



1005 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN 46321

NEWS YOU CAN USE

MARCH 2014

Edited by Laura Pramuk

SPRING CURB SIDE LEAF PICK UP

The Spring Leaf Pick Up will start the week of **April 7th, 2014, WEATHER PERMITTING.** This program will be from Monday, April 7th through Friday, April 25th, 2014, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Since pick-up quantities are not known, it is difficult to predict exactly which neighborhood will be picked up on which day, so please have your leaves out on Monday, April 7th. We will start on the northwest section of Town on Monday, April 7th and will work south. If the Town is completed before the week is over, we will go through the Town again.

Please place your leaves in a continuous long pile. We will be using a leaf vacuum to collect your leaves. If your street has curbs, please place your leaves right behind the curb on the grass parkway. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE LEAVES IN THE STREET.** If your street does not have curbs, please place your leaves on the edge of the street pavement. Also, please be careful not to mix leaves with large sticks, rocks or other debris which could cause injury to an employee or damage to the equipment. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, you can contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

SPRING BRANCH PICK UP

Starting April 7th branches will be picked up with the chipper on the same day as your garbage and recycling pick up. These branches should be no longer than 5' long and 3" in diameter. In the spring and fall there are a lot of branches out and there may be times when we are a day or two later picking up the branches due to the heavy volume or rainy weather.

Twigs and yard waste should be put into your garbage cans or bagged. Small branches should be bundled and tied, these will be picked up with your garbage. If you have any questions, you can contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

TRAIN TRAFFIC IN MUNSTER

Over the past few months, the Town of Munster has received calls and emails from residents concerned and frustrated with the train traffic in the areas of Calumet and White Oak Avenues. We completely understand these residents who call, as we experience the same concerns and frustrations with the train traffic and the congestion that may be caused by a train blockage. To that end, the Town has not taken these concerns lightly, as we continue to work toward solutions to better our residents.

As the economy has improved, we have seen an increase in train traffic along both the lines held by Canadian National and CSX. The increased train traffic has caused congestion along railways heading into the City of Chicago. Just like for motorists, railroad tracks are signalized and those signals slow or stop trains from creating greater congestion as they approach their destination in Chicago.

Unfortunately, that often means that trains moving through places like Munster slow or stop completely waiting for traffic to clear. These stoppages frustrate motorists and residents travelling along north-south routes often this causes people to be concerned with emergency response in Munster and other areas of Northwest Indiana. From an emergency services standpoint, we stage police and fire services north and south of the tracks, as does Prompt Ambulance for EMS services.

The regulation of railroads does not come from the local (city or town) level. Many of the regulations and laws that apply to railroads come from federal and/or state government and are enforced by state agencies. By Indiana State Law (IC 8-6-7.5-1), a train may legally block local traffic for a period of up to ten (10) minutes. After that time period has elapsed, the Town can cite the railroad company for a violation of the law. It is important that when a train stops and blocks a crossing that you call the Munster Police Non-Emergency number at 836-6600 to "start the clock" on a potential violation.

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MUNSTER PARKS AND RECREATION

836-PARK (7275)

Are you interested in a part-time summer position with Munster Parks?

Munster Parks and Recreation is looking for an adult interested in a part-time position running the Farmer's Market. The market takes place at Centennial Park, every Sunday from May 4 to September 28, from 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. We are looking for someone who will be on site from 6:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. to organize events, run a parks booth, and supervise the vendors. If you are interested, please send your cover letter and resume to:

parkoffice@munster.org.

We also have camp counselor (18+), volleyball referee (16+), and lifeguard (16+) positions available. If interested, please contact Jill at jportento@munster.org for counselors and referees and Barb bholajter@munster.org for lifeguards.

If you are interested in teaching for our Summer Enrichment program, we are accepting applications. Please contact Barb at bholajter@munster.org.

Youth Education

- 3/15-5/17 Beginner Pottery 9:15-10:45 a.m. (9-12 yrs.)
- 3/15-5/17 Beginner Pottery 10:45a.m.-12:15p.m. (5-8 yrs.)
- 3/24-28 Spring Break Camp 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Youth Sports

