



THE GATEWAY

Chester Township

Winter/Spring 2026

Welcome Newly Elected Brandon Davis

Brandon was born and raised in NW Ohio, in Hancock County. Throughout his life he has been blessed with the opportunity to work all over the country, and world. However, he knew where home would always be - Ohio. Having lived in NE Ohio in the past, when Brandon and his wife, Katie, decided to get married and find a place to call home for their family, they selected NE Ohio. Shortly after their marriage, they started their search for a place where they could raise their young children and hopefully set down roots for generations. They eventually selected Chester Township, and for the past decade they have been raising their 5-children here in Chester and have been active in the community. With a young and active family, you will often find them at family events, in the schools, and/or at youth sporting events, both as active parents and as helpers / volunteers. You will also find them on summer weekends out on Lake Erie, enjoying one of Ohio's (and the nation's) greatest assets.



Brandon's career focus has been in the capital projects world. He started as a construction laborer and worked in varying roles of increasing responsibility eventually leading him to project management, and management. Starting in his youth and well into adulthood, Brandon was never one to take it easy; He always worked multiple jobs or in multiple businesses.

This allowed him to build a unique experience base, with his core experience in capital projects (engineering and construction), but gaining other experiences along the way too. Today, Brandon is an executive for businesses in the engineering, construction and manufacturing industries, with a focus on building and/or energizing businesses and teams. In addition to the demands of business and a large and young family, Brandon has always worked to make time to give back and be in service to the community. He has served on the board of directors and/or key committees of multiple non-profit and community organizations; was a certified youth football coach; volunteers on occasion in the schools; has spoken to multiple school, college and young professional groups; and has worked in formally appointed government positions, just to name a few.

Download Chester Twp Connect FREE App

Download Chester Twp Connect Citizen Notifications Mobile App

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

Download Chester Twp Connect

- Access Information
- View Latest Updates
- Receive Notifications
- And more...

SCAN ME

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD →

Powered by GOGov

A Message from Your Elected Officials

Early Spring I spearheaded an effort to design and develop a Chester Township flag as a symbol of pride, unity, and heritage, an emblem meant to visually represent Chester Township's identity and values and a vision for the future.

For me a flag could become a symbol of identity, belonging and pride and although Chester Township residents have a strong sense of place, I felt a flag could serve as a unifying emblem. Developing a flag was a way of creating a shared identity that Chester residents could rally around, whether at Township facilities, Township parks, parades or other civic events.



The design and meaning were simple. Green, representing Chester Townships' semi-rural character, open spaces and our commitment to preserving the Townships' natural beauty, which surrounded a long-standing symbol of Chester Township, the Park Gazabo.

With help from the Township Staff a flag was created for a presentation to the Board of Trustees. In that presentation I stressed to my fellow Trustees the importance of symbols in governance, the role of a flag in fostering civic pride and the opportunity to leave a legacy for future residents. By a unanimous decision the Board adopted the new symbol of our Township.

The flag has since flown on the fence at the Township park and been brought to other civic events. In addition to the symbol now being used on other Townships materials and the website. The new flag now standing for Chester Township's residents shared values and pride and its commitment to building a stronger and more connected community.

-Craig Richter
Trustee

Elected Officials and Administrative Office

Craig S. Richter - Trustee
440-488-7471
csrichter@chestertwp.org

Ken Radtke - Trustee
440-478-8293
kradtke@chestertwp.org

Brandon Davis - Trustee
440-635-7766
bdavis@chestertwp.org

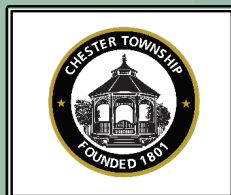
Patricia Jarrett - Fiscal Officer
440-477-5117 Ext.# 1003
pjarrett@chestertwp.org

Chester Town Hall
12701 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
440-729-7058
M-F 8AM-4PM

