

Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XXVI Issue 2 October 2023

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Exercise your right to Vote on November 7

All Munson voters should make special note of Issues 11 and 12, two additional levies on your November 7, 2023 ballot. Please carefully consider these needs and voice your view by voting!



Issue 11 (Additional) for the benefit of Munson Township for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads, and bridges that the county auditor estimates will collect \$264,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 0.95 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$33 for each \$100,000 of the county auditors appraisal value, for 5 years, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025. A resolution to place this levy on the ballot was passed unanimously by the Trustees.

Issue 12 (Additional) for the benefit of Munson Township for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, mechanical resuscitators, underwater rescue and recovery equipment, or other fire equipment and appliances, buildings and sites therefor, or sources of water supply and materials therefor, for the establishment and maintenance of lines of fire-alarm communications, for the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administration, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, for the purchase of ambulance equipment, for the provision of ambulance, paramedic, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs that the county auditor estimates will collect \$320,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.15 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$40 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025. A resolution to place this levy on the ballot was also passed unanimously by the Trustees.

A note from Irene McMullen - I note that the term ending December 31, 2023 marks the end of my service as your Trustee. I pledge to aid the Township in making the transition to a new Trustee. Over the past decades, I have served the Township in capacities ranging from committee member to Trustee. It has been my absolute honor and privilege to serve the Township and I wish to acknowledge and thank all who supported the Township over the years to help make Munson a wonderful place to call home. I am not moving and hope to volunteer for the Township in the future!

Halloween Drive-Thru at Fire Station

The Fire Department is gearing up for their annual Halloween Celebration to be held on Tuesday, October 31, from 6 to 8pm at the Munson Fire Station. This is a family friendly event for Munson residents. Drive through the scary Fire Station bay with your children and get a sweet treat. This is a great alternative to Trick-or-Treating. Please join us for an evening of fun!



Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus



Mark your calendars for Munson Township's Boy Scout Troop 91 Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at Munson Township Hall, 12210 Auburn Road.

The Boy Scouts will serve pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Adults \$9, Children ages 4 to 12 \$6, 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 downloaded at munsontwp.com

Scholarship Program



Munson Township is offering a minimum of two scholarships for the 2024-25 school year. The Township's Scholarship Program was established in 2005. Proceeds from our Community Day Picnic, Flea Markets and any scholarship-specified donations fund this program. Any Munson resident that will be a graduating senior in 2024 is eligible to apply. Applications will be available late October and can be obtained from your school's guidance department, Munson Township's office or download at www.munsontwp.com.

Photo Contest Winner

In the March newsletter, we asked residents to submit a photo(s) promoting the beauty of Munson Township Parks. The photos were on display at the Community Day Picnic for residents to vote on their favorite. Margot Marstrell is the winner. She was visiting her parents who live on Oriole Place in Bass Lake Community.



Congratulations Margot! Winner of \$100 Gift Card.



Township Cemeteries

Restoration - The Township has been dedicated to restoring and cleaning memorial monuments in both Fowlers Mill and Maple Hill cemeteries since 2016. Late summer once again brought Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration to Fowlers Mill Cemetery. Final restoration of the cemetery was completed with many tablets, small to extra-large monuments and footstones cleaned and repaired. Within the next two years, Stonehugger Restoration will be working at Maple Hill Cemetery on granite headstones which will complete the restoration project.



Grave Purchases & Fees - A Munson Township resident may purchase graves at the residential rate for their immediate family, defined as parents, spouse, spouse's parents, and children. Graves may be purchased for siblings or grandparents with the rate determined by where they reside. A single grave fee is \$400 for residents/\$1,200 for non-residents. A grave is permitted to contain one full burial and one cremains or two cremains alone.

Decoration Regulations – Please remember no glass jars, vases, or shepherd's hooks (hanging plants) are allowed. These will be removed at the discretion of the Township as well as any flowers that fade and wither.

Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste



12685 Merritt Rd.
Chardon
1-800-707-2673
startrecycling.com

Electronics, Appliances & Household Hazardous Waste & NOW FOAM

Friday's ONLY- 10am-3pm

WINTER HOURS • November - April

Geauga County residents can now recycle clean and empty foam polystyrene packaging including meat trays, cups, take-out containers, egg cartons, as well as transport packaging used to protect TVs and other valuables during shipping.

Foam will be collected at Collection Facilities ONLY – not at any community recycling drop-off sites!

Foam polystyrene products should be prepared just like other recyclables, empty and clean items should be provided for recycling. Remember recycle the package, not the food.

Four simple steps to recycling foam in Geauga County:

- Empty the container (meat trays, cups, take-out containers, and egg cartons).
- Separate foam packaging from cardboard shipping boxes.
- Ensure all food containers are clean and dry.
- Bring foam to Geauga or Trumbull Collection Facility during normal Appliance / Hazardous Waste collection hours.

FYI – we say foam or polystyrene, not Styrofoam. Styrofoam is a trademarked brand name (like saying Kleenex instead of tissue). Most people call it Styrofoam, but we can't because of trademark laws.

