



THE GATEWAY

Chester Township

Winter 2025

Board of Trustees

Ken Radtke Jr.
Joe Mazzurco
Craig S. Richter

Fiscal Officer

Patricia Jarrett

Township Administrator

Mark Purchase

Zoning Inspector

Chris Alusheff

Road Superintendent

John Onyshko

Police Department

Chief Craig Young

Fire Department

Chief William Shaw
Assist. Chief Andrew Nagy

“Gateway to Geauga County and Home of Countryside Living”

Dear Chester Township Residents,

On behalf of our elected officials, I would like to Welcome each of you to what we collectively hope is the first of many informational newsletters that will be mailed tri-annually. It's our intended purpose to foster a sense of connection and belonging among neighbors, and to ensure our entire community is “in the loop” about what's happening in the Chester Township. It is also our sincere hope that this newsletter will help provide advanced notice of meetings, community events and important reminders from each of our departments. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how we might continue to provide information that is both helpful and readily available.

We have named our newsletter “The Gateway” as our community serves as one of the main gateways to Geauga County. The intended purpose of this newsletter is not to report news, but rather keep each of you informed about everything from new employees to local zoning features. We want to make sure you have important telephone numbers, points of contacts and at the same time, know about promotions, retirements, safety tips, annual reminders, events, concerts in the park, recycling and so on.

We have many residents already actively involved and working diligently to be a part of our community and giveback. Some of these Boards include our Park Board, Board of Zoning Appeals, the Perennial Gardeners & the Zoning Commission. We have local organizations that provide vital services within the Township and regularly host events and fundraisers, in an effort to also give back and it's important that you know about all of them. Some of these organizations include: The Geauga West Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club of West Geauga, the West Geauga Chamber of Commerce, The Chesterland Lions Club and the Chesterland Historical Foundation.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and find it as helpful, as we intend.

Welcome to our community's
“Gateway”
to
Countryside Living!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Township History.....	2
Recycle Parks.....	2
Zoning Office.....	3
New Resident Guide.....	3
Police Department.....	4
Fire Department.....	5
Road Department.....	6
Community Events.....	7

Chester Town Hall

Ken Radtke

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440-488-7471

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Township Administrator

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Kimberly Bican

Administrative Assistant

440-729-7058

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Chester Township History

Chester Township's Parkside Park

On February 10th, 1811, David Hudson, the father of William donated 6 ¼ acres of land at the northeast corner of Chillicothe & Mayfield (The Crossroads) to the inhabitants, to be used as a public square, a public parade ground and for public buildings forever and never to be enclosed or transferred.

Chester Township's Park District Members

Robert Somrak, Joseph Fornaro, Eugene DiFranco, Michael Colagiovanni, Steven Averill, Shawn Day & Joseph Weiss.



Recycle Parks

Chester Recycle Park
12535 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
7:00 AM until Dusk (M-F) and from
8AM to Dusk on the weekends

*Please do not leave your recyclables in plastic grocery bags – they require a different collection system.

*Bins are currently emptied four times per week, and the Park is closed when the bins are full, in order to minimize windblown trash. Never leave your recycling anywhere on the ground!

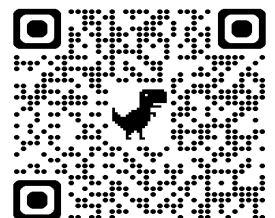
*Chester Township receives revenue for paper and cardboard that is placed into the “paper only”. Please separate your paper /cardboard from other recyclables.

Geauga Collection Facility
12685 Merritt Road
Chardon, OH 44024
330-675-2673
Winter Hours (Nov-April)
Friday Only 10AM– 3PM

*Electronics (e-waste), appliances, foam and Household Harous Waste is accepted year-round .

*Our team members will remove all items from your vehicle.

Scan the QR Code or visit
startrecycling.com
For more information



Zoning Office

Chester Township Land Use Plan Update

This year, Chester Township will be embarking on a Land Use Plan Update. The current Chester Township Land Use Plan was adopted in 1999 and last revised in 2008. Best practices suggest a Land Use Plan be updated every 10 years. A Land Use Plan is an important document for the long-term planning and vision of a township. This process relies heavily on input from residents and stakeholders in the community. The process will take approximately 18 months to complete and will involve forming a committee to meet regularly, sending out a community survey, holding multiple public forums and public hearings.

The final draft of the updated Land Use Plan will ultimately be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration, after a public hearing. This is not a legally binding document, and the Township is not obligated to begin or complete any of the goals or recommendations included in the plan. However, this is meant to be a guide based on the input of the residents who live here, so the recommendations reflect the will of Chester Township residents. Our Zoning Commission is able to use those recommendations as a guide for amending the Chester Township Zoning Resolution in a manner that reflects the Land Use Plan.

