



THE GATEWAY

Chester Township

Spring/Summer 2025

Hometown Heroes Banner Program 2025

We still have space available...ORDER NOW!

To order, please submit the following items together to Chester Town Hall no later than May 9, 2025.

- * A complete application form.
- * A check payable to Chester Township in the amount of **\$190.00** per banner. This includes cost of the banner, installation materials, installation and removal.
- * A photo in high-resolution, 600 dpi minimum or a hard copy. Digital photos should be in a JPEG or PNG file format of the service person in uniform emailed to Township Administrator, Mark Purchase at mpurchaseta@chestertwp.org or Administrative Assistant, Kim Bican at kbican@chestertwp.org



A Gateway to the County and Our Past!

It seems Chester Township was always welcoming people to our community and County in one fashion or another. Whether it was a stagecoach rest area at the southwest corner of Mayfield and Chillicothe Road or the Interurban. Between 1900 and 1925 Geauga County enjoyed fast freight and passenger transportation service to and from Cleveland, by way of a soot and cinder free electric trolley. This line ran through Chester, Russell, Chardon, Newbury, Burton and Middlefield Townships. In 1899 a sidewalk was built from the Cross Roads (Chillicothe & Mayfield Roads) to the depot. There were two depots in Chester Township, Scotland and Fullertown. The Scotland would have been located just west of the Scotland General Store. The interurban could get passengers from Cleveland to Chardon in an hour and 58 minutes, with a top speed of 45 miles per hour. Most passenger stops along the way included a milk stand, except for the stop at Mayfield and Caves. Many stops were strictly for



milk pick up and were never intended for passenger stops. Milk stops were usually located on the right-hand side of the track, going from east to west. The stand was built at the height of the car entrance, so that the milk cans could be handled easier. Milk was sent in 10-gallon cans, which could weigh up to 100 pounds. The milk cans were loaded on to "Old Geauga" as the original freight car for hauling milk was called and the rate for hauling milk to Cleveland was 2 cents, per gallon.

Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland

At the busy intersection of Rte. 306 & Mayfield Road, one can see signs of Spring as flowers begin to blossom at the Parkside Park corner. Throughout the Summer and into the Fall, this collage of colors entertains our eyes as we await a change of color at the traffic light.

Often on Saturday mornings you will see some folks tending to this corner garden and the beds around the Gazebo. Who are they and why? A local civic group, the Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland (PGC) have been caring for this corner since 1962 and will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary as a civic organization this year!

PGC's Constitution lists as its purpose the improvement and maintenance of the park, initiate and support beautification of the community, and promote study of ecology, horticulture and floral design. The PGC has about 30 members that meet the 4th Wednesday of the month (7 pm at Metzenbaum). Most meetings are open to the public. Since the 1960s, the PGC has been holding annual plant sales (Saturday, May 10, 2025 at Chester Town Hall's parking area).

In addition to their many hours of devoted labor, the garden club also hold flower shows, raise money for horticulture scholarships, collect donations for Job and Family Services at Christmas time, help Girl Scouts earn a gardening badge and participate in the Great Geauga County Fair.

We thank the Perennial Gardeners of Chesterland for their contributions to our community.



Meeting Schedules

Board of Trustees	Zoning Commission	Board of Zoning Appeal	Land Use Plan Update Committee
Every other Thursday at 6:30 PM	1st and 3rd Wednesdays Of Each Month at 7 PM	2nd Monday Of Each Month at 7 PM	3rd Tuesday Of Each Month at 7 PM

**All meetings are held at Town Hall unless otherwise noted. Meetings are subject to change. Check chestertwp.com for current information.*

Elected Officials and Administrative Office

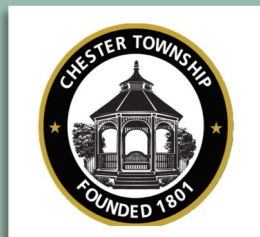
Ken Radtke-Trustee
440-488-7471
kradtke@chestertwp.org

Joe Mazurco- Trustee
440-478-8293
jmazurco@chestertwp.org

Craig S. Richter- Trustee
440-477-3509
csrichter@chestertwp.org

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

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



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 a calendar of events

Zoning Department

With summer around the corner, this is usually the time that people start making changes. Sometimes that change is opening a new business in town, sometimes it is making improvements to your residential property. In both cases, you should talk to the Zoning Inspector prior to taking any action to confirm that your planned changes are permitted by the Zoning Resolution.

The Commercial, Shopping Center, and Industrial Zoning Districts all have a list of “permitted uses” allowed to operate within the district. A permitted use is verified by submitting a General Use zoning application (Form 1G) to the Zoning Inspector, so the Township can document that you are carrying out a legally permitted use on the property. After you receive your zoning certificate, you must contact the Chester Township Fire Department who can be reached at (phone number) and the Geauga County Building Department who can be reached at 440-279-1780, so that they may perform their inspections and issue their Occupancy Permits. It is very important to obtain these permits ahead of opening your business, because operating without a permit may cause the business to be shut down until such permits and inspections are handled.

