

# Munson Township

# NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XXVII Issue I March 2024

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Andy Bushman • Chair  
Jim McCaskey  
Nate McDonald

## **FISCAL OFFICER**

Todd Ray

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Cemetery Director  
Paula Frieberthshauer

Office Assistant, Park &  
Recreation Board Secretary,  
Zoning Commission  
Secretary  
Julie Johnston

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief  
Mike Vatty

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## **A Look Into Munson's Past**

As we look forward, we need to step back in time to see how Munson has evolved over the years. Let's take a brief look at the history of our township.

In its early history, Munson Township was part of the vast Northwest Territory, Trumbull County and finally Geauga, the second county of the Western Reserve. Not too long after the memorable battle of Lake Champlain, which took place on September 11, 1814, Lemuel Punderson of Newbury, acting agent for the Connecticut Land Company, was approached by three men from Meadville, PA named Crary, Hotchkiss, and Beane who contracted to purchase 7,000 acres in the 8<sup>th</sup> range of the Connecticut Western Reserve for \$12,903.23. They named the new township McDonough after the hero in the Champlain battle. In the spring of 1816, they employed Ralph Cowles of Canton (now Claridon) to survey the acreage into designated lots. In 1817, the Geauga County Commissioners organized McDonough and Canton into a civil township called Burlington. Munson was known as Burlington until 1820.

The origin of the name Munson is a story in itself. Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Hovey settled on a large farm on Mulberry Road. Mrs. Hovey was homesick for her home in Monson, Massachusetts. Either the spelling was wrong, the writing was bad, or the New England twang came through, because when the approval came back for the name change, Monson was spelled Munson.

Because of the sizable woods and hilly terrain, Munson Township was one of the last townships in Geauga County to be settled. The first permanent settler in Munson was Samuel Hopson, who built the log cabin near the corner of Rockhaven and Wye Roads.

Because of the vast supply of water, many mills were built in the early township. Hiram and Milo Fowler settled in Munson in 1831. Their mill located on Fowlers Mill Road near the Mayfield intersection was restored by Rick and Billie Erickson and is currently producing flour. Munson also had the first cheese factory in Ohio, started in 1859 by Mr. & Mrs. Bartlett at Maple Hill behind our present cemetery. In 1880, the factory was receiving milk from 500 cows and producing 10,000 pounds of cheese a day.

From the official census, in 1880, the population was 1,230 with 199 dwellings, 209 families and 396 children in school. In 1990, the population was 5,775, with 1,774 dwellings, 1,727 families, and 1,179 children between the ages of 5 and 18, and in 2000, the population was 6,450 with 2,170 housing units. Munson Township has evolved from an agricultural to a largely residential community. The Geauga County Annual Estimate of Township Populations for July 2007 for Munson Township was 6,710 and in 2020 the census grew to 7,087.

## **When Renewing Your License Plates**

Residents are reminded to list Munson Township as your place of residence. Otherwise, the motor vehicle license tax revenues will be given to the community in your address.





## Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District



### DOCUMENT SHREDDING 1-DAY Paper Shredding EVENT Saturday, April 27th 9am - Noon

Geauga County Collection Facility  
12685 Merritt Road  
Chardon, OH 44024

Limit of 4 boxes/bags per vehicle\*

\* Due to Covid-19, empty boxes will not be returned

### Foam Recycling

Our Collection Facilities are now accepting foam during Hazardous Waste Collection Hours

You can now recycle clean and empty foam polystyrene packaging including; meat trays, cups, take-out containers and egg cartons, as well as transport packaging used to protect TVs and other valuables during shipping. Foam polystyrene products should be prepared just like other recyclables, empty and clean.



For more information  
Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste  
Management District

1-800-707-2673

330-675-2673

[www.gottagogreen.org](http://www.gottagogreen.org)

**HAPPY EARTH DAY 4.22.24**

## Zoning Office

With spring right around the corner, be advised that residents are required to get a Zoning Certificate for any accessory structure such as decks, porches, pole buildings, gazebos, additions, pools, fences, etc. The definition of a structure is, "anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires location on the ground, or attachment to something having location on the ground". A Zoning Certificate is also required for a home occupation and changing the use of a principal structure. Call the Zoning Inspector to find out if a Zoning Certificate is required for your initiative.

## Cemetery Rules & Regulations

We take pride in maintaining our cemeteries while also allowing residents some freedom to honor their loved ones. Winter wreaths and artificial flowers will be removed between April 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> to prepare cemeteries for Memorial Day. Veterans' flags will be displayed for a reasonable time for Memorial Day. These flags are the property of Munson Township.



Your attention to the rules are greatly appreciated. Please check our website for our Cemetery Rules and Regulations. If you are unsure of what is permitted, please call the Township office.

## Ditch Enclosures

Ditch enclosures are becoming more popular every year. If a resident desires to enclose their ditch, the cost and hiring of a contractor is their responsibility. A permit must be obtained from Munson Township for Township roads and from the Geauga County Engineers Office for county roads.