- 4/3-5/15 Basketball 101 5:00-6:00 p.m. (6-9 yrs.)
- 4/7-4/28 Basketball Basics 5:00-6:00 p.m. (4-6 yrs.)
- 3/11-4/8 White Sox Camp 5:00-6:15 p.m. (6-8 yrs.)
- 3/11-4/8 White Sox Camp 6:15-7:30 p.m. (9-11 yrs.)
- 4/8-4/29 Dribble, Kick, Goal 5:00-6:00 p.m. (4-7 yrs.)
- 4/5-5/3 Intro to Sports 10:15-11:15 a.m. (3-5 yrs.)
- 4/16-5/21 Mini Kickers 9:00-9:45 a.m. (2-3 yrs.)
- 3/5-5/21 Special Needs B-ball 6:15-7:15 p.m. (all ages)
- 4/9-4/30 T-Ball 101 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- 4/5-4/26 Tot Athletics 9:00-10:00 a.m. (parent/child)
- 4/3-5/15 Volleyball Skill/Drill 6:15-7:15 p.m. (8-10 yrs.)
- 4/3-5/15 Volleyball Skill/Drill 7:15-8:15 p.m. (11-14 yrs.)
- 3/13-5/1 Wado-Ki Karate 7:15-8:00 p.m. (all ages)

FINAL DEADLINE FOR SPRING SOCCER LEAGUE – MARCH 7!

Leisure Education

- 3/26 Android/Kindle Fire 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- 3/6 Excel In-a-Day 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 4/19 Presentation Skills 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- 4/2 iPad 101 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- 3/11 You're the Boss 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- 3/11 You're the Boss 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- 3/4 Voice-Overs 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Continuing Education

- 3/3-6/16 Clinical Medical Assistant Program (140 hrs. classroom/160 hrs. clinical)
- 3/10-5/5 EKG Technician Certificate Program
- 3/10-5/22 Medical Billing & Coding
- 3/10-5/5 Pharmacy Technician Program (classroom/80 hrs. clinical)

ALSO SEVERAL ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE!

Breakfast with the Bunny sells out quickly. Please contact Centennial Park at (219) 836-6930 for reservations for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 12.

Wellness & Fitness

- 3/31-5/26 Tai Ji Chuan 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- 4/4-5/30 Tai Ji Chuan 9:00-10:00 a.m.
- 3/31-5/8 Yoga & Breathing (times/days vary)
- 3/18-5/29 Zumba (times/days vary)

March 26 is the deadline for all Fitness Pointe classes beginning in April. Please register early to avoid

disappointment! Courses include: Aqua Workout, Deep Water Aerobics, Low Express, Mini Bootcamp Kick, Ballet Tone, Belly Dance Tone, Pilates Sculpt, PiYo Bottoms, PiYo Core, Power Core, Totally Toned Arms, Bike & Tone, Cycle Workout and Restorative Yoga.

Keen-Agers

- 3/28 Book Club 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Trips & Travel

- 3/18 Flower/Garden Show 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 3/18 Shedd Aquarium 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 4/25 Jewelry Show 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- 4/25 Fashion Outlets 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- 4/8 Wisconsin Tasting 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Overnight travel: Sicily, Normandy & Paris, Cuba, Northern California, Colorado, Mackinac Island, New York, Toronto & Niagara Falls, Tennessee (Rail & Sail), and Pennsylvania.

TRAIN TRAFFIC IN MUNSTER

Continued

In the event of a train blockage during peak hours, it often takes four or five traffic signal cycles to release the vehicle traffic along 45th Street and Calumet.

The Town has researched more options to help motorists in the event that a train is blocking crossing routes. Recently, Munster officials have reached out to Canadian National for signals that would warn motorists as a train approaches, but our signals are out of date. As the signals, tracks, and railroad equipment are all private property of the railroad, the Town cannot upgrade the intersections on our own. Munster staff are continuing to research what systems may exist to help lower the frustrations of those caught in traffic.

The best solution is one the Town of Munster has made a priority, the 45th Street and Calumet Avenue Railroad Crossing Grade Separation. This project will essentially create roadway tunnels that will go under the current railroad tracks which run parallel to 45th Street. The first phase of this construction will be an extension of 45th Street toward the east, a tunnel under the Grand Trunk tracks, and a connection to the other leg of 45th Street near Southwood Drive. The second phase of construction will be a tunnel under the tracks as they intersect with Calumet Avenue. Not only will this project eliminate the at-grade crossing between the rail and vehicle traffic, it will help to alleviate much of the traffic congestion in these areas during peak hours.

The trains are a part of life in Munster that, at some point, has caused all of us frustration. Town of Munster officials have not ignored the problem, but are continuously working on solutions that will help address the issues of train traffic at these major intersections for years to come.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The School Town of Munster will be conducting kindergarten registration on **March 12, 2014** for all new students who plan to attend during the 2014-2015 school year. You must register in your home school between the hours of 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. If you are unable to attend, please call the school office listed below to make arrangements to pick up the necessary registration information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014
Eads Elementary School –
8000 Jackson Ave. 836-8635

Elliott Elementary School –
8718 White Oak Ave. 838-5250

Frank Hammond Elementary School –
1301 Fran-Lin Parkway 838-2060

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Continued

In order to be eligible to register for Kindergarten a child must be five years old on or before **August 1, 2014**. To register for first grade a child must be six years old on or before **August 1, 2014**.

