

Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XVI Issue 3 November 2015

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Our Bicentennial is Nearing

Munson Township was founded in 1816, so this next year we are having our bicentennial celebration or a birthday party. If you read our history page (munsontpw.com), you know three men from Meadville, PA named Crary, Hotchkiss and Beane purchased 7,000 acres in the Connecticut Western Reserve. Munson was originally called Burlington from 1816 to 1820, upon which they changed it to Monson, however, to our benefit, it came out Munson. This is another interesting story in itself.



Every year offers history that will always leave an impression on the people who experience it. Besides Munson being founded, the year 1816 was no different. It was around the end of the "Little Ice Age". People living in the Northern Hemisphere lived through a year without a summer. The deleted summer season was the result of the eruption of Mount Tambora located on the island of Sumbawa, Indonesia. It is hard to believe that the climate in this area was affected by a volcano so far away. It was reported that volcanic ash was found 810 miles away and over 39" thick. The eruption which started on April 10, 1815 finally stopped on July 15, 1815 but smoke still billowed from the mountain top until August of that year. The huge amount of volcanic ash and sulfuric acid droplets in the atmosphere blocked the sunlight in the Northern Hemisphere during the spring and summer of 1816. Thus the year without a summer.

Now in 2015, it is amazing that all we have to do to find out about things that happened in the past is to go online and Google. Of course, the story went on and we thought it was an interesting read. We have a copy of it at Town Hall if anyone is interested in reading it to the conclusion. Stop in or call us, we can email it to you.

Since this coming year we will be celebrating our bicentennial, we wanted to let everyone know that we are looking for individuals and groups alike from Munson who would like to be a part of this historic year. Even though we have some ideas in mind, we would love to hear input from interested residents.

Inside this Issue

Bicentennial	1
Zoning Inspector	2
Recycling	2
Community Day	3
Road Department	3
"No Engine Brake" Signs	3
Munson Fire Department	4
Breakfast with Santa	5
Community Room	5
Winter Safety Tips	5
Scholarship Program	5
Meetings and Events	6

**HAVE YOU THANKED
A VETERAN TODAY?**

Message From the Zoning Inspector

Now that the building season is coming to a close, it is the perfect time to think about the improvements you would like to do in 2016. Whether you are thinking of adding a greenhouse, accessory building or putting an addition on your home, a zoning permit is required. The following is what you will need to bring into the Zoning Office to obtain the zoning certificate:

- Copy of the deed for your home
- Site plan showing where the structure will be placed.

There must be:

- 25' from side property line
- 40' from rear property line
- 80' minimum setback from the road right-of-way

If the above dimensions are not met, there is an option for a variance which will be heard in front of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Please call with any questions or concerns.



It's No Chump Change

As you may have noticed, there are two different types of bins in the recycle yard. Even though both types of containers accept cardboard, please place paper products in the yellow/green bins marked Paper Retriever (pictured below). Munson Township is compensated for the paper and cardboard recycled in these bins. Last year, the township made **\$4,678.65** which goes into our general fund.



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 the fire station. Mixed recycling can be combined in the solid green containers.

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.

Did you know...

Munson Township's population went from 6,621 in 2010 to 6,694 in 2014. That is an increase of 1.10% - 73 people.

Community Day

Thanks to the following for their donations to our Community Picnic:

A Dog's Life (Ted Berr)
 Advanced Auto Parts - Chardon
 All-Ways Flasher Service
 Alvord's Yard & Garden Equipment
 Andy Bushman - Trustee
 Anytime Fitness
 Auto Zone - Chardon
 Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management
 Avanti Salon
 Bada Bing Pizza
 Bass Lake Taverne & Inn
 Bella's Homemade Dog Biscuits
 Breier Family
 Cabanas Island Restaurant
 Chardon Martial Arts
 Cheng's China House Restaurant
 Cold Nose Companions
 Farley's Country Store
 Fairmount Santrol
 For The Birds, Wildlife & More
 Fowlers Milling Company
 Geauga TV (GTV)
 Giant Eagle - Chardon
 Guido's Pizza Haven & Restaurant
 Highland Dental Professionals
 Ianiro's Imported Foods
 Jim McCaskey - Trustee
 Irene McMullen - Trustee
 Junction Auto
 Lake County Captains
 Lenore Pikus & Family
 Maple Leaf Restaurant
 Marci's Hair on the Square
 Marci - Mitzi Coso - Kim Lloyd
 Mary Kay (Jennifer Scerbo & Family)
 Mayfield Sand Ridge Golf Club
 Dan McCaskey (Re/Max Traditions)
 Monticello Garden Center
 Mary Beth O'Neill (Keller Williams)
 Refound Treasures
 Richard Vyse
 Rising Sun Automotive
 Royle Insurance Agency
 Sage's Apples
 Sport Rack
 Staples
 The Carpet Company
 The Carriage Trade Boutique
 Wal-Mart
 Western Reserve Farm Cooperative
 YMCA Geauga