The following requirements must be met: The Road Superintendent will look at the area to be enclosed prior to permit approval to ensure the correct size double wall perforated pipe is used for the job. A simple drawing of the ditch noting the depth of the ditch, amount of gravel and dirt overlay must accompany the permit. Occasionally, concrete catch basins may be required to be installed if the buried pipe is located in close proximity to a road culvert. The location of all catch basins or T-Drains are to be determined prior to the time installation begins.

All landscaping shall be completed to provide an 8-inch swale for the entire length of the project from the road. All perforated pipes must be covered in either #57 limestone or #57 washed-gravel to allow for ground water to drain properly. Ditch enclosure pipes installed without approval are subject to removal with the cost billed to the property owner.

## Welcome Nate McDonald



Nate McDonald is our newly elected Trustee and a Munson native with more than a century of family history in the township. He lives with his wife and three children in the farmhouse where he grew up on Sherman Rd., and his parents still farm hay, cattle, and maple syrup on the family's land in the heart of Munson. Nate is a graduate of Munson Elementary and Chardon High School ('94), as well as Kenyon College ('98) and Cleveland State University Law School ('06). He currently works as an attorney in the education field and was formerly a middle school teacher and high school administrator. Nate is active in the community as, e.g., a baseball coach in the Chardon Baseball League, basketball coach for the Geauga YMCA, a poll worker, and he has served on the boards of various educational and non-profit organizations across northeast Ohio.

## 2024 Scholarships Awarded



The Munson Scholarship Committee, Frank Gliha, Jim O'Neill & Andy Bushman interviewed sixteen (16) bright, deserving applicants. Five-hundred dollar Scholarships were awarded to the following seniors: Rebecca Fullerman, Matthew Salamone, Rae Kawalec, Chris Bednar, Abigail Whitehead, Aiden Bluemmel, Madeline Sammut, Anthony Raines, Skylar Toth, Julie Gehrke, Cameron Musgrave, Colson Christie, Cerek Szczyglowski, Sam Sulka, Briana Massi, Winston Massey. Congratulations to these fine scholars and to their families.

Scholarships are funded by proceeds from the games and raffles at the annual Community Day Picnic, Flea Markets and donations. Applications are distributed to area schools in the late fall and are also available at the Township office.

## 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 April 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2024. **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,  
call the Department on Aging  
to register 440-279-2130**

**The following information will be needed:** senior's name, address, phone number 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 Monday, April 15, so you do not miss your scheduled pick-up.

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

## 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 20, 2024  
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.**

## Message From the Fire Chief...

Learn more about your fire department before you need them. The Citizens Fire Academy is for Munson Township residents who want to learn more about the fire department. Know what to expect and learn the extensive training involved in becoming a firefighter / paramedic.

There is no cost but limited class size of 15 residents or business owners.  
Meet the staff at The Munson Fire Department

### 6 weeks of Live Training and Demonstration

Every Thursday beginning March 21th - April 18th • 6:30 – 9:30pm  
Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm • Graduation at The Township Trustees Meeting  
(with refreshments and critique to follow)

- March 21** • Introductions, brief history of Munson Fire Department, staffing, operations, funding, turn-out gear
- March 28** • EMS operations, EMT, medic, stop the bleed, CPR certification, rescue squads and equipment
- April 4** • Fire prevention / inspections, fire extinguishers, fire extinguisher training, hose, hose lines, porta tank and elevated master streams
- April 11** • Self –contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), search and rescue, thermal imagers, alerting county dispatch
- April 18** • Auto extrication, stabilization, cribbing, air bags, vehicle fire, hybrids vehicles
- April 23** • Graduation at the Munson Township Trustees Meeting with a family reception afterwards at Munson Fire Department

Applications are available at the station or by email request.  
Fill out the application and drop it off at the firehouse or email it to: [m.vatty@munsonfire.org](mailto:m.vatty@munsonfire.org)

## CHANGE SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES!

### 2023 Year End:

- Emergency Medical Services is not only our biggest liability but, any community's. Last year, Munson Fire Department responded to 1,134 medical emergencies, transported 951 patients to area hospitals and evaluated a total of 1,195 patients.
- Total calls for the year were 1,579, this is the first year of a decrease in call volume in the last ten years.
- During 2023, Munson experienced 295 overlapping or simultaneous calls for service. This is a 2% increase from what we experienced in 2022.
- Falls continue to be the most prevalent type of EMS call. Some falls can be prevented with the introduction of handrails, grab bars, use of ramps and the elimination of some trip hazards.
- Stroke and hypertensive crisis awareness can assist in reduction of expensive long term medical admissions and bills.
- Munson Fire Department Inc. continues to strive for the best service delivery. Training, implementation of new protocols and refining procedures allow us to continue to provide fast efficient care.

