

# Munson Township

## NEWS NOTES

Volume XXII Issue I August 2020

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Andy Bushman  
Jim McCaskey  
Irene McMullen • Chair

### **FISCAL OFFICER**

Todd Ray

### **TOWNSHIP STAFF**

Road Superintendent  
Kirk Walker

Zoning Inspector  
James Herringshaw

Office Manager  
Zoning Appeals Secretary  
Cemetery Director  
Paula Frieberthauser

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

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief  
Mike Vatty



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thank you



JUNCTION AUTO FAMILY  
440-286-6161



PETERSEN  
PETERSEN



Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our Annual Community Day Picnic was cancelled this year. Some local business owners who had already made donations to our event graciously opted to allow the Township to reallocate their donations to our Scholarship Fund given to Township residents heading off to college.



## Geauga Trumbull Solid Waste District

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE, ELECTRONICS & APPLIANCE RECYCLING

#### Household Hazardous Waste:

Every Wednesday  
April 22 - October 28  
Hours 9am to 5pm  
or by appointment

#### Appliances and Electronics:

Monday - Friday 9am to 4:30pm

#### Saturday Facility Dates 9am to Noon

September 12th and October 3rd

#### Residents of Geauga & Trumbull Counties ONLY

- No Latex Paint
- No Commercial Waste
- Limit 2 TV's
- No Tires



Direct Your Questions To  
**Geauga -Trumbull Solid Waste  
Management District**  
5138 Enterprise Blvd. Warren, Ohio  
(330) 675-2673 or 1-800-707-2673  
[www.gottagogreen.org](http://www.gottagogreen.org)

## On The Ballot!



### Fire Department Operating Levy

This 1.95 Mill. Tax levy is for  
Fire Operating and Apparatus purposes.  
It is a continuing "Replacement" and  
increase of .3 Mill. to the existing levy.

## Day for Democracy



Every Election Day, hundreds of residents of Geauga County play an important role in our democracy. Do your part for your country, state, and local community and also

earn extra spending money in the process by working at the polls. You can serve as a poll worker in Ohio if you:

- (1) are a US citizen
- (2) are at least 18 years of age and registered to vote or 17 years old and a senior in high school
- (3) are a Geauga County resident
- (4) are not running for office as a candidate in this election
- (5) have not been convicted of a felony. All poll workers are required to attend a paid training class and are also paid to work on Election Day.

**For more information, please contact the  
Gauga County Board of Elections at**

**440-279-2030**

## Cemetery Rules & Regulations

We take pride in maintaining our cemeteries while also allowing residents some freedom to honor their loved ones. Please check our website for our Cemetery Rules and Regulations. If you are unsure of what is permitted, please do not hesitate to call the Township. Your attention to the rules are greatly appreciated.



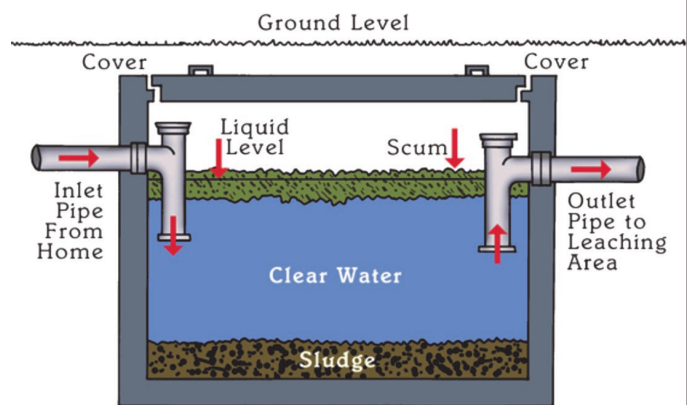
**Residents are reminded ...  
to list Munson Township as your place of  
residence when renewing your drivers  
license. Otherwise the motor vehicle  
license tax revenues will be given to the  
community in your address.**

## Country Living

Munson Township is a growing community with many of the new residents coming from the city. City residents pay R.I.T.A. tax (Regional Income Tax Agency) which allows cities to offer many conveniences not offered in rural areas. Another convenience is city water and sewers. Many newcomers are not aware of the differences until they actually move here and find out the hard way. For most residents, this is old news.

One big misconception is a septic system. The typical septic tank is a large buried container made of concrete or fiberglass. Wastewater from the home flows into the tank. Heavy solids settle at the bottom where bacterial action partially decomposes them. Most of the lighter solids, such as grease and oils, rise to the top and form a scum layer. The wastewater leaving the tank is called effluent. One need is to pump the tank out according to how many people live in the house. A reputable septic tank cleaning company would be able to help you decide on the frequency of cleaning. Another need is to switch your leach fields. There is usually an upper and lower field; however, not everyone has a leach field. If you do, switching it twice a year is a good habit. One idea is to switch it when the time changes. The Geauga County Health Department ([www.gphohio.org](http://www.gphohio.org)) is a great source for information.

