

# Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XXIV Issue 2 October 2021

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Irene McMullen

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Zoning Commission  
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(Newsletter Editor)

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief  
Mike Vatty



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## **Preserving Our History**

Munson Township has two cemeteries, Fowlers Mill Cemetery at 12399 Fowlers Mill Road consists of two parcels totaling 4.96 acres; and Maple Hill Cemetery at 13480 Auburn Road with 7.01 acres.

Fowlers Mill and Maple Hill cemeteries are both home to Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. The Township honors those that have served our country every year on Memorial Day with an 8:30am service at Maple Hill Cemetery. Munson's first settler, Samuel Hopson, is buried at Fowlers Mill.

The Township takes pride in maintaining and upgrading our cemetery properties. Our cemeteries are representative of our history. In 2008, the Township purchased a cemetery software program. All the older records were entered in and are now maintained by inputting as much data as possible to include a person's family lineage. This program allows Township staff to quickly locate records upon request.

In 2002, fleur-de-lis iron picket fencing was erected at Fowlers Mill Cemetery with a new fence added this year in front of the future third phase. In 2003, the same fencing was erected at Maple Hill Cemetery. The Township contracts yearly to have the cemeteries mowed. We urge residents to keep plantings (please obtain permission from the Township prior to planting) and placement of adornments to a minimum to aid the contractors in their maintenance process.



In 2016, the Township retained Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. to begin gravestone and monument repairs. Traveling from Indiana, Helen Wildermuth and her crew began working at Maple Hill Cemetery. Their labor involves working with all shapes and sizes of tablet stones, small and large monuments, and footstones. Quite often they must replace bases and foundations, lifting large monuments in the process. Work at Maple Hill Cemetery concluded in 2020 with over 200 stones restored to their former glory. In 2018, Stonehugger resurrected nine gravestones that had been moved in the late 70's from abandoned/private Brewster and Rider cemeteries to Fowlers Mill Cemetery thanks to the efforts of then Trustee Jane Bushman. Many stones at private cemeteries were vandalized or broken due to age. These stones had been laying in the wooded area behind an old shed at the cemetery but now have their own resting place. In September of this year, Stonehugger began restoration work at Fowlers Mill Cemetery with the expectation that in 2022 they will have totally completed restoration in our cemeteries. Part of their process includes documentation showing before and after pictures. We are very grateful for their work and hope residents take the time to visit the cemeteries and see the transformation.



## Halloween Drive-Thru at Fire Station

The Fire Department is gearing up for their annual Halloween Celebration to be held on Sunday, 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!

## Cemetery Fees

A Munson Township resident may purchase graves at a residential rate for their immediate family, defined as parents, spouse, spouses parents, and children. Graves may be purchased for siblings or grandparents with the rate determined by where they reside. Additional graves that are purchased for family members that are undetermined would be assessed at the non-residential rates.

A grave is permitted to contain one full burial and one cremains or two cremains alone.

The Township will put in all foundations for headstones and veteran's plaques. Foundations over 48" in length will be billed time and materials with the price to be set by the sexton.

Costs are as follows:

Single grave Fee:	Resident	\$350
	Non-Resident	\$1,000
Grave opening and closing	(full burial)	\$350
	(cremains)	\$125
Single foundation up to 24" wide		\$60
Double foundation 25" to 48" in length		\$120

## Board Appointment

*Thank You  
Volunteers!*

In August 2021, Don Ondrejka was appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Thank you to all Board members for volunteering their time to make this community a better place.

## Scholarship Program

Munson Township is offering a minimum of two scholarships for the 2022-23 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 2022 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](http://www.munsontwp.com).

## Distracted Driving

Distracted driving is basically anything other than driving that could divert a person's attention away from the task at hand. In all cases, not only the driver is at risk but so is the passenger, other vehicles on the road and innocent bystanders.

A 2009 study by Virginia Tech Transportation Institute on distracted driving found that text messaging increased the risk of a safety-critical event, such as a crash or near-crash, by 23.2 times compared to a driver who wasn't distracted. This statistic caught the attention of the public, legislatures and phone companies. Since 2009, 48 states and the District of Columbia have banned all texting while driving.

