

Olmsted Township Today



Olmsted Township
7900 Fitch Road
(440) 235-3099
www.olmstedtownship.org

Trustees: Riley Alton, Jeanene Kress, Lisa Zver
Fiscal Officer: Brian Gillette

WINTER 2022

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



TRUSTEE JEANENE KRESS

It has been a privilege to serve my community over the past 10 years. Collaborating with residents and businesses, leadership and staff, and agencies outside the Township have allowed us to provide services in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

I am especially proud of our increased communication with residents, the completion of our Administration Building and our sidewalk and road projects which have increased access and connectivity in the Township. As I look ahead, my highest priorities are infrastructure development, completion of our parks and staff development. Fiscal integrity has been the hallmark of the Board over the past decade. I am proud of that record. The Strategic Plan 2019 will serve as our blueprint for the future.

Olmsted Township has been my home for 58 years. It is a very special place, a great place to live, work and raise a family... a great place to call "home".



TRUSTEE LISA ZVER

Olmsted Township has been my home for over 24 years. I began my service in 2009 as a volunteer and now as a Trustee since 2016.

This is an exciting time in the Township! From the completion of our Administration Building and Community Room, to the implementation of our sign and road programs and our collaboration with neighboring communities

through Southwest Dispatch, we continue to move forward. The members of the Board are already planning additional stormwater projects, sidewalks, parks, and the expansion of our Department of Public Service.

Since taking office, I have always sought to act in the best interest of Olmsted Township and the people I serve. I have been guided by the belief that doing the right thing defines who we are as a community and how we serve as a government. I will continue my commitment to govern with fiscal responsibility, integrity, and love for our community.



TRUSTEE RILEY ALTON

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a Trustee in Olmsted Township. Your trust allows me to bring a fresh perspective to our government.

I dreamed of making a difference in peoples' lives since I was a child. I now have a tremendous responsibility to represent the 16,000 people of Olmsted Township, one I take very seriously. I'm looking forward to working alongside my fellow trustees and across every level of government to address the important issues that people have shared with me on the campaign trail.

I know this Board has what it takes to improve infrastructure, attract businesses, and ensure outstanding safety and service. It is important to express your concerns and hold us accountable for implementing the collective vision. Your input is important to ensure responsive local government. I am available to hear your concerns; call me anytime. All our phone numbers are readily available on the Olmsted Township website www.olmstedtownship.org.



**FISCAL OFFICER
BRIAN GILLETTE**

I served the Township as a volunteer member of the Finance Committee in 2014 and since 2016 as the Fiscal Officer. While solid procedures were in place when I assumed the position, my extensive financial experience has allowed me to enhance these financial controls. It has been challenging as we navigated the CARES and ARPA federal funding due to COVID-19.

The role of the Fiscal Officer is to provide accurate information and projections to the Board of Trustees so they can make prudent financial decisions to serve our residents. Our accomplishments since 2016 include: empowering department leaders in the budgeting process, and receipt of the highest award by the state of Ohio for audit years January 2018 through December 2019. We updated and validated trash billing information and reviewed and made changes in our healthcare package. I appreciate the work done by the Fiscal Office staff as we serve the residents of the Township.



Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at
www.olmstedtownship.org for additional information.

Message from Fire Chief Patrick Kelly:

Our core values center around the protection of lives, property and the environment through prevention, public education, preparedness, and emergency response; we place an emphasis on quality services delivered efficiently, effectively, and safely and we will do our utmost to provide these services with the dignity and respect our residents deserve.

HELP US HELP YOU...

Seconds count in an emergency. Follow some very easy guidelines:

- If you dial 911 for an emergency, speak slowly and clearly.
- Spell your street name and repeat your address.
- Your address should be on your home and mailbox visible from the street, preferably in reflective numbers.
- Turn on your porch light so first responders can identify your home and act quickly.

