

Introducing Chief Peter Nelson



On March 9th, the Trustees approved the appointment of Peter J. Nelson to serve as Interim Fire Chief Consultant. Chief Nelson will manage the department, evaluate the department's strengths, assess staffing, make recommendations to the Board, and develop strategies to move the department forward.

Chief Nelson's resume of executive leadership in fire service is one of the best in the Nation. He is a 33-year veteran of the fire service, having retired after 17 years as the Fire Chief of the City of Independence. Under his leadership, that department excelled, becoming one of the most technologically advanced in the area with excellent fire prevention and educational programs for residents and businesses.

Chief Nelson also brings years of successful administrative and managerial experience. He managed a balanced budget through two economic recessions and generated over \$500,000 in grants for the fire department.

The Trustees will be working over the coming weeks and months with Chief Nelson and our entire leadership team, to provide increased opportunities for professional growth, communication, leadership training and strategies that ensure an outstanding level of service to our community and a collegial workplace.

Shop Local

We ask you to consider "Shopping Local" as you purchase products and services. Studies show that patronizing local merchants ensures a more vibrant community, creates more jobs, and keeps the local economy strong. Local merchants are also generally more supportive of the community and its schools. See www.olmstedchamber.org for a listing of local businesses.

Use the Olmsted Chamber as your main resource to find local businesses and support your community. Our mission is to lead and support the economic development of our communities.



The Olmsted Chamber meets every 4th Wednesday of the month interested in joining the Chamber? Visit us at www.olmstedchamber.org

Update

We anticipate work will begin just as soon as the weather breaks on the Stearns Road Overpass Project. This \$10+ million federal sponsored and funded project will improve the roadway, bring water and sewers to the area and significantly reduce traffic congestion by providing a bridge over the existing railroad crossing. This will improve traffic flow especially during peak morning and evening rush times. Traffic will be maintained as possible during the construction period with completion early 2017.

The Barton-Cook-Bronson Project will be placed for bid within the next couple of months. This \$4 million project is a Cuyahoga County/ Olmsted Township collaboration which will bring water, sewers and road improvements to this western portion of the Township. It will take infrastructure to the entrance to the JEDD (Joint Economic Development District) and offer more opportunities for commercial development.

It's Home Improvement Time

All contractors must register with the building department before beginning any work in the Township and must show proof of insurance even if no permits are necessary. This ensures that should any unforeseen problems occur on the job, your contractor assumes liability, not you. Your contractor should be the person obtaining permit(s). This is NOT the responsibility of the property owner.

Permits are required for projects involving: building, electrical, HVAC, additions and alterations, and plumbing (through the Cuyahoga County Board of Health). Accessory uses that require permits include: fences, sheds, decks, patios, pools, roofing, windows and others. Please contact us before beginning any project.

We are happy to answer your questions or provide assistance as necessary. Drop by the Building Department located in the Shaker Plaza next to Lorain National Bank or call (440) 235-4225.

Olmsted Township



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Olmsted Township "A Community of Diverse Neighborhoods"

26900 Cook Road • Olmsted Township, Ohio 44138

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

Grant Funding in Olmsted Township

In 2014, Olmsted Township wrote for and received grants totaling more than \$700,000.00. For a detailed accounting of the grants received and the amount of funding for each award, please go to our website www.olmstedtownship.org/grants.

911/ Emergency Calls

Remain calm, speak slowly, spell your name/ street name and briefly state the emergency. Say that you are in Olmsted Township so our police, fire or EMS can respond. Make sure your address is easily visible on your home or mailbox. If you use a Life Alert or other device, make sure then list Olmsted Township as your address.

Community Shredding Days

We are pleased to again partner with Olmsted Falls to provide residents with two opportunities for document shredding:

Saturday, May 2nd 9:00-12:00 noon
at Fall Lenox School
26450 Bagley Road
in the front parking lot

Saturday, Sept. 12th 9:00-12:00 noon at
Olmsted Falls Middle School
27045 Bagley Road
in the bus drop off lane/ front parking lot



Mailbox Replacement Policy

We recently updated our Mailbox Replacement Policy to reflect the following change. During the snow plowing season, damage to mailboxes at the street may occasionally occur. Damage due to accumulated snow around the mailbox is not the responsibility of Olmsted Township. However, our Service Department will make every effort to temporarily repair the mailbox so that mail can be received.

