

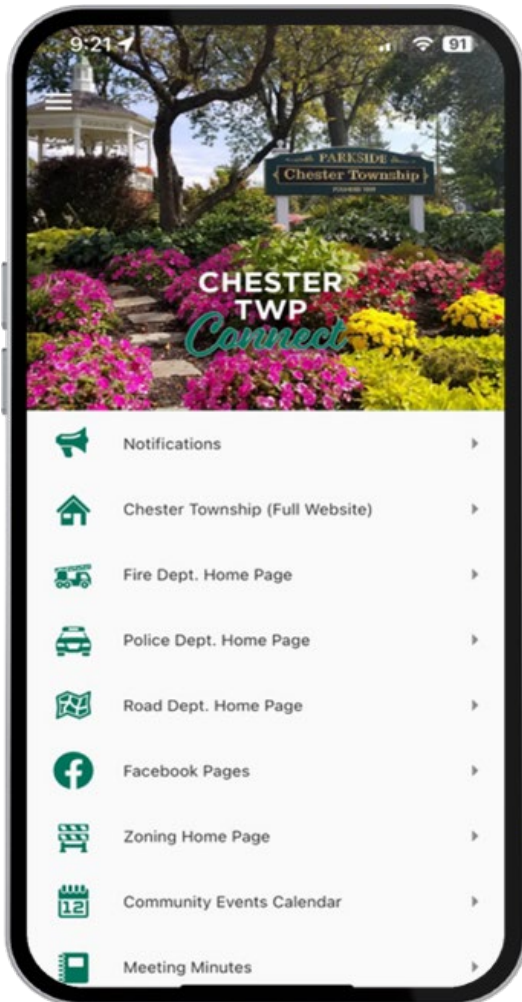


# THE GATEWAY

Chester Township

Spring / Summer 2026

Chester Township FREE Notification App



## CHESTER TWP *Connect*



SCAN HERE



OR VISIT

Access Information

Latest Updates

Receive Notifications

Road Closures

Township Events

And Much More

Download for FREE!



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



## Memorial Day Ceremony

Please Join Us

Monday, May 25, 2026

10:00 AM

Chester Township Cemetery

# A Message from Your Elected Officials

This year, the United States of America reaches a remarkable milestone—250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Here in Chester Township, we are especially fortunate to celebrate alongside our nation, as we mark our own 225th anniversary.

These milestones are more than dates on a calendar—they are meaningful opportunities to reflect on our shared history and to celebrate the strength, resilience, and values that define both our country and our community.

Over the coming months, Chester Township will help host and support a variety of events in recognition of America 250 and Chester 225. These events are designed to bring our community together—neighbors, families, and friends—to celebrate our heritage and the role our township has played in the broader American story.

Like our nation, Chester Township has experienced both triumphs and challenges over the years. Through it all, we have remained grounded in the principles of freedom, opportunity, and self-governance. These anniversaries give us a chance not only to honor that past, but also to strengthen the connections that make our community such a special place to live.

One highlight of this celebratory year will be the return of fireworks to Chester Township. We are proud to support this tradition in partnership with West Geauga Local Schools, where the fireworks display will be hosted, in bringing back a formal town fireworks display for the first time in more than 20 years. This event promises to be a memorable way for our community to come together in celebration.

In the weeks ahead, we will be sharing additional details about this and other events. Residents are encouraged to download the township smartphone application, follow updates on the township website, and watch for community notices. You can also visit [America250Chesterland.org](http://America250Chesterland.org) for ongoing information.

For generations, America—and Chester Township—have stood as beacons of liberty, resilience, and opportunity. As we celebrate these historic milestones, let us also take time to reconnect with one another and recommit ourselves to the values that have guided us this far.

We encourage all residents to take part in these events and join together in celebrating our past, honoring our present, and building a strong future for our community **-Brandon Davis, Trustee**



## Elected Officials and Administrative Office

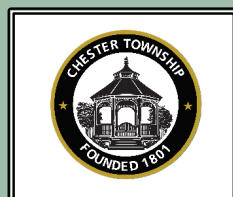
Craig S. Richter - Trustee  
440-488-7471  
[csrichter@chestertwp.org](mailto:csrichter@chestertwp.org)

Ken Radtke - Trustee  
440-478-8293  
[kradtke@chestertwp.org](mailto:kradtke@chestertwp.org)

Brandon Davis - Trustee  
440-635-7766  
[bdavis@chestertwp.org](mailto:bdavis@chestertwp.org)

