

O'HARA NEWSLETTER

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



Bike Fix-it Station

Township of O'Hara Council is pleased to promote healthy and sustainable transportation. Coming soon to O'Hara Community Park - a Bike Fix-It Station will be installed. The Fix-It Station is an integrated bike stand, air pump and all necessary bike tools in one. This station allows bikers to repair their bikes on the go. There is no charge for use of the station. The new Station will be green.

The Fix-It Station will be included on the BikePGH website <https://bikepgh.org> as part of their Fix-It Station location map.



Happy Biking to all! ☐

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 will be opened on Thursday, April 7 for the milling and resurfacing portion of the Township's 2022 annual road improvement program. The Township will once again bid with Fox Chapel Borough.

Roads scheduled for **milling and resurfacing** are:

Emily Drive	Kappa Drive
Farmington Road	Papercraft Avenue
Field Club Road	Westchester Drive
Joanne Street (North)	Westchester Place

Alternates:

Alpha Drive	Maurers Lane
Glen Brook Drive	W. Marshall Drive

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



Put on your favorite Halloween costume and come out for a **HAUNTINGLY** fun Saturday evening at the movies.

***Nightmare before Christmas* (PG)** - October 1
Follow the misadventures of Jack Skellington, leader of Halloweentown, as he discovers Christmastown and schemes to kidnap Santa Claus in order to celebrate a very different kind of Christmas.

***Addams Family* (PG-13)** - October 15
Watch what happens when the bizarre, macabre, aristocratic Addams family reunites with long-lost Uncle Fester, only to find out he's the adopted son of a loan shark trying to swindle them out of their fortune. (LIVE ACTION)

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

Recreational Vehicles

The Township adopted Zoning Ordinance No. 1361 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. The permit is valid from the Sunday before Memorial Day to the Saturday after Labor Day.

Please see Zoning Ordinance No. 1361 for further details and conditions. It can be found under Zoning in Documents & Forms or by searching Zoning Ordinance at www.ohara.pa.us. The permit application is also available in Documents & Forms under Building Official/Code Enforcement or by searching Recreational Vehicle. □

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 7 - ***Space Jam: A New Legacy* (PG)**
- June 21 - ***Sing 2* (PG)**
- July 5 - ***Shang-Chi* (PG-13)**
- July 19 - ***Disney's A Christmas Carol* (PG)**
- August 2 - ***Jungle Cruise* (PG)**
- August 16 - ***Luca* (G)**

Throwback Thursday Movie - June 16

Be transported ***Back to the Future* (PG)** with Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd.

Date Night Movie - Thursday, July 28

Leave the kiddies at home and come out for the "Date Night" showing of ***Mamma Mia* (PG-13)**.

****NEW* Mystery Movie - Saturday, September 10***

Put on your investigator hat and see if you can figure out "Whodunit?" before ***Sherlock Gnomes* (PG)** and Watson do.

Come and join the Fun!

All CDC recommended COVID-19 guidelines must be followed

Recreational Fire Permits



This is a reminder to all residents who like to sit around the campfire roasting marshmallows and telling ghost stories, don't forget to get your recreational fire permit from the Township for 2022. There is no fee for this permit. The form is available at www.ohara.pa.us under Documents & Forms or at the Township office. □

WM 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 2022 - **May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, October 19 and November 16.**

Residents **must** call 412-784-1784, ext 203 or e-mail WMYardWaste@ohara.pa.us 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 information on the Fall 2022 collection, check the Summer Newsletter or our website at www.ohara.pa.us. □

Real Estate Tax Rebates

On December 14, 2021 O'Hara Township Council adopted Ordinance No. 1391 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 2022, you may be eligible for a real estate tax rebate. The rebate equals 25% of the increase in 2022 Township real estate taxes over 2021 Township real estate taxes.

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

What is Stormwater and Where Does it Go?

Stormwater is rain and melted snow. When not absorbed into the ground it runs off properties: along streets, down storm drains through a complex network of pipes that carry it into local waterways.

Stormwater flows from municipality to municipality until it is finally discharged into a waterway.

The combination of heavy rain and hard surfaces covering our area is resulting in more water making its way into the stormwater system.

The Township has extensive information and resources available on our website for our residents to learn about stormwater and what they can do to help reduce stormwater run-off and keep our waterways clean. Just click the Stormwater button on our homepage at www.ohara.pa.us. □

2022 Trash/Recycling Holidays

Waste Management, the Township’s trash and recycling contractor, observes the following **major** Holidays: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. If one of these Holidays falls before the regular trash/recycling collection day (Thursday), collection will be one day later (Friday). Collection is not affected by any other Holiday or when the Holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday.

