

# 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”*

Fall 2013 EDITION

## Olmsted Township: What Tomorrow Do You See?

Since 2000, Olmsted Township has undergone significant growth and change. While the community’s needs for Storm-water Management, Land Use, Senior Transportation, Public Safety, Economic Development, Roads, changed strategies and funding did not keep pace. This is our opportunity to make our vision for Olmsted Township a reality.

Local government can no longer rely on Federal, State or County coffers to foot the bill. Now, more than ever, Olmsted Township needs to have “adequate funding” and our “fair share” to attract private and public partners to help us implement solutions.

This past year, the Township Trustees have been “on the road” engaging residents on these topics, listening, and using your input to shape public policy and develop potential solutions. The results are impressive: In the last 12 months, we have formulated a land use plan, held a productive storm-water management summit, performed ditch cleaning and basin remediation, expanded parks and recreation opportunities, took steps forward with JEDD Business Park development, reduced trash collection costs, continued senior transportation, and reduced internal costs. However, more needs to be done.

In the past year, we have seen the State and County government shift more than \$1.5 million in costs to Olmsted Township taxpayers. Right now, 16% of your property taxes fund Olmsted Township — primarily, safety forces, road maintenance and other basic services (See Table 1). Economic development, parks & recreation, and other infrastructure needs have not been addressed. If we are to solve Olmsted Township problems and move forward, then we must commit to investing in our future.

### *The Value of Moving Forward*

- Sidewalks, Parks, Storm Water Management
- Economic Development
- Job Creation
- Diverse Tax Base
- Additional Shopping and Service Opportunities

(Table 1) **Olmsted Township Property Tax Dollar Breakdown**



Continuing on our current path is not a viable strategy; it is actually a step back. Action—securing funds through an operating levy specifically targeted to addressing the identified problems related to roads, infrastructure, and tax diversification—is our community's only solution.

### **Olmsted Township... Always Available**

[www.olmstedtownship.org](http://www.olmstedtownship.org). From there you can link to the Township’s Facebook page. (don’t forget to “like” us) so you can be receive updates.

# Overview: Roadmap to a Sustainable Future

## *Deep State Cuts and Critical Infrastructure Needs Drive Township Levy Request*

Olmsted Township is at the crossroads. As shown on page 1, Olmsted Township receives only 16 cents of each property tax dollar you pay. State revenue cuts, rising population, underfunded roads and infrastructure needs, and lack of a diversified tax base threaten our future. Our plans to streamline operations and reallocate local funds to maintain roads, improve infrastructure for stormwater and sanitary sewers, and develop a solid plan to attract business and jobs lie in the balance.

That is why we want to take the time to get clear, concise information to you that will allow all of us to engage in a productive discussion about the needs and future of Olmsted Township so that you will be able to make an informed decision in November.

### 1. The Need: Your 16 cents Stretched to the Limit

As Table 2 shows, current funding means little money is available to solve our biggest issues. This is why, without this change, Olmsted Township will fail in fulfilling your expectations.

- Olmsted Township receives only 16 cents of each property tax dollar you pay.
- Olmsted Township has seen the start of an annual reduction of approximately \$1 million from its budget due to the combined loss of state funding to local communities and the elimination of Ohio's estate tax.
- Road Maintenance: In 2014, changes in County government will double the number of miles the township is responsible for maintaining: snow plowing, de-icing, ditch cleaning, and street maintenance.
- Infrastructure: As a growing community, needs related to aging, under-maintained, and undersized infrastructure for stormwater and sanitary sewer issues can no longer be ignored. The current available funding is not adequate.
- JEDD Business Park: While progress is being made to attract non-industrial businesses, gaining maximum value for residents from this land in the form of job creation and tax diversification requires site infrastructure investment from the township in the form of sewers, roads and land preparation. This year, the township board has been working with State, County and others to secure some infrastructure funding; however, this effort has highlighted how our required local share is underfunded. Without a commitment of matching funds from the township, we are not eligible for funds from the state, county and others.
- Residents have repeatedly expressed a desire for recreational, shopping and other local services.
- Police and fire levies can only be used to support their operations.

