

Olmsted Township



Established 1814

www.olmstedtownship.org

26900 Cook Road • Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

Olmsted Township "A Community of Diverse Neighborhoods"

Fall/Winter 2015

Message from the Trustees

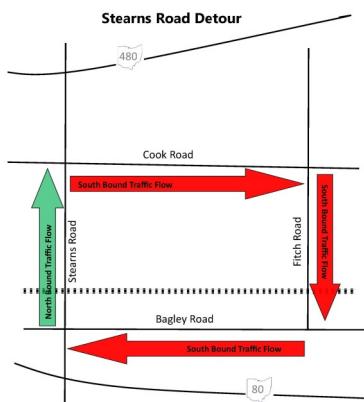
The focus of this issue of the Township newsletter is on each of the four departments that provide services to our community. We have highlighted their function, staffing and equipment, as well as statistics or examples that illustrate ways in which they serve. Each department is held to high standard of performance and accountability, including setting budgets and containing costs. This issue also profiles our newly appointed Township Governance Committee and includes a helpful digest of information on programs available to our senior population.

The Township is on track to stay within our budget for 2015, to plan for infrastructure improvements, and to pay down our current bonded indebtedness, and is committed to provide transparency in the actions and decisions that affect the community.

Olmsted Township benefits when residents and our business community take an active role. We encourage you to attend Trustee meetings, ask questions, volunteer to serve and VOTE on Nov. 3.



Olmsted Township Trustees (l-r): Tiffany Fischbach, Sherri Lippus and Jeanene Kress



Service Department

Stearns Road Overpass Project Update

Detour to Begin

Construction on the more than \$10 million Stearns Road Overpass project is well under way. In November, following notification by Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works, only traffic heading NORTH will be permitted to use Stearns Road between Bagley Road and Cook Road. All southbound traffic will be re-routed to Cook to Fitch to Bagley. The Township police and service departments are setting plans to ensure the efficient and continuous flow of traffic, especially during peak hours. Appropriate signage will be placed to ensure everyone is well-informed of the change in traffic pattern. This pattern will be in place as long as necessary to ensure the safety of all who travel this construction site. Check www.olmstedtownship.org/projects.cfm for project updates. The anticipated completion date for the overpass is summer 2017.

For additional and updated information
from this department, visit:
www.olmstedtownship.org/service.cfm

(Cont. on page 2)



Stearns Road Overpass, looking south. Rendering provided by Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works.

Service Department (cont.)

Curbside Leaf Collection Returns

The Township will provide Curbside Leaf Collection for the 2015 fall season. Leaves will be picked up from tree lawns with an industrial leaf vacuum, with a minimum of three passes through the Township. Bagged leaves, branches, brush, garden waste, grass clippings and trash will not be picked up as part of this program. Updates on the progress of the collection will be posted on the Township website (www.olmstedtownship.org). Collection will begin in mid-October and run through early December. You may also dispose of yard waste including leaves until Nov. 27 on the regularly scheduled trash pick-up day. Holiday trees will be collected the first and second full weeks in January on regular collection dates.



The last day for branch chipping this year will be Oct. 26. Branch chipping takes place the last Monday of the month, from April through October.

Stormwater Management Program

On Sept. 15, the Ohio Supreme Court granted the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (NEORSD) authority to resume its regional stormwater management program with local communities. This program was developed in 2010 to address the negative effects of wet weather throughout the region. The program has been on hold since 2013 because of litigation. This decision will allow the Board of Trustees to resume working with NEORSD to resolve our stormwater issues. We have a plan in place and established relationships that will allow us to meet our goal for these projects.

Bronson-Cook-Barton

Improvements

Construction starts this fall on the \$4.4 million Bronson-Cook-Barton project, which will bring sewer and water lines to residents and businesses in the area. Bronson Road will also be replaced from Cook Road to the north side of the Norfolk and Southern Railroad track. This collaboration with Cuyahoga County with state funding will bring appropriate utilities to the area of the Township slated for economic development and will be another incentive to prospective businesses seeking this kind of venue for expansion.



Municipal Complex Paving

Another fall project is the paving of the Municipal Complex at the corner of Fitch/Cook Roads. The complex houses Township administrative offices and the police and fire stations. This project will provide safer entry for residents and others who attend meetings or conduct business there as well as a more stable surface for Township vehicles.

Recycling/Trash Collection Change

There will be No Recycling or Trash Collection at Town Hall through the end of the year. Instead, any and all household hazardous waste, computers/components and tires will be accepted at the Service Complex at 7900 Fitch Road on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Signs will direct you to the location in the complex. Only Township residents are permitted to drop off items. All contractors are required to dispose of waste from their projects elsewhere.

