THE GATEWAY

CHESTER TOWNSHIP • FALL / WINTER 2026

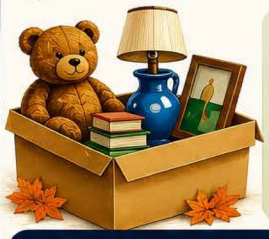
FALL RECYCLING
& Community Clean-Up Events

LEAVE & TAKE

Presented by the
KIWANIS CLUB OF WEST GEAUGA

SEPTEMBER 12 & 13, 2026

CHESTER TOWNSHIP RECYCLE PARK



Give what you can.
Take what you need.

Help keep usable items out of the landfill by sharing gently used household goods with fellow community members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE KIWANIS CLUB OF WEST GEAUGA AT
www.k04411.site.kiwanis.org

SENIOR CLEAN-UP DAYS

SEPTEMBER 14 – 18, 2026

Chester Township seniors age 60 and older are encouraged to register with the Geauga County Department on Aging to participate in the Senior Trash Pick-Up Program.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
SEPTEMBER 7, 2026

- Must be 60 years of age or older
- Must reside in Chester Township
- Maximum of 10 items per household

FOR GUIDELINES AND REGISTRATION:
(440) 279-2130

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

CHESTER TOWNSHIP RECYCLE PARK



Dispose of approved items and help beautify our community during Chester Township's annual Community Clean-Up Day.

Working Together for a Cleaner Chester Township



The HOMETOWN HERO BANNER PROGRAM

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.

★★ HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED. CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY. ★★

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

TAXES: Nobody likes taxes, but they are necessary. Through your vote, you determine the level of services you want. Under Ohio law, townships are legally obligated to maintain roads. In Chester, with your support, we also have our own police and fire departments to serve the residents. All these services contribute to the quality of life we share in Chester.

ROAD LEVY THIS FALL:

The Chester Township Board of Trustees recently voted to place a **2-mil levy** on the ballot this fall for improving and maintaining your roads.

WHY?

Costs have increased but the available funding has not. The last road levy for new money was 10 years ago in 2016. Since that time, labor, equipment and material costs for paving have risen more than 60%, while the amount of levy money to fund road maintenance has remained the same.

It now costs more than **$355,000.00 per mile** for a 'routine' paving job, and full-depth reconstruction costs are now more **than $1,100,000 per mile.** Although the General Fund provides **more than $700,000 annually** to fund road projects and their reserve fund, the available funding is insufficient to keep up with the community's needs.

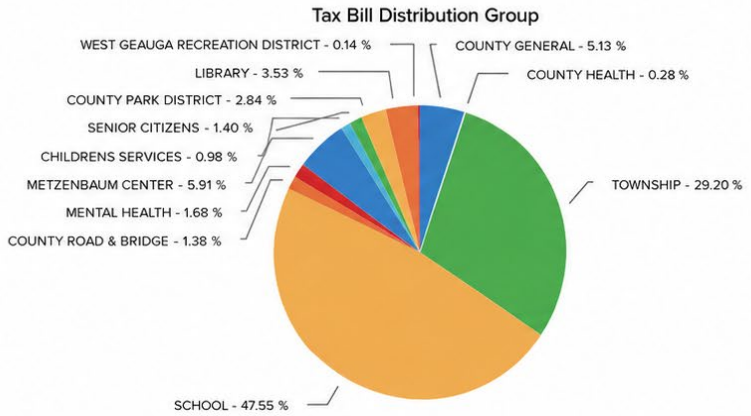
HOW MUCH WILL THIS LEVY COST ME?

For each **$100,000** of market value, the levy will generate **$70** to fund road reconstruction and maintenance.

WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GO?

It is important for you to know how your tax dollars are spent. For each **$100.00** dollars of property tax you pay to the county, the township receives **$29.20 (29.20%)**. Only **6.2%** of that county property tax dollar goes to your township roads.