If you have interest and would like to be considered for volunteer participation on the Land Use Plan Update Committee, please submit a letter of interest via email to zoning@chestertwp.org or by dropping it off at the Chester Township Town Hall, before 03/01/2025. For more information, please contact Zoning Inspector Chris Alusheff at calusheff@chestertwp.org.

New Resident Guide

Water

Chester is served by private wells for water and each property owner is responsible for maintaining their own well and electric pump system. If the power is out, you will not have water unless you run your well pump on a generator.

Sewage

94% of Chester residents have private septic systems to handle their household sewage and are responsible for maintaining it via private septic contractor. Geauga County Health website provides a list of septic haulers.

Gphohio.org

Garbage

Each property owner is responsible for entering into a private contract for trash removal services with a private hauler. Popular companies are Dumpster Bandit, Waste Management and Kimble.

Yard Waste

Property owners are responsible for disposing of their own yard waste either on their own or via contract with a private service provider.

Zoning

Most common projects that require a zoning certificate are: Pools/Decks/Porches, Additions, Sheds/Garages, New Construction, Commercial and Industrial Business Use and Signs.

Senior Citizens

Geauga County on Aging operates a senior center in Chester Township located at 8090 Cedar Road.

****Chester Township does not provide sewer/septic, trash removal or curbside leaf or brush pick-up services***

Chris Alusheff

Zoning Inspector

440-729-7058

calusheff@chestertwp.org



Kathleen McCarthy

Zoning Administrative Assistant

kmccarthy@chestertwp.org

More Than Just a Police Department

Officers with the Chester Township Police Department are dedicated to protecting and defending the rights and property of our residents around the clock—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three-hundred sixty-five days a year. However, our commitment extends far beyond traditional law enforcement. We view ourselves as active partners in the community, working to build trust, foster relationships, and make a positive impact in the lives of the people we serve.

We are deeply embedded in the community through a variety of speaking engagements, events, and programs designed to inform, support, and assist our residents. We actively participate in initiatives that enhance the well-being of Chester Township, working to create a positive and lasting impact for all who reside here.

We take great pride in and feel a deep responsibility to give back to the community that has welcomed us as one of its own.



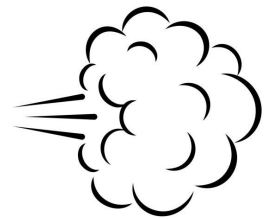
WG Plaza Trick or Treat



WGRC Trick or Treat Street



Operation Santa Sleigh



Safety Town 2025

Registration Begins April 1st

Police Chief

Craig Young

440-729-1239 Business

440-729-1234 Non-Emergency

911 Emergency

cyoung@chestertwp.org



Lisa Braemer

Administrative Assistant

440-729-1239 Business

lbraemer@chestertwp.org



Leadership in the Fire House!

In March, Fire Chief William Shaw will retire after serving 3 ½ years in the position. With Chief Shaw’s effort, as well as efforts of the members of the fire department, many improvements were achieved, and staffing shortages were stabilized. We thank Chief Shaw for his service and dedication and wish him well in his retirement.

Upon Chief Shaw’s retirement, Assistant Chief Andy Nagy will be considered by the Board of Trustees to serve as the department’s next Fire Chief. Mr. Nagy has been mentored by Chief Shaw for the past year in preparation of this potential new role. He stated “I am honored to be considered as the potential next leader of Chester Township Fire Rescue. Through collaborative teamwork with the Trustees, Fiscal Officer and Township Administrator, we stand committed to ensure the safety of our residents”.

Mr. Nagy is a 1998 graduate of West Geauga High School and became involved with the Chesterland Fire Department Inc., the private company that was the pre-cursor to the current Chester Township Fire Rescue, at 15 years old as an Explorer. Since then, his career has taken him to Chardon Fire Department and Wickliffe Fire Department as a part-paid firefighter/paramedic and eventually to the Richmond Heights Fire Department as a full-time firefighter/paramedic.

Mr. Nagy has an associate’s degree in Fire Science from Cuyahoga Community College, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Safety and Health from Columbia Southern University and hopes to earn his master’s degree in the future. He is currently enrolled in a two- and one-half-year fire service management program through the Ohio Fire Chiefs’ Association.

When asked about this potential promotion, Mr. Nagy replied “I’m truly excited about the opportunity of being considered to step into the role of Fire Chief. Having grown up in this community and served on the department for over 25 years, progressing through every rank—from the volunteer explorer program to hopefully now Chief—it would mean a great deal to me to give back to both the department and the township for all the support I’ve received over the years. I’ve witnessed firsthand the dedication and sacrifices made by every member of this department, all working tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. These experiences have shaped my leadership approach and strengthened my commitment to maintaining the highest level of excellence.”