Planning for Service Complex in the Works

The Board of Trustees and Service Director Ed Salk have started long-range planning for our 7.5-acre Service Complex at 7900 Fitch Road. This will include completion of the unfinished service building, replacement and relocation of the road salt bin, and maximizing both the buildings and the yard space. This will entail a complete review of the property and identification of the best and highest use, including seeking public/public and public/private partnerships to fund and co-locate at the facility.

Road Maintenance Update

Township road crews have been busy making minor repairs and crack sealing throughout town. In addition, our Township five-year Road Maintenance Plan is being updated. This summer, our roads and streets were rated on their condition and need for future repair and replacement. Roads rated "poor" will go through another process with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works to provide repair/replacement cost estimates. This will allow the Board to budget these projects accordingly. This plan is critical to an orderly process moving forward.



Building Department

Who We Are: Building Official/Inspector James McReynolds has multiple certifications and is involved in several professional organizations. Office Coordinator Tammy Tabor has been with the Township for 18 years.

What We Do: The building department assists residents, business owners and contractors with any concerns regarding zoning, building and property maintenance issues.

The Township Building Department:

- Enforces the various building codes relating to construction, renovation, repair, maintenance, or addition to/demolition of structures
- Registers contractors who wish to work in the community
- Issues permits and coordinates inspections for residential and commercial building, electrical, plumbing and HVAC work
- Advises homeowners on plan feasibility, contractor selection and code requirements
- Works with members of the Board of Appeals as property owners request variances from building codes and resolutions; Ohio law allows property owners a hearing on requests for changes that have been denied by the Building Official
- Works with members of the Zoning Commission
- on zoning law changes, development plans and reviews requests for rezoning
- Reviews plans for zoning compliance and code compliance
- Inspects construction in accordance with the approved plans
- Performs property maintenance inspections to maintain property values and increase enjoyment of the community for our residents.

The goals of the department are to perform all duties in the most professional manner; to provide fair and consistent enforcement of the building codes; and to work to address property nuisance concerns without partiality. Good zoning and fair enforcement help to maintain property values throughout the community.

Nuisance Complaints

If you have concerns about a nuisance property in our community, call the Building Department or email trustees@olmstedtownship.org. You may register a concern without leaving your name.



The CVS project at Bagley and Stearns Roads went through a rigorous planning process encompassing no fewer than 18 reviews, inspections and approvals, from March 2013 to June 2015.

Police Department

Mission

The mission for every member of the Township Police Department is to affirmatively promote, within available resources and engaging in lawful police functions, a feeling of security and safety for every member of our community.



The Annual Olmsted Bike Rodeo is sponsored by Olmsted Recreation and Olmsted Community Center with support from the Olmsted Township Police and Fire Departments, Olmsted Falls Police and Fire Departments, and the Olmsted CERT.

Staff

Staff includes 14 full-time police officers:

1 Chief of Police

1 Lieutenant

3 Sergeants

1 Detective (20-25 percent of all reports are referred to the Detective Bureau)

1 School Resource Officer/DARE officer

7 full-time and 3 part-time patrol officers

Most police officers have been assigned to perform specific law enforcement functions, including:

- Evidence technicians
- Accident investigations
- Narcotics investigations
- Criminal investigations
- Firearm instructors
- Subject Control instructors
- Taser instructors

For additional and updated information from this department, visit:
<http://www.olmstedtownship.org/police.cfm>

Community Programs

Fill the Cruiser (supports Christians in Action)
Medicine Drop
Are You OK?

Equipment

- 6 police patrol vehicles equipped with a radio, radar unit, shotgun, patrol rifle, lock-out tool and other various equipment. In the process of procuring dashboard cameras through a county grant.
- 3 handheld radar units
- Portable radio for each officer
- Intoxilyzer unit for OVI offenders
- Portable Breathalyzer unit
- 8 Taser units
- Various evidentiary equipment for processing crime scenes
- Various narcotics/surveillance equipment

Coffee with the Chief

Join Police Chief John W. Minek for coffee and a chat at 9 a.m. on the last Friday of every month at the police station at 26900 Fitch Road, near the corner of Cook Road.

Facts and Figures

2013 calls: 13,679

2014 calls: 13,821

Road Coverage (average):

2-3 patrol cars per shift covering approximately 10 square miles

Training (annually):

- 600-800 hours of Continuing Education for officers
- 32-40 hours of in-service training in areas such as firearms, subject control and Taser
- Conducted without any overtime

Important 9-1-1 Information

All 9-1-1 calls are dispatched by the Cuyahoga Emergency Communications System (CECOMS). That means you will be asked what city your emergency is in and then will be transferred to the right department. If you are calling from your home or business in Olmsted Township, you must say **Olmsted Township**. If you say Olmsted Falls, your call will be transferred incorrectly.