Recycling facility open year-round!

For a list of accepted items, visit www.startrecycling.com

Road Department

Obstructions in the Right-of-Way

(this article is from an Ohio Township Association publication called Grassroots Clippings, June 2018)

“What is the responsibility of the township to keep the right-of-way clear and what is the responsibility of the property owner?” To answer this question, we must start with clarifying what is meant by right-of-way.

Included in the definition of right-of-way is the pavement (or other road type), curbs, berms, side drainage, ditches, slopes, guard rail, sidewalks and easements. Easements are needed for such projects that may include: bridges, road realignment, safety improvement, drainage projects, guardrail installation, culvert extensions and ditch widening. Easements are typically listed on a property deed that is filed with the county recorder or on county tax maps.

An easement right-of-way conveys, in perpetuity, the right to construct and maintain a highway facility or utility on the land of the property owner. The property owner would still own the land. A right-of-way by dedication would grant an abutting property owner access up to the right-of-way. The abutting property owner would not own the land, like with an easement right-of-way. Should an existing easement not exist, pursuant to R.C. §§163.04, 5549.04 and 5579.01, a board of township trustees *may* enter into an agreement with a landowner for a temporary easement necessary for improvement of a township road.

A board of trustees *may* order the removal of any obstructions in the right-of-way (R.C. §5571.14). If a property owner refuses or neglects to remove such obstruction, the township shall have the obstruction removed at the property owner's expense. An obstruction could include: a fence, post, pole, athletic or recreational apparatus, rock or berm, vegetation, or any other object interfering with or obstructing the township road.

A board of trustees *does not* have to obtain consent from the abutting land owners to remove trees or shrubs in the right-of-way that are in such a condition that they interfere with traffic (R.C. §5543.14). Consent of the abutting home owner would need to be obtained if the trees and shrubs do not interfere with traffic. (see Ohio Bell Tel. Co. v. Watson Co. 112 Ohio St. 385 [1925])

When a township road superintendent, upon learning of any obstructions of any ditch or drain or the diversion of water from adjacent lands upon a township highway, *shall* notify the trustees of such issue (R.C. §5589.06). The trustee shall give notice to said property owner and require the obstruction or diversion to be removed within five days. If the obstruction is not removed within five days, the township road superintendent *may* remove such obstruction. The expense for the removal *shall* be collected from the property owner by civil action.



Message From the Fire Chief...

CHANGE SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES!



Munson Fire Department Mission Statement:
To provide the most technologically advanced fire and emergency services with the highest-trained professionals and to deliver that service to our customers with loyalty and compassion.

Munson Fire Department Inc. is a private fire company and has operated as a private fire company since 1952. Munson Fire provides Munson Township with the highest quality, most cost-effective cross trained fire and paramedic-level service. The private fire company affords full-time, around-the-clock coverage and is contracted to provide a minimum staffing of four personnel 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Munson Fire Department Inc. administrative policies also require one officer on shift; this provides quality management and decision making to make our community safer. Our current staffing model allows the department to operate as a streamlined business, minimizing overall costs and increasing our organizational efficiency. This produces great service delivery and response times that are lower than the industry norm and below the cost of what a township department can deliver. Overlapping calls have been trending upward 16% per year, with a speculation of increases as our call volume increases. In the last ten years Munson Fire Department EMS calls have doubled. This can be contributed to our aging community and the current trends in the Geauga County Census.

Munson Fire Department’s daily service liabilities are between 8,000 to 10,000 people depending on the day of the week and or season of the year. Munson Township residents, Geauga Safety Center, Woman Safe Inc., Notre Dame Campus, Heather Hill Communities, Maplewood Assisted Living, not to mention many seasonal attractions in Munson Township including Alpine valley ski resort, Mayfield Drive Inn and numerous golf establishments in our township make up the daily services we must be ready to address.

The Ohio Department of Commerce recently developed an “Analysis of Fire Department Response Times” using 2022 data. The report developed current trends in service delivery and average response times delivered in the State of Ohio. Currently, Munson Fire Department ensures paramedic coverage and can staff two rescue squads with a response time that averages 5.3 minutes anywhere within our township. This is 1.05 minutes quicker than the 2022 full-time average being delivered in the State of Ohio, according to the report from the Ohio Department of Commerce. This 5.3-minute response is quicker than the Geauga County average of 7.12 minutes, documented in the report.

Reflective Address Signs
We offer reflective address signs to residents for a \$10 donation. These signs can be horizontal, vertical, single-sided, or double-sided, displaying your address. They also assist in locating specific properties in times of need. Ask about residential lock boxes offered at no cost. These boxes allow emergency access without causing damage when seconds count.