Patricia Jarrett - Fiscal Officer  
440-477-5117 Ext.# 1003  
[pjarrett@chestertwp.org](mailto: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](mailto:mpurchaseta@chestertwp.org)

Kimberly Bican - Administrative Assistant  
440-729-7058 Ext.# 1002  
[kbican@chestertwp.org](mailto:kbican@chestertwp.org)

Mary Lou Florentine - Fiscal Office Assistant  
440-729-7058 Ext.# 1004  
[mlflorentine@chestertwp.org](mailto:mlflorentine@chestertwp.org)

\*Visit [www.chestertwp.com](http://www.chestertwp.com)  
For the Township Calendar of Events

## Zoning Department

The land use plan update committee forum was held March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Mayfield Methodist Church. It was well attended and the committee received more public input and feedback to continue their work as they move toward updating the existing land use plan and making recommendations for the future of the township. Their focus, based on public feedback, has targeted the commercial area along Mayfield Road.

The committee will spend the next several months refining the written plan, including recommendations, before submitting it to the Board of Trustees for adoption. The land use plan committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6 PM at Town Hall, all meetings are open to the public.

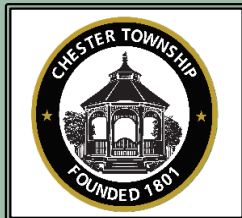
We are heading into building season. Please remember to check with zoning before starting any project that involves new construction, additions, or structural alterations. This includes sheds, decks, fences, and above ground pools. A zoning certificate is required for most projects and the zoning department is happy to work with you to make sure your project is in compliance from the beginning.

In addition to our quarterly gateway newsletter articles, the zoning department posts information on our Facebook page (Chester Township Zoning Department), the Chester TWP Connect app and the zoning page on our website, [chestertwp.com](http://chestertwp.com). Please be sure to follow us for the latest zoning and land use plan update information.

*– Zoning Inspector, Chris Alusheff*



Chris Alusheff  
Zoning Inspector  
440-729-7058 Ext.# 1006  
[calusheff@chestertwp.org](mailto:calusheff@chestertwp.org)



Kathleen McCarthy  
Zoning Administrative Assistant  
440-729-7058  
[kmccarthy@chestertwp.org](mailto:kmccarthy@chestertwp.org)

\*Visit Chester Township Zoning Department on Facebook

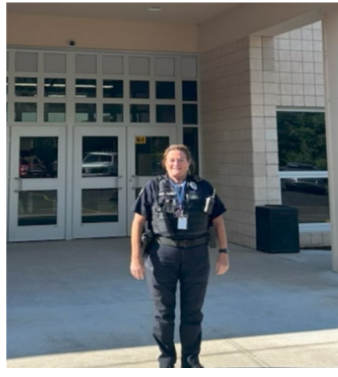
# Police Department

## Chester Township Police Department School Safety Division

The Chester Township Police Department's School Safety Division plays a vital role in protecting and supporting the students and staff of the West Geauga Local Schools. The division is comprised of three dedicated School Resource Officers: Officer Mike Zgrebnak at West Geauga High School, Officer Karen Sweet at West Geauga Middle School, and Officer Bob Pomnean at Lindsey Elementary School. While these officers serve as the first line of defense for our schools, their role extends far beyond traditional law enforcement. Each officer works daily as a mentor, educator, coach, and trusted adult presence within the school community, building relationships that encourage trust, accountability, and open communication among students and staff.

In addition to maintaining a safe school environment, the officers take an active role in educating both students and the broader community about safety and preparedness. Our School Resource Officers are certified ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) instructors and have provided critical safety training not only for West Geauga Schools but also for community partners including Saint Anselm, the Geauga County Public Library, and Chesterland's Community Preschool. Through these trainings, the officers help equip educators, staff, and community members with the knowledge and confidence needed to respond effectively during emergencies.