At the time of registration, parents must present a **certified/ original birth certificate** of the child, and a valid driver's license with the current address. (Baptismal and hospital records are not acceptable as proof of birth). At registration parents will be asked to complete a student information sheet for their child. Parents will receive information on how to complete registration and residency.

RECENT POWER OUTAGES IN WICKER PARK/FAIRMEADOW SUBDIVISION

Town of Munster officials and employees have fielded a number of concerned residents' calls regarding power outages in the Wicker Park/Fairmeadow Subdivision area. This area has experienced a higher volume of outages the last couple years mostly based on the extreme winter storms that have hit our area. NIPSCO has informed the Town with a three-step plan to lessen the risk of service interruption to these customers.

Limit Tree Overgrowth of Lines

The tree trimming is 95% complete. Since the fall NIPSCO has trimmed the majority of this circuit. There are two locations that they will continue to touch up. This is a very difficult circuit to trim as portions of it are tough to access but NIPSCO remains committed to trimming it in order to lessen risk of trees and branches that take down service wires during strong winds.

Installation of New Equipment

The Engineering is complete and the work has been released to a NIPSCO Construction Crew. It is estimated that field work will start around February 1st, 2014, pending weather and receiving all necessary materials. These improvements include the installation of (2) Triple Shots (1) Single Phase Reclosed, & (1) Switch. These circuit improvements will provide greater dependability by reacting to interruptions on circuit and providing a secondary switch.

Replacement of Underground Primary Feed

Lastly, NIPSCO will be replacing the Underground Primary, which will provide a back-up feed to the affected area, probably will not start this work until early May as the weather will need to cooperate.

Residents should report any electric power outages to NIPSCO by calling 1-800-4-NIPSCO (or 1-800-464-7726) or by using their online web tool at <http://www.nipsco.com/en/stay-safe/outage-center.aspx>.



Breakfast with the Bunny:

Saturday, April 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Hop on down the bunny trail and enjoy a delicious breakfast of French toast, sausage, breakfast casserole, cinnamon rolls, and fruit cups, with milk, orange juice, or coffee.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, please call (219) 836-6930 for reservations. Fees: **\$11** 12-adult, **\$8** 3-11 year olds 2 & under **FREE**.

Feel free to bring your cameras to take photos with the bunny.

CENTENNIAL PARK GOLF COURSE

Sign up for one of our many Golf Memberships:

2014 Golf Pass

- 5 day (Monday – Friday) - \$500
- 7 day - \$550
- Couples - \$950
- Family - \$1200
- Junior - \$250
- Senior 5 day (Monday – Friday) - \$390
- Senior 7 day - \$440
- Senior Couple - \$770
- Annual Cart Pass - \$325
- Driving Range Membership - \$450

Have fun and meet new people in one of our four in-house golf leagues, they start in May.

*Monday Evening Ladies League

*Tuesday Morning Men's Senior League

*Wednesday Morning Ladies League

*Thursday Evening Men's 2 man League

Any questions please contact Matthew Meneghetti, PGA

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR MARCH 2014

Park Board Meeting	Tues.	March 4	12:00 pm	Centennial Park
Town Council Mtg/Redevelopment Com.	Mon.	March 10	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Board of Zoning Appeals	Tues.	March 11	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Plan Commission	Tues.	March 11	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room
Park Board Meeting	Tues.	March 18	7:00 pm	Munster Town Hall
Board of Safety	Thurs.	March 20	7:30 am	Conference Room "C"
Town Council Mtg/Redevelopment Com.	Mon.	March 24	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room

Notes:

- The above schedule is subject to change. Please telephone Town Hall at 836-6900 to confirm meetings. A schedule of these meetings and others is maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website: <http://www.munster.org>.

Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to "Community Programming Initiative" which members of the Munster Town Council discuss issues in town, the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m.

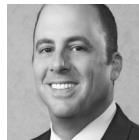
TOWN COUNCIL & CLERK-TREASURER TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL LIST

JOHN EDINGTON - 836-2637, jwedington34@comcast.net
DR. ANDY KOULTOURIDES - 922-4403, drkoul63@gmail.com
JOSEPH SIMONETTO - 838-1856, jsimonetto@munster.org
MUNSTER TOWN HALL - 836-6900

JOHN REED - 219-712-4104, jpratlaw@aol.com
DAVE NELLANS - 923-3490, dnellans@munster.org
DAVE SHAFER - 836-6940, dshafer@munster.in.gov
MUNSTER POLICE DEPT. DISPATCH - 836-6600



J. Edington



J. Reed



A. Koulourides



D. Nellans



J. Simonetto



D. Shafer