

O'HARA NEWSLETTER

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



Where Does the Rain Go?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a body of water such as a stream, creek, river or lake. Rain or snow that falls anywhere in that watershed eventually flows to that water body. All of us depend on our watershed for the water we use. Some rainfall seeps into the ground and is stored in underground bodies of water called aquifers. Some of the water is soaked up by plants and wetland areas. Water that is not stored in plants or the ground becomes runoff.

The storm drain system is responsible for carrying all stormwater (rain) from your watershed to local streams. The storm drain system is not connected to the wastewater system, which drains water from the plumbing of your home. Storm drains do not send water to a treatment facility where it is cleaned. That means the rainwater and everything it touches – from dirt, motor oil, trash, and pet waste – flows straight into creeks, streams, and local waterways.

This rainwater, or polluted runoff, comes from things we do every day. Anything you dump or drop on the ground adds to polluted runoff. The most common pollutants result from littering. Trash like fast-food wrappers, plastic water bottles, soda cans, plastic cups, foam cups, and even pet waste can end up polluting our local waterways. This pollution can cause damage aquatic animals and plants.

So what are some things you can do to help? Never put anything down storm drains. Do not over fertilize your yard and consider using an organic fertilizer. Fix car leaks of oil and other fluids promptly. Clean up your pet waste. Clean up trash and debris you see.

Each small step we take helps in the fight for clean water. □

Community Liaison Officer

Township Council would like to remind residents of our Community Liaison Program. The program will focus on connecting our Police with our communities. Effort will be made to engage ethnic minority groups and communities, the LGBTQ community, culturally-specific communities, neighborhoods, community groups and others to foster cooperation and understanding. A safe environment for the free flow of conversation and ideas will be maintained to seek opinions about policing and identify any concerns. It is hoped that these conversations, discussions and ideas create positive experiences in how we interact and police the Township. It is also expected that the program will foster additional public trust in our Officers and Department.

Our Liaison Officer(s) will be available to collaborate with residents, communities, businesses, neighbors and visitors to focus on areas of specific concern(s). The Officer(s) will develop an extensive knowledge of the concern(s) and work to provide assistance for a positive outcome.

Virtual or in person meetings are available. If anyone would like to reach out to our Community Liaison Officer(s) please call (412) 782-1403 and ask to speak with a Liaison Officer or send an e-mail to:

communityliaison@ohara.pa.us. □

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Coal Tar Sealant Resolution

On May 11, 2021, Township Council unanimously passed Resolution R-38-2021 recommending the use of alternate asphalt seal coating products to the use of coal tar-based products.

Asphalt sealants are used to prolong the life and appearance of asphalt. However, some sealcoats can be as toxic as their pungent aroma. Asphalt sealcoats containing coal tar are a known environmental and health concern. Stopping the use of coal tar-based asphalt sealcoats can reduce the health and environmental dangers these products pose.

Coal tar-based asphalt sealants have environmental effects. They are washed into stormwater runoff from parking lots and driveways. Sealcoats deteriorate into fine particles, which then are swept into storm drains during rain events. The contaminated runoff flows into our streams and rivers. This can be toxic to aquatic life.

The public can be exposed to coal tar-containing sealcoat dust and vapor. Coal tar-based asphalt sealants applied to driveways, parking lots or playgrounds can find its way inside schools and homes, potentially exposing children and adults to toxic carcinogens via skin contact, inhalation or ingestion.

Alternate asphalt sealcoat products provide similar performance and cost about the same, without the negative effects of coal tar.

Most home improvement stores only offer alternate products, so if you are sealing your driveway yourself you should be in good shape. However, if you plan to hire a company to seal a driveway or parking lot, please ensure that they are using an alternate sealing product and not a coal tar-based product.

Being aware of the differences among asphalt sealcoats can help make our community a healthier place for all. □

Social Media

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

Fall Leaf Collection



The Fall leaf collection program will begin on October 18. The final collection round will begin December 1. This means that ***once an area is collected after December 1, any leaves placed at the curb will not be picked up.***

As in the past, the east and west sections of the Township have been divided into zones. This enables the Public Service Department to follow a set collection route and better communicate with the residents as to where leaf collection is currently being conducted, where it has been done and where it will be done next.