Fire Chief

William Shaw

440-729-9951 Business

440-729-7202 Non Emergency

911 Emergency

wjshaw@chestertwp.org

Assistant Fire Chief

Andrew Nagy

440-729-9951 Business

anagy@chestertwp.org

Salli Mehall

Administrative Assistant

440-729-9951 Business

smehall@chestertwp.org

Road Department

During the Winter Season of 2024 -2025 the Chester Township Road Department has been regularly tested by the constant need to navigate unexpected obstacles in the road. When Chester Township was founded in 1801, the residents plowed their pathways with horse-drawn plows like the four-horsepower roller plow. However, today the Road Department plows are obviously much larger, and their power can be as high as 350 horsepower and push snow with an eleven-foot plow.



There are a few things that you each of you can do to help us out during the winter season, making our job much safer during difficult driving conditions.

- Please have friends and family members park in your driveways during snow events. It saves time and it avoids the need to have our police officers knocking on your door in the middle of the night, requesting you to move your vehicles.
- If you have a private snow plowing contractor taking care of your driveway, please remind them to carefully deposit the driveway snow in a manner that will not affect the Road Department's ability to do their job safely.
- There definitely a rise in the amount of garbage cans being placed in the roadway. The cans need to be kept in your driveway aprons and not even on the berm of the roadway, as it too is subject to snow removal. Private snowplow contractors may move your garbage cans out into the street to do their job, but they also need to move them back in the driveway, when they are done plowing.

The Road Department is utilizing technology to provide residents with accurate information about the frequency of our plowing and documenting obstructions or hazards that we encounter along the way. This Winter we will have implemented a system into all our plow vehicles called SnowOps. This system positions tablets to help the drivers map their routes and forward-facing cameras to identify traffic hazards and road conditions which the Road Superintendent can view in real-time by accessing any driver's camera during their shift even months later. As a resident, you will have access to a portal on the Chester Township website and see where and when a plow truck has last serviced your road.

On behalf of my entire crew, we encourage you to give yourself extra time, clean the snow off your cars and drive safely this winter season!

Sincerely,

John Onyshko / Chester Township Road Superintendent

Road Superintendent
John Onyshko
440-729-9110
jonyshko@chestertwp.org



Lisa Luoma
Administrative Assistant
Cemetery Sexton
440-729-9110
lluoma@chestertwp.org

Chester Township Events



Founded in 2022, the West Geauga Chamber of Commerce aims to foster business and community growth and development through economic programs. Get access to all our member benefits for only \$99 per year! Join today!



Chesterland Lions Club

Spring Flag Football registration will be open from December 31, 2024, through February 14, 2025, at 11:59 pm. To be considered "registered," a player must have completed registration in the TeamSnap system through the provided 2025 Flag Football TeamSnap link and paid all registration fees in full. www.chesterlandlions.org/spring-flag-football



Kiwanis CLUB OF WEST GEAUGA

72nd Annual Pancake Breakfast

March 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd, 2025

8AM-1:00PM

West Geauga High School 13401 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland Ohio 44026

The tradition of providing an "all you can eat" breakfast will continue, featuring: buttermilk, buckwheat, chocolate chip, and blueberry pancakes, French toast, Geauga County's pure maple syrup, sausage, juice, coffee and milk.

Volunteers needed!



Tickets for Geauga West Rotary Club's annual "Hearts for Service" event are now available for purchase! Please contact Bob Voss (440) 759-6148 for more information.



Chamber of Commerce 2nd Annual Festival of Trees Winner goes to The Nerone Family!



Hometown Heroes Banner Program Coming Soon!

Work has already begun for our community to participate in the Hometown Heroes Banner Program, recognizing Chester Township residents and their immediate family members or friends who are currently serving or who have served our country in the armed forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Guard, Merchant Marine, Space Force or our First Responders. It is our intention to display the banners from designated and approved telephone poles, from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. The banner will be available to the first twenty-eight (28) applicants, on a first-come, first-served basis. When we are ready to launch, details will be made available on our Township website and will announce the application process and banner cost.

Chester Township
The Gateway
12701 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
chestertwp.com
440-729-7058
Office Hours:
M-F 8AM-4PM



Township Meetings

Board of Trustees

Every other Thursday starting at 6:30 PM

Zoning Commission

First and third Wednesdays starting at 7:00 PM

Board of Zoning Appeals

Second Monday at 7:00 PM

****All meetings are held at Town Hall
unless otherwise noted***

*****Meetings are subject to change***

******Check chestertwp.com for current
information***