Another misconception is storm sewers. Again, in the city there is a system of pipes and catch basins to take the water away from the houses and streets and deliver it eventually to Lake Erie. We rely on ditches and streams since we don't have storm sewers. Your pipes will take the downspout and footer tile water to the street or



**Septic Tank**

more commonly into the woods and discharge it there. If your basement is lower than the street or woods, you will most likely have a sump pump to pump that footer tile water away from the basement. It is a good idea to know where your footer and downspout drain tile discharge so you can keep the area clear of debris. If the pipe discharges into the ditch at the street and the ditch gets full of debris, (sticks, leaves, silt, etc.). Please call Town Hall and the Road Department may be able to help you out. Residents can also put a slotted cap over the discharge pipe or 'one way valve' to keep animals out of the pipe.

Lastly, your well will need to be chlorinated once in a while to keep coliform bacteria from getting into your home; <http://gphohio.org/Environmental-Health/Private-Water-Wells> is the perfect website to visit to answer your questions. You may also call the Health Department's Environmental Health division line at 440-279-1914.

### Are You Thinking of Enclosing Your Ditch?

Many residents enclose their ditch to make cutting grass easier or to add curb appeal to their home. If you are thinking of making this improvement, there are a couple of steps required by the Township before doing so. Most residents hire a landscape company but some take the task on themselves. A permit for only \$2 submitted with a sketch/drawing is required by the Township. Road Superintendent Kirk Walker must approve the permit before moving forward. Kirk must also inspect the area prior to the ditch being enclosed with the top dressing.

Please call the Township office with any questions

**440-286-9255.**





## Message From the Fire Chief . . .

# ARE YOU PREPARED?

Considering the state of our country with the Corona Virus, more people are home or have been home now more than ever. Working from home or attending school from home has been and seems to be part of the norm. Are you protected? Does your home have the most trusted smoke detectors? Almost 40 years of research has shown that the most popular smoke alarm which is in 90% of homes in America is failing at an alarming rate.

These ionization smoke alarms are alerting tens of minutes slower than the other type, **photoelectric** smoke alarms, in the deadly smoldering stage of a fire. They are also more prone to nuisance false alarms from ordinary cooking and steam from showers.

**Photoelectric** smoke alarms sound tens of minutes faster than ionization smoke alarms during smoldering stage fires with significantly fewer false alarms. Furthermore, their performance in flaming stage fires is comparable to ionization alarms, making the **photoelectric** alarm the best choice.

For your safety and the safety of your entire family, recommendations by the North Eastern Ohio Fire Prevention Association and firefighters across the state of Ohio is for you to check what type of smoke alarms you have in your home.

It's easy! Just check the front or back of the alarm for the word "**Photoelectric**" or the letter "**P**" or the word "ionization" or the letter "**I**". Any indication that your smoke alarm contains radioactive material also indicates that it is an ionization alarm. And while you're checking, look for the date of manufacture on your alarm. Smoke alarms expire 10 years after the date of manufacture and need to be replaced.

If you have ionization smoke alarms, change them out as soon as possible!

**Photoelectric** alarms are sold in most major hardware stores. Just look for the word **photoelectric** or the letter "**P**" on the packaging.

Oh, and what about those dual-sensor alarms that contain both photoelectric and ionization sensors? They cost twice as much and still generate all those nuisance false alarms!



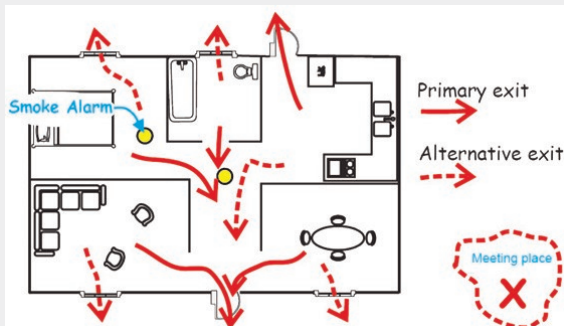
Photoelectric Detector Labels

Current emergency call volume is back to normal. Fire inspections are back on track and Munson Fire Department is completing fire inspections before our schools reopen. Many changes have taken place in the public and private sector; with more to come. Your fire department is managing and will continue to manage whatever is thrown our way.

**Thanks for the continued community support. Munson Fire Department is always there for you.**

## Have and Practice a Fire Escape Plan

1. **Know at least two ways out** from every room or space in your home.
2. **Crawl low in smoke.** Smoke rises so the air near the floor will be clearer.
3. **Feel doors before opening them.** If the door is hot, do not open it. If the door is cool, stay low as you open it. There still may be heat, smoke or fire on the other side.



