

# Montville Matters

Issue #16 Fall 2023

## TOWNSHIP CONTACTS

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Randy Peterson • 440-968-3460  
rpeterson@montvillegeauga.com

Jim Marsic • 440-286-1009  
jmarsic@montvillegeauga.com

Tricia Combs • 440-968-0163  
tcombs@montvillegeauga.com

Trustee meetings are held the 1st and 3rd  
Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.

### FISCAL OFFICER:

Karen Hawkins • 440-821-4040  
khawins@montvillegeauga.com

### ZONING:

Inspector: Mike Benesh • 440-968-3784  
mbenesh@montvillegeauga.com

Secretary: Heidi Abrams • 440-968-3784  
habrams@montvillegeauga.com

Zoning Inspector Hours are every  
Tuesday from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

### ROAD DEPARTMENT:

440-226-2203

### CEMETERY SEXTON:

Karen Hawkins • 440-821-4040

### FIRE DEPARTMENT:

NON-Emergency 440-968-3318

Fire Chief: Ron Jonovich  
rgjonovich@aol.com

Asst. Chief: Bryan Briskey

### HALL RENTALS:

Randy Peterson • 440-968-3460

### ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

John Holbert (2021-2025)

Jim Brace (2022-2026)

Robert Weigle (2019-2023)

Tim Bell (2020-2024)

Rachel Formica (2023-2027)

Zoning Commission Meetings are held the  
4th Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m.

### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

Rudy Breunig (2021-2025)

LuAnn Burger (2022-2026)

Letty Kruty (2019-2023)

Ron Kruty (2020-2024)

Matthew Hawkins (2023-2027)

Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting are held  
the 4th Wednesday as needed at 7:00 p.m.

## What's Happening in Your Township

Dear Residents,

As the leaves begin to don their vibrant hues of crimson and gold, we extend our warmest fall greetings to each and every one of you. Autumn has arrived, bringing with it a tapestry of colors, cozy sweaters, and the crisp air carries a sense of renewal. It's a season that reminds us of the beauty of change, the importance of community, and the joy of embracing each moment.

Montville Community Day took place on September 9th. It was great to see many familiar faces as well as some new ones! A big thank you to all the vendors, the Montville Firefighter's Association and to NOPEC for the Community Event Sponsorship Program that granted Montville Township the funds that covered the great performance by The Big North Band!

I would also like to thank those that contributed to planning or assisting at Community Day including: Mike Benesh, Rick Plesko, Karen Hawkins, Matt Hawkins, Heidi Abrams, Wiley West of Hidden Lakes Family Campground, Pete at the Montville Country Store for donating water, Cal Henderson of University Hospital and to the following Montville Fire Department members Chief Ron Jonovich, Assistant Chief Bryan Briskey, Captain Bruce Johnson, Delayne Difranco, Xander Sedmak, Mike Taraba, Matt Welch, Jackie Welch and cadets Jon Cvelbar, Christopher Clay, Zachary Clay and Ryan Hudec.

As the days grow shorter and the nights cooler, let us celebrate the joys of this season. Whether it's gathering around a crackling bonfire, sipping on hot apple cider, or taking leisurely strolls through a park, there are endless ways to relish the autumnal charm of our township.

While we bask in the glory of fall, let's also take a moment to prepare for the impending winter. Winter brings its own set of wonders – snow-covered landscapes, the joy of holidays, and the warmth of gathering with loved ones. It's a season of reflection and introspection, a time to nurture our spirits and the bonds we share as neighbors.

Let's cherish this season, celebrate our community, and continue to make our township a place where the beauty of fall is mirrored in the spirit of our residents.

Wishing you a delightful fall season filled with joy, connection, and countless moments to cherish.

Warm regards,

- Tricia

See back for some photos from Community Day!

## Open Burn Policies

This is a reminder that the Montville Fire Department requires a Burn permit. These permits are valid for 30 days. Permits can be obtained at the Fire Station. Depending on the situation an on-site inspection may be needed before a permit will be issued. The permit will be valid for yard waste only. Shingles, roofing material, or any non organic material will not be allowed. If burning, any source of extinguishment is required close by IE: Fire Extinguisher or garden hose.

