



Established 1814

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

# Olmsted Township

26900 Cook Road • Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

**Olmsted Township "A Community of Diverse Neighborhoods"**

Summer 2012

## Contact Information

### Police Department:

440-235-3335

### Fire Department:

440-235-3746

### Department of Public Service:

440-235-1011

### Building Department:

440-235-4225

### Fiscal Officer:

440-235-3099

### Board of Trustees

#### Town Hall:

440-235-3051

### Trustee Office:

440-793-6950

### Inside this issue:

Trustee Update	2
Collaboration Corner	3
Zoning and Property Maintenance Codes	4
Community Connection	5
Quality of Life Survey	5
Public Services Update	6

### SAVE THE DATE

August 8<sup>th</sup>: Trustee Meeting  
7:45pm, Irish-American Club  
August 14<sup>th</sup>: Fitch Road  
Reopening Dedication,  
1:00pm

## Master Planning: Our Blueprint for the Future

*Comprehensive Land Use Plan Underway: Town Center, Recreation, Business Development, Parks*

Olmsted Township has the largest amount of undeveloped land in Cuyahoga County. Since early this year, Trustees have been meeting monthly with Cuyahoga County Planning and volunteers from neighborhoods, schools and the business community to update our 1998 Master Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The outcome of this process shapes our zoning and economic development planning.

In late spring, the first public meeting was held to review and discuss key issues and identify preliminary goals for this plan.

Table 1 shows the results of public input regarding priorities.



*At the dedication of the new Municipal Complex, residents, employees and community leaders celebrated the start of a new beginning. The Master Plan will serve as a roadmap. See more dedication photos on page 5 or at [www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org) click on Facebook.*

**Table 1: Master Plan - Priority Rankings**

Economic Development	Create "mixed use town center" at Stearns and Bagley; JEDD: attract healthcare, biomedical, light industrial; update building codes and zoning
Infrastructure	Sewers: Storm and Sanitary, Sidewalks, Flooding
Parks and Green Space	Usable green spaces as gathering places, better use of school and other existing facilities for recreation, incorporate green space, retail spaces, connectors, Quality of Life survey
Quality of Life	Unify, organize, expand, recreation programming for all ages, start annual community festival, community center
Neighborhoods and Housing	Property maintenance enforcement, bikeways and hiking, 55 and over moderately priced housing

The master planning group continues to gather information from residents and business persons using surveys and face-to-face meetings. In the fall, the final community meeting in this round will be held to gather input and feedback on future developmental options. Between now and then, the group will meet to refine the broad strategic options that reflect business and community developmental possibilities. In addition recommended zoning and land use standards will be refined and focused.

To view more details, along with maps, go to [www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org) and select the *Master Plan Committee* link.

# In the Public Interest: Trustee Update

*We must bow to the past, but not be bound by it.*



Jeanene Kress,  
Trustee



Sherri Lippus,  
Trustee



Scott Ross,  
Trustee

Olmsted Township, Cuyahoga County and Olmsted Falls have a long historic relationship. This month, two events: the groundbreaking of a new library in our area: and, the closing by the County, of the Fitch Road service yard, provide the potential to reshape this relationship. In addition, we will take the August 8<sup>th</sup> Trustee Meeting on the road. What follows is a brief update on major strategic activities occurring that can impact residents and the township's future.

## ***Township Adopts Mission, Goals, Policy Manual***

The Board of Trustees has acted to implement a more focused approach to Township governance and operations. These changes formalize Olmsted Township's renewed commitment to serve residents in an accountable, ethical, engaged, service-driven and fiscally responsible manner. These changes enable the Township to better align people and funds with community and organizational priorities.

The approach includes a set of documents: an organizational mission, values, goals, organizational structure, job roles and an organizational policy manual. The Trustees have led meetings with employees to discuss and review the changes and goals. This information can be viewed at [www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org). These "paper changes" are designed to create a common focus among employees and citizens we can all see and appreciate.

## ***County Library Name***

As representatives for the residents of Olmsted Township, the Trustees have strongly advocated the County Library to name the new library the "Olmsted Library." To us, the core issue regarding the library is not where it is located, but who is served by the library.

Olmsted Township's population represents a majority of the service area. Since 2000, Olmsted Township is the fastest growing suburb in Cuyahoga County. This calls to question as to whether the County library would have considered keeping the current branch open unless it was supported by this population growth in Olmsted Township. As Trustees, we seek to have the name of the Library reflect the true reality of who is being served – a dynamic and growing Olmsted Community.

We have spoken at the ground breaking and with the Library Board of Directors urging the name change. Other area organizations such as the Senior Center, Community Center, Chamber of Commerce, and Performing Arts use the "wider reaching" Olmsted in their names. We believe it is time the County Library does the same. It is more than a name change, but a cultural change which recognizes the changing dynamic of our area.