4. **Leave immediately.** Don't stop for anything. No possessions are worth your life.
5. If you cannot leave a room, make sure the door is closed and go to the window. Open it or break it out and exit if you can. If you can't exit the window because it's too high, use a bedsheets, towel, etc. to wave and yell to attract attention. If necessary, use towels, clothing, pillows, etc. to block smoke coming through door cracks or vents.
6. **Have a family meeting place outside.** Count to ensure everyone is out safely.
7. **Once you are out, stay out.** Never go back inside for anyone or anything.
8. **Call the fire department** once you are out safely. The emergency number is 911. Call from a neighbor's home or a cell phone.

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

## Township says Goodbye to...



Judy Toth ended her tenure with the Township on March 31<sup>st</sup>. She served as Fiscal Officer for the past 8 years and in secretarial and Office Manager positions for 27 years prior to that. Her level of dedication to the community and Township is appreciated.

Judy raised 5 children in the Township and has 7 grandchildren. She looks forward to spending more time visiting family and working on home projects.

The Township staff and residents will miss her and wish her much happiness in this new chapter in her life.

## Township says Hello to...



On April 1, Todd Ray begins his first term as Munson Township Fiscal Officer. Mr. Ray is grateful for all the support he has received from retiring Fiscal Officer Judy Toth. "Judy has been a model of responsible public service, and an outstanding fiscal officer for years, as well as a generous teacher and guide for the last three months

during this transition," Mr. Ray says. "Judy has been a pleasure to work with."

The Ray family moved to Munson in 1965, and he and his five siblings grew up here. Todd and his wife Mary have raised four children in the township, and have been active in the community for many years. Many residents recall that Todd served as a Munson Trustee for 16 years, from 1998 through 2013. He is happy to return to township government, to work to keep Munson on track in all its fiscal matters.

## Appointments

In January, the Township Trustees reappointed Gabe Kezdi and Jim O'Neill to the Board of Zoning Appeals and John McCreery to the Park & Recreation Board and appointed Ed Hren to the Zoning Commission. In February, David Jirsa was appointed to the Park & Recreation Board. Thank you to the Board members for volunteering their time to make this community a better place.

## Zoning News

The Zoning Commission has been busy reviewing the Zoning Resolution. The latest Zoning Amendment will go into effect on March 26, 2020 to the following sections:

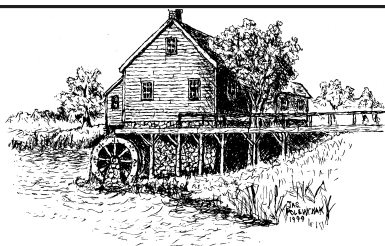
Sec. 202	Definitions - Setback Line
Sec. 410	Uses Not Specifically Mentioned
Sec. 411	Minimum Dimensional Requirements
Sec. 507.4	Places of Worship
Sec. 516.2	Other Vehicles
Sec. 519	Temporary Uses
Sec. 519.3	Temporary Mobile Home
Sec. 519.4	Temporary Storage Containers
Sec. 519.5	Garage Sales
Sec. 521 I	General Requirements for Parking, And Loading/Unloading Spaces
Sec. 526.1	Freestanding Solar Energy Panels And Arrays
Sec. 527.1	Roof & Wall Installed Solar Panels
Sec. 1201	Zoning Certificate Required

## CARES Act Pandemic Relief Funds

Like all local government entities, Munson Township has received Federal funding to help offset costs associated with responding to the COVID-19 disease and steps taken to limit its spread in the community. The first funding arrived in the form of what is called the Provider Relief Fund. Munson received a direct payment of \$7,593.00, in April. These dollars are intended to support the direct-care providers who diagnose, test, or care for individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19. The Trustees have set aside these funds, and they will only be spent to reimburse Munson Fire Department for unanticipated expenses unique to the COVID-19 exposure threat, such as the personal protective equipment necessary for the protection of the staff members.

The second round of funding arrived in June. Munson received \$74,111.00, available to offset spending for a wider range of costs that communities have taken on due to the pandemic. In addition to such things as more frequent and robust cleaning and sanitization of Township facilities, these CARES Act funds can be spent on such things as HVAC ventilation/purification equipment upgrades in public spaces, installation of touch-free water fixtures, plexi-glass space dividers, and equipment and subscription services needed for virtual teleconferencing of public meetings.

To promote the wise use of these resources, all CARES Act funds come with specific conditions that the Trustees must consider and apply when authorizing any expenditures, and all spending will be audited in the Township's next biennial audit.



**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:**

**M U N S O N   T O W N S H I P  
N E W S   N O T E S**

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)

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

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

Check [www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com) to see if the meeting  
you are interested in attending will be held  
at the Township or via Zoom Video Conferencing.

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

The Munson Township Fire Department Inc. is  
seeking a resident for their Fire 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**