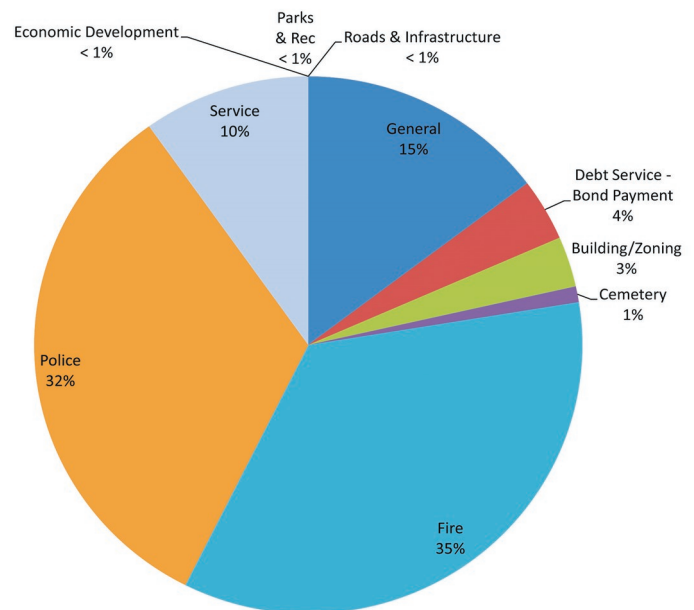
As a township, Olmsted Township has a limited ability to raise funds. **A GENERAL OPERATING LEVY** is a more flexible way to provide economic development, infrastructure/ road improvements and operating improvements including safety services.

### 2. What has been done to cut costs?

Since taking office, township trustees have consistently recognized the need for fiscal vigilance and have operated a very lean government through pivotal reductions and other efforts such as:

- Ended Deficit Spending;
- Increased our carryover by \$662,639 in the two years prior to the \$1 million cut in State Revenue streams.
- Negotiated a more cost effective benefit plan with increased employee contributions;
- Significantly reduced overtime.

(Table 2) **Olmsted Township Expenses**



### **3. How the levy works**

The 4-Mill levy will raise property taxes \$11.67 per month per \$100,000 in property valuation and is projected to secure about \$1 million in new revenue.

- Residents in townships do not pay income tax to the township, as in other communities, so we are already behind the proverbial “8 ball” with regard to funding sources.

<b>TAXPAYER COST FOR 4-MILL LEVY</b>		
<b>House Value</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>	<b>Monthly Cost</b>
\$100,000.00	\$140.00	\$11.67
\$150,000.00	\$210.00	\$17.50
\$175,000.00	\$245.00	\$20.42
\$200,000.00	\$280.00	\$23.33

### **4. What does this levy get us? A Sustainable Olmsted Township with:**

- Our fair share of funding vs. costs for Infrastructure Maintenance/Improvements: Sewers, roads, stormwater management
- Funding for Economic Development projects needed to diversify our tax base, attract high quality jobs and businesses needed to meet recreational, retail opportunities and improve Quality of Life
- Funding that stabilizes safety forces

### **5. What happens if it fails?**

- Without new funds, the increased demands for road maintenance, community and economic opportunity and infrastructure projects will remain unmet.
- Olmsted Township will face the biggest budget reduction in its history, knocking operations down to the most basic programs required by law.
- Since the general fund has been supplementing operations, at some point, this fund will be depleted and in a deficit position. The township would be unable to meet payroll and pay its vendors.
- If the township is unable to sustain operations, the State Auditor could declare the township to be in Fiscal Caution, Fiscal Watch or Fiscal Emergency.
- If ultimately placed in Fiscal Emergency, The State of Ohio assumes control over decision-making within our community until a multi-year Recovery Plan is approved and successfully implemented over several years.

## **Equitable Solution to Senior Transportation Implemented**

Faced with mounting costs, a low level of participation and declining revenues, the Trustees were forced to take a hard look at the Senior Transportation model. The process involved two months of negotiations, and resulted in a more equitable, shared-cost model that lowers the overall service cost to taxpayers. This contract with Senior Transportation Connection was approved without any service interruption to citizens. For now, the service is for medical appointments only, but options for shopping shuttle are still being discussed.



## **Moving Forward**

Senior Transportation Connection (STC) continues to provide transport for people 60+ for MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ONLY. This includes medical doctor, dentist, vision, hearing and therapy appointments. Cost for the rider for these trips is \$5.00 for *each one-way trip* PLUS a “destination charge” of \$1, \$2 or \$3, depending on the location of the appointment. Olmsted Township will pay \$6.38 for each one-way trip.

If you are not enrolled with the Senior Transportation Connection, pick up a brochure at Olmsted Township Police Station or Building Department. If you have questions about the service or to schedule a pick up, call STC at 1-800-983-4782.

## Grant Funds Support Infrastructure and Community Projects



Perhaps you have noticed nearly 400 fire hydrants on our main roads and subdivisions have been power-washed to remove rust and grime and then painted. Maintaining infrastructure is a top township priority. An Eagle Scout project by Joshua Milam McCollum in the spring accounted for about 70 refurbished hydrants. Public Services student summer staff Mike Stamper, Jacob Norman, Kirk Olesick and Adam Woodruff (*pictured left*) continued the work by priming and painting another 300+ fire hydrants.

You will also see American flags and banners at some of our intersections. This is the beginning of preparations for our bicentennial year in 2014. Funding for this project came from of a community block grant earmarked for these kinds of projects.