If your mailbox is damaged by a Township truck or snowplow blade, please report it to the Service Department as soon as possible (440) 235-1011. We will replace the mailbox with a treated 4 x 4 post and extension. The actual mailbox will be replaced with a standard mailbox. The Township will not supply a specialty mailbox.

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Spring 2015 Edition

Message from the Board of Trustees

We again thank you for your support of the 4 mill levy this past November and appreciate your confidence. We continue to monitor Township expenses and hold ourselves and each department accountable for expenditures. The transition to CECOMS is complete resulting in a more than \$200,000 savings this year. Overtime has been reduced affecting even more cost savings. Each line item in the budget has been examined and vendors have been consolidated to take advantage of better pricing. With our Fiscal Officer, we refinanced our debt to save more than \$100,000 over the next 10 years.

We are currently looking for residents interested in serving on our Governance Commission, Zoning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and on our Volunteer Nuisance Report Team. Citizen input is critical to good decision making. Volunteers bring valuable skills and insights to identify solutions to our community concerns. They also reflect the values and opinions of our residents and businesses. Information on all of these opportunities is available on Page 3 and on our website.

Trustee Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at Town Hall. Each member of our leadership team presents a department report and opportunities are provided for public comment. All public meetings are noted on the public calendar available on our website as are public records.

We recently updated our Public Request Policy to streamline response procedures for requests. Trustee Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm at Town Hall. Each member of our leadership team presents a department report and opportunities are provided for public comment. All public meetings are noted on the public calendar available on our website as are public records.



Bits & Pieces from the Service Department

Although the snow has now melted, our memories of this past winter will long remain for Township residents! Bitter cold, ongoing snows, intense polar winds and freeze-thaw cycles combined to play havoc with our roadways. Our dedicated crew worked throughout the entire season to keep roads plowed and motorists safe. Since October we have used 20 plus tons of cold patch to mend the potholes left behind in the wake of this harsh season.

The Township's 2015 Residential Branch Chipping Program will start up again this month. Chipping will take place on the **last Monday of each month** from April through October. This year's dates will be April 27, May 26 (a Tuesday due to Memorial Day), June 29, July 27, August 31, September 28 and October 26. In any month, if participation exceeds normal work hours, chipping will continue on the following Tuesday.

If possible please notify the Department of Public Service (440-235-1011) if you have branches for chipping day. Also, if you would like any of the fresh chipped material, please contact the Director of Public Service to coordinate a delivery. Full details of our Branch Chipping Program can be found at <http://olmstedtownship.org/service.cfm>.

The Township is pleased to announce that the Leaf Collection Program, piloted in 2013, will resume again this fall. We are currently working out the details of this program and, once finalized, will make them known to our residents through the website and in the next newsletter.

If you live near a waterway or have a ditch on your property, please stop into Town Hall to get a copy of the booklet "Life at the Water's Edge: Living in Harmony with Your Backyard Stream". It provides great instruction and suggestions for keeping your waterway clean and open. For additional information, please visit the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District's website at <https://www.cuyahogawcd.org/>.

A new service will be launched in May to provide residents an additional time and location to drop off bulk trash items. (This is in addition to the once-a-month curbside bulk pick up by Republic Services.) On the **first Saturday** of every month from **May through September** (except the second week of July), the Department of Public Service (7924 Fitch Road –next to the overpass) will be open from **8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon** for residents to drop off bulk items.

Note – proof of residency will be required for any and all drop offs. Residents will place their items in the provided dumpster. The 2015 dates for this drop off service are: May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1 and September 5. Please do not leave items outside the gate. This is a specific time period for residents of the Township only.

Police

Sincere thanks to the many people who made the **Sea of Blue** rally and march on Saturday, March 21st such a great success. The outpouring of support for the men and women who serve both in Olmsted Township and in Olmsted Falls was heartwarming and due in large measure to the efforts of Karen Corrigan and her team who spearheaded this effort. Special thanks to the Olmsted Falls Kiwanis for the refreshments, Columbia Park for the banner and the CERT team for assistance in traffic control. Blue ribbons in support of the officers who serve our community are still available at Town Hall or at the Police Station.

We are pleased to take possession of two new cruisers for our fleet. The continuing cost of maintenance, age and mileage of the vehicles were the deciding factors in the request to the Board of Trustees. The lease purchase is at state pricing standards and falls within the budgetary guidelines set by the Board.

The transition to CECOMS (Cuyahoga County Dispatch) is complete. We continue to work to ensure everyone the highest quality response to emergencies. This includes medical dispatch which allows a trained dispatcher to remain on the line with a caller as long as necessary to ensure that medical support is provided.