## ***County Closes Fitch Road Service Yard***

The County informed Township Trustees on July 11 that the service yard was to be closed on July 23, 2012. The plan is to move employees and equipment to North Royalton and Brook Park yards. The reasons were economics and efficiency.

There are forty miles of roads in the township. The Township's Public Works staff maintains about 20 miles of residential streets. However, the County maintains over 20 miles of county roads in the township. These are mostly main roads: Bagley, Barton, Columbia, Cook, Fitch, MacKenzie, Sharp, Sprague, Stearns, and Usher roads.

Snow and ice removal are seen as major concerns. With school transportation, business deliveries and residential commuting at risk, we are currently negotiating with County officials to ensure our roads are maintained and cleaned in a timely manner to a standard of service that meets our expectations. Look to our website for County Public Works contact information and status updates.

## ***August Board of Trustees Meeting on the Road***

Mark your calendar, Wednesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm we will hold our regular Trustee meeting at the Irish American Club. We look forward to meeting you and addressing issues that concern you. In April, we held a successful meeting with a large turnout at the Social Hall in Columbia Park. These meetings are one way the Board is reaching out to inform residents and the business community about projects and programs that affect all of us.

## Collaboration Corner

### Community Partnerships Payoff of Children

The Early Childhood Center (ECC) has a new playground! Olmsted Township, the Olmsted Falls City Schools and the community partnered to build an adaptive, age appropriate playground for preschool and kindergarten aged children.

In 2011 Trustee Sherri Lippus wrote and Olmsted Township received the initial Cuyahoga County Development Grant in the amount of \$35,000 that started the project. Olmsted Falls Schools supplied matching funds. On Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> football and basketball players and their high schools coaches, as well as community members provided the muscle to make the dream a reality. In the process everyone learned again the value of working together to make difference on the local level.



### Senior Day Celebration

Both Olmsted communities came together to celebrate and recognize the contribution of senior citizens in the community. The event was held on the Village Green. Senior citizens were recognized for their contributions by Township Trustees and Mayor Bloomquist. The event reminded those present that, no matter how old you are, you are never too old to make a difference in our community.



Quality of life is important to all residents including seniors. With a large segment of our population being 65 or older it is important to understand their expectations. We invite all residents to complete a quality of life survey by visiting <https://olmstedtownship.org/recreation> and clicking on the *Quality of Life* link. Complete the survey by August 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Olmsted Residents Join Forces for Environment

Residents brought carloads of old documents, bills and other papers that eventually resulted in more than 3 tons of paper being shredded. This service was available to all residents of Olmsted Township and Olmsted Falls free of charge. There will be another community shredding day in October at the Olmsted Falls Middle School on Bagley Road. Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township joined forces with New Hope Specialized Services to provide no-cost to residents document shredding.

This event is an example of how collaboration and cooperation among local governments and businesses can benefit residents. New Hope Services is a social service agency that places physically and mentally challenged adults in the workplace.



### Did You Know: Recycle on Trash Day

You can separate and recycle #1 and #2 plastics including milk jugs, pop/soda bottles, water bottles and steel and aluminum beverage and empty food containers, glass bottles and jars, newspapers, magazines and junk mail. No pesticide or anti freeze containers should be recycled.



# FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

**QUESTIONS OR PERMITS Call 235-4225 or visit 27093 Bagley Road**

## Zoning and Property Maintenance Code Enforcement

### **WHEN DO I NEED A Permit?**

- Patio-Decks-Porches-Siding-Roofs
- Pools
- Ponds & Fill
- Signs
- Home Occupancy permits
- Residential Homes
  - Additions
  - Accessory Buildings
- Commercial Buildings
  - Additions
  - Accessory Buildings
- Industrial Buildings
  - Additions
  - Accessory Buildings
- Temporary Permits required for signs, unlicensed vehicles, port a-potties and trailers

1. **Signs** – All signs (including portable signs) require a permit for placement on all properties within Olmsted Township.
2. **Nuisance** – What constitutes a nuisance is the excessive accumulation or storage of the following materials in the open areas of the property: dismantled motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, tires, inoperable vehicles, debris, refuse, discarded or used building materials, household or industrial appliances, vegetation.
3. **Property Maintenance** – All open spaces (except agriculture use) must be mowed and maintained on a regular basis. Expect a violation notice if your grass is over 8 inches tall. Note: upon our notification of a complaint, we must provide time for owners to act before we mow or clean up property.

Be aware that there will be a fee for the Township to abate such nuisances. There is a \$125 administrative fee per parcel plus hourly charges for manpower and equipment to abate the nuisance violations.

### **Building in an Easement**

Why can't I build on part of my property that has an easement on it? A common question we hear in our department.