Mark Purchase - Township Administrator
440-728-4880 Ext.# 1001
mpurchaseta@chestertwp.org

Kimberly Bican - Administrative Assistant
440-729-7058 Ext.# 1002
kbican@chestertwp.org

Mary Lou Florentine - Fiscal Office Assistant
440-729-7058 Ext.# 1004
mlflorentine@chestertwp.org



**Visit www.chestertwp.com
For the Township Calendar of Events*

Zoning Department

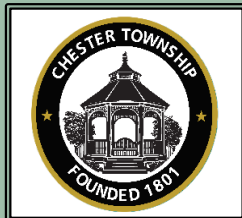
A common issue that comes up with zoning is long standing non-conformities. Unfortunately, there is no statute of limitations with zoning violations. If your property has an existing violation, whether you are aware or not at the time of purchase, you assume responsibility for the violation when you take ownership of the property.

An important part of zoning is bringing non-conforming buildings, structures and uses into conformance at some point in time. The Zoning Inspector cannot simply "look the other way", as much as some may prefer that method when made aware of an existing non-conformity that cannot be documented as pre-existing the township zoning resolution.

The Zoning Department will ALWAYS work with property owners to find a solution to address and remediate the non-conformance, but that generally only works when the spirit of cooperation and communication is a two-way street. This may include needing a survey, lot consolidation, variance, moving a small structure to a different location, or other means of rectifying the situation; but it is not the intent of the Township to give property owners a hard time just for the sake of it.

Zoning only works if the regulations are applied equally to everyone. The Zoning Inspector does not have the legal authority to choose when and where the rules should apply. At the end of the day the most important goal of abating or remediating an illegal non-conformity is to document what the structure or use is, why it is there, and what regulations shall apply going forward. This helps protect the character of the township and neighboring property values. If you are buying, selling, or have any plans for your property, please contact the zoning department for more information.

Chris Alusheff
Zoning Inspector
440-729-7058 Ext.# 1006
calusheff@chestertwp.org



Kathleen McCarthy
Zoning Administrative Assistant
440-729-7058
kmccarthy@chestertwp.org

*Visit Chester Township Zoning Department on Facebook

Chester Township Police Share Insights with Geauga County Young of Heart

The Chester Township Police Department is passionate about community engagement and giving back to our residents. Winter in Northeast Ohio can often be a time of solitude and stillness, but each year that monotony is joyfully broken by our invitation to speak at the Geauga County Young of Heart meeting at Saint Anselm. It's truly one of the highlights of my year.

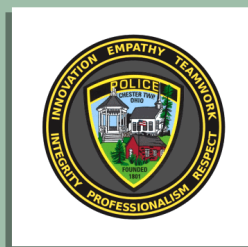
To describe this group as engaging would be an understatement. Regardless of snow, rain, or sunshine, 80 to 100 seniors typically attend, eager to learn and participate. Over the years, we've discussed a wide range of topics, including current crime trends, ways to avoid becoming a victim of fraud or scams, the history of our police department, and my experiences at the FBI National Academy. The audience is always attentive, the questions are thoughtful, and the conversations are meaningful.

The Young of Heart is made up of senior citizens from across Geauga County, and the event offers a wonderful opportunity to highlight both Chester Township and our police department. Each year, the discussion becomes so lively that the event coordinator eventually has to end the meeting — even though the questions and dialogue could easily continue.

We often say that our schools and seniors are among our community's most valued and vulnerable assets. This annual gathering provides an incredible forum for education, information sharing, and most importantly, hearing directly from those we serve. We're already looking forward to our 2026 meeting and hope to see many familiar faces and hopefully some new ones as well.

— Chief Craig Young, Chester Township Police Department

**Craig Young
Chief of Police
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**

***Visit Chester Township Police Department on Facebook**

Fire Department

Chester Township Fire Rescue Lock Box Program for Homes and Businesses

At Chester Township Fire Rescue, the safety of our residents and business community is always our top priority. One of the most effective tools we use to improve emergency response and minimize property damage is our Lock Box Program. While many commercial property owners are familiar with the program, we've found that several residents are unaware that a residential version is also available.