The Township website will be updated daily with this information. Visit www.ohara.pa.us and look for the link to Leaf Collection.

Residents are reminded that leaves must be placed within four (4) feet of the curb, ***but not in the street.*** Leaves left in the street can create a safety hazard, especially if it rains or snows. Ordinance #1273 provides for fines for those who unlawfully and substantially interfere with, obstruct or render dangerous for use or passage any street, road, sidewalk, river or public way or place.

Remember that no other debris may be mixed in with the leaves. Also, placement of obstacles in front of the leaves may hinder collection. A request is made that cars, trash cans or other objects not block access to the leaves. A notice will be left at any home where there is a problem with the collection of leaves. This door hanger will give the reason for the non-collection and give a phone number to call for further collection information.

Please call the Township at 412-784-1784, ext. 203 with any questions or comments regarding the leaf collection program. □

Movies in the Park

Everyone is invited to another season of Movies in the Park at O'Hara Township Community Park. The free movies start at dusk, weather permitting. If necessary, the rain date for the Tuesday movies will be the following Thursday.

- 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)

Date Night Movie - Thursday

- July 15 - *Knives Out* (PG)

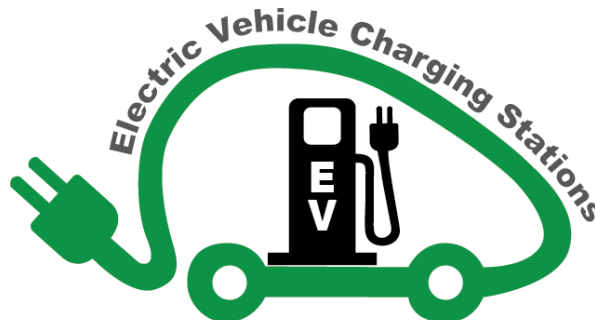
Halloween Movies - Saturday

- October 2 - *The Goonies* (PG)
October 16 - *Happy Halloween Scooby Doo* (PG)

Come join the Fun!!!

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

Electric Car Charging Stations



The Township of O'Hara has two electric car charging stations with two plugs each. One is located in O'Hara Township Community Park and one at the Lauri Ann West Community Center.

We have been asked what effect these stations have had on the environment. The Township has Charge-point stations and we are able to access this information.

The stations were installed in August 2019. Since installation, the stations' use has avoided 2,890 kg of greenhouse gas emissions. This is like planting 74 trees and letting them grow for 10 years.

Thanks for helping us help our environment. □

Solicitation Regulations

The Township regulates "for profit" door-to-door solicitors and requires them to obtain permits. They are given the Do Not Solicit List when their permit is issued. Per Federal law, the Township cannot regulate "non-profit" solicitors. We do ask that when they are in the Township they notify us and follow our Do Not Solicit List.