**The Munson Township Fire Department is staffed 24/7 to assist you.
Non-Emergency • 440-286-6797
fireprevention@munsonfire.org**

Zoning Department

Change of Use

Section 1201 of the Zoning Resolution reads as follows:

Unless otherwise noted herein, **no person shall establish a new use or change any use of land or premises, a building, or a structure, nor locate, relocate, erect, construct, reconstruct, enlarge or structurally alter any building or structure within Munson Township without first obtaining a Zoning Certificate.** No Zoning Certificate shall be issued unless the plans for the proposed building or structure or use of land fully comply with the provisions of this Resolution, unless the Zoning Inspector receives a written order from the Board of Zoning Appeals deciding an appeal, a variance or conditional use. Unless otherwise specified, a Zoning Certificate shall be required for all dwellings, all principal structures and uses, all accessory structures, and all designated temporary uses. A Zoning Certificate shall not be required for the use of land or buildings or structures primarily used for agricultural purposes.

While this section pertains to all zoning districts, we realize that some property owners, specifically in districts other than those designated Residential, may not be aware of this zoning regulation or what is a permitted use, say for example, in Commercial or Industrial Districts. Before a permitted or grandfathered use is changed or leased to a new business, property owners should refer to the Munson Township Zoning Resolution or contact the Township Zoning Office BEFORE changing such use to ensure the new or proposed use is permitted or if it would require a variance being granted from the Board of Zoning Appeals.



Community Day Picnic Recap

The Picnic was a huge success and everyone had a wonderful time. Through our raffles and games, we were able to raise approximately \$5,000 for our scholarship fund. Thanks to our Donors for making this possible:



- A Kid at Art for the Heart**
- Alvord's Yard & Garden**
- Auto Zone - Chardon**
- Avanti Salon**
- Greg & Lisa Breier**
- Brown Barn Tavern**
- Buckeye Chocolates • Centerra Country Store**
- Cold Nose Companions • Covia - Best Sands**
- Farley Country Store • Gauga TV (GTV)**
- Guido's Restaurant • Ianiro's Bakery & Imports**
- Junction Auto • KT Custom Logos**
- Marci's Hair on Square - Mitzi Coso**
- Diane Malko • Bill & Chris Manning**
- Dan McCaskey - Re/Max Traditions**
- Nate McDonald • NOPEC**
- Marybeth O'Neill - Keller Williams**
- Payne & Payne Builders • Petersen & Petersen**
- Roediger Chiropractic • Sage's Apples**
- Salty Salt Cave • Sport Rack • Waste Management**



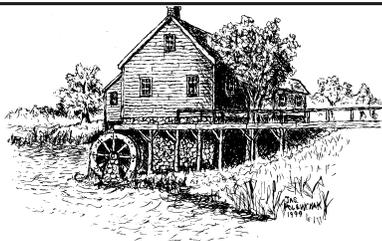
Does Your American Flag Need Retirement?

Bring your torn and tattered American Flag to our Fire Department drop box located in front of the station. It will be properly disposed of.

Munson Township recently added 84 acres of beautiful greenspace to its catalog of permanently protected natural areas and farmland. In an act of forward-thinking generosity to the community, a life-long resident of Munson worked with Western Reserve Land Conservancy to donate conservation easements on two properties that have been in the family for generations. These privately owned properties contain spring-fed streams, ravines, agricultural fields, hardwood forests, and a lifetime of treasured memories of maple sugaring, farming, and rambling about on these beloved lands. The properties will remain as private residential properties that can be passively managed or used for farming and forestry but can never be subdivided or developed into smaller lots.

The permanent protection of these properties was made possible in part by a \$17,500 donation from the Munson Land Protection Fund (MLPF) to cover the long-term legal and stewardship expenses to ensure that the properties remain protected in perpetuity. The MLPF is a privately held donor-advised fund within The Cleveland Foundation. Established in 2003, the MLPF is available to support greenspace conservation in our township. The fund uses no public money and is funded entirely from private donations.

This thoughtful and humble neighbor took quiet action to help preserve a piece of our township's natural beauty and heritage. Though this resident wishes to remain anonymous, we can all be grateful for this gift to the community and our future.



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

Munson Township Resident at:

**MUNSON TOWNSHIP
NEWS NOTES**

12210 Auburn Road
Chardon OH 44024-9454

Phone: 440-286-9255
Fax: 440-286-1180

munson@munsontwp.com
www.munsontwp.com

Office Hours: Weekdays 9am - 4pm

To reach the Trustees or Fiscal Officer:

Andy Bushman - Trustee 440-669-2483
abushman@munsontwp.com

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

Irene McMullen - Trustee 440-286-9255
imcmullen@munsontwp.com

Todd Ray - Fiscal Officer 440-286-9312
rray@munsontwp.com

MEETINGS

Trustees

second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Zoning Commission

second Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Board of Zoning Appeals

third Wednesday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

Park Board

second Monday at 6:15 pm

Check munsontwp.com for the monthly meeting schedule.

EVENTS

October 31 • Trick-or-Treat in Munson
6 to 8 pm

October 31 • Drive-Thru Halloween
6 - 8 pm. • Fire Department 12200 Auburn Road

December 2 • Breakfast with Santa
Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road

April 6, 2024 • Indoor Flea Market
Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road

March 30, 2024 • Easter Egg Hunt
12641 Bass Lake Road