The National Safety Council estimates that 9 people a day are killed in distracted driving accidents and 1,000 others are injured. Distracted driving is so risky it's worse than drunk driving and driving a vehicle while texting is six times more dangerous than driving while intoxicated.

## Road Construction Update

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is still working on the intersection at Mayfield and Auburn Roads. If all goes as plans, the project will be completed in November.



## On The Ballot!

### ISSUE 15 • Road & Bridge Renewal Levy

for the purpose of the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair of streets, roads and bridges at a rate not exceeding 0.75 mill for each dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.075 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2022, first due in calendar year 2023.



## Zoning Department

About one year ago, the Munson Township Zoning Resolution was amended to include *Section 1201.2 Affidavit of Fact Deed*



*Addendum* which reads as follows: "In order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this resolution, an application for a zoning certificate for the Residential Districts as identified by section 401, 402, 403 and 404 may include an "Affidavit of Fact Deed Addendum" pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5301.252 and as set forth in the requisite form available from the zoning inspector. The affidavit shall be recorded with the county recorder after it has been executed by the real property owner(s) and reviewed by the zoning inspector. The zoning certificate shall not be issued until a copy of the recorded affidavit has been provided to the zoning inspector."

This statute permits for certain residents in all Residential Districts that have multiple parcels making up their property to avoid costly land consolidation (though in some cases this may still be the best option), surveys, and variances in terms of being issued a zoning certificate. This essentially allows the zoning department to ignore those interior parcel lines that likely were created before zoning when it comes to determining the setbacks for proposed initiatives. A growing number of our residents are taking advantage of this recent amendment, thus saving both time and expense.

Regarding applications for zoning certificates and variances we continue to utilize the process put in place due to Covid19. It has proved to be highly efficient in both handling the increased number of zoning inquiries and applications of the past two years saving time for both residents and our department. Residents have been very supportive of this process and our efforts. Many have commented that contractors are short-handed, supplies are limited, and construction costs are up, thus delaying many projects. In these times that have seemed to bring out the worst in a few and the best in others, we are very appreciative for the patience, support, and goodwill of most of the community.

### **Residents are reminded ...**

**to list Munson Township as your place of residence when renewing your drivers license. Otherwise the motor vehicle license tax revenues will be given to the community in your address.**

## Road Department

### **Berming 101**

Berming is a common practice in the United States for pavement shoulder maintenance, especially for states located in cold regions. A berm is a raised strip of ground that runs along the side of a road. It is also any stretch of grass or land that forms a kind of shelf above or along a street, river, train tracks or highway. A berm can be naturally occurring or man-made. In most cases in our area, it is an accumulation of road cinders put down on the snowy roads (sometimes mixed with salt) so we can get better traction in the winter months.

As preventative maintenance, road edge berming is performed where deemed necessary by the Road Department. Residential streets are bermed approximately 18 inches from the pavements edge.

Berming is done for the following reasons:

- To support the asphalt edge of the street and prevent deterioration.
- To provide a smooth transition from the road edge to the existing grade of the landscape.
- To prevent storm water runoff from ponding and freezing on the street which will prolong the life of the asphalt.
- Improves drainage

Residents are reminded that the road right-of-way easement (typically 30' from the center line of the road in most cases), is an area where the Township and County can access to do work at their discretion. Nothing should be placed, planted, or set in that area other than an United States Postal Service approved mailbox.



### **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**

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.

## Message From the Fire Chief ...

# Halloween Safety Tips

### Costume Safety

To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, the American Academy of Pediatrics has compiled a list of Halloween safety tips. Before Halloween arrives, be sure to choose a costume that won't cause safety hazards.

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation

### When They're on the Prowl

Here's a scary statistic: Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Lack of visibility because of low lighting at night also plays a factor in these incidents. Keep these tips in mind when your children are out on Halloween night:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time children should return home
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street

A SAFE  
HALLOWEEN  
IS A  
HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN!