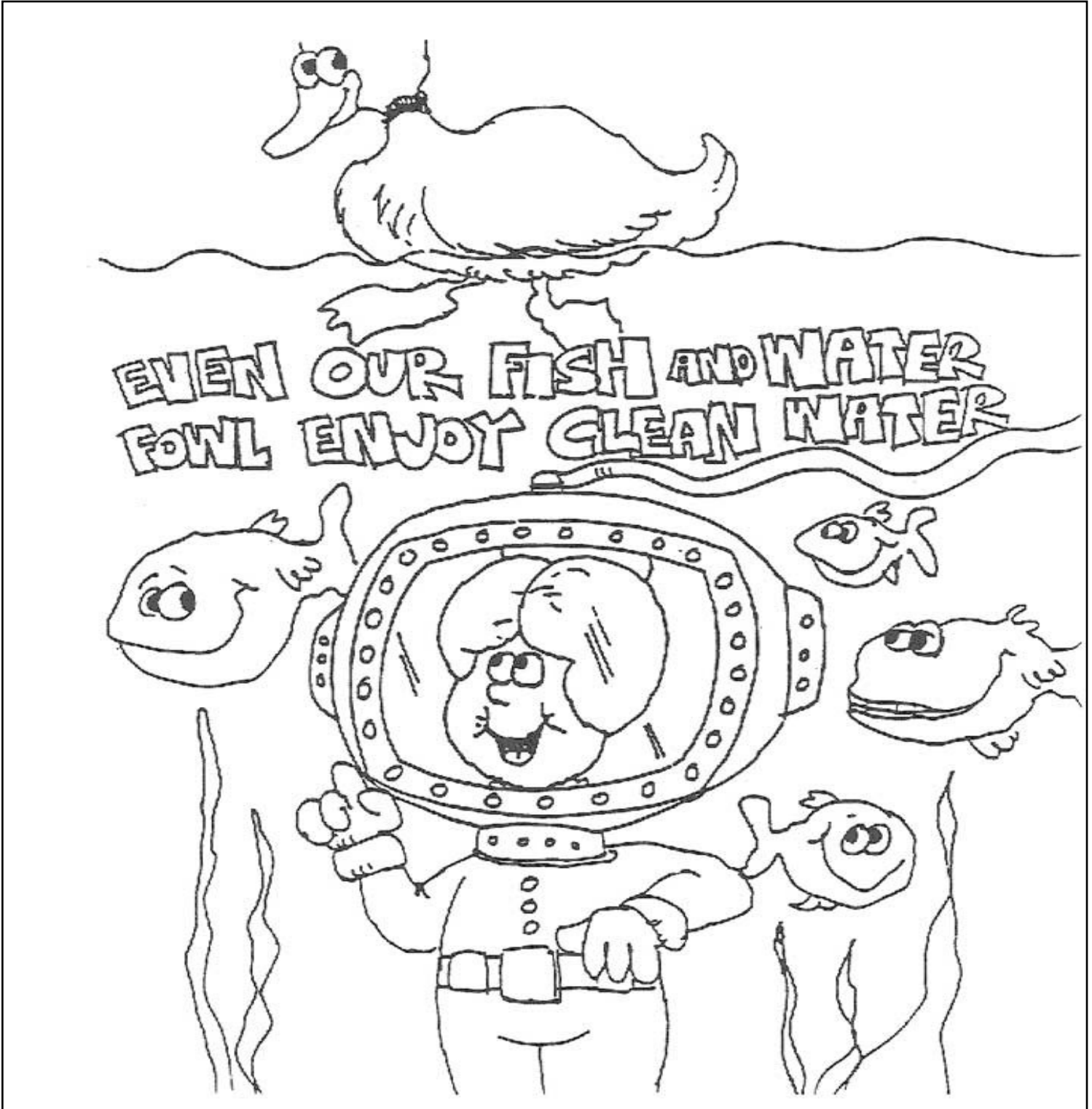
Residents who do not want solicitors at their home may complete a No Solicitation Request at the Police station or download one at www.ohara.pa.us and mail it in or drop it off. This list is given to solicitors and they are not permitted to solicit these homes. Residents may also place a **NO SOLICITORS** sign on their door or window and solicitors are not permitted to solicit these homes. Please feel free to cut out and post the sign below.

If you experience any problems with a solicitor, please call the Police department. □

NO SOLICITORS

Coloring Contest

Children up to 12 years old can send in or drop off this coloring page at the Township office at 325 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 until July 23 when all names will be placed in a drawing for a gift card from an O'Hara Township food establishment. Please mark the child's name and a contact number on the back. ☐



Fall Brush Collection



It may be Summer now, but Fall is not far away. So that you may plan ahead, here is information that may be important to your Fall landscaping plans.

Requests for the Township's Fall brush collection service will be accepted from September 20 to October 1. Requests for collection **will not** be accepted after 4:30 pm on October 1. However, collection will continue until brush is collected from all residents who have called in requests. Brush **will not** be collected from homes not on the list.

