

# Olmsted Township Today



**Olmsted Township**

26910 Cook Road

Greenbrooke Plaza

(440) 235-3099

[www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org)

Trustees: Larry Abbott, Jeanene Kress, Lisa Zver

Fiscal Officer: Brian Gillette

## From the Administrator



It is my privilege and honor to serve the residents and businesses of Olmsted Township. We take pride in administering an efficient, effective, and responsive local government that meets and exceeds your expectations. We are involved in a **Comprehensive Strategic Planning Initiative** that will engage residents and businesses to affirm our mission, core values, and to identify the strategic issues we must address over the next 3 to 5 years. We will include fiscal sustainability, public safety, economic development and community development in this process. We are actively seeking grant funds for our Township, and in the last year alone, *have secured almost \$1 million in grants* for demolition, for FEMA training and for energy conservation through NOPEC. We are maximizing our taxpayer investment in our community. We will continue to work through issues we face together and with your help will develop meaningful solutions. We are here to serve you.

*Rebecca Corrigan*



**Mark Your Calendar**



### Last Bulk Trash Drop Off—

Saturday, October 6, 8am-12noon

### Halloween Open House, Fire Station

— Sunday, October 21, 1pm-3pm,  
Join us for a free kid-friendly lunch!

### Last Branch Chipping— Monday,

October 29

### Trick or Treating—Wednesday,

October 31, 6-8pm

### Community Shredding — OF

Middle School, 27045 Bagley Rd.,  
Saturday, November 3, 9am-noon

### Election Day—Tuesday, November 6

### Last Yard Waste Pick-up—

Friday, November 23

### Holiday Tree Lighting—

Sunday, November 25, 5pm

**\*\*Trustee Meetings** are held on the  
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each  
month at Town Hall, 7pm

*A message from your*  
**ELECTED OFFICIALS**



L to R: Fiscal Officer Brian Gillette;  
Trustee Jeanene Kress; Trustee Larry  
Abbott; Trustee Lisa Zver

We are proud to serve as your Township elected representatives! Each of us is committed to ensuring the highest quality of service we can provide. See the inside pages for details on completed roads projects, sidewalk connections and sewer installations. Each of our departments - fire, police, service and building - are cost centers and are tasked with staying within budget, planning for capital improvements and continuing to find ways to serve you even better. Our budget and expenditures reflect prudent planning and careful spending to achieve the highest return on investment and maintain fiscal sustainability and stability. This is a complex process since we live in a growing community. We strive to find the right balance - to provide an enhanced quality of life along with the safety services and infrastructure needs that must be addressed.

*Thank you for your support!*

# Service Department

The Service Department is pleased to be a part of the team serving residents and businesses in Olmsted Township. We continue to emphasize training and implementation of best practices as we repair roads, handle hazardous materials, repair and maintain our fleet of vehicles and prepare for snow and ice season. We cover more than 44 miles of roadway, both County and Township roads, and now through a recently signed agreement with ODOT, we will handle all snow and ice removal on State Route 252/Columbia Rd.

We are improving the Township everyday. Noted below are projects completed in 2017-18. We are making progress on our 2013 TLCI (Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative) plan, and have plans in place for the next phase of road improvements and sidewalk connections.

- Brentwood Neighborhood - Glenbrooke/Skyline Drive and Oakridge Circle as well as replacement of multiple catch basins (street drains).
- Villages of Lakeside - Arbor Lane/Court, Glenside Lane and Pinewoods Way, including catch basin replacements.
- Greenbrooke Neighborhood - Deer Path.
- Asphalt overlay (70 tons of asphalt) on Schady, Lewis, Stearns, Sharp and Barrett Roads.
- Connected sidewalks on Cook Road from Timber Lane to Greenbrooke Plaza and in Villages of Lakeside from Laurel Court to Stearns Road.
- Collected more than 250 yards of debris through our Branch Chipping Program, more than 22 tons of trash at our monthly bulk drop-off, and shredded more than 22,500 pounds of paper.
- Placed 125 American flags throughout the Township.
- Worked with Cuyahoga County Public Works to identify and implement our road maintenance/repair priority program over the next three years.

## COMMUNITY SHRED DAY

at Olmsted Falls Middle School, 27045 Bagley Rd.  
**Saturday, November 3**  
From 9am—12 noon



We have a continuous improvement program in place for all neighborhoods. Recently, the Villages of Lakeside stop signs were replaced and the Brentwood neighborhood received new street signs and repainted stop bars and crosswalks. These upgrades were made possible through an ODOT grant.

**YAY!  
RECYCLING!**

In 2017, curbside recycling collected over 1100 tons of recyclable materials and over 1000 tons of yard waste, a 25% increase over 2015 tonnage.