Ohio Revised Code 1503.18 Ohio DNR Forestry prohibits outdoor open burning and prescribed fires in the months of March, April, May, October, and November This ban includes burning of yard waste, trash, and debris, even in a proper burn barrel. Even outside the time and date restrictions, any person conducting a burn must obtain landowner permission, remain with the fire while it is burning, and take all reasonable precautions to prevent the fire from escaping.

Burn permits are available on the Montville Twp website, you can print the form at home and bring it to the Fire station for processing. The website is [www.montvillegeauga.com](http://www.montvillegeauga.com)

### **BURN PERMITS ARE NOT VALID FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**

Commercial property needs to get a burn permit from the Lake County Health Department.

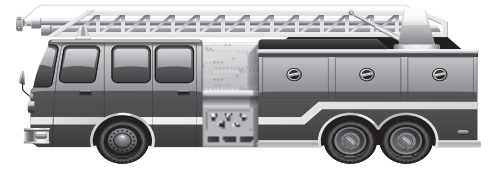
Their website is:  
<https://www.lcghd.org/air-pollution-control/>

### **Board of Zoning Appeals Is Seeking an Alternate**

*This group consists of 5 Trustee appointed volunteers who serve five year terms. They hear variance appeals regarding Montville Township zoning regulations. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets monthly, as needed. This is an appointed position and your service is needed when a regular board member is absent; therefore, a 5 member panel is hearing and deciding an appeal.*

*Interested residents should submit a letter with your name, mailing address, preferred telephonenumber and email address and any additional information to: Montville Trustees, PO Box 116, Montville, OH 44064 or electronically to [khawkins@montvillegeauga.com](mailto:khawkins@montvillegeauga.com)*

# News From the Fire Department



## Welcome Aboard

Montville Fire would like to welcome aboard the following:

Xander Sedmak and Mike Taraba

Xander is a Firefighter 2/EMT-B. Xander just recently passed his EMT-B

Mike is an EMT-B. He is currently enrolled in Auburn Career Center Firefighter 1&2 class

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following personnel:

Matt Welch passing EMT Advanced class

Jackie Welch passing Fire Officer 1 & 2

Bruce Johnson passing Firefighter 2 transition class

## Grants

The Montville Fire Department has received a grant from ODNR-Forestry for \$2,385.00 towards the purchase of a new wildland fire pump for our grass unit

## Help us help you

The Montville Fire Department has address signs available for purchase; these signs are \$15.00 a piece and include numbers. By having your address posted at the road, this will help the fire department when trying to locate your residence in the event we need to respond for an emergency.

## Employment opportunities

The Montville Volunteer fire department is always accepting applications for firefighter and Cadet positions.

We are currently hiring part time fire fighter/EMT to staff the station. The staffing hours are Monday-Friday 8a-6p for 2 personnel. Pay rate is \$13.79 for Firefighter/EMT and \$15.91 for Firefighter/ ADV or Medic.

Interested applications please visit our website at: <https://montvillegeauga.com> and under Departments, see Fire Department.

## Earn while you learn

Montville Fire Department has a unique opportunity for students ages 14-18 to learn about the Fire service. The cadet program meets on the first Tuesday of every month. With the cadet program, the cadets can respond with the Fire Department on emergency calls. The cadet program also gives a yearly stipend depending on how many calls the cadet responds to. Any questions please contact Ellen Wroblecky or Jeff Cvelbar at 440-968-3318

**Runs to date - 268**

# Cemetery News:



**Please, remember to stay on the driveways!** Anytime you pull into the grass you can be driving on a grave. This picture shows just how close things are to the driveway.

I want to welcome, Clinton Sestak, to our team. Clinton is a Montville resident. He has been working in the cemetery, cutting the grass this last summer, and is learning how to perform internment duties. He is, also, taking the lead to construct a live fence on the north property line of the cemetery. He is a great addition to our team. If you see Clinton, give him a wave.

Grave sites are available for purchase. Contact Karen Hawkins, Sexton for information

# Montville Township Levy Information

Hello Montville Township Residents! We are providing the following information regarding the upcoming tax levy proposals that you will see on the ballot in November. The Board of Trustees voted back in June of 2023 to put two levies on this year's ballot and outlined below is what that means for you.