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Smoke alarms properly installed and maintained significantly reduce fire deaths and injuries. The Township Fire Department has partnered with the **American Red Cross** in their “**Sound the Alarm**” campaign. We provide smoke alarms to Township residents at no cost to ensure this vital safety device is readily available.

A smoke alarm should be placed on each level of your home especially near bedrooms, and should be tested monthly. Batteries should be replaced twice each year; all smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

Call the non-emergency number to obtain smoke alarms for your home. Township seniors can request free installation.

FILE OF LIFE PROGRAM

We have adopted the **File of Life** program in partnership with Southwest Hospital/University Hospitals. This free outreach program is designed to assist first responders with rapid identification of a person's medical history and medications.

The **File of Life** is a medical card placed in a red plastic pocket and affixed to the outside of the refrigerator. It contains all pertinent medical information to assist first-

responders in providing immediate care. A **File of Life** decal is also placed on the door to alert first responders. This item is not just for seniors; it can be a life-saver for persons with severe allergies or chronic illness. **File of Life** kits are available at the Police, Fire, and Building Departments.



Our new 2022 Ford E-450 Braun ambulance was delivered at the end of January.

TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2020	2021
EMS Calls	1,950	EMS Calls 1997
Fire Related Calls	206	Fire Related Calls 165
Total	2,156	2,162

All statistics as reported from Southwest Dispatch.

Fire related calls include structure fires, sounding alarms, natural gas odors and leaks, vehicle, dumpster and mulch/grass fires among other incidents.

EMS related calls include assistance with/without transport to a hospital and entail assessing situations quickly and efficiently to provide the best level of care. The calls include acute heart and respiratory incidents, home and motor vehicle accidents, and immediate care for chronic conditions among other incidents.

TOYS FOR TOTS



2021 was the 4th year Firefighter/EMT Rob Crowe spearheaded the **Toys for Tots** initiative. “Overall contributions were lower than in previous years, but we were still able to fill boxes with toys for kids who might otherwise receive nothing. We received several ‘high ticket items’ including 4 full sized youth bikes, learning tablets, drones, and collectors’ baseball cards from the 60’s. We partner with US Marine Corps Reserve Brook Park 325.” While Rob is on inactive status now, he was attached to the Navy 5th Fleet Central Command for 8 years.

Message from Interim Chief Mark Adam:

The Mission of the Township Police Department is to continually seek ways to promote and maintain a feeling of safety and security for our residents, businesses, and visitors by delivering the highest quality police protection and services.

On every call, we strive to expand opportunities to strengthen the community-police partnership, the basis of trust you have placed in us.

We are committed to ongoing training, neighborhood presence and collaboration with all who make Olmsted Township a unique place to live and work. We value your support, trust and confidence and pledge our commitment to serve you with honor.

The Department **maintains policies and procedures** which serve as guidelines for officers through Lexipol, a cloud-based management system. It provides annual comprehensive updated information based on federal/state law and best practices. All staff must review and acknowledge each policy, ensuring accountability. Lexipol includes wellness resources, grant services, and a policy management platform in its suite of services.

Regularly scheduled training is the hallmark of the Township Police Department. Information based training ensures staff is keeping pace with current technology. Issue based training focuses on understanding population dynamics, diversity, crisis management and our growing community. Consistent training ensures a safe, measured response with positive outcomes for both the individual in need and the responding officer.

The Department is a member of **SEB (Southwest Enforcement Bureau)**, a multi-municipality consortium that provides personnel and assistance in dangerous situations within member communities. Officers are specially trained and are part of this **SWAT (Special Weapons & Tactics)** team. Pooling resources provides technical expertise and manpower to handle any critical incidents. Currently two Township Officers serve on the SEB Team.



Our Officers participated in the Township's meal giveaways at the holidays.



For the 14th year in a row, OTPD participated in Shop with a Cop in December.