Fire Department



Chief Patrick R. Kelly (left) shakes hands with Lt. Chris Kovachs (right) at Kelly's Sept. 26 swearing-in ceremony.

Kelly Sworn in as Chief

The Board of Trustees is pleased to introduce Patrick J. Kelly as Chief of the Township Fire Department. Chief Kelly comes with 33 years of service in the Cleveland Fire Department and a wealth of experience in administration and operations. He took the oath of office on September 26. This change in leadership will offer a unique opportunity to assess and evaluate the goals and values that drive the department. In Chief Kelly's letter to the Board, he talked about servant leadership. In the coming months, he and his team will have an opportunity to see how that leadership and willingness to serve enhances the mission of the Township Fire Department.

Staff

1 Fire Chief (Planning & Fiscal Responsibility)

1 Assistant Chief (Fire Prevention)

3 Lieutenants (Shift Supervisors & Training)

9 Firefighters (Firefighter II and Paramedic)

Staff (excluding fire chief) is required to maintain minimum state certifications in firefighting (Firefighter II) and emergency medical service (Paramedic). Continuing Education hours are required to maintain these certifications. Staff members are also trained and certified in:

- Hazardous Materials Response (HAZMAT)
- Technical rescue (confined space, trench, rope, and water rescue)
- Fire Inspector

Community Programs

- CPR/AED and First Aid training
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Commercial and Residential Lock Box
- Fire Station tours
- Smoke detectors
- Infant car seat installation and inspection

For additional and updated information from this department, visit:

<http://www.olmstedtownship.org/fire.cfm>

- Fire extinguisher classes
- Emergency preparedness

Equipment

The department has more than \$2.5 million in equipment; many of these assets were purchased through the acquisition of grants.

Major equipment includes:

2002 rescue squad (Medic 1)*

2010 rescue squad (Medic 2)

2000 fire engine

1995 75-foot ladder truck

2014 SUV (chase car)

2007 sedan (fire prevention)

2005 self-contained breathing apparatus air packs

2004 Thermal Imager Camera

*A 2016 Ford E450 Lifeline rescue squad arriving in early 2016 will replace Medic 1.

2014 Facts and Figures

Fire runs: 336

Staffing level:

EMS runs: 1,399

3 personnel-57%

Mutual aid given: 168

4 personnel-29%

Mutual aid rec'd: 184

5 personnel-14%

Avg. response time: 3.91 minutes

Avg. time on call: 54 minutes

Fire Prevention

The fire prevention bureau oversees code compliance in commercial facilities as well as assembly occupancies. The bureau inspects these buildings at least annually. Buildings such as the schools and Vita-Mix need additional attention because of their complexity and large occupancy load. The fire prevention bureau works closely with the Township Building Department regarding new construction and renovations. Special events scheduled throughout the year in the Township are inspected to ensure the safety of those attending these functions.

Governance Review Committee



Front row, l-r: Annmarie Rajnicek, Mary Lou Gallus, Lisa Zver, Larry Abbott, John Vas, Mark Kennedy, Richard McMakin. Back row, l-r: Virginia Wendling, Chris Williams, Justin Whelan, Margot Maurer.

Meet the newly appointed members of the Governance Review Committee, which will identify options for governance for the Township moving forward. This volunteer board will work independently of the Trustees under the direction of a planning professional with CT Consultants. This committee will report to the Board of Trustees and the community.

governance@olmstedtownship.org

Larry Abbott is President/founder of Automation Administration. Annmarie and her husband and Resources LLC, an engineering firm. He has a degree in electrical engineering and is a licensed Professional Engineer. Although Larry has lived in the Township for only two years, his wife grew up here, and his father-in-law is a 42+year resident. The Abbotts have two daughters.

Mary Lou Gallus, a 28-year Township resident, has a strong business background and the skills to document performance, investigate least-cost options, and analyze financial documents. She recently retired as a business operations manager and is interested in giving back to our community. She is a two-year member of the Township Finance Committee.

Mark Kennedy has lived in Olmsted for more than seven years. He manages enterprise applications at a large Cleveland-based company and has been an IT professional for more than 18 years. Mark is married and has two children.

Margot Maurer, an 18-year resident, is president and a lifelong member of the Donauschwaben's German American Cultural Center. Margot will represent the business interests in the Township and will serve as a liaison to this segment of the community. She is a teacher in the Cleveland School District, and is in her 27th year.