What Is a Lock Box?

A Lock Box is a secure, fire-department accessible lockbox on the exterior of a home or business. Only Chester Township Fire Rescue has the master key that can open these boxes, ensuring both security and rapid emergency access.

Common items stored inside a Lock Box include:

- Building entry keys
- Alarm panel keys
- Gate or access cards
- Important emergency contact information for the residence or business

These items allow first responders to quickly reach occupants, check alarms, or access critical areas without needing to force entry or cause unnecessary damage.

Why Lock Boxes Are Important

During an emergency, every second matters. Properties equipped with a Lock Box allow responders to:

- Immediate entry without waiting for a key holder
- Avoid damaging doors, locks, or windows
- Provide faster care for residents experiencing medical emergencies
- Investigate alarms more efficiently
- Access properties when the owner is away, injured, or unable to reach the door

A Knox Box is a simple, effective way to support your own safety and protect your property.

How Do First Responders Know You Have a Lock Box?

Once your Lock Box is installed, Chester Township Fire Rescue, in partnership with the Geauga County Safety Center, enters the lockbox information directly into the county's dispatching software.

This entry includes:

- Alert that a Lock Box is present at the address
- Exact location of the box on the property


When a call for your address is dispatched, the system automatically alerts all responding agencies like fire, EMS, police, and mutual-aid departments, that a Lock Box is on site.

How to Obtain a Knox Box

Residents may purchase a residential lockbox directly through Roper Lock Box LLC:

 **1-800-466-9312**

 **www.roperlock.com**

 **Department Key Code: CTFD** (required when ordering)**Important note:**

Chester Township Fire Rescue does not install wall-mounted units. We strongly recommend purchasing a doorknob hanging model or an over-the-door unit.

Once you receive your box and have a duplicate door key ready, along with an emergency contacts list, call the fire department at 440-729-9951. A member of our team will come to secure your key inside the box and arrange updating dispatch to ensure all responders are alerted to its presence. For questions about Lock Boxes, installation, or whether this program is right for you, please contact Chester Township Fire Rescue at 440-729-9951.

Andrew Nagy
Fire Chief
440-729-9951 Business
anagy@chestertwp.org



Salli Mehall
Administrative Assistant
440-729-9951 Business
smehall@chestertwp.org

***Visit Chester Township Fire Rescue on Facebook**

Road Department

Road Department Winter Update

The Road Department takes great pride in keeping residents safe on the roads during winter. You may have noticed three new stainless-steel poles with cameras. One pole contains an AI-equipped weather station on Cedar Hill that forecasts snow, air, pavement, and ice conditions. The other two poles, located on Sperry near Sherman and on Sherman near County Line, provide live weather and pavement views. These tools allow us to monitor conditions in real time from the office or on mobile devices, and we hope to make this technology accessible to residents soon through the Township website.



Last year, we implemented a GPS plowing system called **Plowops** on all trucks. Plowops provides route mapping for drivers and a public online portal that allows residents to see how many trucks are on the road and when a plow last passed their home. Each truck is equipped with a front-facing camera for real-time monitoring and video review in cases of mailbox or garbage-can damage or accidents. Backup cameras are also installed to keep our drivers, equipment, and the public safe. During storms, trucks may need to back into the roadway to clear intersections, so please be patient and avoid crowding the plow.



Winter often brings fallen trees and branches. If a tree in the Township right-of-way falls or appears likely to fall, please contact the Road Department. We will assess the urgency and remove it if needed. Trees outside the right-of-way are the homeowner's responsibility; however, if a tree or branch falls into the roadway, we will remove it to keep roads clear. If you see a broken limb hanging over the road, please report it—we do our best to respond quickly, usually within minutes or in a couple days during busier times.