TOP 10 CALL TYPES FOR TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

	2020	2021
Traffic Stop	1,420	1,910
Community Engagement	400	516
Premise Check, Business	468	440
Premise Check, Residence	256	534
Special Attention	316	439
Welfare Check	301	311
Follow Up Investigation	216	290
Vehicle Maintenance	195	216
Assist Other Agencies	185	209
Calls for Service/Other	5,243	7,235
Total	9,000	12,100

All statistics as reported from Southwest Dispatch.

A 34% increase in total calls from 2020 to 2021.

SAFE PASSAGES PROGRAM

We were one of the leaders in the development of the **Safe Passages Program**. This intervention program assists individuals with addiction issues as they seek recovery. Inauguration and participation in **Safe Passages** will allow us to receive money from the settlement of opioid lawsuits. This money is earmarked for education and assistance in the battle against substance abuse.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Our School Resource Officer has a diverse role in maintaining a safe and secure environment in our Olmsted Falls Schools. Officer Joe English works with school administration and the Township Police Department to develop safety procedures for potential threats to the school community, conducts drills with staff and students to ensure preparedness, and de-escalates tensions between students and/or with staff. He provides a highly visible presence.

Officer English has had specialized training to handle the wide variety of issues seen in the school setting. He is a sworn officer of the department and a member of the SEB (Southwest Enforcement Bureau) SWAT team trained in mediation and crisis management. The SRO is provided through a contract with Olmsted Falls Schools.

BUILDING

7900 Fitch Road, Olmsted Township · (440) 235-4225 · fax (440) 235-7794
www.olmstedtownship.org/building

Message from Dave Faciana, Township Building Official:

The Building Department seeks to use experience and knowledge to render consistent, fair, effective enforcement of the building and zoning codes while providing positive, courteous, helpful, and professional service to all who access the department.

The Building Department reviews construction plans and documents, issues permits, inspects permit-related work and registers contractors. We are responsible for ensuring construction and alteration work performed meets the standards defined by the design criteria, all applicable codes, and the approved plans. All current codes enforced are listed on our website.

We enforce the Property Maintenance Code which requires that all property exteriors including structures, drives and grass be well maintained. Ohio Revised Code standards are in place to preserve neighborhoods and prevent blighted properties. If you have a property maintenance concern, call 440-235-4225 or email at building@olmstedtownship.org. Confidentiality will be maintained.



L to R: Tammie Fox, Code Enforcer; Jerry Flanik, Consultant; Joe Schaller, Engineer; Dave Faciana, Building Official

FOOD TRUCKS

See our webpage for information, procedure and all required permits for block parties/large neighborhood gatherings and other outdoor events, especially if they involve street closings and food trucks. Any permit requirements are to ensure safety services access in the event of an emergency and appropriate licensure/Board of Health approval for food trucks.

VOLUNTEER BOARDS

We work with two resident volunteer groups who assist the Building Department per the Ohio Revised Code. The Zoning Commission (ZC) develops, recommends, and maintains the plan regulating land use within the Township.

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) is a quasi-judicial body responsible for hearing all requests for variances, appeals, and modifications.

UP AND COMING IN THE TOWNSHIP

Economic commercial development in our Town Center and JEDD remain a priority. We note The Renaissance expansion that includes wellness and recreation facilities and additional housing, the Southwest Hospital Medical Arts Building, and plans by Friendship Kitchen for a car wash; the last two projects are in our Town Center.



The new Southwest Hospital Medical Arts Building on Bagley Road near Town Square

HERITAGE HOME PROGRAM



We have partnered with the Heritage Home Program since 2018. The goal of this program is to revitalize homes 50 years and older. This outstanding opportunity offers free technical assistance, site visits to assess the improvement being considered, and low-interest loans for projects that meet the criteria. Call the Heritage Home Program (216) 426-3116 or access www.hhp@heritagehomeprogram.org for more information.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT STATISTICS 2021 SNAPSHOT



See our website for additional information including online permits and contractor registration.