The current 1.0 mill Road & Bridge levy first voted on in 1994 generates an estimated \$54,897 annually at 100% collection and costs the homeowner of a single-family owner occupied home with a \$100,000 Market Value \$28.00 annually. This levy is voted on every 5-years and is set to expire on December 31, 2023. Although the levy expires in 2023, it will continue to be collected in year 2024 regardless of the outcome.

The Board of Trustees decided to change the 1.0 mill levy that is voted on every 5 years to a 1.0 mill levy "continuous" status, thus avoiding a repeated vote for passage. The values and collection rates will remain the same. The second current Road & Bridge levy 1.5 mill first voted on in 2019 is set to expire on December 31, 2024 with collections through year 2025 regardless of the outcome. This levy generates an estimated \$82,408 annually at 100% collection and costs the homeowner of a single-family owner occupied home with a \$100,000 Market Value \$52.50 annually. This levy is also voted on every 5-years.

These two levies generate a current amount of \$137,305 annually for Montville Township's Road & Bridge Fund. With all costs increasing every year for road maintenance and improvements we find ourselves trying to keep out of the RED when planning any type of project. We continue to research and look for grants and or low interest rate loans to "keep up" however, we will soon fall far short and be forced to make cost cutting decisions where necessary. Just an example, years ago the township was able to improve and resurface a road in our township for about half of today's cost. It takes the township an average of 3-5 years to set aside enough funds to be able to complete any one road project. While we maintain 11.4 road miles with an estimated current cost of \$300,000 "plus" per mile to improve and resurface, you can see where we fall short of funding.

The next move that the Board of Trustees decided was to place an "Additional" 5-Year 2.5 mill Road & Bridge levy on this November's ballot to offset the loss of funding. Should this levy PASS this November, it shall become effective on January 1, 2024 and would generate an estimated \$149,000 annually and would cost the homeowner of a single-family owner occupied home with a \$100,00 Market Value \$88.00. If passed, the current 1.5 mill levy set to expire on December 31, 2024 shall be removed from any further ballots and end with the expiration date. We feel that this would be the best plan for the township moving forward to offset as much of the price increases that we are seeing and to be able to continue with our 5-year Road & Bridge maintenance program.

Montville Township has been very active in maintaining and improving most every road that we have in our township. We are trying to look at every road in the future to hopefully start working on a progressive plan as we have done in the past. Without a beginning, there is no end in sight. An article posted on February 2nd 2023 in the Geauga County Maple Leaf from the Geauga County Treasurer Office, shows that Montville Township has the 3rd lowest Effective Tax Rate in all of Geauga County. Remember also that even though we do not have a full-time road department, we feel that it has worked in the better interest of Montville to have contracted with The Geauga County Engineer Department to outsource general maintenance and repair plus snow removal and ice control as well.

If you have any questions regarding any of this information, please plan to attend a trustee meeting on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Community Center. Meetings start at 7:00 PM. Thanks and wish you well.

-Jim

From  
**Fiscal Officer**  
*Karen Hawkins*

It is hard to believe we are into Fall. 2023 has been passing quickly, the gardens (if they produced) are finishing up and the birds are gathering for their flight south.

The Township has prepared the 2024 budget and it has been approved by the County Budget Commission.

## **Thank you to:**

**Cotterman and Sons Trucking** for your donations of dumpsters to the Annual Clean-up day.

**Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District** for the grant to help with the cost of recycling tires.

**OTARMA**, our insurance company for the grant that helped purchase safety equipment for the road and fire department.

## **Happy Retirement Richard Plesko!**

Richard has been a township worker for the last 6 years; but, has spent many more years helping out the Road Department and Cemetery. He is, also, a former member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Richard's many skills, opinions, and ability to fix equipment will be missed.

We bid you farewell; but, not good-bye! (We will see you around town.)

Happy 100th  
Birthday!  
Mrs. Karnish

**Montville Township Trustees**  
**9755 Madison Road**  
**P.O. Bos 116**  
**Montville, OH 44064**

PRSRT STD  
US Postage  
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Montville, Ohio  
44065  
Permit #5

## **Montville Resident**



### **Montville Community Day**

September 9,  
2023



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**COMMUNITY NEWS · HISTORY · GOVERNMENT**