



# Munson Township NEWS NOTES

Geauga County, Ohio

Volume XVII Issue II October 2016

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## It's Not Just About Ghosts & Goblins!

As Halloween and Veterans Day approach everyone is decorating, but we must remember - the cemeteries in Munson are the final resting place for many of our residents.

Munson Township has two cemeteries, Fowler's Mill Cemetery located on Fowler's Mill Road, and Maple Hill Cemetery located on Auburn Road between Butter-nut and Cedar. Fowler's Mill Cemetery has 918 gravesites (not including the un-plotted new section) and there are 2,426 sites at Maple Hill. There are 70 sites available at Fowler's Mill and 686 at Maple Hill. Sites are available for \$200 for a resident (\$1,000 for a non-resident).

Buried at these cemeteries are many pioneers and founding fathers of Munson Township. There are 243 veterans also interred at our cemeteries. There is much history represented within these cemeteries!

Ohio Townships are given the authority for the care of cemeteries under section 517 of

the Ohio Revised Code as follows:

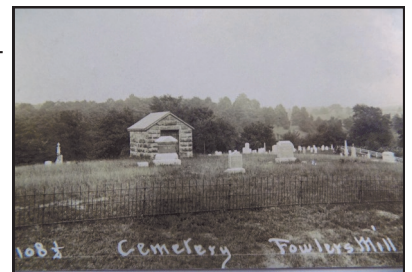
*The board of township trustees shall provide for the protection and preservation of cemeteries under its jurisdiction, and shall prohibit interments therein when new grounds have been procured for township cemeteries or burial grounds. Where such old cemeteries are in or near village plats, and the public health is liable to be injured by further interments therein, the*

*board shall institute suits to recover possession thereof, remove trespassers therefrom, and may recover damages for injuries thereto or any part thereof, or to any fence or hedge enclosing them, or to any tomb or monument therein. The board may enclose such cemeteries with a substantial fence or hedge, and shall keep any such fence or hedge in good repair. It may re-erect any fallen tombstones, regardless of the cause of the falling, in such cemeteries.*

Currently, Munson Township is undertaking a project to restore gravestones at Maple Hill Cemetery. Work began this year and when completed, work will move to Fowler's Mill. Our work is being completed by Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration, Inc. from Indiana. They begin by carefully cleaning and restoring our oldest sections.

As these late fall days approach, take a few minutes to walk through our cemeteries to offer respect and to honor our pioneers, our veterans and our residents of the past.

Remember, it's not just about ghosts and goblins!



Early photo of Fowlers Mill Cemetery

	Fowler's Mill	Maple Hill
Revolutionary War	2	1
War of 1812	5	3
Mexican War	-	1
Civil War	22	38
Spanish-American War	-	2
WW I	3	9
WW II	24	76
Korean	6	17
Vietnam	4	14

**On the ballot November 8th ...** Munson Township has placed **Issue 17**, on the November 8th General Election Ballot. This is a 1.65 Mill additional Fire Levy. Passage of the levy would cost homeowners \$57.75 for each \$100,000 of property value per year. This levy is needed to maintain the current level of service the fire department provides to the Munson Township residents and to help with the continual rising costs of operations.

## Road Department



Since it is our bicentennial year, I thought I would start our column with a bit of history. It is interesting how the road system originated.

Our road system is made up of state highways, county highways and 48.12 miles of two-lane township maintained roads.

The road system originated in the early days by farmers granting a ten foot right-of-way to the local government to provide a way to get farm products to market, to the grist mill, such as Fowler's Mill, and finished products to neighboring towns like Chardon or even Cleveland which seemed a long trip for those times.

The road surface was made up of various items. Stones that had been previously picked from farm fields and piled in hedge rows on the outskirts of the fields were retrieved and used as road base to fill in holes. Slab wood from saw mills were laid side by side to create a sort of board road and gravel was placed on top to make a road bed although some of the very worst spots along the way may have been avoided altogether. To make the construction go a bit faster since all the work at that point was done by hand with the aid of teams of horses pulling dump wagons on slip scoops.

