

Montville Matters

Issue #18 Spring 2024

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:

Tim Bell (2020-2024)
Jim Brace (2022-2026)
Rachel Formica (2023-2027)
John Holbert (2021-2025)
Robert Weigle (2024-2028)
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)
Matthew Hawkins (2023-2027)
Letty Kruty (2024-2028)
Ron Kruty (2020-2024)
Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting are held
the 4th Wednesday as needed at 7:00 p.m.

What's Happening in Your Township

Happy Spring, Residents!

As spring begins to blossom, we extend our warmest greetings to each of you. We can be grateful for the mild winter we have had and the increase of sunshine in our days! Since our last newsletter, your Board of Trustees have passed the following resolutions that you should be aware of:

- Whereas the 2023-re-valuation, as approved by the Ohio Tax Commissioner resulted in an unprecedented average increase in Residential real estate valuation in Montville Township of 34.7 percent and 35.2 percent for Agricultural, the Board unanimously passed a resolution to reduce collection of Montville Township's 1.50 Mill Road & Bridge Levy to 0.53 Mill for 2024 (a reduction of 0.97 mill) in order to mitigate the significant unvoted tax increase and provide property tax relief to property owners within the Township.

- Whereas on November 7, 2023, voters in Ohio approved State Issue, 2, which enacts new Chapter 3780 of Ohio Revised Code which authorizes and regulates recreational adult use cannabis in the state of Ohio, the Board by majority vote passed a resolution to prohibit adult use cannabis operators within the unincorporated area of Montville Township.

Mark your calendars for the following important dates this year:

- April 8th - The total solar eclipse in which Montville Township is in the direct path for complete totality. Geauga County Department of Emergency Services has issued a notice for situational awareness for the event, deemed "The Great North American Solar Eclipse" and is estimating a population influx into Geauga County of 195,000.

Geauga Parks is hosting an event at the Great Geauga County Fairgrounds and Berkshire Local Schools are closed for the day.

- May 8th-10th – Senior Clean-Up Day.

Contact the Department of Aging to sign up.

- May 11th - Clean Up Day is scheduled for 8:00 am until 12:00 pm

- September 14th – Montville Community Day is coming back! Last Chance Band will perform. More details to come – watch the website for more information and for an opportunity to get involved!

- As always, the township website events page lists ongoing events happening in your township. Check out what else is scheduled for this year.

Within our township and across the county, state and nation, the fluctuations in the economy have gotten our attention. As we navigate yet another big election year, we can be hopeful for positive changes to improve our ability to care for our households. As always, we strive for overall well-being as we look after our community and strive for stability and growth.

"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring." - Lilly Pulitzer

- Tricia



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

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:

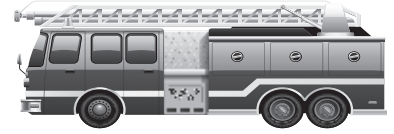
<https://www.lcghd.org/air-pollution-control/>

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

News From the Fire Department



Welcome Aboard

Montville Fire would like to welcome aboard the following: Christina Wendl, Christina is a full time Paramedic with Community Care Ambulance Andrew Lawrie, Andrew is a Firefighter 2/EMR

Classes

Congratulations to Mike Taraba on passing the state of Ohio Firefighter 1 & 2 class through Auburn Career Center. Congratulations to Mike Taraba on passing the state of Ohio Firefighter 1 & 2 class as Valedictorian through Auburn Career Center.

It's a Boy!!!

On February 24th at 10:32 we were called for a patient in active labor. We arrived on scene to find that the baby was crowning. We assisted with the birth. The baby was born at 10:45:46. We had some initial concerns about the baby's appearance and breathing at which time we requested Thompson Fire with an additional squad for the mom. University Hospitals AirMed for the baby and Hambden Fire and Rescue for our landing zone at Global Connection Academy (Ledgemont Elementary School) When UH AirMed arrived they did an observation of the baby at which time we determined that it would not be necessary to transport him to UH Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. We transported both Mom and newborn to Geauga Regional Hospital. And both are doing well. Thank you to all of our mutual aid support and the UH staff! The Crew from Montville consisted of Chief Ron Jonovich, Assistant Chief Bryan Briskey, Captain Bruce Johnson, and Lieutenant Paul Burger.