In 2025, the School Safety Division conducted thirty-four investigations involving incidents such as assaults, harassment, narcotics and vaping violations, as well as several investigations of a sensitive nature. Beyond these documented cases, the School Resource Officers consistently provided counseling, non-criminal mediation, and proactive safety and security measures on a daily basis. The Chester Township Police Department's School Safety Division is widely regarded as the most robust and well-trained in Geauga County, a distinction made possible through the strong partnership and unwavering commitment to school safety shared with West Geauga Schools. Together, this collaboration ensures that students learn in an environment where safety, support, and community remain the highest priorities. **-Chief Craig T. Young**



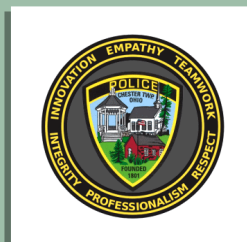
**2026 Safety Town Session Dates**  
**Session 1** June 29 - July 3 Morning: 9-11AM / Afternoon: 1-3PM  
**Session 2** July 6 - July 10 Morning: 9-11AM / Afternoon: 1-3PM

\*For Children Entering Kindergarten This Fall

\*\*Please Visit the Chester Police Department to Register



Craig T. Young  
Chief of Police  
440-729-1239 Business  
911 Emergency  
cyoung@chestertwp.org



Lisa Braemer  
Administrative Assistant  
440-729-1239 Business  
440-729-1234 Non-Emergency  
lbraemer@chestertwp.org

\*Visit Chester Township Police Department on Facebook

# Fire Department

## When Storms Strike: How to Prepare and Stay Safe

Severe storms can develop quickly, bringing strong winds, lightning, heavy rain, and power outages. Taking a few simple steps ahead of time can help protect your family and your home. Chester Township Fire Rescue encourages residents to review emergency plans and prepare before severe weather arrives.

### Create a Home Safety Plan

Every household should have a basic emergency plan. Identify a safe place in your home, such as a basement or interior room on the lowest level away from windows. Families should also establish a communication plan and choose a meeting location outside the home if evacuation becomes necessary. Make sure you can receive weather alerts through mobile apps, weather radios, or local alert systems. Households that rely on medical equipment should also plan ahead for power outages by maintaining backup supplies and discussing options with their medical provider or equipment supplier.

### Build an Emergency Kit

Storms can cause power outages and road closures that last for hours or longer. Keep an emergency kit with essentials such as flashlights with extra batteries, bottled drinking water, non-perishable food, a battery-powered or hand-crank weather radio, basic first aid supplies, phone chargers or battery packs, blankets, and necessary medications. Homes prone to basement flooding should ensure backup battery sump pump systems are installed and working.

### Flooding and Storm Drain Safety

Heavy rain can overwhelm drainage systems and cause localized flooding. Residents should keep nearby storm drains clear of leaves and debris whenever possible. However, never attempt to clear a drain during heavy rain or flooding conditions. Fast-moving water and hidden hazards can create serious risks. Drivers should also never attempt to drive through flooded roadways.

### Stay Away from Downed Power Lines

Downed power lines are extremely dangerous and should always be treated as energized. Electricity can travel through the ground near the contact point. If you encounter a downed line, stay at least 30 feet away, warn others, and call 911 immediately.

### Generator Safety

Portable generators should never be used inside homes, garages, or near doors, windows, or vents. Always place generators outdoors at least 20 feet from the home with the exhaust directed away from the building. Permanent connections to home electrical systems should only be installed by a qualified electrician.

### Prevent Carbon Monoxide Emergencies

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can become deadly in enclosed spaces. Homes should have working carbon monoxide detectors on every level and near sleeping areas. Never use generators, grills, or gasoline-powered equipment inside the home or garage. If a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, leave the building immediately and call 911 from outside.

A few minutes of preparation today can make a significant difference when severe weather strikes. Chester Township Fire Rescue encourages all residents to stay informed, stay prepared, and stay safe. **-Chief Andrew Nagy**

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

## The Long Story Drainage Swale Maintenance

As we approach the construction season, I wanted to make you aware of the process to determine which roads will be selected to be paved. When we are anticipating a road-paving project, the road must be graded. We look for areas of fatigue crack (alligator) fig 1. Fatigue crack is the loss of sub-grade support.

Fig. 1



Fig.2



We also look for raveling, which is the loss of the asphalt binder that binds the aggregate( fig. 2). We look at the road edge to ensure that the berm is not higher than the road. If the berm is too high the water cannot leave the roadway, causing ice. We evaluate the ditches to make sure that when the water leaves the roadway, it travels away from the road. You see, asphalt is a flexible pavement, which means it gets its strength from the subgrade underneath the road. When a car travels over the road, its load is transferred through the asphalt to the subbase beneath the road.