SERVICE

Message from Eric Williams, Director of Public Service:

The mission of the Olmsted Township Department of Public Service is to create a safe and healthy environment for residents and businesses in the community. We are service-driven and committed through thoughtful planning and careful spending, to provide high quality services on our streets and roads, maintain our fleet of vehicles and equipment, manage Township buildings and grounds, and provide the breadth of services to residents.

ROADS, FLEET MAINTENANCE AND MORE...

Our comprehensive Road Program helps us prioritize our goals and schedule road repair, rebuild, and resurface activities. Large projects are bid and contracts are managed to



ensure work meets standards. Our trained staff maintains safe roadways - asphalt and concrete repairs, filling potholes, crack-sealing and removal of debris and other hazards. During winter months we are on call to handle snow plowing and salting operations.

Our current fleet includes 14 vehicles and 6 pieces of equipment which we maintain through a scheduled program. Our staff maintains 24 miles of Township roads and streets and another 22 miles of County roads through an annual contract.



TOWNSHIP PARKS



We have been very involved in the planning and development of Brentwood Park through our Parks Initiative. We appreciate the vision of the Board and have worked with suppliers to purchase and begin to set equipment that will make this neighborhood park a special place. The walking trail, bench seating for relaxation, pavilion and playground have all been planned with our residents in mind.

7924 Fitch Rd., Olmsted Township · (440) 235-1011

www.olmstedtownship.org/service

PROVIDING SERVICE TO YOUR TOWNSHIP

Two of our most popular programs are managed and scheduled...our fall leaf collection program and our in-house branch chipping.

Our robust recycling program includes curbside and drop-off opportunities. We handle a wide range of recycling services including household hazardous waste. Our comprehensive website notes all services provided

SERVICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS 2021 SNAPSHOT

RESIDENTS SERVED
1,425
*750 RESIDENTS SERVED IN 2018

TONS OF SALT USED DURING
2020-2021 SNOW SEASON
1,200

POUNDS OF SHREDDING
RECYCLED AT OUR BI-ANNUAL
SHRED EVENTS
21,500

SCRAP TIRES COLLECTED
364

YARDS OF CONCRETE TO
MAINTAIN ROADS
77

*15 YARDS IN 2018

POUNDS OF HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTED
14,061

We log about 150 calls per month ranging from requests for information on provided services to concerns about stormwater or basement flooding, trash collection, leaf collection schedule or debris on a road. Our goal is to be respectful and helpful with follow-through as necessary.

We continue to prioritize and support our workforce in a rapidly-changing environment. Effective communication, work-related and leadership training, teamwork, collaboration and creative problem-solving are important components in appreciating the value of our dedicated people.



Our Service Department maintains all government buildings and grounds. We beautify our Township through our sign and American flag placement program and our extensive holiday tree display.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Board and leadership in each Department are committed to seeking outside sources of funding to augment their budgets. This often entails submitting grant requests typically for capital equipment, vehicles, and facilities development and improvement. Grant programs are highly competitive, and it is important to emphasize need, benefit to the community, job creation, economic development, or other specific criteria.

In 2021, we submitted grant applications for our Parks Initiative, Shredding Event and Recycling, sidewalk and road improvements, a stormwater project in our Breezewood Neighborhood, safety equipment for police and fire, and a ladder truck. It often takes months to learn if we have been successful on many of the larger grants. This effort is time intensive but is an opportunity to secure non-property tax income to serve our community.

