

Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XVIII Issue I March 2017

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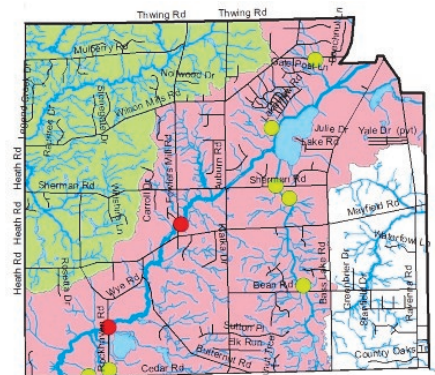
Water, Water Everywhere!

One of Munson's greatest assets is the quality and abundance of our water supply. Where does it come from? In Munson Township, most of the land drains to the Chagrin River watershed (with the balance in the Cuyahoga River watershed), which is part of the larger Lake Erie watershed, which in turn is part of the much larger Great Lakes watershed. The Chagrin River watershed is a beautiful, diverse watershed with areas of high-quality streams, wetlands, and forests, many of which are found in Munson Township.

Our actions on the land affect the health and quality of our streams and wetlands. Upstream activities often cause downstream problems. Stream experts have studied and monitored the streams in the Chagrin watershed and identified areas where water quality is threatened and declining, including two locations in the Township at Fowlers Mill Road and at Rockhaven Road (see red dots on map).

Development and loss of streamside vegetation are major sources of identified water pollution and poor fish habitat in the streams that flow through Munson Township. The Township is working with local organizations to maintain our water quality. Streams without wooded corridors have no protection from streambank erosion. Grass roots do not provide the stabilization needed to lock in soils on a streambank during heavy flow, resulting in erosion and sediment getting into the stream. Sediment is one of the most common pollutants in our streams; it clogs up the streambed, clouds the water, and prevents fish from breathing and finding food. Development increases the amount of impervious surface and prevents water from soaking into the ground and being cleaned naturally. The dirty water instead runs off the hardscape into nearby ditches and drains, which then go straight to an unprotected stream. Trees also help shade the stream and keep the water temperature stable and cool, which increases the amount of oxygen present in the water for fish to breathe.

So how can you help maintain water quality? If you have a stream on your property, consider maintaining a buffer of native trees and shrubs along your stream to prevent erosion and help filter and clean surface runoff. Even native flowers would help, since their roots go much deeper than grass, up to eight feet deep in some plants! We can all act to preserve our water resources. If you have any questions about managing streambank erosion on your property, you can contact Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. (Munson is a member) at 440-975-3870, for a free on-site consultation, or learn more about maintaining our healthy watershed at <http://crwp.org/index.php/homeowners>.



Munson Township Drainage and Stream Quality

Stream Health Sampling Sites
 ● Meeting healthy stream standards
 ● Not meeting healthy stream standards

Chagrin River Drainage
 ■ Drains to Main Stem Chagrin River
 ■ Drains to East Branch Chagrin River
 ■ Drains to Cuyahoga River

Please Note: This may be the last printed newsletter. Residents can download future newsletters from our website www.munsontwp.com. If you still wish to receive a copy, please call us with your name and address; we will be glad to mail it to you.

Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District Collection Events ...

Not to be confused with Munson's Spring Clean-Up the Solid Waste Management District has several collection events scheduled for Geauga County. **All collection events will be located at the Geauga County Engineer's Yard, 12665 Merritt Road (off Route 44) in Chardon.**

Appliance Collection **Saturday, April 22** **9 am to Noon**

This is for washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, and other similar household appliances. **No computers, televisions, e-waste or microwaves will be accepted.** Free freon removal. Workers will be available to help unload vehicles.

Document Destruction **Saturday, May 13** **9 am to Noon**

Perfect time to shred up your old tax records and important documents no longer needed. Limit 4 banker boxes.

Household Hazardous Waste **Saturday, September 9** **9 am to Noon**

Acceptable household waste: paint, oil, anti-freeze, propane tanks, gasoline, cleaners, art supplies, wood strippers, degreasers, pesticides, etc. Not accepted: televisions, smoke detectors, acetylene tanks, medical waste, or electronic equipment (E-waste).

Check Geauga Trumbull's website www.startrecycling.com under "events" for a more extensive list.