Listed below are the remaining 2022 Holidays and the rescheduled collection days. Please note there will be **no change** for Christmas Day 2022 or New Year’s Day 2023 as these Holidays occur on a weekend.

<u>Holiday</u>		<u>Collection Day</u>
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

“Community Cat” Information

“Community Cat” is a term used to describe an outdoor, owned or unowned, free-roaming cat. Have you seen a stray or community cat in your neighborhood, and are even feeding it or know someone who is? Although it is a kindness to feed the cat, it is only part of what could be done.

Experts and humane animal rescue organizations agree that one of the best ways to help free-roaming or community cats is through Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) programs. By humanely trapping the cats, neutering/spaying (some programs also offer vaccination) and returning them to their locations, TNR prevents proliferation of cats and allows colonies to gradually shrink.

Several local organizations offer free or low cost TNR programs. Visit their websites or give them a call for more information on their programs.

Animal Friends - 412-847-7000

<https://www.thinkingoutsidethecage.org/pet-resources/feral-and-community-cats/>

Homeless Cat Management Team - 412-321-4060

<http://www.homelesscat.org/about-us.html>

Humane Animal Rescue - 412-345-7300

<https://humaneanimalrescue.org/programs-and-services/other-programs/community-cats/>

TNR efforts can help ensure the health of outdoor cats and the health of the community, while also curbing nuisance behaviors. □

Water Deduct Meters

Summer is coming and if you are planning the installation of a swimming pool or a new irrigation system, you may want to consider installing a water deduct meter. This meter will deduct any water usage for these items from the sewer portion of your water and sewer bill. Without a deduct meter, you will be charged sewage fees on all of the water used even if it doesn't go down the sewer.

Contact your water company for more information on the installation of the deduct meter. □

License Your Dog

In Pennsylvania all dogs three months or older must be licensed by Jan. 1 of each year. Violators can be cited with a maximum fine of \$300 per violation plus court costs.



Reasons for dog licensing:

- It's the law. All dogs three months and older must have a current license.
- If your dog gets lost, a license is the best way to get them back. A license helps animal control and shelters identify your dog and get them back home safely.
- The cost of a license is less than the penalty for being caught without one. An annual license is \$8.50 and a lifetime license is \$51.50. If the animal is spayed or neutered, the annual fee is \$6.50 and lifetime is \$31.50. Discounts are available to older adults and people with disabilities. Owners who fail to license their dogs could face a fine of up to \$300 for each unlicensed dog.
- License fees support animal control. The annual fee you pay to license your dog helps keep shelters running and supports the work of the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, which is responsible for ensuring the welfare of dogs, regulating dangerous dogs and overseeing annual licensing and rabies vaccinations.

Dog license applications are simple and only request owner contact information and details about the dog being licensed, including name, age, breed and color. Applications are available from Allegheny County Treasurer, John Weinstein. For more information visit <https://alleghenycountytreasurer.us/dog-license/> or call 412-350-4111. □

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 1 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. □

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 processed 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. □

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 / Xfinity..... 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

Matthew Rudzki - Magistrate 412-784-8555

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

Pennsylvania Resources Council

Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC) is Pennsylvania's oldest grassroots environmental organization working to protect the Commonwealth's resources for future generations through environmental education, recycling, waste diversion programs, anti-litter campaigns and much more.

PRC hosts many recycling collection events including the following:

Hard to Recycle Collection - Pittsburgh Mills Mall from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, June 4.

Household Hazardous Waste - North Park Swimming Pool from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, May 7.

Electronics Recycling - North Park Swimming Pool
Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 11 am - 2 pm
Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20, & 27 from 2 pm - 5 pm

Pre-registration is required for all PRC recycling collection events. For more information on the items that will be collected at each event and any associated fees, or to register online please visit www.prc.org. You can also register by calling 412-488-7490 x1. □

Garden and Landscape Symposium

The much-celebrated Master Gardener Plant Sale and Marketplace is back and in-person. Launch your garden into spring by shopping for unique plants and garden-related merchandise. The Garden Marketplace which is free and open to the public, features more than a dozen regional vendors, as well as the Allegheny County Master Gardener Plant Sale. The Plant Sale committee has ordered over 850 plants and plugs which will be grown by our own master gardener greenhouse committee. Come early, shop and then stay for the Birds, Bees and Trees Symposium.