See the breakdown below



More information will be forthcoming, but in the meantime, feel free to reach out to any of the trustees if you have questions (https://chestertwp.com/government/officials/). We are here to serve you.

ELECTED OFFICIALS & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

CHESTER TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL
12701 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, Ohio 44026

(440) 729-7058

Monday – Friday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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

www.chestertwp.com ★ **Chester Twp Connect App**

CHESTER TOWNSHIP
ZONING DEPARTMENT

Patrick Fleming
Zoning Inspector
440-729-7058
pfleming@chestertwp.org

Becky Geissinger
Zoning Administrative Assistant
440-729-7058
bgeissinger@chestertwp.org

As the construction season begins to wind down, many residents are wrapping up outdoor projects and planning improvements for the coming year. If you're considering a project next spring such as a new garage, addition, deck, shed, fence, or swimming pool, the fall and winter months are an excellent time to begin planning. Contacting the Zoning Department early can help answer questions, identify any zoning requirements, and make the permitting process smoother when construction season returns.

After years of vacancy, the former Buck Stop Bar & Grille at the intersection of Mayfield Road (U.S. 322) and Chillicothe Road (S.R. 306) is being demolished through a State of Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization grant. The removal of this long-vacant structure is an important step in improving one of Chester Township's most visible commercial corridors. While no redevelopment plans have been announced, clearing the site creates new opportunities for future investment and reflects the Township's ongoing commitment to maintaining and enhancing our community.

The Land Use Plan Update Committee continues to make progress on updating Chester Township's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The committee has been reviewing community feedback and refining recommendations that will help guide future growth while preserving the rural character and quality of life that residents value. Once completed, the updated plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

For the latest zoning updates, meeting information and helpful reminders, follow the Chester Township Zoning Department on Facebook, the Chester TWP Connect app, and visit the zoning page on the Township website at chestertwp.com.

- Zoning Inspector, Patrick Fleming

CHESTER TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Chester Township Police Department Detective Bureau: Pursuing Every Lead, No Matter Where It Goes

Some criminal investigations last days. Others last months. A few last decades.

For the detectives of the Chester Township Police Department, every victim deserves the same commitment—regardless of how much time has passed or how far an investigation leads. That philosophy continues to define one of the most proactive Detective Bureaus in the region.

During 2026, Chester Township detectives have already secured **13 felony indictments** and continue to actively investigate **16 major criminal cases** involving violent crimes, financial fraud, complex thefts, and other serious offenses.

One of the bureau's most significant accomplishments came this year when detectives partnered with the **Texas Rangers** to secure an indictment in a **20-year-old rape investigation**. This is the result of persistent investigative work, extensive evidence review, and collaboration across state lines.

In another complex investigation, detectives identified and tracked two criminal suspects to their residences in **Illinois**. Working alongside local Illinois law enforcement agencies, the Detective Bureau coordinated their arrests and extradition to Ohio, where both now face criminal charges stemming from offenses committed in Chester Township.

These are just two examples of an investigative philosophy that refuses to stop at county or state borders. Whether executing search warrants, submitting subpoena requests, obtaining laboratory testing, or coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies across the country, Chester Township detectives routinely follow investigations wherever the evidence leads.

What separates the Chester Township Detective Bureau is not simply the number of cases investigated, but the determination to see each one through. Detectives understand that behind every case number is a victim, a family, or a resident looking for answers.

The department's philosophy is simple: **we owe it to our residents to pursue every lead, exhaust every investigative avenue, and never give up simply because a case is difficult, expensive, or crosses jurisdictional lines.**

That unwavering commitment to justice continues to strengthen public safety, build trust within the community, and ensure that those responsible for criminal activity are held accountable—no matter how long it takes or where the investigation leads.