We couldn't have done it without you!

Road Department

With Fall upon us and Winter just ahead, we need to prepare for poor driving conditions. Slow down and drive defensively, not offensively.

Speaking of the fall with colors so vibrant, always remember that leaves can be slippery.

LEAVES - Leaves from residents' yards should not be raked or blown into the roadside ditch. Leaves plug the culverts, stopping the flow of water that leads to erosion and washouts of road edge berms, driveways, and sometimes roadways. The alternative is to compost the leaves and use the compost for flower beds and gardens next year.

DRIVEWAYS - New concrete or asphalt driveways are a great way to improve your property. If they are improperly installed, these driveway surfaces, especially at the adjoining road surface, in relation to finished height, may lead to many problems such as: water not pitched to flow to the ditch line and out into the road or berm, therefore causing a build-up in colder weather; and driveway ending height above the road edge may cause damage to snowplows and to the surface itself.

SNOW REMOVAL - Though prohibited by Ohio law, the practice of pushing snow across the roadway or out into the road and cul-de-sacs causing a hazard, still is a common practice by some. Please contact the responsible party at your residence and ask that this practice not continue.

"No Engine Brake" Sign

Residents of busier through roads have been experiencing noise from "Jake" or engine brakes from large trucks. Has this been happening on your road? It is possible to post signs, like the "No Engine Brake" sign shown, which the Sheriff's Department finds effective. If you are experiencing unreasonably loud noise from engine braking of trucks, please email munson@munsontwp.com or call Town Hall at (440)286-9255 and let us know your address, BEFORE December 8. The Township Trustees are able to make a request of the Geauga County Commissioners to erect appropriate signage on County roads in the township. This type of sign costs approximately \$40 per sign, a cost borne by the entity erecting the sign.



Message From the Fire Chief ...

**** Munson Fire Department wishes everyone a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season. ****

It has been very busy here at Munson Fire Department. Hard to believe we are winding down the year and winter is just around the corner. As most of you are aware, three of our firefighters and our Ladder Truck were involved in an accident this past March. We are happy to report that all personnel have recovered and are back to work full duty. The truck however had extensive damage and was a total loss. We are now awaiting the arrival of its replacement. A 2016 Sutphen Aerial has been ordered and should be arriving sometime late spring. Also if you have driven by the station you will notice the much needed replacement of the front pads. Concrete has replaced the asphalt drive and will definitely hold up much better to the weight of the fire trucks.

We are excited to announce that Firehouse Subs has awarded Munson Fire Department a \$25,000.00 Extrication Equipment grant. With this grant we were able to purchase a set of Genesis Extrication Equipment to replace our current set that is more than 18 years old and unable to be serviced any longer. The new equipment is state of the art, producing the maximum cutting force required to meet the demands to cut through the newer reinforced vehicles of today. Thank you Assistant Chief Mike Vatty for applying for this grant.



We would also like to thank Captain Matt Hartman for continuing to apply for the annual Ohio Department of Safety EMS Grant. This year we were awarded \$2,750.00 to purchase many EMS supplies that are crucial to our daily activities.



We would like to mention that Fire Fighter/Paramedic **Michael Swanker**, who is a Munson Township resident is currently on deployment with the United States Army Reserves. He has taken a one year leave from his services with the Fire Department to serve his country. Please join us as we wish him all the best and a safe return.

It's time to replace the batteries in all smoke alarms and CO detectors in your house.

Help us Help you...

Remember to keep your address markers and driveways clean and clear of snow in case of an emergency. This will ensure that the Fire Department will find your home if help is needed.