Help us help you

The Montville Fire Department has address signs available for purchase; these signs are \$15.00 apiece 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 We currently staff with 2 personnel Monday-Friday 8a-6p. Pay rate is \$14.20 for Firefighter/EMT and \$16.39 for Firefighter/ ADV or Medic. Interested applicants should 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 - 2023 ended with 353 runs. 2024- 77 runs to date

From the Firefighter Association

Pancake Breakfast

Montville Firefighters' Association will host a pancake breakfast on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 2024 at Montville Community Center. Meals will be available from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M. and again after the cemetery program until 11:30 A.M. Cost is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 5-12 years with military / veterans in uniform free.

Looking Ahead

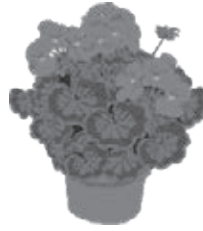
Mark your calendars for the Montville Firefighters' Association Fall Dinner and Chinese Auction: Saturday, October 12, 2024

Cemetery News

As you decorate your love ones resting grounds, place your items in front of the headstone and keep the safety of our workers in mind by NOT using GLASS containers or statues. As Spring appears, the cemetery grounds will be prepared for our Memorial Day celebration. Grounds clean-up will begin soon, please remove any items you wish to keep. Any items left behind, will be removed by the grounds keeper or Sexton if they are deemed to be out-of-season/tattered/damaged. We strive to maintain a beautiful setting for all to visit. Montville Township has one cemetery within its boundaries, grave sites are available for purchase. Please, contact Karen Hawkins at 440-821-4040. This year the northern property line will continue to be planted with trees on the mound.

Memorial Day

Our local AmVets place flowers and flags at each gravesite belonging to their comrades each year the Friday before Memorial Day. They do this to pay tribute to our fallen heroes. The volunteers will gather about 6:00p.m. on Friday, May 24 at the Cemetery. Consider volunteering an hour of your time and meet the area veterans who carryout this tradition. Many hands make for light work.



Thompson Ledgemont Alumni Information

Scholarship opportunity for Berkshire High School seniors living in Montville or Thompson may apply for a college or trade school scholarship offered by the Thompson/Ledgemont Alumni Association. Inquire at the Berkshire High School guidance office for application and requirements.

Thompson/Ledgemont "Old Timers" Reunion will be held July 7th, 2024 at 12:00 pm at the Montville Community Center. Alumni of 40-plus years are invited to attend. Doors open at noon with a pot luck meal at 1:00 pm. Enjoy socializing and reminiscing with your "old" friends. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided. Spread the word! If you have any questions, contact Alexa Holbert at 440-968-3394.

Upcoming Sewage Sampling Program Changes at Geauga Public Health

On May 7th, representatives from the Geauga Public Health (GPH) Department will give a short presentation at the Montville Township Trustee meeting to provide information about some upcoming changes to the septic program in Geauga County. In Fall of 2023, the health department started the roll-out of its Operation & Maintenance (O&M) program for Home Sewage Treatment Systems (HSTS). The O&M program is an unfunded mandate from the state that will, in time, require ongoing operation permits for all septic systems to ensure that they are properly maintained to protect public health and the environment. However, the first phase of the program will only focus on NPDES Discharging and Spray Irrigation sewage systems which require annual sampling. To maintain efficiency, these systems are being enrolled into the program by township and GPH will begin billing for and collecting samples in Montville Township this Summer. For more information, residents are encouraged to call the health department at (440) 279-1914 or visit their webpage at gphohio.org/om-septic/. Residents are also welcome to attend upcoming public meetings hosted by the GPH – more details to follow.

