

# Olmsted Township Today

**Olmsted Township**  
7900 Fitch Road  
(440) 235-3099

[www.olmstedtownshipohio.gov](http://www.olmstedtownshipohio.gov)

Trustees: Riley Alton, Tom Cole, Lisa Zver  
Fiscal Officer: Brian Gillette

**SUMMER 2024**

## DOG PARK OPENING



Rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the residents and 4-legged friends who attended the ribbon-cutting for the Nature Trail & Dog Park on Schady Road. The fenced dog areas and trail hosted an array of dogs, children, and adults all enjoying the amenities provided. The Police demonstrated their drone and its capabilities and the Fire Department's Sparky was a welcome guest and photo op for many.



State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney presented a proclamation to honor the installation of the park; State Representative Tom Patton also attended. Sincere thanks to Cuyahoga County Council and Councilman Michael

Gallagher who advocated for the nature trail concept. The Township was awarded a \$480,000 grant for this project. State Senator Matt Dolan advocated for a \$300,000 grant through the Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

The Township is in line to receive a \$250,000 grant for construction of a pavilion through the advocacy of Representative Sweeney. Additionally, Olmsted Township has been awarded \$150,000 from the Municipal Grant Program (CDBG Muni) for 2024, funded by federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through Cuyahoga County.

Both the Nature Trail & Dog Park and the Usher Road Neighborhood Park and the Olmsted Trail are a result of the desire of residents for recreation opportunities expressed in the 2019 Comprehensive Plan. Commercial development that diversifies the tax base and recreation opportunities were the #1 & 2 issues important to respondents.



## COMMEMORATIVE TREE & BENCH PROGRAM



The Township is also unveiling a new **Commemorative Tree and Bench Program** giving residents the opportunity to honor a loved one or commemorate a special achievement or event. Trees and benches will be placed in prominent and suitable locations at the trail and dog park or at Brentwood Play Park on Usher Road.

The lifetime sponsorship for each tree is \$400, which includes the purchase, planting and care of the tree by the Township Service Department. More than 15 native trees are available for selection. These trees will complement natural plantings that will attract the threatened bee and butterfly populations.

A bench sponsorship is \$500, which includes its purchase and maintenance. A customized plaque is available for both the tree and bench.

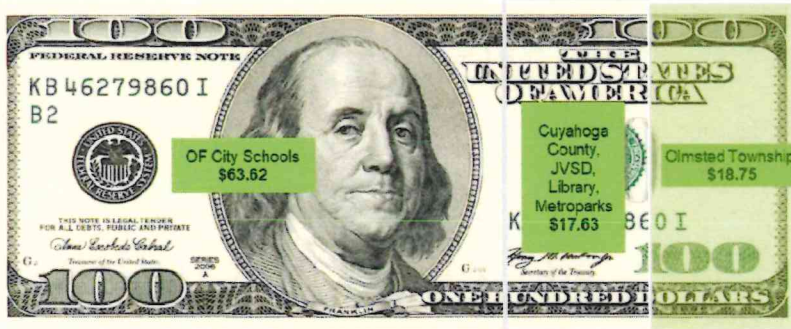
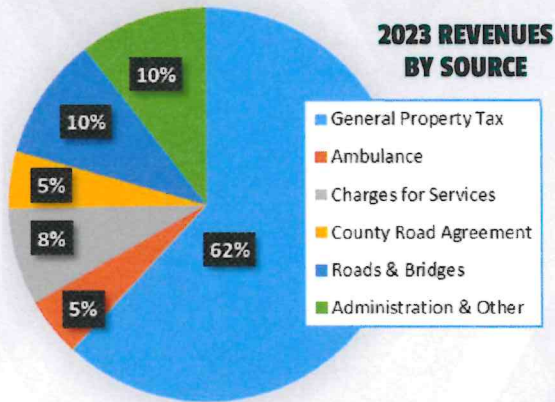


**See our website or call the Service Department for additional information (440) 235-1011.**



# TOWNSHIP FINANCIAL REVIEW

## WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO? 2023 ALLOCATION



*For every \$100 of property tax paid, Olmsted Township receives \$18.75.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