Another common project in the summer is installing a pool or deck in your backyard. Pools, whether in-ground or above-ground and decks require a zoning certificate and pools are subject to setback and fencing requirements. Pools must be in the rear yard and at least 5 feet from any fence, wall or accessory structure; 10 feet from your house, well, septic tank, leach field and side lot lines; and 25 feet from your rear lot line. In-ground pools and above-ground pools with side walls less than 4’ above grade must be surrounded by a fence with a minimum height of 4’ with a self-closing, self-latching gate. Decks may be attached to the house, pool, or both. Decks may also be attached to the front or side of a house, provided they meet the required setbacks.

Whether the project you have planned this summer was discussed here or not, please keep zoning regulations in mind and call the Zoning Department before you break ground, not after. We are here to assist residents, property owners and business owners to comply with the Zoning Resolution and it is much easier to look at alternatives at the conceptual stage rather than starting construction on a project before finding out it cannot be there.

Chris Alusheff

Zoning Inspector

440-729-7058 Ext.# 1006

calusheff@chestertwp.org

Office Hours:
Monday –Friday
8AM-4PM



Kathleen McCarthy

Zoning Administrative Assistant

440-729-7058 Ext.# 1005

kmccarthy@chestertwp.org

*Visit Chester Township Zoning Department on Facebook

Police Department

Each year, our Police Department proudly hosts Safety Township, an engaging and educational program designed specifically for children entering kindergarten. This beloved annual event provides young learners with essential safety skills through fun, hands-on activities in an interactive environment. To accommodate families' schedules, the program is offered in two sessions: the first from June 16 through June 20 and the second from July 7 through July 11. Parents can select from two convenient time slots—9:00 AM to 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM—ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate in this valuable learning experience.

The curriculum at Safety Township covers a wide range of safety topics, incorporating lessons from police officers, firefighters, and school safety officials. Children learn valuable skills such as pedestrian and traffic safety, fire prevention, and emergency preparedness. In addition to these critical lessons, the program also introduces other important safety tips that will help young participants develop confidence and awareness as they prepare to start school.

A unique feature of Chester Township Safety Town is its miniature replica town, which provides children with a hands-on learning experience. This scaled-down version of the township includes recognizable landmarks such as Town Hall, the gazebo, and the police and fire departments.

Safety Township is a cherished tradition in Chesterland, offering an invaluable opportunity for young children to build a foundation of safety awareness before they begin their educational journey. The program not only educates but also fosters a sense of community by bringing together local safety personnel and those we serve.

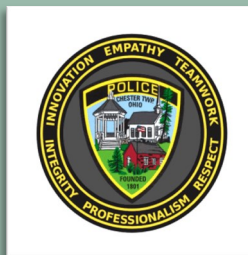


Session 1: June 16th – June 20th

Session 2: July 7th – July 11th

Each session offers both a morning class: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM and an afternoon class: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Applications will be available starting **April 1st** at the Chester Township Police Department.
Don't miss this opportunity! For any questions, please call the Police Department at 440-729-1239.

Craig Young
Police Chief
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

The Importance of Proper Home Address Signage

After a long winter and with spring approaching, our personnel have already noticed that many mailboxes and address signs have been affected by snowplowing efforts and harsh weather conditions. The fire department would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of clear, visible address signage.

In an emergency, every second counts. Whether it's a fire, medical emergency, or a law enforcement situation, prompt response by emergency services can mean the difference between life and death. One often overlooked factor in ensuring that emergency responders reach their destination quickly is the proper display of a home address.

Why Proper Address Signage Matters

When emergency responders are called to a location, time is critical. However, if a home lacks proper signage or if the numbers are hard to read, it can cause delays in response.

Key Considerations for Address Signage

***Visibility:** Your address should be clearly visible from the road, even at night. Consider using reflective numbers or placing a light near the address to ensure visibility.

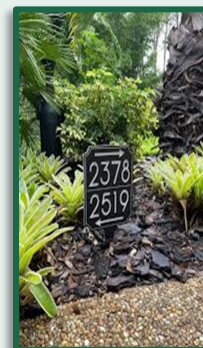
***Size and Contrast:** The numbers should be large enough to be seen from a distance, typically at least 4 inches high, and should contrast with the background they are mounted on. For example, white numbers on a dark background or dark numbers on a lighter background.

***Location:** Place the address sign in a visible location. This typically means on a post near the street or on the mailbox. Making sure that the address is not obscured by trees, bushes, or other obstacles.

***Special Considerations:** If your property has multiple entrances, or several drives that branch off a shared driveway, ensure that all of them display the correct address and directional markers where needed. This helps responders identify the correct entrance to the correct house.

Proper home address signage is a simple step in helping ensure that emergency services can reach you when you need them most.

By making sure your home has a clear, visible address sign, you are doing your part to make sure emergency responders can locate you quickly and accurately.