All collections are for RESIDENTS ONLY, no commercial businesses or trailer loads. If you have questions, contact Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District office at 1-800-707-2673

24/7 **Operation Empty Medicine Cabinet** **Geauga County Sheriff's Office** **12450 Merritt Rd., Chardon**

It is important to clean out your medicine cabinet and dispose of expired and/or unused pills. You can discard them in the drop-box located in the lobby at the Sheriff's office.

Pills Only • No Liquids Are Accepted



Residents have most likely noticed the different mixed recycling containers at the drop-off facility for recycling at the Vetter Ball Field parking lot behind of the fire station.

Mixed Recycling - The following items may be recycled: clear, green and brown glass, plastic, aluminum and bi-metal cans, and clean aluminum foil and foil pans. Plastic **must** have a small triangular symbol with the numbers 1 through 7 in the center. Without the number, the recycling facility cannot determine the type of plastic and therefore cannot process it. Exceptions are the plastic bags from grocery and retail stores, which do not need to have the printed triangle. **Tarps, laundry baskets, garden hose, lawn furniture, large plastic toys, and plastic pots and buckets are NOT recyclable** unless there is a triangular symbol. Glass is restricted to bottles and jars – no plate glass windows, no corning ware, no drinking glasses, no mirrors, and no canning jars. Also not recyclable: any expanded polystyrene foam (Styrofoam), aluminum gutters, window frames or cooking pans. Recyclables should be rinsed clean with lids and caps left on, and should be separated from garbage. **Do not leave bags on the ground.**

Paper Recycling - Cardboard, newspapers, magazines, office paper, mail, phonebooks and paperback books (**no hardback books**) can be commingled in the yellow and green receptacles. Always flatten cardboard and **never leave items on the ground.** Shredded paper must be bagged in a transparent plastic bag - handlers will discard a bag if they cannot see the contents. No pizza boxes or waxed containers. Remove and discard all packing materials.

We hope that residents, once informed, will be more conscientious about what they bring to the site.

E - Waste • Recycle Your Appliances

We are pleased to host a recycling container for computer equipment and electronics. The green container is located on the left just before the parking lot opens up to the recycling area.

This program is provided as a community service for Munson Township residents at no charge. 100% of the equipment is recycled with nothing entering the landfills. All material is recycled in the continental United States; no material winds up offshore.

Acceptable items include anything electronic, computers and their counterparts, microwaves, stereos, toasters, blenders, stoves, refrigerators, etc. Basically anything that you plug in to operate is acceptable Except for **Televisions & Computer Monitors**, which are NOT accepted.

Munson Spring Clean-Up

Bring your large items and boxes of accumulated items to discard to the **Vetter Ball Field Parking Lot** located behind the Munson Fire Station at 12200 Auburn Road.

**Saturday, April 29
7am to 1pm**

Items NOT accepted: construction remodeling debris, liquids, paint or other hazardous materials, rocks, yard waste, or household garbage.

Reduce wood or pipe to six foot lengths. We can **no longer accept** televisions, computer monitors or other small appliances with electronic components. Consolidate all small materials in strong boxes or containers. We will accept unbroken car batteries, lawn mowers, and tires off the rim - 4 per load. Call the Township if you have a junk auto or truck to dispose of (440-286-9255).

Recyclable items such as cardboard and newspaper will not be accepted.

For Munson Township Residents only - Identification may be requested.

Senior Citizen Assistance for Spring Clean-Up

The Geauga County Department on Aging and Munson Road Department will join forces and aid seniors by picking up and transporting their items to discard at the Clean-Up Day dumpsters on April 24, 25 and 26, 2017. **To qualify**, you must be 60 years of age or older and live in Munson Township. Only 10 household items will be accepted per home.

To receive assistance: You must call the Department on Aging at 440-279-2130 to register. The following information will be needed: senior's name, address, phone number, last 4 digits of social security number, birth date and a list of the items to be picked up.

The Township will be divided into three sections, one (possibly more) to be serviced each day. Make sure your items are set out by Sunday, April 20th, so that you do not miss your scheduled pick-up. The Senior must also be home to sign a release for the items at time of pick up.

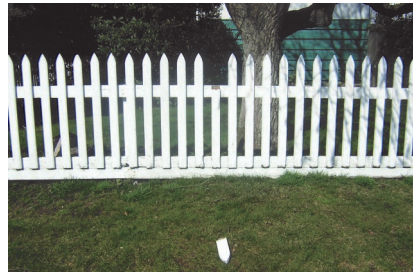
To prevent possible bed bug transfer, mattresses **MUST** be wrapped in plastic and taped securely or they will not be taken.