If the water is not being evacuated from the road, the subgrade weakens, thus the strength of the road weakens and cracks. The ditches must be maintained, which I know all our residents love when we come by to clean them. The ditches will take the water to pipes that go under the road known as cross-over conduits (culverts), so we have to replace any damaged road conduits. We typically change road conduits the year before a paving project. When we change a road culvert, there could be traffic delays, or we may close the road entirely. We close the road when there are two means of egress in the neighborhood. We close the road because it is faster to complete the project, and it is much safer for our crews.

When we are going to change the road conduit on your street, we will send out letters as soon as a month before the project starts. We will also post signage at the pipe location. Road pipes are identified by a number, which is a bit different than the stationing designation found on paving drawings.

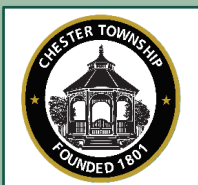
All the roads also have a number associated with them, for example, East Hill Drive is Township Road (TR) 91. If your road runs North and South. The pipe that is furthest south is the beginning of the system. If your road runs East to West, the pipe that is furthest west is the beginning of the system. The number of pipes is based on the length of the road in miles and the distance from the beginning of the road to the pipe in miles, so the pipe on East Hill at Wilson Mills would be TR 91-0.13, and the pipe at Mulberry would be TR 91-0.88.

Finally, the road conduits carry the roadside ditch water away from the road via a drainage swale. Drainage swales are natural waterways that take the water towards the Chagrin River watershed. If you have a drainage swale that goes through your yard. It is your responsibility to maintain the drainage swale.

Once the road project goes out to bid, the Road Department is responsible for these maintenance items. Another activity we are responsible for is changing undersized/damaged driveway pipes. Now I am sure as a resident you don't want to pay for a new driveway pipe, but we only charge for the materials. It is to your benefit to change your driveway pipe, because many times your apron is going to be removed or reshaped. Even on a mill and pave project, the road ends up being higher than your apron. With this in mind you are better off changing your driveway pipe if it is needed, so when the new asphalt apron is installed, you don't have to worry about it again.

**- RD Superintendent, John Onyshko**

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



Lisa Luoma  
Administrative Assistant and  
Cemetery Coordinator  
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!

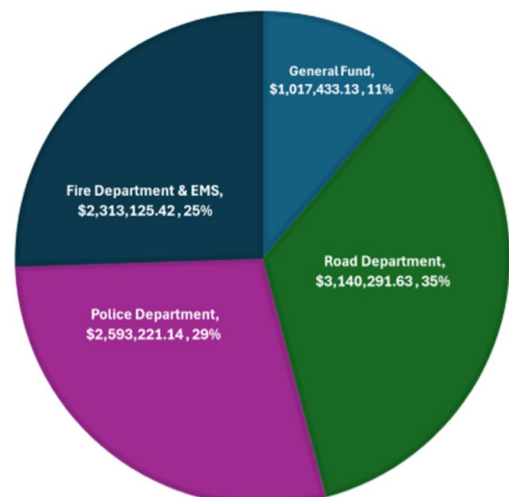
\*Chester Township receives revenue for paper and cardboard that is placed into the “paper only”

\*Please separate your paper /cardboard from other recyclables

## Chester Township Fiscal Overview

CHESTER TOWNSHIP 2025 DEPARTMENT BUDGETS  
PROPERTY TAX LEVIED FUNDS - ACTUAL DOLLARS SPENT

■ General Fund ■ Road Department ■ Police Department ■ Fire Department & EMS



# 2026 Chester Township Community Events



**Kiwaniis**  
CLUB OF WEST GEAUGA

- 2026 Independence Day Parade Saturday, July 4, 2026
- 2026 Concerts in the Park July through August
- Leave and Take

For more information visit [wgkiwanis.org](http://wgkiwanis.org)

Geauga West  
**Rotary**

Service Above Self



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/>



**MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>-The Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland Annual Plant Sale** from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Chester Town Hall Parking Lot. Come shop a great selection of beautiful plants and garden favorites — just in time for spring planting!



**AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup> – The Chesterland Historical Village-Annual Flea Market** – Join us on the village green and the many unique vendors present to search for treasures! This is our annual fundraising event so there is a three-dollar admission charge for entry. Hours: 8am-3pm. For more information contact Sue Ingrassia at 440.478.3462 or email [sue.ingrassia@gmail.com](mailto:sue.ingrassia@gmail.com)

## Check Your Local Civic Group Websites for More Information:

<https://chesterlandlions.org/>

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

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

<https://wgchamber.com/>

**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](http://chestertwp.com) for the Hometown Hero Banner Application.