**CuyahogaRecycles.org**  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District's Household Hazardous Waste Recycling program is located at the Service Department, 7900 Fitch Rd. So far in 2018, we delivered 10,000 pounds of hazardous waste for proper disposal!  
*Thank you residents!*



We recently purchased a 2018 Bobcat Skid Steer which allows us to help repair roads more efficiently and effectively. This has already been used for repairs on Cook, Lewis and Schady Roads and Tall Oaks Trail.



# Police Department

We're honored to serve you and appreciate your trust in us! All training and every program we offer are designed to enhance our commitment to serve with courage and compassion so that members of our community feel safeguarded and respected.



**Olmsted Township was named the 59th safest community in the United States by Safewise Security Company's "Safest Cities in America". The Township was one of three Northeast Ohio communities in the top 100.**

*"We are honored to be recognized and believe this distinction is the result of the excellent relationship we have with our residents and businesses, our department core values and daily dedication to service, our extensive training program, our Community Engagement Program and finally to the small core of volunteers (VIPS) who serve as needed."* - Chief Matthew Vanyo

OTPD Community Engagement Program started in 2016 seeks to promote contact between officers, residents and our local businesses. While our duty is to "Protect and Serve" we also feel it is extremely important to invest in, expand, and improve our community relationships. OTPD officers make **over 1,000 community** engagement contacts every year.

For Safewise's full report, go to <http://www.safewise.com/safest-cities-america>

Officers **Joseph English** and **Gary Dieckman** are OTPD officers certified as School Resource Officers (SRO). These officers are present in our buildings throughout the school year. They encourage positive relationships between students and law enforcement, interact with students and school personnel to promote positive student conduct, provide traffic control, conduct effective emergency preparedness ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) training drills, and investigate incidents involving persons or property. The SRO program is realized through the ongoing partnership and collaboration with the Olmsted Falls School District.

Together we are **BULLDOG PROUD!**



The Township Police Department Volunteers In Policing Services Program (VIPS) is now in its second year! The VIPS program gives members hands-on experience and a unique introspective view into the world of law enforcement. They assist the OTPD with traffic control, department charities, and go on ride-a-longs with officers. Help the Department and Com-

## CAPITAL PURCHASES/LEASES 2017/2018

3—Ford SUV Police Vehicles &  
Equipment

7 —Watchguard Body Cameras

5—Watchguard Dash Cam Video Systems

## TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2017/2018

OTPD initiated or responded to:

2017 - 10,729

2018 (to date) - 11,915

## TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAFE PASSAGES PROGRAM



The Safe Passages program started by OTPD and Berea PD in 2016 has helped over 250 people enter a substance abuse treatment program. All 16 Safe Passages Police Agencies currently involved are collaborating to maintain program standards and act as an advisory board to other agencies.

# Building Department

Members of the Building Department are pleased to serve the residents and business that call Olmsted Township “home”. We are a busy community “On the Grow” with new residential construction and home repair. We work collaboratively with our Fire Department to ensure highest standards of safety and compliance on commercial construction, including the \$21 million high school addition/renovation.

A sampling of some statistics are noted below:

- **Total building permits issued, residential and commercial: 585**
- **Total number of new home starts: 58**
- **Total contractors registered: 306**
- **Total Code Enforcement/Exterior Maintenance letters issued: 151**

See our website for more information about two programs that help us maintain and improve Township property values:

- **Heritage Home Program** provides technical assistance and a low, fixed-rate loan to make needed repairs to homes over 50 years old. At least 1,000 Township homes qualify for this program.
- **Code Enforcement (zoning)** helps ensure that residential and commercial exteriors meet our community standards and allows us to help maintain property values and preserve each homeowner’s greatest investment.



Olmsted Township has a new Zoning Inspector, Patty Ruscsak. Patty is in the township inspecting exterior maintenance issues and following through on complaints. Contact Patty with your concerns at [pruscsak@olmstedtownship.org](mailto:pruscsak@olmstedtownship.org).

## Helpful Tips

- Grass clippings left on roads and sidewalks cause problems, clog sewers and drains, and impact stormwater flow. Make sure you or your landscaper are blowing grass clippings back into the grass or are collecting and removing them.
- Contact the Building Department at (440)235-4225 or see our website for more information on our Heritage Home Program.
- Visit our updated website [www.olmstedtownship.org/building](http://www.olmstedtownship.org/building) for expanded information and applications for permits.
- Make sure all contractors working on your home are registered with the Township and are applying for and receiving the appropriate permit approvals.
- If you’ve got home projects on the agenda that require hiring a contractor, see our website for suggestions on how to get the right contractor for the job—and get the job done right!

## FLOOD SURVEY INITIATIVE

If you have experienced basement flooding, including storm or sanitary backups from rain events and have not reported it to the Service Department, please email your information to [lfuerst@olmstedtownship.org](mailto:lfuerst@olmstedtownship.org). Items to include are: your name, address, type and date of event, contact information and any other information you deem important.