At the time of the automobile, the community started to grow more rapidly and the need for better road surfaces for transportation changed the road building process to become completely mechanized and brought us to the evolution of today's high-powered computer controlled trucks and equipment and of course the need for a crew of men to operate those pieces of equipment.

**With Fall upon us and Winter just ahead, we need to prepare for poor driving conditions. Slow down and drive defensively, not offensively. Remember... Leaves can be slippery.**

24/7

### **Operation Empty Medicine Cabinet**

**Geauga County Sheriff's Office  
12450 Merritt Rd., Chardon**

It is important to clean out your medicine cabinet and dispose of expired and/or unused pills. You can discard them in the drop-box located in the lobby at the Sheriff's office.

**Pills Only • No Liquids Are Accepted**



Residents have most likely noticed the different mixed recycling containers at the drop-off facility for recycling at the Vetter Ball Field parking lot behind of the fire station.

**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.

## No Planting Zone

Fall is the perfect time to plant trees and shrubs. The road right-of-way is not the perfect place to plant them.

There has been questions recently on where the road right-of-way is located. The actual road right-of-way starts at the surveyed centerline of the road and extends 30 feet out on each side. Within that 30 feet, residents should not plant anything, place anything (example: rocks, boulders, signs etc.), or erect a fence of any kind.

The road right-of-way is there for a reason and safety is one of them. When driving a vehicle, we need to have as much sight distance as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the road right-of-way in our township, please call our Road Department at 440-286-4766.



## Bicentennial Celebration July 16, 2016

The day started at the  
Fowlers Mill Historical District



The Fire Department was on display



The day concluded with a parade



It continued at Munson Town Hall where  
there was a historical display, games, raf-  
fles, music and the Hazen Family Wagon.



Happy Birthday Munson Township!

To see more photos, go to <https://g-tv.smugmug.com/Events>

Time Capsule Buried in 2016  
Munson Township's  
Bicentennial Year  
To Be Opened July 2116



## Message From the Fire Chief ...



*\* I would like to thank everyone that attended the Munson Bicentennial Celebration and took the time to stop at the station and visit with the Fire Fighters. We take a lot of pride in our station, equipment and the history of our department and are always happy to show it off and answer any questions for our residents.*

We have been very fortunate over the years to have obtained much needed grant funds to help keep our equipment up to date so that we can offer the best possible service to our Munson Township Residents. This year we were awarded \$4,500.00 from the Ohio Department of Safety EMS Grant to purchase many EMS supplies that are crucial to our daily activities. Thank you Captain Matthew Hartman for continuing to apply each year.

### Welcome Home Michael Swanker

We would like to welcome back Fire Fighter/Paramedic Michael Swanker, who is a Munson Township resident and spent most of 2016 on deployment with the United States Army Reserves. He has returned to his duties at the Fire Department as of September 19th. If you happen to see Fire Fighter Swanker out and about, be sure to thank him for his service and welcome him home.



### Our New Ladder Truck

You may have also noticed that the new Ladder Truck (T44) has arrived. This is the replacement for the truck that was totaled in the March 2015 accident. We have completed the extensive training required and are happy to say that T44 is now ready to serve Munson and our neighboring communities.

### Grant Awarded by The Department of Homeland Security



It is with great pride that we announce the Munson Fire Department has been awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the amount of \$790,120. This grant was written by Munson Fire Department in a joint effort to benefit Chesterland Fire Department, Hambden Fire Department, Bainbridge Fire Department and Pepper Pike Fire Department. The awarded money will allow us to purchase 116 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's), a spare SCBA cylinder for each pack, a personal face piece for each firefighter, 10 Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) packs and a fit tester to be shared with all communities involved to ensure a proper annual fit for each firefighter. The awarded grant will require a 10% match (\$79,012) to be shared by the communities involved. This is one of the largest federal grants to be awarded in Geauga County and the largest awarded to Munson Fire Department and Munson Township, Geauga County Ohio. **This is a huge savings for these departments to replace essential equipment that is nearing its expiration date.**

### Important Winter Tips



- Daylight Savings Time November 6 - Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour.
- Replace the batteries in all smoke alarms and CO detectors in your house.
- Have your furnaces and fireplaces cleaned and ready for the winter temperatures.
- Keep your address markers and driveways clean and clear of snow in case of an emergency so the Fire Department can find your home and make it up the driveway if help is needed.
- Please take time to check on elderly neighbors that may be living alone and bring your pets indoors if the weather turns bad.