- Chief of Police, Craig S. Young

CHESTER TOWNSHIP
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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

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

Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower

As Fire Prevention Week, October 4 through October 10, 2026, approaches, Chester Township Fire Rescue encourages residents to make safe charging habits part of their daily routine. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme, **"Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower,"** highlights the importance of properly using and charging the lithium-ion batteries found in many of the devices we use every day.

Lithium-ion batteries power cell phones, laptops, tablets, power tools, cordless yard equipment, electric bicycles, electric scooters, and many other rechargeable products. While these batteries are safe when used properly, damaged batteries, incompatible chargers, or unsafe charging practices can cause a battery to overheat and ignite. These fires burn extremely hot, spread quickly, and produce toxic smoke, making prevention especially important.

Residents can greatly reduce the risk of a lithium-ion battery fire by following a few simple safety tips:

- Use only the charger provided by the manufacturer or a manufacturer approved replacement. Aftermarket or counterfeit chargers may not provide the proper safety protections and can increase the risk of overheating.
- Charge batteries on a hard, noncombustible surface away from furniture, bedding, curtains, and other combustible materials.
- Whenever practical, charge larger batteries, such as those used in electric bicycles and electric scooters, outside or in a detached garage. These batteries contain significantly more stored energy and charging them away from living spaces can help prevent a fire from spreading into your home.
- Unplug chargers and disconnect batteries once they are fully charged. This reduces unnecessary heat, electrical stress, and the amount of time a battery remains connected to a power source.
- Never charge batteries while you are sleeping or away from home.
- Stop using any battery that is swollen, cracked, leaking, damaged, or unusually hot.
- Never place lithium-ion batteries in your household trash or recycling bin. Damaged or discarded batteries can ignite in garbage trucks and waste processing facilities, putting sanitation workers and first responders at risk. Instead, take unwanted batteries to an approved battery recycling or household hazardous waste collection site.

Everyday charging habits and proper battery disposal play an important role in preventing fires. By using the correct charger, charging in a safe location, disconnecting batteries when charging is complete, and recycling batteries properly, you can help protect your family, your home, and your community.

Chester Township Fire Rescue encourages everyone to **Charge into Fire Safety** by making safe charging a daily habit. Safe charging truly is a superpower, and together we can help keep our homes, families, and community safe.

- Fire Chief, Andrew Nagy

CHESTER TOWNSHIP
ROAD DEPARTMENT

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

The Chester Township Road Department works year-round to provide safe and reliable roads for our residents and visitors. However, many people may not realize the scope of the work our department performs with limited staff and resources.

Our Road Department consists of just 10 employees responsible for maintaining approximately 150 lane miles of roadway throughout most of the year and 180 lane miles during the winter season. We understand the frustration of residents whose roads have not been repaved for decades. If you have lived here for many years and paid property taxes during that time, it is reasonable to wonder why your road has not yet been improved.

The reality is that only a small portion of your property taxes is allocated to the Road Department. For decades, road funding has not kept pace with the Township's infrastructure needs. To help bridge that gap, the Township Trustees have supplemented the Road Department budget using inside millage funds.

This November, voters will be asked to consider a 2-mill levy dedicated to supporting the Road Department. We understand that no one welcomes higher taxes, especially during challenging economic times.

Before paving projects can be considered, the Road Department must first ensure roads remain safe and passable during winter. Snow and ice control are among our highest priorities and consume approximately 35% of the annual operating budget. A single plow truck costs roughly $250,000, and the Township uses approximately 4,500 tons of road salt each winter, costing as much as $270,000.

Road paving is another significant expense. Although the Township budgets approximately $850,000 annually for paving, rising construction costs have greatly reduced how much work can be completed. Most asphalt roads have an expected service life of about 25 years. To maintain that cycle, the Township would need to repave approximately three miles of roadway each year. Unfortunately, funding levels have never been sufficient to sustain that schedule, which is why many Township roads have gone more than 30 years without resurfacing.

A standard milling and resurfacing project typically cost around $350,000 per mile. When full reconstruction is necessary, costs can reach approximately $1 million per mile.