Richard McMakin has lived in Olmsted for more than 19 years and has served in various capacities and on several advisory committees. He served on the Union Cemetery Association Board, is a member of the Zoning Commission, and was instrumental in the establishment, activation and operation of Olmsted CERT. Richard worked in federal law enforcement for seven years and is a retired captain, with 31 years of experience with a major airline.

Annmarie Rajnicek, principal at St. Mary of the Falls School, is in her ninth year of school administration and has a master's degree in Educational

their two daughters have been residents since 2003. **John Vas** grew up in Olmsted, graduating from OFHS in 1989. After a 15-year career in engineering and business, he left the corporate world to pursue his real passion, education. John teaches mathematics at his alma mater and is a member of the football coaching staff. He and his family have lived in the Township since 2000.

Virginia Wendling is in her 26th year as a social studies teacher at OFHS. She has also served as a coach and is co-advisor for National Honor Society and Rho Kappa. Virginia, her husband, and their three children have lived in the Township for 11 years. The family is active at Olmsted Community Church, especially in youth programming.

Justin Whelan is an attorney with Buckley King LPA and has represented municipalities and other public entities as an assistant law director and special counsel. Justin has lived in Olmsted for more than two years and is originally from North Olmsted. He and his wife welcomed their first child in April.

Chris Williams, MBA, is a financial analyst for FirstEnergy in Akron. His education and work experience have prepared him to effectively analyze and interpret data in order to make informed decisions. Chris and his family have lived in the Township for three years.

Lisa J. Zver is an 18-year resident of the Township and has two children who are OFHS graduates. Zver has a degree in marketing communications from Baldwin Wallace and has 15 years' experience in marketing, management and business development. She has worked in retail, banking, international marketing services, education and consulting for small businesses. Lisa is a trustee of the Bicentennial Commission.

Senior Services

Senior Roundtable

10 a.m., Tuesday, Oct. 27

Town Hall, 26900 Cook Road

Trustees will host a Roundtable to the remaining \$22. The service talk with older residents about also provides a low-cost, door-to-door shopping shuttle to venues and to seek input on how to better serve seniors. Please join us for information. coffee and discussion.

Trash Collection Discount

House calls

Village of the Falls provides house calls by a nurse practitioner. The nurse practitioner can diagnose and treat common illnesses and ailments, refill prescriptions, manage lab work and other diagnostic testing and monitor the status of chronic conditions. Visits are billed to Medicare as a doctor's visit. For more information, call Marie Grosh at 440-235-7590. If you are over age 60, you can receive a senior rate on your trash collection. Call Traci at Town Hall 216-443-7050 for more information.

Homestead Exemption

Silver Sneakers

440-427-1599

This fitness program tailored to older adults combines movement, stretching, balance and posture training. Silver Sneakers is covered by Medicare, so there is no cost to you. Classes are offered throughout the week at Olmsted Community Center at 8170 Mapleway Drive. View the schedule at www.olmstedcc.com.

Lockbox

440-235-3099

The Lockbox program allows safe access to senior citizens in their homes during emergencies. The lockbox reduces the likelihood of lockbox forcing entry in an emergency. When an emergency call comes in, the fire department will call the dispatcher to identify the location of the lockbox, which can be unlocked only by fire personnel.

Senior Transportation Connection

216-265-2830

The Township provides transportation to medical appointments through the Senior Transportation Connection. The actual cost for a round trip is \$32; however, users pay \$10 plus a destination fee of

Medicine Drop

440-235-3950

Please use our Medicine Drop for unused and expired prescription or over-the-counter medications. The container is in the lobby of the Police Station on Fitch Road,

near the corner of Fitch and Cook Roads.

Are you OK?

440-235-3335

This program provides a call to your home at a specified time to ensure that you are OK. This is especially important to seniors or handicapped persons who live alone. Call to see if you qualify and to set up the protocol for your call schedule.

Meals on Wheels

440-243-1144

Meals on Wheels is available in our community. You can receive a hot meal delivered to your home at lunchtime for \$4.50 per day. This meal meets standards for a diabetes diet but is not applicable for salt-restricted or dialysis patients.

Olmsted Recreation

216-470-7103

www.olmstedrecreation.com

This joint venture of Olmsted Township, Olmsted Falls and Olmsted Falls Schools provides programming for all ages. Check out the senior programs, speakers and special events. Brochures are available at the Olmsted Community Center at 8170 Mapleway Drive.

Fall Yard Help

440-235-3099

Volunteers are seeking residents in need of help with clearing leaves from their properties. Call Town Hall if you are in need of assistance and we will work to connect you with volunteers.