Message From the Zoning Inspector

With the building season just around the corner, we have been getting numerous phone calls relating to fences and walls. Per Section 509.5 of the Munson Zoning Resolution, fences, gates and walls are considered structures and require a zoning permit. They shall be in conformity with the following provisions:

- Fences, gates, and walls shall be erected outside of the right-of-way of any public or private road.
- Fences, gates, and walls shall not block or impede clear sight distance of vehicle operators at the intersection of any public or private road.
- Fences and walls shall be a maximum of four (4) feet in height in any front yard and no more than six (6) feet in height in any side or rear yard, except as otherwise provided herein.

The fee for a zoning permit for fences, gates or walls is \$50.00. If you have any questions, please call the Zoning Inspector.



Message From the Fire Chief ...

Effective this year, House Bill 154 states that motorists now have to give cyclists a three-foot clearance while passing.

As our winters become more unpredictable every year, I am sure everyone is ready to welcome in Spring and enjoy some good weather. Please keep in mind that with warmer weather, people will be out walking and riding bicycles. When driving, be aware of your surroundings at all times and eliminate any distractions that take your eyes off the road so that everyone can have a safe and happy spring. As always, please remember SAFETY FIRST in everything you do.

Spring Cleanup For Fire Safety

While the plants are budding and the trees are starting to bloom, your thoughts may be turning to that dreaded ritual of spring cleaning. With that comes a timely reminder to keep your home safe from the threat of fire.

- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- To help prevent nuisance alarms, gently vacuum your smoke alarm every six months or as needed.
- Change batteries in smoke alarms, flashlights and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Never borrow smoke alarm batteries to use for toys or other equipment.
- Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Keep outdoor debris or dead vegetation away from the house.
- Properly dispose of oily or greasy rags. If these items must be stored, they should be kept in labeled, sealed, metal containers.
- If you store gasoline, keep it outside your home in a shed or detached garage. Keep only small quantities in tightly sealed containers. Use gasoline only as a motor fuel - never as a cleaning agent.
- Clean your garage of stored newspapers or other rubbish that can fuel a fire.
- Clean out your dryer vent after each use. 2015 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported there are an estimated 15,500 dryer fires annually.

Fall Prevention For Senior Citizens

Falls are the leading cause of injury in the home. Thirty percent of people age 65 and older are involved in falls each year. Some are fatal, while others permanently disable victims and may cause loss of mobility or independence. Here are some tips to help you avoid a fall in your home.

- Don't be rushed or distracted; it increases your chance of falling.
- Sit a moment before rising out of bed.
- Stand and get your balance before beginning to walk.
- Keep stairs and walking areas free of shoes, clothing, books, magazines and other clutter
- Use non-slip mats and grab bars in bathtubs, toilet areas and on shower floors
- Wipe up any spilled liquids immediately
- Use only throw rugs with rubber, non-skid backing
- Smooth out wrinkles and folds in carpeting
- Have easy grip handrails on both sides of the stairs
- See an eye specialist once a year, poor vision can increase your chance of falling
- Improve lighting in your home, use night lights to light the path between your bedroom, bathroom and stairs
- Turn on lights before using stairs
- Wear well fitting low heeled shoes with non slip soles
- Exercise regularly to build strength and improve your balance and coordination

Fire Department Hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The station is staffed 24/7 to assist you.



Barbecue Safety - Use Outdoor Barbecue with caution

- Place in a safe area away from building, windows, heating, ventilation and air conditioning units or places with high/dead vegetation.
- Never use gasoline to start a fire, don't add charcoal lighter fluid once a fire has started.
- Use barbecue grills outside only - not under overhangs or balconies, and away from combustibles.
- Check your propane barbecue grill hose for leaks and cracks; never store propane indoors.

Geauga County Sheriff's Office • Geauga Public Alerts

Sign up for **Geauga Alerts!** In the event of an emergency or severe weather condition, a text message alert will be sent to the phone number provided. To reach the registration page go to the Sheriff's Office page (<http://www.sheriff.co.geauga.oh.us/>) and select "Geauga Public Alerts". The direct url is http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/geauga_county_oh/wens.cfm

Seasonal Household Hazardous Waste Facility

The Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District's Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Facility (HHWRF) is located at 5138 Enterprise Blvd., in Warren (Off Route 422). District residents are encouraged to use the facility for recycling of household hazardous waste and computer/electronic equipment. It is located about 31 miles from Munson Town Hall. **The lines for the one day collection of HHW can be over an hour, so it might make sense to take a trip down to Warren to the drop-off site instead.**

The facility is only open to residents of Geauga and Trumbull counties, identification is required from everyone participating in any type of collection event. No commercial loads will be accepted!