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 "Gauga Public Alerts".

The direct url is http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/geauga_county_oh/wens.cfm

Fire Station office hours: Mon. – Fri. 8am to 4pm. Our station is staffed 24/7 to assist you.

Breakfast With Santa



Mark your calendars for Munson Township's Annual Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus on December 5, 2015 at Munson Township Hall, 12210 Auburn Road.

Boy Scout Troop #91 will serve pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Adults \$5, Children ages 4 to 12 \$3, Children under 3 are free. Pictures with Santa will be available for only \$10 per family with the proceeds going to Troop #91. Sign-up forms can be picked up at the town hall or at munsontpwp.com.

Community Room Rental



The new community room is available to rent for family reunions, meetings, bridal or baby showers, graduation parties, etc. Call the township to reserve a date no more than 4 months in advance. Forms may be picked up at town hall or can be downloaded from our website at www.munsontpwp.com.

Residents - \$125

Non-Residents - \$250

Security Deposit - \$50

Alcohol Security Deposit - \$250

To view the rules and regulations in their entirety, go to www.munsontpwp.com under the "Documents & Forms" tab.

Winter Safety Tips

Now is the time for winter preparation tasks and repairs. Getting your home ready for the cold temperatures, wind, snow and ice will make your property not only safer, but also lower your energy bills and increase the efficiency and life of your home's components.

Outside: Clean up yard, aerate and fertilize the lawn in fall. Compost leaves into garden, woods or compost center, but do not burn them. Leaf fires can easily spread and quickly get out of control with a gust of wind. • Trim back overgrown branches back from your house and electrical wires to prevent property damage and power outages. • Clean gutters and downspouts to prevent ice damming and basement flooding. • Shut off exterior faucets, drain water from outdoor pipes, valves and sprinkler heads to prevent against pipe bursts. • Check handrails and exterior stairs to make sure they are secured well. • Cover A/C unit to protect it from ice and snow. • Get oil or propane tanks filled. • Keep snow piles at end of driveway low....high piles cause accidents when backing out.

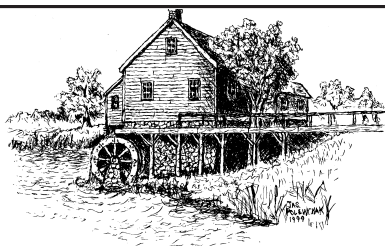
Inside: Get your fireplace inspected by a professional chimney sweeper to ensure it is clean of any soot or creosote and that there aren't any cracks or voids that could cause a fire hazard. • Clean air ducts. • Clean and service your furnace. Keep the snow from covering any of the PVC furnace exhaust vents. • Add insulation to your attic. • Check weather stripping around windows and door frames for leaks to prevent heat loss and check for drafts, caulk inside and out where necessary. • Clean dryer exhaust and vent.

2016 - 2017 Scholarship Program

Munson Township is offering a minimum of two scholarships for graduating seniors. To be eligible, the student must be a Munson resident; have a cumulative GPA of 2.8; and plan to attend an accredited 2 or 4-year college, university, or career or technical education institution in the fall of 2016. Applications may be obtained from area high schools, Munson Township hall or online at munsontpwp.com. Applications must be received no later than January 11, 2016 at 3pm. If you have any questions please call the township hall at 440-286-9255.

2016 Our Bicentennial ...

Please let us know if you have old photos or memorabilia related to Munson Township. We would like to borrow them for our bicentennial celebration.



**Munson Township
News Notes**
12210 Auburn Road
Chardon OH 44024-9454

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHARDON, OH
PERMIT NO. 42

Munson Township Resident at:

MUNSON TOWNSHIP NEWS NOTES

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munson@munsontwp.com

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Office Hours: Weekdays 9am - 3pm

To reach the Trustees or Fiscal Officer:

Andy Bushman 440-286-3916
Chair abushman@munsontwp.com

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

Irene McMullen 440-796-6825
Trustee imcmullen@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 Monday at 7 pm (subject to change)

Board of Zoning Appeals

third Thursday at 6:30 pm

Park Board

second Monday at 6:15 pm

EVENTS

Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 5th

At Munson Town Hall • 12210 Auburn Road
(more information on page 5)



**Happy
Holidays!**

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