

# Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XIX Issue 2 October 2017

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## Koelliker Tree Dedication

A Red Oak has been planted at Town Hall, in memory of Betty and Joe Koelliker. Betty and Joe were married 66 years, and came to Munson in 1960. Lovers of nature and the good of the community, Betty volunteered at the Botany Department of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History for decades. Betty served admirably on the Munson Township Zoning Commission from December 1981 to October 1999, approximately 18 years. She was also a poll worker here for 20 years.



Joe was a beloved General Practitioner in Willoughby for 45 years, and was still doing house calls when he retired in December 2001. Always forward thinking, starting in 1960, he actively pursued “No Smoking” policies in Lake and Geauga County; spearheaded “No Smoking” in the Lake Hospital System; gave talks at the schools; and ran “No Smoking” poster contests with bonds and rewards. Joe served in the US Air Force from 1954 to 1956, stationed at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, where he ran the pediatric hospital. Joe and Betty have “five accomplished beautiful progeny” (a quote from Joe): Leah, Rachel, Deborah, Joseph III (Jay), and Daniel.

The Museum and Munson Township are appreciative every day of their preservation of a local treasure: the Koelliker Fen. Koelliker Fen is a fragile wetland and relic of the last Ice Age. It is a living museum of rare plants and animals. Distinct plant communities include rare orchids, star-flowered Solomon’s seal and poison sumac, as well as rare animals like the cloudy arches moth. Both Betty and Joe were 91 years old when they passed away, Joe in 2015, and Betty in May of this year.

A dedication ceremony was held on October 23, 2017, where friends, family and admirers gathered to remember Betty and Joe and view the plaque commemorating their service. The tree was planted to provide shade to visitors to the playground. Local residents and organizations donated the funds to purchase the tree and plaque. Please stop by, sit on the bench, and enjoy the beauty. Thank you again, Betty and Joe.

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**COMING SOON...** Munson Township Park & Recreation Board is continually striving to make our Township Parks a desirable place to visit. They would like to hear from you by filing out a survey that will be on our website in the very near future.

[www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com)

## **Board of Zoning Appeals Member Retires**

In September, the Township Trustees presented retiring BZA member Bobbie Nolan with a resolution honoring her 19 years of service. Bobbie has helped to ensure safety and general welfare in the Township while at the same time aided individuals in realizing their lifestyle needs and dreams through the variance process. Her absence will be greatly missed.



## **Board of Zoning Appeals Opening**

Munson Residents interested in serving on the Munson Township Board or Zoning Appeals, which is a non-compensated public service appointment, are requested to send a letter of interest and resume to the attention of the Munson Township Trustees at 12210 Auburn Road, Chardon OH 44024. Applications may also be dropped off at the Township Hall between the hours of 9am and 3pm weekdays. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. For additional information contact the Munson Township office at 440-286-9255.

## **Halloween at the Fire Station**

The Munson Fire Department is gearing up for our annual Halloween Celebration to be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 6 pm until 8:30 pm at the Munson Fire Station. This family-friendly event is free to Munson residents and will include an obstacle course and inflatable bouncing houses for kids to play in plus candy and refreshments. Please join us for an evening of fun.



## **Recent Thefts in Munson Township**

According to the Geauga County Sheriff's Department, thieves have been rummaging through unlocked vehicles and taking anything valuable. Always lock your automobiles to detour any such activity. If you notice anything suspicious, please call 911.



***As most of you have noticed, the recycle area has been relocated to Sherman Road by Kawalec Field.***

**Mixed Recycling** - The following items may be recycled: clear, green and brown glass, plastic, aluminum and bi-metal cans, and clean aluminum foil and foil pans. Plastic **must** have a small triangular symbol with the numbers 1 through 7 in the center. Without the number, the recycling facility cannot determine the type of plastic and therefore cannot process it. Exceptions are the plastic bags from grocery and retail stores, which do not need to have the printed triangle. **Tarps, laundry baskets, garden hose, lawn furniture, large plastic toys, and plastic pots and buckets are NOT recyclable**

unless there is a triangular symbol. Glass is restricted to bottles and jars – no plate glass windows, no corning ware, no drinking glasses, no mirrors, and no canning jars. Also not recyclable: any expanded polystyrene foam (Styrofoam), aluminum gutters, window frames or cooking pans. Recyclables should be rinsed clean with lids and caps left on, and should be separated from garbage. ***Do not leave bags on the ground.***

**Paper Recycling** - Cardboard, newspapers, magazines, office paper, mail, phonebooks and paperback books (**no hardback books**) can be commingled in the yellow and green receptacles. Always flatten cardboard and ***never leave items on the ground.*** Shredded paper must be bagged in a transparent plastic bag - handlers will discard a bag if they cannot see the contents. No pizza boxes or waxed containers. Remove and discard all packing materials.

We hope that residents, once informed, will be more conscientious about what they bring to the site.

## **E - Waste • Recycle Your Appliances**

We are pleased to host a recycling container for computer equipment and electronics. The green container is located on the left just before the parking lot opens up to the recycling area.