## Backyard Stormwater Management: Keep It Flowin'

When it comes to stream dumping, even organic doesn't "cut it." Yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, pet droppings, etc.) is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest category of all discarded trash. Pet waste should never be dumped in or even next to a creek, ditch or pond. When these materials are put into the stream, they begin to decompose and use up the critical, life-giving oxygen in the water. Furthermore, this excess debris can obstruct flow and clog downstream culverts, leading to localized flooding and erosion problems.

- Pet waste should always be bagged and placed in the trash.
- You can further protect our local waterways by leaving an un-mowed buffer strip next to any creek on your property and by planting trees and shrubs on and next to stream banks. This streamside buffer helps to filter pollutants from runoff and to protect the stream bank from erosion.



You can learn more by calling Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District (216-524-6580 x10) and requesting a free copy of *Life at the Water's Edge: Living in Harmony with Your Backyard Stream*. Remember – clean water starts with you!

## Volunteers Needed

The Board of Trustees is calling for residents of Olmsted Township interested in serving on the Zoning Commission or the Board of Zoning Appeals. This is a great way to serve our community in a volunteer capacity. For more information, see our website or call (440) 235-3051. Help us implement our Master Plan and guidelines for future economic development.

In addition, Olmsted Township and Olmsted Falls are planning a joint celebration of our Bicentennial Year 2014. We welcome your input on events and programming that will honor our heritage and promote a sense of community. We also are seeking volunteers to work with us to make this a memorable year. Call 440-235-3051 or email us at [bicentennial@olmstedtownship.org](mailto:bicentennial@olmstedtownship.org) to volunteer and/or offer suggestions.

