

Olmsted Township Today

Olmsted Township
26910 Cook Road (Greenbrooke Plaza)

(440) 235-3099

www.olmstedtownship.org

Trustees: Larry Abbott, Jeanene Kress, Lisa Zver
Fiscal Officer: Brian Gillette

FALL 2019

Message from the Board of Trustees



Fiscal Officer Brian Gillette, Trustee Lisa Zver, Trustee Jeanene Kress, and Trustee Larry Abbott

The Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer are proud to serve as the elected officials in one of the premier communities in Cuyahoga County. We value your support and continue to seek opportunities to provide the quality of life that continues to make Olmsted Township a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Following our Road Capital Maintenance Plan, we accepted bids and awarded a contract to resurface Tall Oaks Trail and Fairlane Drive; the almost \$700,000 project will begin in late summer. Access our website for "Project Updates". This will guide you to areas closed to traffic or one-way access.

We are on track and on budget to complete our Community Center and Administrative Offices in late October. Our 3,800 square foot

Community Center will be available for use by residents.

We want to call your attention to the inside pages of this newsletter. The Board of Trustees has placed a 5-year 4-mill safety levy to support our Fire/EMS and Police services on the November 5th ballot. We did not make this decision lightly. Our safety forces have not been on the ballot in almost 10 years despite our 14% population growth in the last two years. The cost of personnel, vehicles, equipment and healthcare have escalated and demand for services has increased during that period. We ask you to read the information provided and access the Fire/EMS and Police pages on our website for additional information.



This fall, our Community Center will be opening at 7900 Fitch Road. Our Building Department and Administrative Offices will also be relocating to this location.

Public Service

We have worked with a consulting engineer over the past six months to develop a Road Capital Maintenance Plan for repair and replacement of Township Roads. This proactive plan will assess, identify and prioritize projects over the next ten years, and ensures our streets and roads provide safe passage for safety forces, residents and commercial traffic.

As an outcome of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan, we have installed banners throughout the Township, as well as gateway signage designating "Olmsted Township".



BULK TRASH DROP OFF

Following the request of our residents, we will be adding additional bulk trash drop off days at our service department in April and November. Bulk Drop Off days are the first Saturday of the month from 8:00am—12:00noon.

Building

We continue to serve residents and businesses in the Township by inspecting new construction and projects on existing homes and by enforcing standards of the 2019 Residential Code of Ohio noted on our website. Our goal is to protect our greatest personal assets—our homes—and to maintain strong residential and commercial property values.

Enforcement of the maintenance code is structured, and all code violations must meet the standards set by the Ohio Revised Code. We work closely with residents to gain compliance and remediate the problem to ensure overall safety for our residents, neighbors and safety personnel.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS



We are seeking applicants to serve as members of the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. Call us for more information or access our website. This is an excellent opportunity to serve our community in a volunteer capacity. Your input on one of these boards will set the tone for the Township moving forward.

RECYCLING OVERVIEW

In 2018:

- Branch Chipping: More than 700 residents took advantage of this service.
- Bulk Trash Drop-off: 120 residents made 190 trips to drop off 64,000 pounds of bulk trash.
- Household Hazardous Waste: We collected more than 21,000 pounds of hazardous waste.
- Leaf Collection: All information on this service will be available on our Township website beginning in October.
- Recycling: Curbside recycling is provided through Republic, at the Public Service Complex and through Simple Recycle (for clothing/household goods).
- Snow and Ice: We used more than 2300 tons of salt during the 2017-2018 winter season at a cost of \$65,000.
- The Township Community Shredding Events (spring and fall) collected almost 31,000 pounds of paper shredded at the collection site.

HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM



If your home is 50 years old or older, you qualify for a low-cost loan for repairs through the Heritage Home Program. Included are kitchen/bath improvements, HVAC upgrades, roof repair/replacement, insulation, basement waterproofing and much more. See our website or call for more information.

LOOKING FOR A CONTRACTOR?

Hiring a contractor to work on your home? See our website for suggestions on what to look for in a responsible bidder.

BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

2017, **624 Total Permits** were issued
(32 Commercial, 592 Residential)

2018, **861 Total Permits** were issued
(55 Commercial, 806 Residential)

2019—thru 6/30, **346 Total Permits** were issued
(22 Commercial, 324 Residential)

MESSAGE FROM REBECCA CORRIGAN, TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

DATES TO REMEMBER

Halloween Safety Open House — Sunday, October 20, 1-3pm at the Township Fire Station. Everyone is welcome to celebrate Halloween with us! Games, crafts, costume contest.

Community Shredding — Saturday, October 26, 9am-noon, OF Middle School, 27045 Bagley Rd. Open to all residents of the Olmsted Community.

Last Branch Chipping — Monday, October 28

Trick-or-Treating — Thursday, October 31, 6-8pm

Leaf Collection — Late October/November; access our website for dates and the collection schedule.

Last Bulk Trash Drop Off — Saturday, November 2

Last Yard Waste Pickup — Thursday, November 29

Community Tree Lighting Ceremony — Sunday, December 1, 5pm, Town Hall. Refreshments and photos with Santa.

Check our website in late December for information about pick up of live Christmas trees and Trash removal for 2020, including curbside Bulk Pick-up.

Coffee with the Chiefs — Last Friday of each month, 9am at the Township Fire Station, 26900 Cook Road.

Trustee Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month; **Zoning Commission Meetings** are held the 4th Thursday of each month; **Board of Zoning Appeals Meetings** are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month; All meetings are held at 7pm at Town Hall, 26900 Cook Road.



The Board of Trustees and Fiscal Officer, our Fire and Police Chiefs, and our leadership team work closely together to ensure we are providing the most efficient and effective service in the most fiscally responsible manner. This has become increasingly difficult as costs have escalated and population and the need for services has increased. In an uncertain health care market, we work closely with our provider to anticipate increases and provide a wellness component to reduce premiums. We have also engaged a robust part-time supplemental force within our Fire/EMS and Police departments to offset fiscal challenges.

The 5-year 4-mill levy for safety services, Fire/EMS and Police, will allow us to provide appropriate staffing and replace some aging equipment to serve our current needs and allow us time to fully develop a more comprehensive plan to address our growing population and future safety needs.

We always look for ways to partner and maximize our resources. As you may recall, we recently changed dispatch providers and are now with Southwest Dispatch with our neighbors and regional partners. This regional approach is critical when every second counts.

I welcome your ideas and feedback on Township matters. My goal is continue to provide courteous and quality service through cooperation, innovation, communication and always striving for excellence.

COLLABORATION WITH NEORS



Our collaboration with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District is now allowing us to assess and remediate stormwater problems Township wide. This management of streams, ditches and other tributaries that drain more than 300 acres of rainwater runoff is the first critical step in identifying viable and cost-effective solutions. In 2018, Olmsted Township requested assistance to monitor incidents affecting water flow and water quality.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure development, maintenance and repair continue to be a high priority. In line with our 2019 Comprehensive Plan, we will apply for grant funding to construct sidewalks on Fitch Road south of Cook and Stearns Road south of Bagley as part of our NOACA TLCI connectivity plan. Resurfacing of Tall Oaks Trail and Fairlane Drive, completion of the Community Center/Administrative Offices, and road maintenance including culverts and bridges, will keep us on track for 2019. Sewers in the Township on Cook Road will be installed beginning September 1st as part of the Olmsted Falls/Cuyahoga County Phase 5 Project.

CENSUS 2020

Data collected by the census will impact future funding and available resources in Ohio townships. As the number of residents and their location is determined, the data will be used by county, state and federal entities and countless other organizations to allocate money and resources to address infrastructure, like roads, clean water and sufficient broadband service as well as Congressional redistricting.

Police

Our men and women who serve in the Olmsted Township Police Department, under the direction of Chief Matt Vanyo, are charged with providing a **sense of security** in our community, our neighborhoods, our schools, on our roads and wherever we gather. We ask them to be proactive in **protecting lives and property, resolving conflicts** and **identifying problems** that have the potential to become more serious in our community.