This program is provided as a community service for Munson Township residents at no charge. 100% of the equipment is recycled with nothing entering the landfills. All material is recycled in the continental United States; no material winds up offshore.

Acceptable items include anything electronic, computers and their counterparts, microwaves, stereos, toasters, blenders, stoves, refrigerators, etc. Basically anything that you plug in to operate is acceptable **except for Televisions & Computer Monitors which ARE NOT accepted.**

## Beware of Fake IRS Emails & Phone Calls

Tax scams that use e-mail and phone calls that appear to come from the IRS are common these days. These scams often use the IRS name and logo or fake websites that look real.

Scammers often send an e-mail or call to lure victims to give up their personal and financial information. The crooks then use this information to commit identity theft or steal your money. Some call their victims to demand payment on a pre-paid debit card or by wire transfer. The IRS will not initiate contact with you to ask for this information by phone or e-mail.

If you get this type of 'phishing' e-mail, the IRS offers this advice:

- Do not reply to the message.
  - Do not open any attachments or click on any links. They may have malicious code that will infect your computer.
  - Do not give out your personal or financial information.
  - Forward the e-mail to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov). Then delete it.
- If you get an unexpected phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS:

- Ask for a call back number and an employee badge number.
- If you think you may owe taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS employees can help you.
- If you do not owe taxes or have no reason to think that you do, call the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484 to report the incident.
- You should also report it to the Federal Trade Commission by using their "FTC Complaint Assistant" on [FTC.org](http://FTC.org). Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Be alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. The IRS will not initiate contact with you through social media or text to ask for your personal or financial information.

More information on how to report phishing or phone scams is available on [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

IRS Tax Tip 2014-1



## Message From the Zoning Inspector

Many residents and business owners may not be aware that there are rules and regulations and zoning certificates required for signs of all kinds within the Township. We recognize the necessity and desirability of communication by outdoor signs while promoting an order to signage which eliminates visual clutter and confusion within the physical environment. The purpose of Article 10 in our Zoning Resolution is to protect the safety and general welfare of the public within the Township.

Below highlights a few regulations you may not be aware of:

Section 1002 - Subject to Section 1003.4 - no sign of any kind, the area of which exceeds 2.25 square feet, shall be erected in the township unless and until the person responsible for erecting the sign has applied for, and the Zoning Inspector has issued a zoning certificate.

Article 1003.6 - Temporary signs not previously mentioned in this section intended to draw attention to a particular activity shall be removed within three (3) days following the activity. Not more than one (1) on-site sign which shall not exceed an area of thirty-six (36) square feet per sign face, and two (2) off-site signs, which shall not exceed an area of twenty (20) square feet per sign face each, shall be permitted. Temporary signs are not permitted to be erected more than thirty (30) days prior to a particular activity.

There are many questions regarding the location or placement of signs. No sign shall be located closer than five (5) feet from a front lot line or within twenty five (25) feet of any other lot line.

There are different regulations for signs permitted in the commercial, industrial, institutional and medical use zoning districts. For complete information and details on all signage please refer to Article 10 of our Zoning Resolution which can be found on our website under documents and forms or call the Zoning Department at 440-286-9182.



## Message From the Fire Department. . .

### Helpful Hints and Reminders While You Get Ready for "Old Man Winter"

#### Inside of Your Home

##### Fireplaces:

- Inspect your chimney regularly for cracks and obstructions.
- Don't let creosote build up in your chimney, as it could set off a roof fire.
- Don't "over build" your fire using too much paper. You could ignite the soot in your chimney.
- Never burn charcoal in your fireplace. It gives off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Keep your damper open if there are hot ashes in your fireplace. Closing the damper could enable hot ashes to heat up and cause a damaging fire.
- Let ashes cool in a sealed metal container.

##### Furnaces:

- Have it inspected by a qualified professional before you turn it on.
- Make sure to check the condition of the automatic controls and emergency shutoffs.
- Keep trash and combustibles away from the furnace.
- Check your chimney for cracks or loose bricks.
- Seal all unused flue openings with solid masonry.

##### Space Heaters:

- Make sure your space heater has a working safety light, alarm, automatic shut-off switch, and a cut-off device to prevent overheating.
- Keep all objects, people and pets at least three feet away from the heater.
- Never use a space heater in your bathroom. Water and

#### Smoke and CO Detectors

Spring forward, fall back, and check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. When you change your clocks, also change the battery in your detectors. Developing this habit is a good way to remember a simple task that can save your life. Be sure there are working smoke detectors on each floor of your home, particularly outside of sleeping areas. Approximately 20% of detectors don't work because of dead or missing batteries. In addition to replacing smoke detector batteries twice a year, smoke detectors should be replaced every 10 years.