We are also interested in any unusual backyard standing water issues. This is part of our plan to identify high impact areas, contact the appropriate provider and work for more comprehensive solutions to these issues.

Olmsted Township has three separate utilities that manage stormwater and sanitary sewers, North Olmsted Waste Water Treatment, Cuyahoga County Public Works and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

Some Homeowners’ Associations manage their own stormwater facilities. Additionally, Columbia Park and others have private treatment plants. Many residents use the septic system approach on their property. Your call or email will allow us to inform the appropriate agency so we can work together to address your concern.

*The Building Department is open Monday-Friday from 8am to 2pm, 26908 Cook Rd. in the Greenbrooke Plaza.*

# Fire Department

The Township Fire Department is proud to stand in service in our Community. As part of our plan to provide the most efficient, cost-effective fire/EMS service, we have added part-time firefighters to our professional full-time firefighter/paramedic ranks. We staff 3/4 men per 24-hour shift. Part-time staffing allows us to meet our commitment to our businesses and residents, handle overlapping calls, and live within our budget.

We aggressively pursued grant opportunities in 2017 and were recently awarded several grants; over \$120,000 for specialized rescue training and equipment, over \$100,000 for our Breathing Air Packs and \$15,000 for cancer prevention equipment.

- We annually inspect more than 70 Township business and schools to ensure safe operation.
- Our File of Life Program provides kits to residents with serious or chronic health conditions. This allows first responders to assess and act quickly. Kits are available at community events, at the Fire Station or at the Administrative Office. In an emergency, every second counts!
- Members of our OTFD are in the classroom reading to children at the Early Childhood Center on Thursdays during the school year. We are planning on expanding our school outreach visitation program to include the Intermediate School in conjunction with Fire Safety week this fall.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

2017	Through June 2018
<b>1890 Total Calls</b>	<b>1009 Total Calls</b>
1521 EMS (80%)	838 EMS (83%)
349 Fire	154 Fire
20 Service	17 Service

Based on these and prior year numbers, we are projecting a 6-9% increase in call volume for 2018.



We recently partnered with Southwest General Hospital and Olmsted Falls Schools on a "Stop the Bleed" emergency preparedness initiative which includes training and materials. See our website for future training dates.

## LOCK BOXES AND SMOKE ALARMS

Our Department offers smoke alarms installed for FREE for seniors and residents with disabilities. We also install lock boxes at no charge in your home if you purchase the box from us at our cost (\$25).



We are very proud of our CPR training program. We have already trained 42 people this year. Cost for residents is \$20 (cost of the card); non-resident cost is \$60. The next class is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th.

Additional information on programs is available on our website [www.olmstedtownship.org/fire](http://www.olmstedtownship.org/fire) or by calling (440) 235-3746.

## LEVY INFO

Issue 109 is an Olmsted Township **RENEWAL** of the voted 4 mill levy. This is a **RENEWAL** and **will not increase your taxes**. This **RENEWAL** will allow the Township to continue providing excellent services to you, including updating infrastructure (roads and catch basins), ensuring and improving emergency dispatch services, and supplementing safety services.



- We're happy to welcome 4 new businesses to the Township—**Dance Concepts** and **Roasted** (a coffee house) in the Shaker Plaza, and **Casa** (an Italian restaurant) in the Greenbrooke Plaza on Cook Road, as well as **Friendship Kitchen Gas Station**. Shopping “local” benefits our businesses and keeps dollars in our community.



Friendship Kitchen at the corner of Bagley/Stearns

- We are envisioning the 3-5 year future of Olmsted Township through our **Comprehensive Strategic Planning Initiative**. Over the past 4 months, residents, business owners and other stakeholders, have had an opportunity to assess options and prioritize goals that will continue to make the Township a great place to work, live and raise a family. You'll be receiving more information in the coming months on this initiative.
- Coming this fall: Our ADA grant-funded ramps and sidewalks on Fitch/Cook Roads.
- Visit our website and [Current Projects](#) column for traffic changes, road/sewer/construction projects in the Township.



If you haven't already, please sign up for Ready/Notify, Cuyahoga County's mass notification system. You will be sent emergency alerts, county updates or other available alerts. Visit our website for more information.



We recently began a collaboration with **Cuyahoga LandBank** whose mission is to work with local governments and non-profit agencies to eliminate vacant and blighted properties in neighborhoods and return them to productive use. Eight such properties have qualified under this program, and we received a \$175,000 grant to implement.

## DID YOU KNOW?

62% of your tax property dollars serves our schools, county services, library, and others. The remaining 18% goes to our Township to support a 24/7 full-service local government/professional safety services, road maintenance, infrastructure maintenance and repair.



If you have an emergency and call 9-1-1, please be sure to identify that you are a resident of **Olmsted TOWNSHIP** so your call can be handled in the most efficient manner. Minutes count!



*The Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer appreciate your confidence and support. Our contact information is on our website at [www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org), if you have concerns or comments.*