- Completed \$918,042 in road improvements
- Applied for and received approximately \$900k in grants
- Replaced 27-year-old fire engine
- Hired 3 Firefighter/Paramedics through the SAFER Grant
- Constructed Dog Park and Nature Trail
- Ranked 4th in state as one of "Ohio's Safest Cities" by Safewise
- Procured new Branch Chipper and Snow & Ice truck
- Completed cold storage facility to store service equipment
- Established agreement for IT Services with Simvay
- Website redesign through CivicPlus
- Started initial planning for Town Center Development



Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook or visit our website at [www.olmstedtownshipohio.gov](http://www.olmstedtownshipohio.gov) for additional information.





## TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We want to take a moment to welcome Tom Cole to the Trustee position and look forward to working together. Gary, Matt and Justin join Mark Adam and Eric Williams at the leadership level rounding out this team.

From **Trustee Riley Alton**: "All of us, Trustees and Fiscal Officer, leadership team and staff are partners dedicated to maintaining the high quality of life for the residents and businesses in Olmsted Township. I am committed to ensuring that all our departments, Police, Fire, Public Service, Building and Administration have my personal support and the financial resources necessary to provide the level of service you have come to expect. I honor our past accomplishments and see a bright future ahead as we write the next chapter of the Olmsted Township story."

From **Trustee Lisa Zver**: "I am especially proud of the investment we have made in our second-to-none safety forces. The construction of 2 parks in the Township, the Usher Road Neighborhood Park and most recently the Nature Trail & Dog Park on Schady Road. These two parks have enhanced the quality of life and access to outdoor recreation for residents.

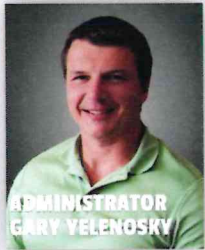
The Nature Trail & Dog Park was constructed with over \$750,000 in grant dollars, not property tax dollars. Looking ahead, I am committed to revitalizing our Town Center at the corner of Bagley/Stearns Roads. Our future is bright!"

From **Trustee Tom Cole**: "It has been an honor to transition into my new role as an Olmsted Township Trustee over the past seven months- both challenging and rewarding. I have met many residents and business members of the community as well as learning more about our collaboration with other agencies and partners at County, State and Federal levels."



L TO R: TRUSTEES TOM COLE, RILEY ALTON AND LISA ZVER

### TOWNSHIP'S NEW LEADERSHIP



ADMINISTRATOR  
GARY YELENOSKY

**Gary Yelenosky** was hired last October as Township Administrator to handle the day-to-day operation of the Township. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Broadview Heights City Engineer for nine years.

Gary is a licensed Civil Engineer and has over a decade of experience in the public sector. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Civil Engineering at Arizona State University and an MBA from the University of Illinois. He holds certifications in Construction Engineering and advanced land surveying.

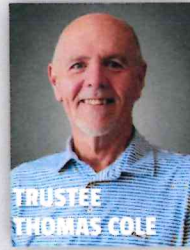
Gary is also a Project Management Professional (PMP). He has management experience including hiring, evaluating and mentoring staff. Gary values collaboration and is committed to maintaining and enhancing our service-driven model.



CHIEF OF FIRE  
MATT SCHNEIDER

The Board of Trustees appointed **Matt Schneider** Chief of the Olmsted Township Fire Department effective May 27<sup>th</sup>. Chief Schneider is exceptionally qualified for the position with 7 years' experience with the Stow Fire Department and a total of 14 years in Fire Service with prior military service.

Chief Schneider holds a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Services Management and Homeland Security from the University of Akron and will graduate in 2025 with a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Kent State University.



TRUSTEE  
THOMAS COLE

**Tom Cole**, elected Trustee in November 2023 has been an Olmsted Township resident for 25 years; he's spent the past 10 years volunteering his time and talents to our community as Commander of both Olmsted CERT and VIPS programs and as chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Tom is a Chief Warrant Officer in the Ohio National Guard and a Staff Officer in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. He has had a more than 25-year career in the IT and data storage field and brings a wealth of experience in this field as well as in personnel management and customer service.