## Fire Department Update

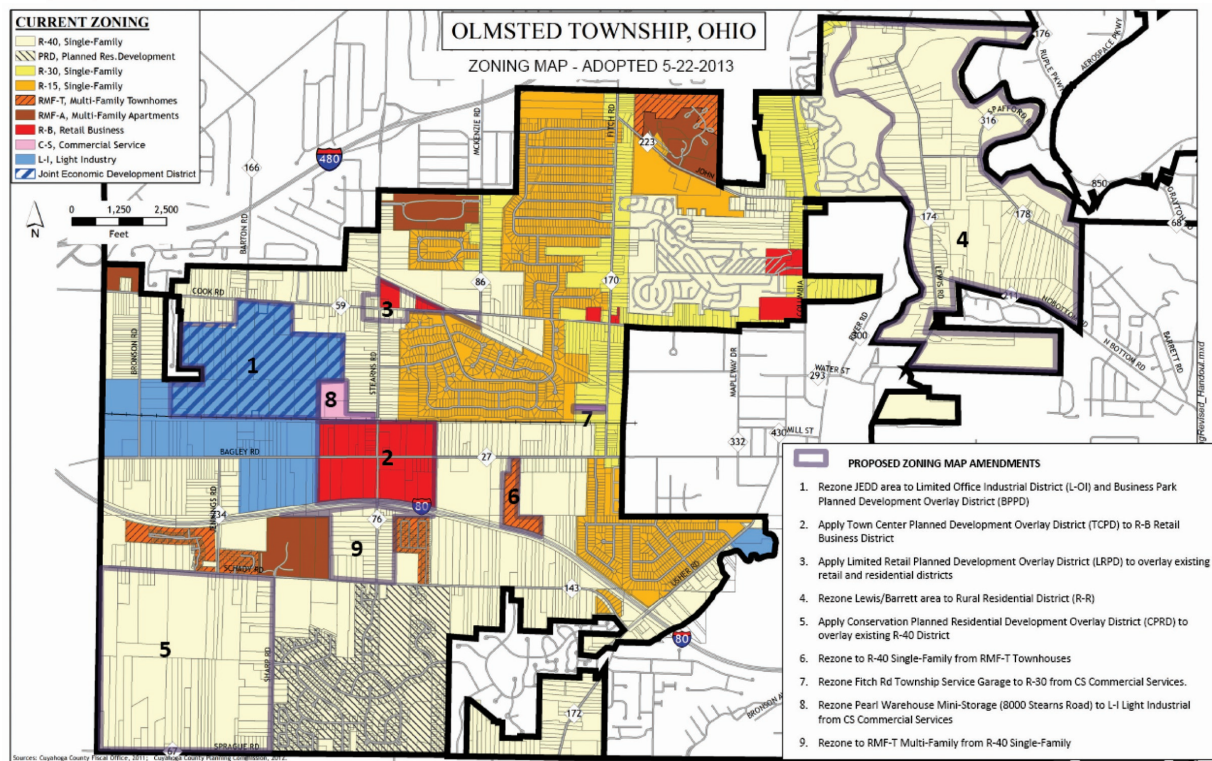
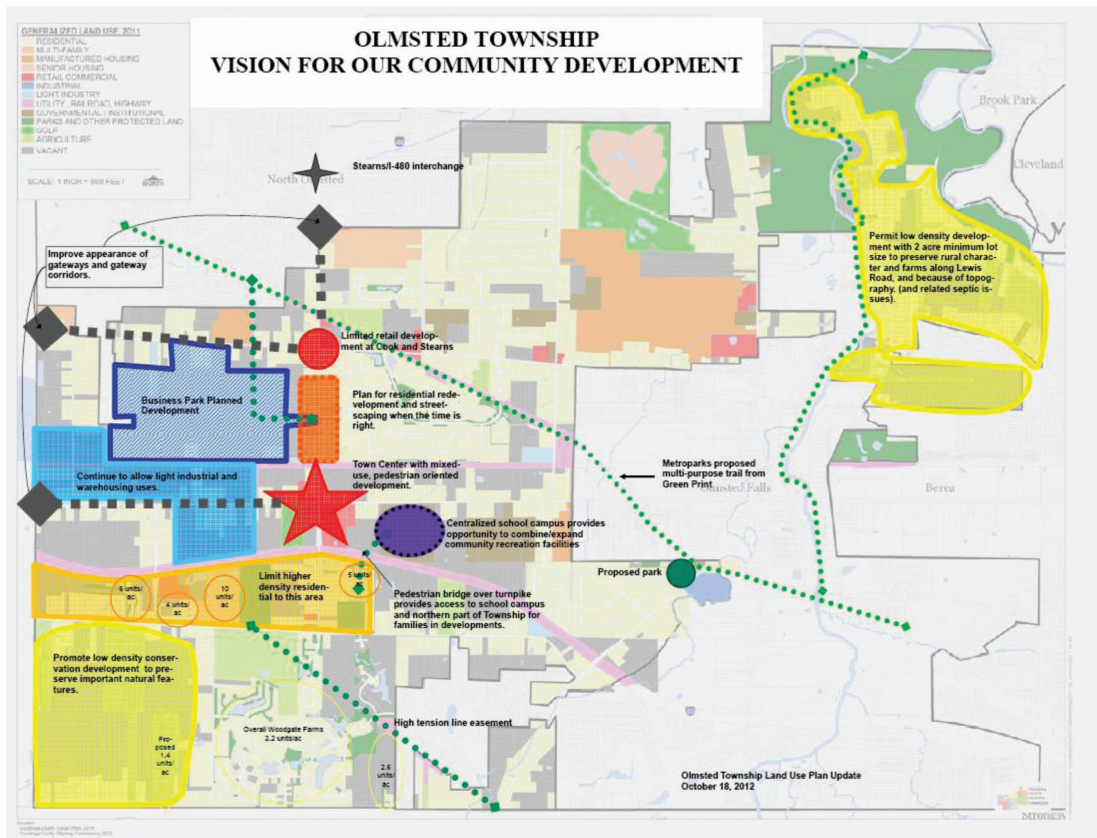
Three of our firefighters were recently honored by the Board of Trustees and St. John West Shore Medical Center for their successful efforts in revive a young woman who suffered a heart attack in our community. A bystander called 911 and began CPR that allowed our men to stabilize and transport the victim. Their quick response, expertise and use of the latest technology made all the difference in the successful outcome for this young woman. Honored were Lt. Chris Kovach and firefighters Dean Souris and Joe Foecking.



## Land Use Plan Reflects Dreams and Realities

In the past decade, rapid residential growth has underscored the need to update the Township's Master Plan of 1998. This new plan serves to define and prioritize plans for investment in roads, infrastructure and an overall plan for community growth. Driven by the goals of tax diversification, job creation, and recreation, the maps show a variety of areas for home development of various types and the locations of a town center and a JEDD business park.

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*Olmsted Township "A Community of Diverse Neighborhoods"*

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

## 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

**Town Hall:**  
440-235-3051

**Trustee Office:**  
440-793-6950

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## New Trash and Recycling Signals Savings



- How To Mailer to Residents: Mid September
- New cans distributed after September 25
- Use new cans immediately – *see mailer for details*
- Green Cans For Recycling, Blue Cans for Trash—*see mailer for details*
- Bulk Items: Thursday of Third Full Week of Month
- Yard Waste- *see mailer for details*
- No more quarterly bills; lower cost to residents
- Questions or enroll for senior discount (over 60) **call Republic directly at 1-800-433-1309.**



*Olmsted Township 2013 Champions in the District 1 Public Safety  
Tournament Members of our Police and Service Departments*

## Land Use Plan *continued from page 5*

Cuyahoga County and Olmsted Township share responsibility for the design and enforcement of Building and Zoning codes in our community. After receiving community input, the map and amendments reflect the dual desires of residents: to see the stars at night, and have increased access to modern community services. They form a framework to guide the decisions in the application of the Ohio Revised Code, zoning and building codes and community aspirations.