The 26th Annual Garden and Landscape Symposium, Garden Marketplace and Plant Sale is Saturday, April 30, from 9 am - 3 pm at the Hampton Township Community Center, 3101 McCully Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101. For information and Symposium details visit: <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/master-gardener/counties/allegheny/news/2022/26th-annual-virtual-garden-and-landscape-symposium>. □

Community News

Cooper-Siegel Community Library

Spring Story Times and STEAM Workshops

Preschool (3-5) Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 - 11 am

Spanish & English Storytime (Infants – 5 years old):

Fridays, 10:30 - 11 am

STEAM Workshop: Saturdays, stop in anytime between
10 am - 3 pm

Crochet N Things (Teens/Adults) - Thursdays, 6 - 7 pm

Teen Discord (Virtual) Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm

The Art of Reiki - Saturday, April 9, 10 am - 12 pm

History of Idlewild Park - Sunday, April 10, 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Edith & Kurt Leuchter: A Story of Love and Resilience

Thursday, April 14, 6:30 - 8 pm

Read to Grey the Therapy Dog - Saturday, April 16 and

Saturday, May 21, 10:30 - 11:30 am

Author Talk with Robert McCutcheon -

Saturday, April 16, 1 - 2 pm

Cheese Tasting with Chantel's -

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 - 8 pm

Meet Authors Nick Courage & Rachel Ekstrom Courage

Thursday, June 16, 6:30 - 8 pm

Year-round Book Clubs:

Nonfiction: 3rd Monday, 2 - 3 pm

Booked for Lunch: 2nd Friday, Noon - 1 pm

Evening: 4th Monday, 7 - 8 pm

Grownups Reading Children's Books: 3rd Thursday, 7 - 8 pm

Visit www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org or call the library at 412-828-9520 for more information. □



Save the Date

GARDENFEST

Presented by

Fox Chapel Garden Club

Saturday, May 7th

9:30 - 3:00

*O'Hara Township
Community Park*

www.foxchapelgardenclub.org



Trillium Garden Club Plant Sale

The Trillium Garden Club is pleased to announce its annual fundraiser plant sale returns this year on Saturday, May 14 at O'Hara Township Community Park, from 9 am to 2 pm. On sale will be a wonderful selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets and planters as well as the always popular perennial plants dug from the members' gardens.

Proceeds from the sale benefit community projects such as O'Hara Township Community Park, Blawnox Community Garden, Aspinwall Riverfront Park, Cooper-Siegel Library, Lauri Ann West Community Center, Camp Guyasuta and Beechwood Farms. □

Lauri Ann West Community Center

The Lauri Ann West Community Center's ongoing KNOWbodies: Knowledge Through Perspective Speaker Series continues with thought-provoking presentations in April and May. The series invites distinguished guests from across the country to share their knowledge and individual experiences on a wide variety of topics with the community.

Upcoming events include:

In Conversation with Photographer Angelo Merendino
7:30 pm Sunday, April 24 Free admission

Having gained worldwide notoriety with his photo-documentary, *The Battle We Didn't Choose—My Wife's Fight With Breast Cancer*, the Cleveland-based portrait and brand narrative photographer often encourages conversation about difficult topics to gain introspection into oneself and build an understanding of others. Diverging from the traditional series format, Angelo will participate in a conversational interview for a deeper perspective into his work, life and philosophies.

The Secrets Hidden In Our Handwriting with Michelle Dresbold

7 pm Sunday, May 22 \$15 (\$10 CC members)

Michelle Dresbold is recognized as one of the top handwriting analysis experts in the nation. As the only civilian graduate of the United States Secret Service's Advanced Document Examination Program, Michelle provides expert services to prosecutors, private attorneys and police departments throughout the United States. Her testimony has been cited as a key factor in many cases involving embezzlement, fraud, forgery, arson, stalking and murder.

Register online at lauriannwestcc.org/speakerseries or call Nadine Ostrowski at 412-828-8566 (ext.105). □

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA
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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 R. Eccles, Ward 5, Vice President
 Richard S. Hughes, Ward 1 George H. Stewart, Ward 2
 Michael Hammill, Ward 3 Olivia T. Payne, Ward 4 John R. Denny, At-Large

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

Planning Commission

Edward M. Crates, Chairperson
 Charles F. Bleil Richard Citrin
 Joseph M. Kelly Giovanni Scolieri
 Jerry Nist 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. See our website for further details.
 All Township citizens are cordially invited to attend.