Warmer weather is here and everyone is anxious to be outdoors. Please be especially aware of walkers, bike riders, children at play and motorcyclists. Safety is everyone's job!

As always, you are cordially invited to **Coffee with the Chief** held at the Police Station on the last Friday morning of each month at 9:00am. Bring your concerns or questions, or just come to listen and visit with others who care about our community.

Faces in the Crowd - The Sea of Blue



Olmsted Recreation

Olmsted Recreation is a collaboration between Olmsted Township, the City of Olmsted Falls and the Olmsted Falls City Schools. The goal is to provide programming that meets the needs of residents of all ages through such programs as Silver Sneakers, March Madness Basketball, speed & agility clinics, and Olmsted Community Center Saturday Activity Night. We are currently also partnering with the YMCA to offer Kick Boxing, Pilates and Boot Camp. Information and a complete calendar are available at Olmsted Community Center, online at www.olmstedrecreation.com or www.olmstedcc.com or by calling (440) 427-1599.

Seniors

If you are in need of transportation for medical appointments of all kinds, please contact the Senior Transportation

Connection at (216) 265-1489. They will guide you through the process of registering for this service.

Housecalls: If you find it difficult to leave your home for doctors' visits, did you know that a Nurse Practitioner can come to your home to see you and:

- Diagnose and treat common illnesses/ailments
- Refill your prescriptions
- Manage lab work and other diagnostic testing
- Monitor the status of any chronic condition

Visits are billed to your Medicare/Insurance in the same manner as a doctor's office visit. Visits can be as minimal as every 6 months or as frequent as once per week depending on your health/ stability and your preferences.

For more information call Marie Grosh at (440) 235-7590.

Call to Serve - Nuisance Abatement, Governance, Zoning

The Board of Trustees is forming a **Commission to Study Governance Options for Olmsted Township**. Interested residents and business owners will gather information, study and assess the three (3) governance options available to us moving forward. As a community of almost 14,000 residents (and still growing), we see this moment as critical to the success of our community. We can decide to remain a township, incorporate (become a self-contained city-Olmsted) or we can consider merger with any one of the cities that touch our borders.

All of these options have positive and negative outcomes. The Governance Commission will research these options, analyze and discuss them, and present information to the Board of Trustees. Meetings of the whole will be Public Meetings. There will be several opportunities for public input.

Candidates must be able to meet at least once per month for 8-12 months and willing and able to work with other members of the Commission to research the options under consideration. They must be open to all options without preference, prejudice or preconceived ideas.

Call to serve- Zoning

Zoning is as a way to implement the vision and ideas expressed in the community's Master Plan.

The Board of Trustees is seeking residents interested in serving on the **Zoning Commission** or the **Zoning Board of Zoning Appeals** for a five year terms.

Candidates must be a resident of the Township, able to work with the Building Department and follow the governing regulations, and willing to become familiar with the Master Plan and the zoning/ building regulations expressed in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC).

To apply for any of these opportunities: Please complete the online form to volunteer (available on the Township website under **Online Documents**). Note how you think your participation will benefit our community. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to interview candidates if appropriate. All volunteers will be asked to sign a "Pledge to Serve" and an Ethics Policy form. Paper copies of the volunteer form are also available at Town Hall and the Police Station during regular business hours. Submit your completed form online or drop it off at either noted location before 4/30/2015. You may also call contact one of the Trustees (440) 235-3051 or trustees@olmstedtownship.org for more information.

The Board of Trustees is forming a **Volunteer Nuisance Report Team**. Volunteers will work collaboratively with the Building Department to identify problem properties and allow the Building Inspector to further investigate, request remediation of the violation and seek legal action if appropriate. They will act as an extra set of eyes and ears in the field, identify and start the process of correcting basic nuisances and allow the Building Inspector to focus on more complicated problems.

Nuisance properties are those in violation of the acceptable standards of maintenance and repair or may be vacant properties. For most people, their home and property are their most valuable asset. Nuisance properties devalue those assets individually and as a community. The most common nuisances include overgrown weeds and grass, debris or trash in yards, abandoned or inoperable vehicles, misused tarps, and vacant building deterioration.

Each volunteer will be trained in the procedure required for compliance by the Building Department and other statutes applicable to this process. This is an unpaid, volunteer position.

See our website

Our website www.olmstedtownship.org is the best place to get the most updated information on our community. There are also links to Olmsted Recreation, Olmsted Chamber and other local organizations.