities. Currently, the committee is finalizing a Request for Proposal to select a consultant to shepherd the group through the development process. The group meets via Zoom every other Thursday. Please see our calendar at www.ohara.pa.us for meeting dates and Zoom information. □

Community News

Cooper-Siegel Library Events

All in-person service is currently suspended at the Cooper-Siegel Community Library and Sharpsburg Community Library. Curbside service is offered at both locations.



Remote Printing - Now an easier way to print remotely from home or your phone! Just e-mail coop-ersiegelcommunitylibrary@gmail.com with what you'd like to print and it will be printed! You can pick it up by calling 412-828-9520 x5015 when you get to the parking lot during curbside service hours. B/W prints are \$.15 and color prints are \$.50. Cash or credit card accepted.

CreativeBug! - Allegheny County now has access to CreativeBug! If you have a library card from anywhere in the County, you can experience the joy of MAKING with thousands of award-winning video classes taught by top designers and artists.

Free e-Resources - Check out a list of e-resources that include e-books, e-magazines, audio books, movies, TV shows and music that you can access from home with your library card.

FCASD Creative Connections Capstone - A cohort of FCASD elementary students spent the first semester eagerly exploring creative writing and experiencing the process of becoming a published author. The Library is pleased to host the e-books created by the second through fifth grade students.

Binge Boxes - Binge Boxes are available for curbside check out. What is a Binge Box? It is a set of 3-5 DVDs with the same theme boxed together so you can binge watch them from home!

Surprise Bundles - Request a set of books, DVDs, audio books or other library materials to be pulled by the Library staff. Just fill out the Surprise Bundle form and the Library staff will create a "surprise" set of materials for you to check out.

Find more information on all programs and virtual events at: www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org or by calling 412-828-9520. □

Summer Fest at Lauri Ann West

Summer Fest at Lauri Ann West will be returning the week of June 7, 2021 with full and half-day camp options for kids ages 3-12. The camps features a mixture of sports, STEAM discovery, activities in the gym and outdoor time in the sunshine. Your child will never be bored! They'll be exploring new adventures each day and new themes every week.

Full day, week long camps for children ages 8 – 12 include Mission to Mars, Toys That Move, Minecraft Camp, Maker Camp, Water Week, Making Music: Building Instruments, Heroines and Heroes of Greek Mythology, Optical Tricks and Illusions, Flight Week and Spy Camp.

Full day, week long camps for children ages 5 – 6 include Animal Camp, Space Camp, Planet Earth Camp, Maker Camps, Nature Camp, Explorer Camp, Fine Art Camp, Under the Sea Camp and Fantasy Camp.

Preschool (ages 3 – 5) half-day, week long camps include Colors, All About Me, Outer Space, STEAM for Pre-K, Silly Science, Bugs & Insects, Fun & Whimsy, Boom Splat Explosions and Farewell Summer.

The cost for each week of full day Camp Lauri Ann West is \$285 for members and \$315 for non-members. Half-day, week long camps are \$135 for members and \$155 for non-members.

Specialty Enrichment Camps are also offered and include All About Cats, Ceramics, Mad Science: Brixology, All About Dogs, Gemini Little Theater, Bigfoot Camp, Wilderness Medicine, Mad Science: Red Hot Robots and Little Doctor School.

Registration for Summer Fest 2021 is now open. More information and on-line registration is available at: <https://lauriannwestcc.org/summer-camp-2021/> or e-mail Jason Fate, Programs Manager, at jfate@lauriannwestcc.org with any questions.

Local, state and national guidance will be followed to ensure all recommended COVID-19 safety measures are met. □

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
 325 FOX CHAPEL ROAD
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 (412) 782-1400
 www.ohara.pa.us

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**TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
 MEETING SCHEDULE**

Township Council

Robert John Smith, At-Large, President Charles A. Vogel, Ward 1, Vice President
 George H. Stewart, Ward 2 Gregory Caprara, Ward 3
 Allison Berger, Ward 4 Cassandra Eccles, Ward 5 John R. Denny, At-Large

Regular meeting: Second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 pm
 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
 Vacancy Joseph M. Kelly
 Giovanni Scolieri Joseph Zgurzynski
 Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm

Zoning Hearing Board

Scott Duffy, Chairperson
 Richard Lockwood Barbara Simanek
 Thomas Gray, Alternate Karl Kline, Alternate
 Lisa Steimer, 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 Vacancy
 Vacancy Robert R. Ward
 Meetings: 2nd Monday, 6:00 pm

All meetings are open to the public. See our website for further details.
 All Township citizens are cordially invited to attend.