#### Outside of Your Home

Contact your utility company if trees or branches are not clear of power lines. Prune back trees, and rake up leaves and debris. If you live in an open area with a lot of natural vegetation, consider creating a defensible fire zone around your home. Prune the bottom branches from trees and remove shrubs and trees within 20 feet of your home. Don't store cardboard boxes, paper or other flammable materials in the backyard. These materials provide ready fuel for a fire and all it takes is one spark.



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

#### Never park your car or truck over a pile of leaves...



The heat from the vehicle's catalytic converter or exhaust system can ignite the leaves below. The resulting fire could destroy your vehicle. Flammable liquids should not be stored inside the home or in an attached garage or shed. This includes any unused fuel still in the fuel tank. Store this equipment away from your home or drain excess fuel out of the tank before storing. This simple safety precaution will help prevent accidental fires from escaping fuel vapors. Remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for winter.

#### Geauga County Sheriff's Office • Geauga Public Alerts

Sign up for **Geauga Alerts!** In the event of an emergency or severe weather condition, a text message alert will be sent to the phone number provided. To reach the registration page go to the Sheriff's Office page (<http://www.sheriff.co.geauga.oh.us/>) and select "Geauga Public Alerts". The direct url is [http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/geauga\\_county\\_oh/wens.cfm](http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/geauga_county_oh/wens.cfm)

## Community Day Picnic



The Community Day Picnic on July 15th went off with a bang. Residents had a great time enjoying the activities, games, raffles and family fun. A big thank you goes out to the many local businesses and individuals who donated to our raffles. We raised over \$2,300 for our scholarship fund.



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**Thank You Donors:** Lisa Alpers, All-Ways Flashers, Alvord's Yard & Garden Equipment, Auto Zone – Char-don, Aqua Doc Lake & Pond Management, Avanti Sa-lon, Bass Lake Taverne & Inn, Cheng's China House Restaurant, Cold Nose Companions, D.S. Cakes & Sweets Café, Farley's Country Store, Fowlers Milling Company, Geauga TV (GTV), Giant Eagle, Guido's Restaurant, The Scerbo Family, Junction Auto, Guy's Pizza, Hudson Henry Baking Company, Ianiro's Bakery & Imports, Mayfield Sand Ridge Golf Club, Dan McCaskey-Re/Max Traditions, Nathans Mobile Car De-tailing, NOPEC, Marybeth O'Neill - Keller Williams of Greater Cleveland, Payne & Payne Builders, Pleasant Hill Golf Course, The Powell Family, Rising Sun Auto-motive, Royle Insurance Agency, Sage's Apples, Sport Rack, Staples, The Carpet Company, Centerra Co-Op, Wicked Woods Golf and YMCA – Geauga Campus.

## Community Room Rentals



The Community Room at Town Hall is the perfect venue for showers, parties, weddings and more. Munson residents receive a discounted rate. For more information on renting the Community Room, call us or go to [www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com) to view the rental agreement, rental rules and fees.

## Township Scholarships

Munson Township is offering a minimum of two scholarships for the 2018-19 school year. The Town-ship's Scholarship Program was established in 2005. Proceeds from games and raffles at the Township's Community Day Picnics and Flea Markets and any scholarship-specified donations fund this program. Any Munson resident that will be a graduating senior in 2018 is eligible to apply. Applications can be ob-tained from your school's guidance department, Mun-son Township's office between 9am-3pm weekdays, or can be downloaded at [www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com)

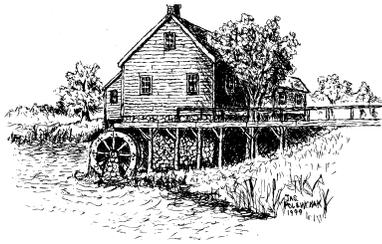
## Breakfast with Santa

Mark your calendars for Munson Township's Annual Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus on December 9, 2017 at Munson Township Hall, 12210 Auburn Road.



Boy Scout Troop 91 will serve pancakes, sausage, juice and cof-fee. Adults \$5, Children ages 4 to12 \$3, Children un-der 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 [munsonwp.com](http://munsonwp.com)

**INTERESTING FACT...** Today, the United States has 20% more trees than it did on the first Earth Day celebration more than 40 years ago.



Place  
Stamp  
Here

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

**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:**

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

Andy Bushman 440-286-3916  
Trustee [abushman@munsontwp.com](mailto:abushman@munsontwp.com)

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

Judy Toth 440-286-9312 / 440-376-9399  
Fiscal Officer [jtoth@munsontwp.com](mailto:jtoth@munsontwp.com)

**Meetings**

**Trustees**

second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

**Zoning Commission**

third Tuesday at 7 pm (may vary)

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

third Thursday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

**Park Board**

second Monday at 6:15 pm

**Events**

**Halloween Celebration at the Fire Station**

Monday, October 31st • Munson Fire Station 6 - 8:30pm

**Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus**

At Munson the Town Hall Community Room  
Saturday, December 9th • Reservation Required



Youth athletic programs that lease the township fields:  
[www.chardonbaseball.com](http://www.chardonbaseball.com) or Geauga YMCA 440-285-7543