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

Every Spring the Chester Township Road Department starts to ramp up for the new construction season. We have a 5-year look ahead at which streets are scheduled to be improved. This schedule can change based on how much money is available in the budget. Lately, the Road Department has stretched the budget to try and get every street we can for that season. Some roads need extensive improvements. The most extensive improvements are pipes that go under the road, or if the road sub-base needs cement stabilized.

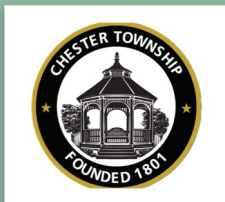
Let's talk about when your road is going to be paved. You will receive a letter notifying you that your road will be paved, and it will inform you that the Road Department will be inspecting your driveway pipe. We are responsible for doing the ditch maintenance according to the Geauga County Engineers before they award the contract. Part of the ditch maintenance is changing poor driveway pipes. In the winter the Road Department will come, and they inspect the driveway pipe of each resident. If your driveway pipe is found to be damaged or is not sufficient in size, you will receive an invoice to change your driveway pipe. The invoice is only for the cost of the material. This charge is done in every township and by the Geauga County Engineer's office for County Roads. The Township must improve the drainage for the road to protect the public's investment in the road. We all pay to have your road improved. The drainage removes water away from the road, and the drainage helps prevent ice build-up.

Why are you invoiced for the driveway pipe? You are investing in the protection of your driveway as well. It is the same principle as the road. Also, in some construction processes, it may be necessary to remove a portion of your driveway apron. This portion of your apron is repaired with asphalt only. Ultimately it benefits your property to have a brand-new pipe under a brand-new apron.

I know. The next question is, what if I have a concrete driveway? The Road Department identifies these as well. You will receive a concrete apron waiver which has 3 options. I will paraphrase here, 1) you accept the removal of the apron & the asphalt apron repair. 2) You accept the removal, but you will find your concrete contractor to repair the apron, and in return, the Township will reimburse you for what the cost of the asphalt apron would have been during the construction. The calculation of the dollar amount is the responsibility of the Geauga County Engineer's office. 3) You will not accept the removal: however, a thin layer of asphalt may/may not be overlaid on the concrete surface. How much will be overlaid depends on the new elevation of the new roadway surface.

Lastly, while we are making these improvements there may be some traffic delays. Please, be patient, we will try and keep traffic moving as soon as it is safe to do so. Do not drive through the Stop signal sign. You could cause an accident or cause an injury to our crew members. They all have radios, and if they hear traffic is stopped, they may not expect your car to be going through the zone. Our equipment is heavy and dangerous.

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



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

*Visit Friends of Chester Roads on Facebook

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.

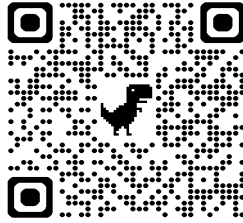
***Chester Township does not provide sewer/septic, trash removal or curbside leaf or brush pick-up services.**

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 four times per week, and the Park is closed when the bins are full, in order to minimize wind-blown 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 Hazardous 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

2025 Senior and Community Clean Up Schedule

Chester Township Senior Clean Up Days: September 8th-10th

Chester Township Community Clean Up Day: September 13th at Chester Recycle Park

Attention Seniors! We are asking seniors who will be participating in the 2025 Trash Day Pick-up program to register NOW with the Department on Aging. Seniors who complete their yearly registration with Department on Aging prior to the clean-up dates, only need to make a phone call before the trash pick-up cutoff date to be placed on the community pickup list.

Registration deadline is August 29th

Please, no more than 10 items per household.

Call (440) 279-2130 for guidelines and questions.

2025 Chester Township Community Events



Kiwaniis
CLUB OF WEST GEAUGA

***4th of July Parade**

Friday, July 4, 2025 at 11 AM

***Summer Concerts**

at Chester Township Park Gazebo!

Six concerts beginning July 9th-August 13th at 7 PM

***Meetings are held every**

Tuesday 7 PM at the Baptist Church

Visit www.wgkiwanis.org

for more information

about membership and events.

**Geauga West
Rotary**
Service Above Self



***Presenting a WG High School Interact Student with a
"Service Above Self" award including \$1000.**

***Hosting the annual golf outing fundraiser.**

***Meetings are held every**

Wednesday morning 7 AM at Mayfield Church

Visit www.geaugawestrotary.com for more information
about membership and events.



West Geauga
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

West G Community Day (A.K.A. Unity Day)

Saturday, June 28, 2025 3:00pm-Dusk

Eddy's Fruit Farm

12079 Caves Road



**Chesterland Historical
Foundation**



Annual Flea Market

August 16, 2025

8 AM-3 PM \$3.00 admission.

For more information contact
Sue Ingrassia at 440.478.3462
or sue.ingrassia@gmail.com



**CHESTER
TOWNSHIP**

Memorial Day Ceremony

at Chester Township Cemetery

10:00 AM



Chesterland Lions Club

**Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's
7 PM at the Lion's Shed next to the WG Middle School**

Visit the website for current information:

Flag Football, Football and Cheerleading

www.chesterlandlions.org