

# Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XXV Issue 2 October 2022

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Cemetery Director  
Paula Friebertshauer

Office Assistant, Park &  
Recreation Board Secretary,  
Zoning Commission  
Secretary  
Julie Johnston  
(Newsletter Editor)

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief  
Mike Vatty

Assistant Fire Chief  
Brian Gray



## **Inside this Issue**

NOPEC	1
Halloween at Fire Dept.	2
Breakfast with Santa	2
Scholarship Info	2
Cemetery Info	2
Board Appointments	2
Solid Waste District	3
Road Department	3
Munson Fire Department	4
Zoning Inspector	5
G-TV Support	5
Meetings	6

## **NOPEC Taking Proactive Steps**

The Township has received many calls regarding the latest price hike on electric bills. The information below was recently provided to us by NOPEC. We thought it would be beneficial to residents.

As you are aware, the energy markets have been experiencing unprecedented inflation due to international tension and hotter than normal weather this summer. Unfortunately, NOPEC is not immune to this current inflationary spike. NOPEC is taking immediate, proactive steps to put all of their customers in a position to save significant money on their electric bills during these economically challenging times. Here's what you need to know:

- NOPEC has decided to temporarily transition our approximately 550,000 electric customers enrolled in the Standard Program Price option back to the utility default service for the remainder of this year and into the Spring of 2023 so that they may take advantage of significantly lower pricing until the market stabilizes.
- While individual customers who previously contacted NOPEC could change to the lower utility rate at no charge, we decided it was in all our consumers' best interest to temporarily switch all of our customers en masse to the utility service.
- NOPEC's current electric rates are higher than the utility's Price to Compare (PTC) because the utility's rate was determined largely in auctions conducted prior to April 2022, when energy prices were considerably lower.
- NOPEC electric customers do not have to do anything to start getting the lower rates and will not be charged any fee to transfer. NOPEC will immediately notify the electric utilities to return its Standard Program Price accounts to the default service.
- Customers will receive a letter from NOPEC detailing the reason for the change and direction regarding where they can go for more information. Customers may also receive a notice from their utility confirming the change.
- Opt-in customers, those on either fixed price or "percent off" NOPEC price programs will NOT be returned to PTC at this time.
- Customers that are returned to the utility's default service will remain eligible for NOPEC's aggregation program in the future. By Spring 2023, NOPEC is forecasting that energy markets will normalize and its electric rates will be in line with the utilities' newly established Price to Compare and all eligible customers in NOPEC member communities will be notified via mail that they will be automatically re-enrolled in NOPEC at that time, unless they notify NOPEC that they wish to opt out.
- NOPEC intends to do its very best to ensure continuity of its aggregation program member benefits. NOPEC's energy efficiency grants and event sponsorship awards will be made available to member communities in early 2023 as they would normally and NOPEC's energy-efficiency financing programs will continue uninterrupted as well.

As a consumer-focused non-profit, NOPEC always operates and advocates for what's best for our community and customers. We know that households everywhere are struggling with higher bills right now and we had the option to do something to help our customers save money and we're taking that option to provide some relief.

**Important**



**Information**  
**Please Read**

### Halloween Drive-Thru at Fire Station

The Fire Department is gearing up for their annual Halloween Celebration to be held on Monday, October 31, from 6pm 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 3, 2022 at Munson Township Hall, 12210 Auburn Road.

The Boy Scouts will serve pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Adults \$8, Children ages 4 to 12 \$5, 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 [munsonntp.com](http://munsonntp.com)

### Scholarship Program



Munson Township is offering a minimum of two scholarships for the 2023-24 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 2023 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.munsonntp.com](http://www.munsonntp.com).

### Cemeteries Update

This summer, Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration spent many hours in Fowlers Mill Cemetery cleaning and restoring headstones. It is a beautiful thing to see their work honoring loved ones buried there.



Cemetery fees were increased effective July 1<sup>st</sup> and are as follows:

Single grave Fee:  
Resident \$400  
Non-Resident \$1,200

Grave opening and closing:  
resident: (full burial) \$400 • (cremains) \$150  
non-resident: (full burial) \$600 • (cremains) \$300

Single foundation up to 24" wide • \$75  
Double foundation 25" to 48" in length • \$150

An extra \$300 will be charged for a Saturday, Sunday, holiday or after 3pm weekdays.

#### ***This Is A Cemetery -***

Lives are commemorated - deaths are recorded - families are reunited - memories are made tangible - love is undistinguished. This is a cemetery.

Communities accord respect, families bestow reverence, historians seek information and our heritage is thereby enriched.

Testimonies of devotion, pride and remembrance are carved in stone to pay warm tribute to accomplishment and to the life - not the death - of a loved one. The cemetery is homeland for family memorials that are a sustaining source of comfort to the living.

A cemetery is a history of people - a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering - always.

### Board Appointments

*Thank you!* In May 2022, Rick Webb was newly appointed to the Park & Recreation Board and in July, Carol Maver was appointed to fill a vacant alternate position on the Board of Zoning Appeals, Thank you to these Board members for volunteering their time to make our community a better place!

## Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste

**The Geauga County facility is OPEN!**  
**10:00 am - 3:00 pm on days specified below**

12685 Merritt Rd.  
 Chardon, OH 44024  
 800-707-2673

The Geauga County Collection Facility is an outlet for residents of **Gauga and Trumbull County** to safely dispose of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Electronics (e-waste) and appliances with and without Freon. There is **NO CHARGE** for recycling and proper disposal of these items.



### GEAUGA COUNTY:

#### SUMMER HOURS • effective through October 31

**Thursdays** -10am-3pm  
 Electronics & Appliances ONLY

**Fridays** - 10am-3pm  
 Electronics, Appliances & Household Hazardous Waste

**Special Waste Saturday, October 15** - 9am-12pm  
 Electronics, Appliances & Household Hazardous Waste

For a complete list of the items we will accept, please visit the [startrecycling.com](http://startrecycling.com) page for more information.

#### WINTER HOURS • effective November - April 22

### TRUMBULL COUNTY:

**Wednesdays** - 10am-3pm  
 Electronics & Appliances ONLY

### GEAUGA COUNTY:

**Thursdays** - 10am-3pm  
 Electronics, Appliances & Household Hazardous Waste



**Thank you for the grant we recently received that enabled us to use recycled plastic in our Township parks!**

## Road Department

### Falling 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.



### Snow Removal

The practice of pushing snow across the roadway or out into the road and cul-de-sacs causes a hazard and is prohibited by Ohio law. Please contact the responsible party at your residence and ask that this practice not continue.

### Keep Mailbox Clear

Residents must keep the approach to, and exit from, the mailbox clear of snow or any other obstacles, like trash cans and other vehicles. The mail carrier needs to get in, and then out, without leaving the vehicle or backing up. Postal employees make every reasonable effort to deliver mail in difficult weather conditions.

### Install Winter-Hardy Windshield Wipers

Winter weather throws snow, sleet and frost at you, and your windshield wipers are struggling to keep the glass clear. Consider using a winter windshield wipers and a windshield treatment to prevent frost and snow from sticking. A clean windshield reduces glare from the sun, traffic lights and headlights, making it easier for you to see and react to ever-changing weather and traffic conditions. To avoid damage to the blades, wiper motor and other wiper system parts, never use the wiper blades to clear frost or snow.

### Winterize Your Wheels

If you regularly venture out into heavy snow, consider swapping your traditional tires for a set of snow tires, which feature treads with large gaps that help improve traction. To preserve the tread on snow tires, wait until daytime temperatures are consistently 50 degrees F or below to install them.

**When the streets are slick, home is the safest place to be.**

## Message From the Fire Chief...

### An exercise in safety by the Division of State Fire Marshall

If someone asked you to think of a place where you feel safe, chances are your home would be near the top of the list. But, your home can be full of potentially dangerous situations. Look inside to see if you recognize the warning signs and find out how you can help protect your family.

## S MOKE A LARM F OR E VERYONE

### In the Living Room

Careless smoking is the number one cause of fatal fires. Stay alert while smoking - don't lie down or recline, and don't smoke if you have had alcohol or medications that might make you drowsy.

**Child sitting on floor, matches on table** - Children as young as two years old can light matches. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.

**Fireplace with no screen** - Sparks and embers can easily ignite rugs, papers and other combustibles. Keep the screen or glass doors closed when your fireplace is in use.

**Frayed cords** - Worn or frayed electric cords are a major cause of residential fires. Check your cords regularly for cracks, worn spots and loose plugs.

**Overloaded outlets** - Plugging multiple cords into an outlet can cause an electrical fire. They are designed to provide electricity to only two appliances at a time.

**Space Heaters need Space** - Electric heaters can cause furniture, clothing and bedding to burn. If you use an electric or kerosene heater. Remember: Space heaters need space.

### In the Kitchen

**Pot handle sticking out from stove** - Always turn handles to the back or side of the stove to avoid serious scald burns.

**Person reaching over a stove** can cause a clothing fire. Only wear close fitting clothes with short or rolled up sleeves when cooking. If your clothes catch fire, immediately drop to the floor and roll to smother the fire.

**Chemicals under sink** - Cleaning supplies are a serious poison hazard for young children. Keep supplies on high shelves outside the kitchen or in locked cabinets.

**Extinguisher** - should be placed near the doorway where it will be accessible in an emergency. This eliminates the possibility of the fire being between you and your extinguisher.

**Items stored in oven** - Food, skillet and dishes stored in ovens can spell disaster. Make it a habit to check the oven before turning it on.

**Toaster** - Toasters produce a great deal of heat. Always move them forward on the counter to avoid combustibles such as cabinets or paper towels. Always unplug your toaster when not in use.

## CHANGE SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES!

### In The Bedroom

**Smoke alarm with no battery in hallway** - Check the batteries in your smoke alarms every month and change the batteries twice a year when you change your clocks.