Residents should call 412-784-1784, ext. 203 to request collection and be prepared to leave their name, address and telephone number.

Requests are for one pick-up only. **If additional material is placed at the curb after collection, another request for collection must be made.**

Township Brush Collection Regulations

- Limbs and brush must be placed along the curb within 4 feet of the street, ***but not in the street.***
- Limbs 4 inches or less in diameter may not exceed 8 feet in length. Limbs 4 to 6 inches in diameter may not exceed 4 feet in length.
- Limbs/logs larger than 6 inches in diameter will not be picked-up.
- Hedges, vines, shrubs and other brush must be separated from tree limbs and securely tied in bundles not to exceed 16 inches in diameter.
- All root balls or dirt must removed. Brush with root balls or dirt attached will not be picked-up.
- Residents are reminded that this is not a tree removal service. Each property is limited to one truckload of brush equal to about six cubic yards.
- Wood chips may be available upon request by calling Loren Kephart, 412-784-1784, ext. 206.

A notice will be left at homes where the brush is not properly prepared for collection explaining why the brush was not collected and will give a phone number to call for further information.

In advance, thank you for your cooperation.☐

Recreational Fire Permits

This is a reminder to all residents who like to tell ghost stories around and eat marshmallows roasted over a camp fire. Remember to get your recreational fire permit from the Township for 2021.



There is no fee associated with this permit. The application form is available at the Township office or on the Township website at www.ohara.pa.us under ***Documents and Forms/Code Enforcement Ordinances.***☐

Reminders from the Police

The Township of O'Hara Police Department offers the following reminders to our residents:

Regularly:

- Make sure to always lock your car doors and rollup your car windows.
- Always lock your home doors and windows.
- Consider installing deadbolt locks on all entrance and egress doors.
- Use your porch light at night.
- Consider installing motion sensor lighting in the back of your home.
- If you think you see something suspicious call 911 right away, we are here to serve.

When Travelling:

- Send a vacation check request form into the Police Department to have your home checked daily by an officer. The form is available on our website under documents and forms. The form may be sent via e-mail to info@ohara.pa.us.
- Consider using electronic, digital or manual light timers in your home to switch lights on and off.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up your mail or stop your mail at the post office.
- Try not to have packages delivered to sit outside your home; ask a neighbor to retrieve them or wait to order products until you are home.
- Let friends and family know how to contact you in case there is an emergency with your home.

By following theses simple guidelines, you can help us take a bite out of crime.☐

Vacation Checks



Summer is here and residents may be traveling out of town on vacation or to visit family members.

So you can enjoy your visit without worrying about your home, you may wish to have a Police Officer check your home on a regular basis while you are away.

The Vacation Check form is available at the Police station or on our website at www.ohara.pa.us under the Documents/Forms section. Print and complete the form and just drop it off at the Police station. □

Comments Encouraged

Township Manager, Julie Jakubec encourages 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. □

Smoke Detector Reminders

Parkview Volunteer Fire Department and EMS and Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Company wish to remind all residents about the importance of checking your smoke detector batteries on a regular basis. A smoke detector can save your life. So, plan on checking the batteries of all your smoke detectors on a monthly basis. Also, remember a good time to replace your batteries is every time the clock springs forward and falls back.

A reminder for everyone who has hard-wired smoke alarms with their security systems; Consumer Reports recommends the replacement of all hard-wired detectors every ten years. Hard-wired detectors can begin to deteriorate with age so replacement every ten years is a good rule of thumb.

Let's all have a plan so that if a fire starts everyone gets out safely! □

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 and municipal fees can hold up your closing. This includes real estate tax, stormwater management fees and earned income tax. If you are not sure if you owe real estate tax or stormwater fees, contact Jordan Tax Services, Inc. at 412-345-7962. For earned income tax information contact Keystone Collections Group at 1-866-539-1100.

Make sure all utility bills (phone, water, sewer, electricity, etc.) are current.