As we move into March, we begin roadside ditch maintenance and replacement of deteriorated driveway pipes. Proper pipe function helps prevent flooding and protects driveways from sinkholes or collapse. Residents pay only for the cost of materials. To begin the process, obtain a permit from the Geauga County Engineer's Office website. Once issued, the Road Department will send an invoice for pipe, stone, topsoil/hydroseed, and asphalt (for paved aprons). Stone driveways receive a stone apron, and concrete aprons will require either an outside contractor or replacement with asphalt.

We understand ditching and hydroseeding aren't always popular, but both are necessary to maintain water flow, prevent flooding, reduce erosion, and comply with EPA permit requirements.

Be safe this winter.

Sincerely,

John Onyshko, Chester Township Road Superintendent

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



Lisa Luoma
Administrative Assistant and
Cemetery Sexton
440-729-9110 Business
lluoma@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. Chester Township does not provide sewer/septic, trash removal or curbside leaf or brush pick-up services.

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.

Indoor renovations and exterior maintenance that do not alter the building footprint or use of the structure do not typically require a zoning certificate but may require a building permit. Chester Township **DOES NOT** have a building department, issue building permits or perform building permit related inspections.

Senior Citizens

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

Township Government

Townships Government is structured differently from cities and villages per the Ohio Constitution and Ohio Revised Code.

Instead of a mayor and council, townships have 3 elected, co-equal trustees and a fiscal officer, all of whom serve 4-year terms

Townships typically collect lower property taxes than incorporated municipalities and provide less government services.

Chester Township has a Fire Department, Police Department, Road Department and Zoning Department. The Township also operates several parks and cemeteries.

Welcome to Chester Township!

Call Chester Town Hall for Assistance 440-729-7058

Recycle Parks

Chester Recycle Park

12535 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

7:00 AM until Dusk (M-F)
8:00 AM 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 3-4 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
GottaGoGreen.org

Winter Hours
November – April 10AM-3PM
Fridays Only

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

*Team members will remove all items from your vehicle.

Thank you, Joseph Mazzurco-Chester Twp Trustee

After eight years of dedicated service, Chester Township thanks Trustee Joe Mazzurco for his commitment to our community. Joe's leadership, integrity, and willingness to work together have made a lasting difference for Chester Township and its residents.

Through his years of service, Joe supported local programs, strengthened township operations, and earned the respect of colleagues and community members alike. His dedication to public service reflects a true love for this community.

As Joe moves on to the next chapter, we extend our sincere thanks and best wishes. Chester Township is better because of his service.



2026 Chester Township Community Events



Pancake Breakfasts 2026
West Geauga High School
First four Sundays in March
For more details visit
wgkiwanis.org

Check your local Civic group websites for more information:

<https://chesterlandlions.org/>

<https://www.wgrc.org/>

<https://www.chesterlandhistoricalvillage.org/>

<https://wgchamber.com/>



Join the Geauga West Rotary Club on Wednesday mornings at 7AM at the Mayfield United Methodist Church
For more information visit
<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/5188/>

Hometown Hero Banner Program

The Hometown Hero Banner Program has been an incredible success—so much so that all available banner slots are now full through the 2026 season.

The program runs from Memorial Day to Veterans Day and features a two-year display period honoring the brave men and women who have served our country.

We will begin accepting applications for the 2027 season on **December 1, 2026**.

The cost for a two-year banner is **\$190.00**. To guarantee your spot, an application must be considered complete, which requires **both the photo and payment** to be received. Please visit chestertwp.com for the Hometown Hero Banner Application.

Over the course of this program, we have been truly honored to hear the heartfelt stories and tributes you've shared. Each banner represents far more than a photograph—they carry the memories, sacrifices, and enduring legacies of your loved ones. Your stories have reminded us of the deep pride and gratitude our community holds for those who served. Thank you for opening your hearts to us and thank you for helping make this program such a deeply meaningful and successful tribute.