**Burned down candle** - Burn candles in holders that will catch wax and never leave a candle burning unattended.

**Clutter** - Clutter, such as piles of clothes or paper, can feed fires as well as hinder your escape if there is a fire. Keep escape routes clear and clutter to a minimum.

**Blocked window** - In case of fire, your window may be your only means of escape. Move furniture and other obstructions from in front of windows and make sure you can open them easily.

**Clothes iron** - Unplug them when not in use and allow them to cool in an uncluttered area.

**Lamp with shirt thrown over** - Light bulbs become very hot and can scorch or ignite combustibles. Maintain a safe distance from anything that can burn such as furniture, curtains or clothes.

**CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE: Sleeping with Your Bedroom Door Closed Could Save Your Life**

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

## Zoning Department

### Conditional Use vs. Variance Request

Through comments made or questions asked at various Township meetings and otherwise, confusion among some residents remains regarding the difference between a Conditional Use and a Variance. These residents apparently believe they are similar or the same; perhaps this is because both cases are heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals, who has the sole authority to issue a Conditional Use Zoning Certificate or to grant or deny a Variance.

The fundamental difference is this: hearings involving variances occur when the proposed use or specification varies from and is



**NOT** permitted by the Zoning Resolution. Conditional Uses, on the other hand, **ARE** permitted but subject to compliance with certain conditions set forth in the Resolution.

In addition, there are separate application forms for both. Only a Conditional Zoning Certificate Application needs to be completed by an applicant for a Conditional Use. Per Section 801, "Conditional uses shall be permitted only upon issuance of a Conditional Zoning Certificate by the Board of Zoning Appeals to at least one owner of the property." Application for a Notice of Appeal Variance Request is completed only after a Zoning Certificate application is completed by the applicant and denied by the Township Zoning Inspector.

### Information the Zoning Inspector will need prior to obtaining a Zoning Certificate on an existing home

- Copy of your deed
- Site plan with proposed structure measurements and setbacks from all property lines
- Letter from Geauga Soil & Water for any structure over 300 square feet
- If not the owner, you will need a NOTORIZED D-1 Authorization Form
- Plans - Munson Township (small copy) and one for the Geauga County Building Department if 200 square feet or larger

## Long-Standing Support of Geauga TV

G-TV is pleased to acknowledge Munson Township's long-standing support for the programming service provided to Munson residents and a good bit of northern Geauga County. As technology has changed, G-TV now envisions its mission as a programming service that is available in several different ways through cable television and the internet. G-TV's primary function is to serve our schools.



Munson Elementary, NDES and NDCL in Munson Township as well as Chardon Local Schools in general provide many programming service opportunities. Our programming is based on "funding geography" and as a result we also occasionally cover West Geauga Schools when the opportunity presents itself. We are delighted to provide that coverage. Schools, students and families are the primary beneficiaries. School programming is carried on Spectrum Cable Channel 1025.

General community programming and local government coverage, including notices, agendas, etc. are also part of our programming line-up. Community programming is carried on Spectrum Cable Channel 1020.

G-TV welcomes announcements of interest from all nonprofit organizations in our service area (no cost). We also welcome programming suggestions! Send them to [geaugatv@windstream.net](mailto:geaugatv@windstream.net).

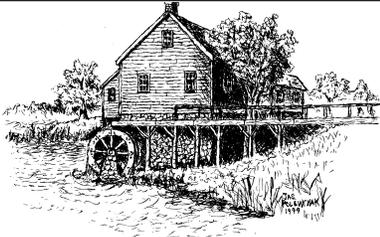
G-TV's website, [www.geaugatv.org](http://www.geaugatv.org), provides several "clicks" of interest ranging from the Chardon Square Cam, streaming links for both channels and a photo gallery of events throughout the years (over 150,000 photos!). Be sure to check out the variety of programming on your laptop or phone!

**Thank you, Munson,  
for your support of G-TV!**



### 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.



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

**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](mailto:munson@munsontwp.com)  
[www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com)

**Office Hours: Weekdays 9am - 3pm**

**To reach the Trustees or Fiscal Officer:**

**Andy Bushman - Trustee** 440-669-2483  
[abushman@munsontwp.com](mailto:abushman@munsontwp.com)

**Jim McCaskey - Trustee** 216-789-1436  
[jmccaskey@munsontwp.com](mailto:jmccaskey@munsontwp.com)

**Irene McMullen - Trustee** 440-286-9255  
[imcmullen@munsontwp.com](mailto:imcmullen@munsontwp.com)

**Todd Ray - Fiscal Officer** 440-286-9312  
[rray@munsontwp.com](mailto: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 Thursday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

### **Park Board**

second Monday at 6:15 pm

Check [munsontwp.com](http://munsontwp.com) for the monthly meeting schedule.

## **EVENTS**

**October 31 • Trick-or-Treat in Munson**  
6:00 to 8:00 pm

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

**December 3 • Breakfast with Santa**  
Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road

**March 2023 (Date TBD) • Indoor Flea Market**  
Town Hall 12210 Auburn

**April 8, 2023 • Easter Egg Hunt**  
12641 Bass Lake Road