We have an active **Community Engagement Program** that gives our officers a chance to talk with residents and business owners, to understand their concerns and to be a reminder that we are a trusted source of help when called 24/7/365. To ensure prompt, proactive and efficient response, we:

- Provide **cruiser and bike patrol** through our neighborhoods.
- Provide **School Resource Officer (SRO)** presence in our Middle and High School to identify potential problems, train school staff to prepare for a crisis, and secure the facilities.
- Train with neighboring departments and throughout the region to **ensure domestic security**.
- Work with Southwest Dispatch to facilitate **prompt response** to calls for service.
- Analyze data to spot trends to be more **proactive in crime prevention**.
- **Collaborate** with Fire/EMS to secure the scene in the event of a fire or motor vehicle accident.
- Provide an active social media presence to gather **community feedback**.

For our Department, Passage of the 5-year 4-Mill Levy Means:

- Maintain our current **staffing levels**
- Prioritize minimum replacement of **capital equipment and cruisers**
- Replace critical **personal protective gear** necessary for officer safety
- **Maintain IT** capabilities necessary to gather and analyze data more proactively
- Prioritize **maintenance** of our 15-year-old police station

In 2018, our Police Department received **10,325 Calls for Service**, including 894 Community Engagement Contacts, 137 incidents involving property or personal safety, and 174 Arrests.

Through June 30, 2019, we received **6,809 Calls for Service**, including 711 Community Engagement Contacts, 59 Incidents involving property or personal safety, and 62 Arrests.



Olmsted Township is proud to be designated the **5th Safest Community in Ohio** by Safewise!



Access our website or Facebook page for FAQs about the 5-year 4-mill levy. You may also post your question and we'll do our best to answer promptly. In addition, you may also want to visit our Fire/EMS or Police websites or Facebook pages to get more information on the departments, including services and community outreach. If you would like to request Chief Kelly or Chief Vanyo speak to your community group or HOA, please call (440)235-3099 to schedule.



Township SAFETY FORCES

Serve and Protect

Fire/EMS

Our full-time/part-time trained firefighter/paramedics, under the leadership of Chief Pat Kelly and Assistant Chief Chris Methvin, take great pride in our service to the Township protecting lives and property; we strive to provide customer-driven service **efficiently, effectively and safely in a fiscally responsible manner**. In each situation we seek to treat each person with **respect and dignity**.

We are trained and ready 24/7/365 to respond to a call for service throughout the Township and in mutual aid response to our neighboring communities. We have an active outreach program for residents that includes installation of smoke alarms and American Heart Association CPR classes, among other services. We collaborate with our local businesses to ensure work-place safety through routine annual inspections. Our goal is to provide trusted, professional help in every situation. To ensure response readiness, we:

- Annually **test and assess** more than 900 fire hydrants throughout the Township and 5,000 feet of fire hose.
- Provide scheduled assessment of all **life-support equipment** in all vehicles.
- Train with neighboring departments and throughout the region to **promote coordinated response**.
- Work with Southwest Dispatch to facilitate **prompt response** with appropriate equipment on scene .
- Work with our local hospitals to **ensure quality care and positive outcomes**.
- Seconds count...keep abreast of new homes/neighborhoods and **update map skills** regularly.
- **Analyze data** to staff for peak times and locations.
- Provide an active social media presence to gather **community feedback**.

For our Department, Passage of the 5-year 4-Mill Levy Means:

- **Improved staffing**, particularly part-time during peak call periods
- Replace our **ambulance** over the next two years; address aging **fire engine**
- Maintain scheduled replacement of **personal protective gear** necessary for the safety of our firefighter/EMT personnel
- Prioritize **maintenance** of our 15-year-old fire station



This year, we had our five-year Insurance Service Office "ISO" Rating Review. The Township plans to continue to make capital and personnel improvements to maintain a desirable rating for our community. This review and scorecard affect homeowners' insurance rates locally and throughout the region.

In 2018, our Fire Department responded to **2,010 Calls for Service**. These included 1,712 Total EMS Calls (849 of these - 49.59% - required Advance Life Support) and 265 Fire and/or Rescue Incidents, with an average response time of

5.37 MINUTES

Through June 30, 2019, we responded to **1,015 Calls for Service**. These included 844 Total EMS Calls, (461 of these - 54.62% required Advance Life Support) and 151 Fire and/or Rescue Incidents.