### Safety Tips for Motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways.
- Enter and exit driveways carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween

### **Fire Department Seeking a Resident for Board of Directors**

This non-compensated position assists with long-term operating and future direction. Interested applicants should call the Fire Department Monday - Friday • 8am – 4pm • **440-286-6797**

### Smoke Detector Facts

**You may need more smoke alarms than you currently have** - House fires can start anywhere and for the best protection, it's a good idea to install a smoke detector in every bedroom and each hallway outside of sleeping quarters. **Every floor of your home should have a smoke detector.**

**You should not paint your smoke alarm** - Most smoke alarms come with a warning printed directly on them that says "do not paint." Paint can restrict airflow and cause the alarm to have difficulty detecting a fire.

**Did You Remember to Change your Smoke Detector Batteries?**

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

## Spring Clean-Up Recap

Every year residents look forward to cleaning out unwanted clutter and getting rid of it free of charge. The Department on Aging assists the Munson Township Road Department with senior citizens items by picking them up from their homes. Residents are able to drop off large unwanted items on the scheduled day.

This year was especially a big hit since covid-19 played into the decision to cancel the event in 2020. There was a total of seven 40 yard dumpsters of junk, one 40 yard dumpster of tires, and three 80 yard dumpsters of metal to recycled.

The Township is grateful to Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste Management District for the "Go Green Community Grant" which defrayed most of the costs relating to this event.



## Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing for 440

**Get ready to change the way you dial local calls! Starting on October 24, 2021. Long Distance dialing remains the same.**



This change will happen in many states and many area codes throughout the United States. In Ohio, the 440 and 513 area codes are affected.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted 988 as a new three-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line, starting July 16, 2022. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022.

In order for 988 to work in our area code, 10-digit local dialing must first be implemented. This applies to all calls within the 440 area code that are currently dialed with only seven digits. To complete all local calls, you will need to dial:

**area code + telephone number**

## American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone needs blood and just one pint can potentially help up to three people in need. Donors must be 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. If you have not received a COVID vaccine, masks are required and will be available at the blood drives.

If your blood type is O, A neg or B neg, please consider a Power Red donation. Remember to have a eat and drink plenty of water prior to donating.

To schedule your lifesaving appointment you may go to [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) or use the Red Cross Donor App. You can also call 1-800 RED CROSS for scheduling assistance. If there are open appointments slots, walk-in's will be excepted, but appointments will take priority.



### OCTOBER BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, 10/05 - Adam Hall 10am-3pm.

Power Reds available

11455 E. Washington St. Chagrin Falls

Thursday, 10/07 - Bainbridge Town Hall 1-7pm.

Power Reds available

17826 Chillicothe Rd. Chagrin Falls

Friday, 10/15 - Munson Town Hall 12-6pm.

Power Reds available

12210 Auburn Rd. Chardon

Sunday, 10/17 - St. Helen's Church 8am-2pm.

Power Reds available

12060 Kinsman Rd. Newbury

Wednesday, 10/20 - Mayfield Church 2-7pm.

Power Reds available

7747 Mayfield Rd. Chesterland

Friday, 10/22 - Fellowship Bible Church 2-8pm.

Power Reds available

16391 Chillicothe Rd. Chagrin Falls

Friday 10/29 - UH Geauga Medical Center

11am-4pm. Power Reds available

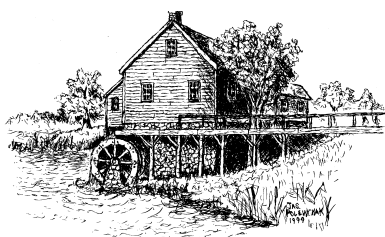
602 South St. Chardon

Friday, 10/29 - Huntsburg Baptist Church 2-7pm.

Power Reds available

16401 Mayfield Rd. Huntsburg





**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 - 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**

Check Website

#### **Board of Zoning Appeals**

third Wednesday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

#### **Park Board**

second Monday at 6:15 pm

All meetings are held at the Munson Township Hall,  
Please check website for dates and times.

## **Sunday, October 31st**

**TRICK  
or  
TREAT**

**6 to 8 pm**

**Be Safe!**