Fox Chapel Authority (412-963-0212) and Hampton Shaler Water Authority (412-486-4867) require back-flow prevention devices be installed on all waterlines prior to their final reading. Contact your specific water company 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 perform the test. The Township witnesses, inspects and certifies the test at a cost of \$100 for residential buildings and \$200 - \$400 based on square footage for commercial buildings.

It is advisable to have the test done early in the sale process, since repairs **must** be made prior to closing. Once issued, the Certificate is valid for one year from the date of the initial inspection.

To review Ordinance No. 1299 or for more information on the Sanitary Sewer Certification process, visit our website at www.ohara.pa.us or contact the Township at 412-782-1400. □

Community News

Permanent Glass Recycling Site

A permanent glass recycling site in O'Hara Township has been established through a partnership with Aspinwall Borough, Blawnox Borough and the Pennsylvania Resource Council (PRC). Though glass can still be recycled in O'Hara Township's curbside collection, this will most likely not be the case in our next trash and recycling contract.

The glass recycling dumpster is located in the O'Hara Township Building parking lot at 325 Fox Chapel Road, and is available for self-serve drop-off during daylight hours seven days a week from 8 am – Dusk.



Individuals can drop off glass bottles, jars and jugs of all colors (no color sorting required). Containers should be empty and rinsed, with lids and labels still on. Bags and boxes used to deliver glass must be recycled or discarded off-site.

"Glass is still one of the most recyclable materials we generate in our homes, and the market for glass recycling is very strong," according to PRC Recycling Markets Program Manager, Ashley DiGregorio. "It's important from an environmental perspective to keep glass out of landfills. When it's all mixed together, you really don't know if the glass will really ever get recycled, but when it's dropped off at a collection site, you know that 100 percent of it is going to be turned into something new."

"Reasons for recycling glass include the fact that glass can be recycled endlessly and recycling glass requires 70 percent less energy than when manufacturing glass from raw materials," said DiGregorio. "Studies show that 90% of consumers believe glass recycling is important and the success PRC has experienced with its pop-up collections and traveling bin program definitely show that people want to recycle glass whenever possible."

Please come and join our recycling efforts! □

Lauri Ann West Community Center

Celebrate the Center Returns! After taking a year off, the Lauri Ann West Community Center is excited to bring back its signature fundraiser, *Celebrate the Center* on Saturday, September 18 at 7 pm.



Just in time for the Center's six year anniversary this fall, *Celebrate the Center*, is a wonderful opportunity to be able to bring our community together again for an evening of great food, cold drinks and live music. More than that, *Celebrate the Center* will also raise important funds to help support and expand the Center's offerings, bring new programs into our neighborhoods and ensure that the Center is here for our community for years to come.

Be sure to mark your calendar for this fun night to celebrate all the Center has accomplished with the community's help. Tickets will go on sale soon at www.lauriannwestcc.org. □

Cooper-Siegel Library Info

Cooper-Siegel Community Library and Sharpsburg Community Library have lifted some restrictions that were put in place to help keep staff and patrons safe during the pandemic. Please read the updated FAQ's at www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org to find out what services are now available.

Many programs are now virtual via ZOOM or on the Library's YouTube channel so you can enjoy them from home. See the Events and Programs calendar <http://engagedpatrons.org/Events.cfm?SiteID=6836> for more information and to register.

You can also join the Summer Learning Challenge which encourages people of all ages to read, explore and connect this summer. Get more information at: www.coopersiegelcommunitylibrary.org/summerlearning2021/. □

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

PRSRT STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PITTSBURGH, PA
 Permit No. 2629

TOWNSHIP OF O'HARA MEETING SCHEDULE

Township Council

Robert John Smith, At-Large, President Charles A. Vogel, Ward 1, Vice President
 George 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 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 Giovanni Scolieri
 Joseph Zgurzynski Vacancy
 Meetings: 3rd Monday, 7:00 pm

Zoning Hearing Board

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

All meetings are held at the Municipal Building, 325 Fox Chapel Road and are open to the public.
 All Township citizens are cordially invited to attend.