Tom is married to Darlene Dudek Cole. They have three adult children.



BUILDING OFFICIAL  
JUSTIN REED

**Justin Reed** assumed the role of Building Commissioner on July 8<sup>th</sup>. He earned a degree in Construction Management from The Ohio State University before starting his career in the trades. As he gained experience in the field, he determined that building codes and building inspections were his passion. Prior to his appointment in the Township, Justin served as a Building Inspector and an Assistant Building/Zoning/Housing Commissioner in North Ridgeville.

Justin currently holds certifications with the Ohio Board of Building Standards as a Residential & Commercial Building Inspector and a Residential & Commercial Building Official.





## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Monday, September 2—**  
Labor Day, Township Offices  
Closed

**Halloween Open House,**  
Sunday, October 20, 1-3p,  
Township Fire Department

**Election Day,**  
Tuesday, November 5

**Trustee meetings** are held at  
7:30pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday of the month.  
Zoom option available.

**Zoning Commission**  
**meetings** are generally held  
on the 4th Thursday of the  
month. Check website for  
dates.

**Board of Zoning Appeals**  
**meetings** are generally held  
on the 3rd Wednesday of the  
month. Check website for  
dates.

All Township meetings are  
generally held in the Town-  
ship Community Room.  
Check website for details.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Trustees are seeking volun-  
teers to serve on the Zoning Com-  
mission, Board of Zoning Appeals  
and Financial Review Committee.  
Please send your resume to  
[building@olmstedtownship.org](mailto:building@olmstedtownship.org).

Olmsted CERT (Community Emer-  
gency Response Team) and VIPS  
(Volunteers in Police Service) also  
offer volunteer opportunities. For  
additional information contact  
[tcole@olmstedtownship.org](mailto:tcole@olmstedtownship.org).

## GREENWAY TRAIL

The Northeast Ohio Area-  
wide Coordinating Agency  
(NOACA) has awarded the  
Township a \$276,000  
grant for Phase I/II of the  
Olmsted Greenway Con-  
nector project.

This project will utilize the  
existing utility corridor to  
install a 10 foot-wide multi-  
use path spanning about  
1.25 miles from Fitch to  
Stearns Roads. This seg-

ment is part of the larger Cuyahoga County Greenway Trail and the adjacent Mill Stream Run Connector which will connect Olmsted Township, Olmsted Falls and Berea linking them to the Mill Stream Run Reservation and the Emerald Necklace Trail. The trail also impacts planned economic development at the corner of MacKenzie/ Cook Roads.

More than \$2.5 million has been allocated by NOACA through their Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative (TLCI) to support economic growth and connectivity with-  
in, between and among communities. The total cost of the Olmsted Connector is \$680,000. Additional grants (\$400,000) are being sought to complete this phased community project.



## SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

The Trustees have approved a 6-month contract with Senior Transportation Connection (STC), to enhance access to essential services for Township residents. The agreement allows residents to use STC transport for medical appointments and grocery shopping within a 10-mile radius.

Residents will pay \$10 each way; the Township will pay \$30 each way. Total cost of round trip is \$80. A senior resident is limited to 2 round-trips per week.

To access the service, residents must complete a one-time registration form available at the Township Administration Building. Certain conditions apply. For more information call (440) 235-3099.

## OLMSTED JEDD - RIGHTSITES PROGRAM

Eighty (80) acres of land at the heart of the Olmsted JEDD has been included in TeamNEO's RightSites program. This targeted program showcases the most competitive properties in the region prioritized and promoted as prime sites for investment and commercial development. This is a real boost for the Olmsted JEDD when commercial developers are seeking the right property for investment as it validates the site and Olmsted Township. Access <https://northeastohioregion.com/explore-our-region/sites-buildings/> for more information on this program.



**Blood Drives in our Community Room:** August 27; September 10;  
September 24. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment.



Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook or visit our website at  
[www.olmstedtownshipohio.gov](http://www.olmstedtownshipohio.gov) for additional information.