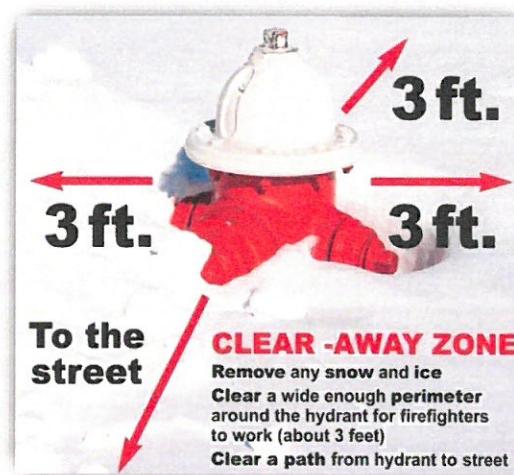
Cuyahoga County Department of Development is currently offering two competitive grant opportunities. The CDSG (Community Development Supplemental Grant) program award is designed to strengthen neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for residents. The maximum grant award is \$50,000. We recently submitted a request for ADA sidewalk ramps to improve walkability and accessibility in the Township. It allows us to implement our TLCI (Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative) program, based on resident recommendations and desire for sidewalks throughout the Township.

The CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) program guidelines and timetable for 2022 have not yet been posted. This program provides an award of up to \$150,000 for projects and is highly competitive. The Trustees are evaluating options for submission based on the criteria that will be presented.

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING TRUSTEES

Lisa J. Zver and **Riley A. Alton** were sworn into office as Olmsted Township Trustees on January 2nd at 2:00pm. Cuyahoga County Council Representative Michael J. Gallagher administered the oath of office to Trustee Zver and State Representative Bride Rose Sweeney 14th Ohio House District administered the oath to Trustee Alton. Both will serve a four-year term and round out the team of Elected Officials that includes Trustee Jeanene Kress and Fiscal Officer Brian Gillette.

JUST A REMINDER...KEEP 'EM CLEAR



CLEAR -AWAY ZONE

Remove any snow and ice
Clear a wide enough perimeter
around the hydrant for firefighters
to work (about 3 feet)
Clear a path from hydrant to street

If there's a fire hydrant near your home or business, help keep it accessible this winter: Do your part so they can do theirs. Icy cold temperatures and piled snow often make it difficult to find a hydrant in the event of a

fire emergency. If a fire hydrant is close to your home or business, we're asking you to "Keep It Clean". If you are able, keep the area around the hydrant clear of piled up snow - about 3 feet around the hydrant.

TOWNSHIP FACILITY RENTALS



corporate meetings and events of all kinds. Find additional information and photos at www.olmstedtownship.org/the-community-room.

For more intimate gatherings, our newly renovated **Town Hall** will accommodate groups of up to 30 people. There is a refrigerator and prep area available. Both facilities are handicap accessible,

To schedule an appointment to view or rent either facility, call (440) 782-5248 or email thecommunityroom@olmstedtownship.org.

The Township has two facilities now available for rental for your next event.

Our **Community Room** has over 3,000 square feet, can accommodate up to 160 guests and includes use of a full kitchen with a refrigerator, freezer, warming oven, microwave, coffee pot and plenty of counter space. It is a perfect location for showers, reunions,





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 21 President's Day, Township Offices Closed
- 24 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up

MARCH

- 24 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up

APRIL

- 2 Bulk Trash Drop-Off begins, Service Garage
- 14 Yard Waste Pickup begins
- 21 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 23 Community Shred Event, 9a-12p, Service Garage
- 23 Step Into Spring Event, 9a-12p, Community Room
- 25 Branch Chip Day



MAY

- 3 Primary Election Day
- 7 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 19 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 30 Memorial Day, Township Offices Closed
- 31 Branch Chip Day



JUNE

- 4 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 20 Juneteenth observed, Township Offices Closed
- 23 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 27 Branch Chip Day

JULY

- 4 Independence Day, Township Offices Closed
- 9 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 21 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 25 Branch Chip Day



AUGUST

- 6 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 18 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 29 Branch Chip Day

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Labor Day, Township Offices Closed
- 10 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 22 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 26 Branch Chip Day

OCTOBER

- 1 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 10 Columbus Day, Township Offices Closed
- 16 Halloween Safety Open House, 1p-3p, Fire Department
- 20 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 22 Community Shred Day, 9a-noon, Service Garage
- 31 Final Branch Chip Day
- 31 Trick-or Treating, 6p-8p