Congratulations to our Seniors!

We would like to recognize the following Berkshire High School seniors that will be graduating this year: Kenneth DeFranco, Makenzie Ingraham, Jada Jones, Johnathan Murphy, Alexander Sabol, Jessica Surace, Darren Wasley, Samantha Winter. Congratulations, and best of luck on your future endeavors!

Summer Lunch Program

Registration for "Now That's What I'm Talking About!" Summer Lunch program begins May 1. The lunch program is for all children in school and younger. There is not an income eligibility requirement. The only information collected is the child's name, age and if there is a food allergy. For more information call 440-321-5596. Register at Claridon-CommunityHelps.org/summer-lunch

From Fiscal Officer Karen Hawkins

Prices keep climbing for all of us in every aspect of life from gas, electric, and groceries. Together, the Trustees and I have been working to keep expenses down; but, still allow the quality of services you expect from the Township. Securing the following Grants have made a difference. Thank you to the sponsors.

Geauga-Trumbull Solid Waste Management District has approved two (2) grants for Montville to help cover the cost of Clean-up day. 1) Tire grant will help cover the cost for the Township to dispose of the tires collected. 2) Go-Green grant will help cover the cost to dispose of the trash, electronics and rental of the dumpsters used during the event.



The
Northeast
Ohio Public
Energy
Council

(NOPEC) is offering grants to our community. Ms. Combs has applied and received award of the Community Grant to cover the cost of the band for our Community Day. I hope to see everyone there on September 14th.

I have completed the paperwork for the Energy Grant. This grant will cover the cost of the new energy efficient furnace that was needed in the Fire Department training room.

Many of you may have noticed that Hautala Road was resurfaced in 2023.

This was the efforts of Mr. Marsic and the County



Engineers to secure an Ohio Public Works Commission Grant of \$100,000. With the help of the Grant and years of savings the Township was able to cover the cost

Montville Township Trustees
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Montville Resident

Taxes: Dreaded by all! The Trustees were made aware of the increase to property taxes by the County Auditor in October 2023. Knowing that this was an unexpected hardship on many in the community, the Trustees stepped into action. To explain: The Ohio Constitution provides for real property to be taxed without a vote of the people up to 10 mills which is commonly referred to as inside millage and effects every property owner in Geauga County, and within the Township. The mandated 2023 re-valuation, as approved by the Ohio Tax Commissioner, has specifically resulted in an unprecedented average increase in Residential real estate valuation in Montville Township of 34.7% and 35.2% for Agricultural property which will cause inside millage tax to increase proportionately. The property tax increase was an unprecedented unvoted increase caused by the evaluation of home

values. Based on the evaluation, the County automatically collects the tax using the property value and disperses it as follows: schools received 45% of inside millage, township receive 30% of the inside millage, and the county receives 25%. The Trustee Board decided to reduce the burden to Montville land owners by reducing the collection of a voted-on levy by the amount of the additional tax that the Township would be receiving. Thus, reducing a Road and Bridge levy to 0.53 mill from 1.5 mill returning \$53,290.53 to tax payers in Montville Township. The Geauga County Board of Commissioners also reduced the burden to tax payers by reducing the collection rate of the County. Together the Commissioners and Trustees reduced the burden by nearly 50%. At this time, the Berkshire School Board has not voted to reduce the collection rate.

Fiscal from page 3

of the road project with minimal debt.

I am hoping to be able to again secure a grant for our Cemetery to counter some of the cost of unusual maintenance items that I would like to have accomplished this year. This State

Grant is highly competitive and was awarded to Montville in 2022. As you visit the Community Center, notice all the updates to the gym. Last year the ARPA money was used to install new flooring, update the sound system, paint the gym and coat the parking lot. Thank you to Mr. Peterson for painting the front room and hallways.

- Karen

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