To maintain roads more effectively and move closer to a sustainable 25-year paving cycle, the Road Department should ideally budget approximately $1.3 million annually for paving and roadway improvements.

Thank you for taking the time to understand the challenges facing our Road Department and the importance of maintaining our community's infrastructure.

- ***Road Superintendent, John Onyshko***

NEW RESIDENT GUIDE

WELCOME TO CHESTER TOWNSHIP!

WATER

Most homes are served by private wells. Property owners are responsible for maintaining their well and pump system. During a power outage, water service is unavailable unless connected to a generator.

SEWAGE

Approximately 94% of Township residents utilize private septic systems. Property owners are responsible for maintenance and pumping. For approved septic haulers, visit www.gphohio.org.

GARBAGE

Chester Township does not provide trash collection services. Residents contract directly with a private hauler. Popular providers include Dumpster Bandit, Waste Management, and Kimble.

YARD WASTE

Property owners are responsible for yard waste disposal. Chester Township does not provide curbside leaf, brush, septic, sewer, or trash collection services.

ZONING

Projects such as pools, decks, porches, additions, sheds, garages, new construction, business uses, and signs typically require a Zoning Certificate.

Please note: *Chester Township does not issue building permits or perform building inspections.*

SENIOR SERVICES

The Geauga County Department on Aging operates a senior center located at:
8090 Cedar Road
Chesterland, Ohio

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Chester Township is governed by three elected Trustees and one elected Fiscal Officer, each serving four-year terms.
Township departments include:

- Police
- Fire Rescue
- Road
- Zoning

The Township also maintains parks and cemeteries.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

CHESTER TOWNSHIP TOWN HALL
12701 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, Ohio 44026
(440) 729-7058
Monday–Friday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Welcome to Chester Township!
We're glad you're here.

CHESTER RECYCLE PARK

12535 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026

HOURS

MONDAY – FRIDAY	SATURDAY & SUNDAY
7:00 AM – DUSK	8:00 AM – DUSK

RECYCLING REMINDERS

- 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" container.
- Please separate your paper / cardboard from other recyclables.

HELP KEEP OUR RECYCLE PARK CLEAN
Recycle Responsibly.

CHESTER TWP CONNECT APP



CHESTER TOWNSHIP · FOUNDED 1801

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- **LATEST UPDATES**
- **ROAD CLOSURES**
- **TOWNSHIP EVENTS**
- **AND MUCH MORE**

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CHESTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall & Winter 2026



WEST GEAUGA RECREATION COUNCIL

TRICK OR TREAT STREET

Saturday, October 24, 2026
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Bring the family for a fun-filled evening of costumes, treats, and community spirit.

Visit www.wgrc.org for more information.



★ CHESTER TOWNSHIP ★

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
11:00 AM
Parkside Park

Join Chester Township as we honor and recognize the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans.



KIWANIS CLUB OF WEST GEAUGA

CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER

— Drug Mart Plaza – SR 306 —

OPENING DAY BLACK FRIDAY 10AM-4PM

TREE LOT HOURS
Monday - Friday 4-7PM
Saturday & Sunday 10AM-4PM

Visit www.wgkiwanis.org for membership information and upcoming events.



GEAUGA WEST ROTARY

WINTER FEST

Saturday, November 28, 2026
5:00 PM
Parkside Park

Enjoy holiday lights, seasonal festivities, and community fun.

Visit www.geaugawestrotary.com for membership information and upcoming events.



GEAUGA WEST ROTARY

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 5, 2026
8:30 AM – 12:30 PM
West Geauga High School

A holiday tradition for families featuring breakfast, activities, and a visit from Santa Claus.

JOIN THE CHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



2026 OPERATION SANTA SLEIGH

8611 CEDAR RD.
WEST GEAUGA MIDDLE SCHOOL

SATURDAY DEC. 12TH | 10:45 AM– 2:00 PM

For additional Township updates, visit chestertwp.com