NOVEMBER

- 5 Bulk Trash Drop-Off, Service Garage
- 8 General Election Day
- 10 Veterans Day Remembrance, 11a, Town Hall
- 11 Veterans Day, Township Offices Closed
- 24 Thanksgiving Day, Township Offices Closed
- 25 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 25 Final Yard Waste Pick-Up
- 27 Holiday Tree Lighting, 5p, Town Hall

DECEMBER

- 22 Curbside Bulk Trash Pick-Up
- 26 Christmas Day Observed, Township Offices Closed



RECURRING EVENTS

All Township meetings are generally held in person at our Township Community Room, 7900 Fitch Road. During times of public health concerns, we will provide Zoom access for others to access the meetings. See our website for meeting information, including Zoom login.

Trustee meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

Zoning Commission meetings are generally held the 4th Thursday of the month at 7pm. Check our website for information.

Board of Zoning Appeals meetings are generally held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm. Check our website for information.

See the Public Service website for guidelines on branch chipping and yard waste collections and questions regarding Bulk Trash and Recycling Drop-Off.

American Red Cross Blood Drives are held regularly at the Township Community Room. Check our website for dates/ times.



Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.olmstedtownship.org for additional information.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?



MEALS ON WHEELS - WESTLAKE



Westlake Meals on Wheels helps residents in Cleveland's far west suburbs, including Olmsted Township who need nutritional support

on a short or long-term basis. This non-profit community service organization is helping individuals with medical or aging issues live independently despite personal limitations.

Westlake Meals on Wheels is calling for volunteers to be a part of the program.

If you are interested in initiating service or learning more about volunteer opportunities call (440) 871-2551 or go to www.westlakemealsonghools.org.

TOWNSHIP BUILDING DEPARTMENT



The Board of Trustees is seeking volunteers to serve on our Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Please send an email to building@olmstedtownship.org with any questions or with your intent and any qualifications and special skills you will bring to the position.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM/VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE

Interested in volunteering in service to our residents and community? Check out our **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** or **Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS)**. CERT works with our Fire Department and

VIPS with our Police Department. For more information or to volunteer, email commander@olmstedcert.org or call (216) 390-8817.



PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITY UPDATE

We are working with the Trustees, Fiscal Officer, Building Department and consulting engineer to develop a comprehensive plan for the Service Complex. Our current building is more than 80 years old with significant basement flooding, age-related structural, and space related issues. We currently do not have indoor storage for our fleet and equipment.



The Board is researching funding sources including through the state of Ohio Capital Funding Budget line-item process.

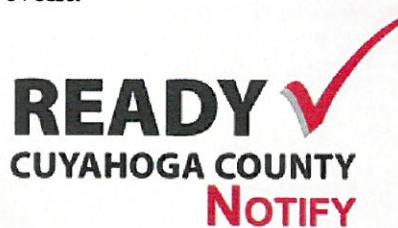
Our goal is to divide the project into phases. Phase 1 will be the construction of a cold-storage building to house vehicles and equipment currently outdoors year-round. The cold-storage building will protect equipment and prevent damage from the elements especially on hose and line assemblies. Vehicles and other equipment represent a significant taxpayer investment that we would like to maximize with increased productive longevity.

Environmental considerations, planning, demolition, and construction will all be a part of this phased development that will serve Township residents for years to come. The Board will continue to pursue outside funding sources to complete this planned Public Service Facility. We will keep you informed through our website as we move through the process.

ReadyNotify is Cuyahoga County's mass notification system powered by CodeRED. It's used by the County and participating municipalities to issue emergency notifications such as weather, traffic and safety, when rapid and accurate information is essential for public safety.

Participation in the **ReadyNotify** program is **voluntary**. A valid email and phone number will be needed to sign-up. During the reg-

istration process we will ask you to give us information about yourself such as your address, primary language, and if you require any special assistance during an emergency event.



Follow us on Facebook or visit our website at www.olmstedtownship.org for additional information.