**The Munson Township Fire Department is staffed 24/7 to assist you.**  
**Non-Emergency • 440-286-6797**  
**[m.vatty@munsonfire.org](mailto:m.vatty@munsonfire.org)**



## 2024 Community Events

### March 30 • Easter Egg Hunt Township Park 12641 Bass Lake Road

Hop on down to Munson Township Park at 10:15am. The Easter bunny will greet you and your children. This is a great photo op as well. Watch your kids hunt for Easter eggs. Bring your own basket or bag to collect the eggs which will be turned in for a bag of goodies. Children will be divided into 2 age groups, 2-5 years old and 6-9 years old. Dress appropriately - rain or shine event,



### April 6 • Indoor Flea Market Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road



The Indoor Flea Market is from 9am to 2pm at the Town Hall and in the Fire Station Bay. There is a \$1 admission fee for shoppers which goes towards the Munson Township Scholarship Fund (no charge for age 12 & under). You will find a wide variety of new, vintage and antique items. Come and browse for that special treasure you have been searching for.

### June 15 • Fishing Derby Scenic River Retreat 10900 Mayfield Road

The Community Fishing Derby is open to all Munson Township residents. Please join us for a morning of fishing fun from 9am to 1pm. Don't forget your fishing pole. Catch and release only. Bait will be provided. Door prizes awarded.



### July 20 • Concert in the Park Scenic River Retreat 10900 Mayfield Road



Mark your calendars from 7 to 9pm at Munson Scenic River Retreat. The music by The Chardon Strings Duo will make an enjoyable evening for all. Bring your lawn chairs & blankets. Rain or shine event.

### August 3 • Community Day Picnic Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road

We look forward to seeing you at 12:00 Noon at townhall. A fun day is planned for the entire family starting with a light picnic lunch and ice cream for dessert. Also enjoy music, Magic by Rick Smith Jr., Euclid Beach Rocket Car rides, rock climbing wall, raffles, games and activities. Rain or shine event.



### The New 436 Area Code is Coming to the Ohio 440 Area Code Region.



To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has approved an all-services overlay for the 440 area code. There will be no impact on the existing 440 area code numbers.

## Your Beautiful Parks

Did you know that Munson Township has four unique and beautiful parks?

**Munson Township Park**  
12641 Bass Lake Road

**Nero Nature Preserve**  
12150 Bean Road

**Scenic River Retreat**  
10900 Mayfield Road

**Town Hall Park**  
12210 Auburn Road

As the weather begins to turn warmer and the days get longer, the Park & Recreation Board encourages you to visit these parks and enjoy the beauty of our Township. The Board continues its work on maintaining and improving the parks for Munson residents. Some potential future projects include installation of a floating dock on the pond at Scenic River Retreat and the creation of a 9-hole disc golf course at Nero Nature Preserve. The Board will provide updates on these projects as they develop.

## Photo Contest

Promote the beauty of Munson Township Parks and win a prize at the same time! The Township will be holding a photo contest to showcase the natural beauty of our **four parks** (listed above).



**Deadline:** submit photographs by August 1, 2024.

**Submission:** submit your photo entries via email (jpeg format) to [julie@munsontwp.com](mailto:julie@munsontwp.com). In the email, include your name, address, phone number and the park your photo is taken in.

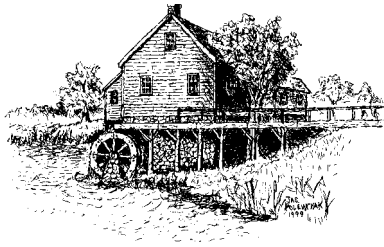
In addition to the prize, selected photos may also be used in future Munson Township materials such as newsletters or advertising.

**Please note ...** all photographs become the property of Munson Township. By virtue of their submission, participants irrevocably agree that Munson Township may adapt, edit, and/or modify their photographs and may also publish or otherwise use their photographs for the promotion of Munson Township without prior approval or inspection and also without compensation.

## Board Appointments

In December 2023, the Township Trustees reappointed Joe Tomaric and Carol Maver (alternate) to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Nick Christie to the Zoning Commission and Bert Diehl to the Park & Recreation Board.

*A Heartfelt Thank You*  
**TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**  
We couldn't do it without you!



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

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

**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 - 4pm**  
(closing hours may vary)

**To reach elected officials:**

**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)

**Nate McDonald - Trustee**      216-973-9990  
[nmcdonald@munsontwp.com](mailto:nmcdonald@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 Wednesday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

**Park & Recreation Board**

second Monday at 6:15 pm

Check [munsonwp.com](http://munsonwp.com) for the monthly meeting  
schedule and event information

**EVENTS**

**March 30 • Easter Egg Hunt**

Township Park 12641 Bass Lake Road

**April 6 • Indoor Flea Market**

Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road

**June 15 • Fishing Derby**

Scenic River Retreat 10900 Mayfield Road

**July 20 • Concert In The Park**

Scenic River Retreat 10900 Mayfield Road

**August 3 • Community Day Picnic**

Town Hall 12210 Auburn Road