The facility will open every Wednesday beginning May 3rd through October 25th 2017. Wednesday hours of operation are 10am to 6pm. The facility will also be open the first Saturday of the months May, June, August and October from 9am to 12 Noon. Household hazardous waste and electronic/computer equipment will be accepted during these times. New acceptable items include microwave ovens and for a small fee, they will accept television sets.

Tim Kearns Retires



(pictured from left to right: Irene McMullen, Tim Kearns, Andy Bushman and Jim McCaskey)

Zoning Inspector Tim Kearns retired at the end of 2016 after serving the Township well during his 11 year tenure.

New Zoning Inspector Jim Herringshaw, a long-time Munson Township resident since 1985, was a former member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Prior to that he was involved in the Munson Baseball League.

Cemetery Decorations



All artificial flowers, decorations and containers in the Munson Cemeteries must be removed by May 1st. Those items remaining will be disposed of to prepare the cemeteries for Memorial

Day and summer mowing. Also, iron plant hooks are not permitted in the cemeteries.

Join us at the Maple Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th at 8:30 am for a short but very meaningful ceremony to honor our veterans.

Last Printed Newsletter

This may be the last printed newsletter. Residents can download future newsletters from our web-site. If you still wish to receive a copy, please call us with your name and address; we will be glad to mail it to you.



Easter Egg Hunt

Hop on down to Munson Township's Annual Easter Egg Hunt! A bunny will be there to greet you and your children and will watch your kids hunt for eggs. Bring your own basket or bag to collect the eggs, which will be turned in for a bag of goodies! This is a rain or shine event, so dress appropriately.



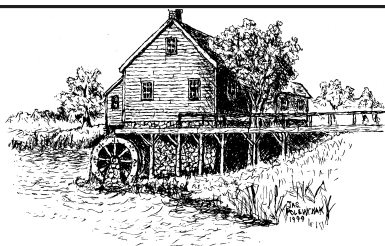
Where: Munson Township Park
12641 Bass Lake Road

When: Saturday, April 15, 2017

Time: 10:00 am - Easter Bunny Arrives
10:30 am - Hunt Begins

Age Groups: 2-5 years old • 6-9 years old

Interesting . . . More than 63% of all paper consumed in the U.S. during 2013 was recovered for recycling, nearly doubling our rate of paper recovery since 1990.



**MUNSON TOWNSHIP
NEWS NOTES**
12210 Auburn Road
Chardon OH 44024-9454

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**M U N S O N T O W N S H I P
N E W S N O T E S**

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Chardon OH 44024-9454

Phone: 440-286-9255

Fax: 440-286-1180

munson@munsontwp.com

www.munsontwp.com

Office Hours: Weekdays 9am - 3pm

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Jim McCaskey 216-789-1436
Trustee jmccaskey@munsontwp.com

Judy Toth 440-286-9312 / 440-376-9399
Fiscal Officer jtoth@munsontwp.com

Meetings

Trustees

second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Zoning Commission

third Tuesday at 7 pm (may vary)

Board of Zoning Appeals

third Thursday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

Park Board

second Monday at 6:15 pm

Events

Easter Egg Hunt • Saturday, April 15

At Munson Township Park • 12641 Bass Lake Road

Spring Clean-Up • Saturday, April 29

7am - 1pm at Vetter Ball Field • Behind Fire Station

Fishing Derby • Sunday, May 21

9am - 1pm at Scenic River Retreat • 10900 Mayfield Road

Memorial Day • Monday, May 29

8:30am at Maple Hill Cemetery • 13480 Auburn Road

Fishing Derby • Saturday, August 26

9am - 1pm at Scenic River Retreat • 10900 Mayfield Road

Outdoor Flea Market • Saturday, September 9

9am - 2pm at Munson Township Hall • 12210 Auburn Road

For more information:

www.munsontwp.com

call 440-286-9255

Youth athletic programs that lease the township fields:
www.chardonbaseball.com or Geauga YMCA 440-285-7543