**Fire Station office hours: Mon. – Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Our station is staffed 24/7 to assist you. If you have any questions or need assistance, call 440-286-6797**

*As always, the Munson Fire Department wishes you a safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season....*

### 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)

## News Briefs

### Zoning Commission Member Retires

In May, the Township Trustees presented retiring Zoning Commission member Jim Tekavec with a Resolution honoring his 13 years of service. With Jim's knowledge and background, he contributed countless hours in helping guide and implement changes to the Township's Zoning Resolution. Thank you so much Jim! We will miss you.



### Halloween at the Fire Station

The Munson Fire Department is gearing up for our annual Halloween Celebration to be held on Monday, October 31, 2016 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.

### Last Call - Bicentennial T-Shirt For Sales

As we wind down on this bicentennial year, this is your last chance to purchase a Bicentennial T-Shirt. For only \$15, you can get sizes small through extra-large. Larger sizes available for an additional \$2 each. We are open Monday - Friday 9am to 3pm. Call us for additional information on money saving bulk orders.

### When Renewing Your License Plates

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

### Cemetery Restoration



Over time, the environment takes a toll on cemetery stones and their foundations. The Township hired Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration Inc. in June to begin repair of headstones/foundations. They began in the oldest section of Maple Hill Cemetery. The Township hopes to allocate monies each year until both cemeteries are restored to their full glory to honor those that rest there.

## Letter to the Trustees

Dear Munson Township Board of Township Trustees,

On June 16, 2016 the Department of Emergency Services and the Local Emergency Planning Committee with the cooperation of the Munson Fire Department completed the annual requirements of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency by holding a table top exercise at our office. Munson Fire Department was presented a scenario involving a transportation chemical spill, and the Fire Department was expected to work through the simulation to successfully manage the problem, as well as protect the responders and members of the general public.

There were 5 objectives covered in the exercise. With the assistance of the Munson Fire Department, we were able to meet all 5 objectives with a 100% rating.

In general, Township Trustees are faced with complaints and issues and don't receive any information or notification of a positive event. We felt that you should be aware of the excellent job your public safety professionals completed. Munson Fire Department received outstanding reviews from the Staff of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

We also appreciated the willingness Munson Fire Department showed in participation. Chief Lynn, Charles Bolt, Nick Meros, Cody Wiesbarth, Brian Grey and Mike Vatty were all important parts of the success of the exercise.

My Thanks-

**Roger M Peterson**

**Deputy Director**

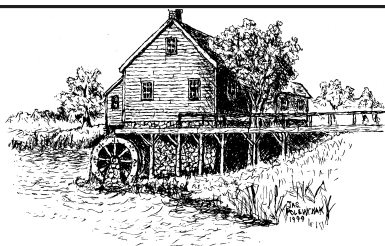
**Geauga County Department of Emergency Services**

## Township Scholarships

Munson Township is offering a minimum of two scholarships for the 2017-18 school year. The Township'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 2017 is eligible to apply. Applications can be obtained from your school's guidance department, Munson Township's office between 9am-3pm weekdays, or can be downloaded at [www.munsontwp.com](http://www.munsontwp.com)

### **Recycling Note ...**

Please don't leave bags on the ground If the recycling bins are full.



**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:**

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

Irene McMullen 440-796-6825  
Trustee [imcmullen@munsontwp.com](mailto:imcmullen@munsontwp.com)

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

**Park Board**

second Monday at 6:15 pm

**Events**

**Trick or Treat**

Monday, October 31st • For Munson Township 6 - 8pm

**Halloween Celebration at the Fire Station**

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

**Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus**

Saturday, December 3rd • Breakfast at 8am and 9:30am  
Munson Town Hall Community Room



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