In the case of a sewer or drainage easement, the easement benefits the property owner as much as it benefits anyone else. In order for a municipal drainage system to work effectively, the Township needs to ensure that drainage easements are in place so that workers can access private property in order to maintain and repair drainage areas. For example, if a culvert runs through a property, the drainage easement allows the Township or County to replace it if it is damaged. If damage to a pipe or drainage system is done by a property owner, that property owner may be responsible for repair or replacement of the drainage system.

If the drainage system does not work properly, the property owner can be at risk of flooding and other problems. In exchange for allowing the municipality to access the property, the property owner gets to enjoy a property which drains freely, and knows that neighbors are also obliged to maintain their drainage easements to ensure that water intrusion will not occur along the property line.

When a drainage easement is in place, there are restrictions on how the easement area can be used. People usually cannot re-grade the soil or build structures because this could impede the free flow of water over the property. If there is a culvert or pipe, trees cannot be planted over it, because their roots could block it, and people are expected to keep grates clear so that the water can drain properly. If people would like to change the terms of the easement, they must reach an agreement with the agency or agencies which hold the easement. In most cases the easement holders are Olmsted Township, Cuyahoga County and/or utility companies. You may find the recorded easements for your property on the legal description of that parcel.



*Before you build or modify, stop by or call our Building Services staff for help and permits.*

# Community Connection



## Municipal Dedication Reflects Value of Service Partnerships

Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> marked a very important day in the life of our community as we came together to dedicate the Olmsted Township Municipal Complex. This included our Fire and Police Stations and our renovated Town Hall. Our campus looked especially festive as we hosted residents, employees, elected officials including Cuyahoga County Council members Dave Greenspan and Mike Gallagher and fire/ police chiefs from neighboring communities.

We conducted a ribbon cutting ceremony as well as tours of our facilities. Local scouts and a bagpiper led the official flag raising ceremony, St John WestShore Hospital personnel performed health screenings; PTA and other local groups demonstrated the Olmsted community has much to offer, while food and beverage was provided free of charge by Angelina's Pizza, Columbia Park, Donauschwaben, Irish American Club, Kiwanis and Shaker Marketplace.

We honored the commitment and determination of the many people who made this dream a reality! The complex shows how commitment to service and partnerships do make a difference.



## Quality of Life Survey: Your Input Requested

Our future is shaped by a series of informed choices. The communities of Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Township serve a population of nearly 24,000 residents (Township has 14,000 residents/Falls has 9,500 residents). The Township, City and School District are surveying local residents to gauge perceptions and gather feedback about local needs and service as well as perceptions about the school district so that each entity can better serve their residents. Thank you for voicing your opinions by taking this survey and by providing candid responses. Link <https://olmstedtownship.org/recreation>

# Olmsted Township



Established 1814

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

26900 Cook Road • Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

Olmsted Township "A Community of Diverse Neighborhoods"

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BEREA OH  
PERMIT #333



*Increased patrols and speed enforcement are two ways our Police Department protects residents and neighborhoods.*

**Visit our website to learn more:**  
[www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org)

## DID YOU KNOW: Olmsted Township Revenue and Demographic Information

- Since 2000, Olmsted Township has experienced a 27% growth in population - the third highest percentage of growth in Cuyahoga County.
- At over 14,000 residents, Olmsted Township is larger by population than Middleburg Heights, Bay Village and many other surrounding communities
- Olmsted Township is the 82<sup>nd</sup> largest out of over 1382 townships statewide
- *Only about 15 cents of your property tax dollar* returns to the Township to underwrite roads, police, fire, recreation, buildings and zoning operations and enforcement. The remainder comes from fees and declining State support. Our total township budget is just under \$6 million dollars.
- In comparison, *Cuyahoga County gets over 20 cents of your property tax dollar* for road services, zoning support, and for the Library and Metroparks. Trustees are working to ensure you get your full value for these dollars (see *In the Public Interest* on page 2).

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

Local  
Postal Customer

## Public Services Update

**Fitch Road:** While the project is well ahead of its planned schedule, problematic sewer trenching and a delay in ordering a traffic light bracket have delayed the opening of the road until August 14<sup>th</sup>. This project is funded in part by your county portion of property taxes.

**Barrett Rd. Project:** This project includes the widening and reconstruction of the roadway, replacement and or improvement to 5 culverts, new guardrail signage, pavement marking and the installation of a new 12" Cleveland Water line.

**Greenbrooke Basin Project:** This is a major part of the Flood Reduction plan. This project is completed and impacts residents north of the railroad tracks in Villages of the Lakeside, Breezewood and in Greenbrooke developments. This is another project supported in part by your property tax dollars.

*Visit the website [www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org) for other project updates.*



*The cleaning and channeling of Greenbrooke Basin helps reduce flooding.*