



NEWS YOU CAN USE

NOVEMBER 2009

Edited by Charlene Stout 836-6999

HOLIDAY PICK UP SCHEDULE

There will be NO refuse and recycling pick up on **Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 26, 2009.** Refuse and recycling will be picked up one day later after the Holiday.

There will be NO refuse and recycling pick up on **Christmas Day - Friday, December 25, 2009.** Refuse and recycling will be picked on Saturday

There will be no refuse and recycling pick up on **New Year's Day - Friday, January 1, 2010.** Refuse and recycling will be picked up on Saturday

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT: A FAST, EFFICIENT WAY TO PAY YOUR WATER UTILITY BILL

Electronic banking (whether online or Automated Clearing House) is a modern, cost-efficient method of paying routine bills. The Town of Munster wants to help make it easy for you to take advantage of the available technology and ensure that your water utility account is properly credited on time.

Why not consider paying your water bill using Automated Clearing House (ACH)? After the initial one-month setup, your payment will be automatically withdrawn from your bank account each month on the due date. You will continue to receive a statement detailing the monthly charges, but you will no longer have to initiate individual monthly payments. Complete the form on the back of this newsletter and return it to our office with a voided check or deposit slip. Please refer any questions to Susan at 836-6949.

LEAF AND BRANCH COLLECTION

Do not put leaves in your garbage can or in bags; Able Disposal will not pick them up. Rake your leaves to the curb for Munster's Fall Leaf Collection.

The Town of Munster's branch pick up will end on Friday, November 13, and the fall leaf pick-up will end on Friday, December 4. There will no longer be pick up of leaves and branches until spring. The Public Works Department must now prepare for snow and ice removal.

LIGHTNING PREDICTION SYSTEM

The Lightning Prediction System will be turned off November 1 and will be resumed in the spring. If you have any questions, call James Knesek, director of operations at 836-6970.

SOUTH STREET TO GET NEW WATER MAIN

Work will soon begin on the replacement of the water main on South Street from Harrison west to the old railroad right of way. Grimmer Construction was awarded the \$82,000 contract which will replace an old 4 inch water main which has a history of leaks, with a new 6 inch water main. This project will increase water pressure, improve water quality, and offer better fire protection by both replacing and adding fire hydrants. The new main will be tied in at the west end to the water main on Manor Avenue to improve water circulation throughout the neighborhood. Construction is expected to begin the first week in November. If you have questions about this project, please call James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995.

WORK ON CALUMET AVENUE, FISHER TO 45TH, DELAYED

Based on the lateness of the season and the cold and rainy fall, the Town has decided not to permit the contractor to begin work on the Calumet Avenue pavement from Fisher Street to 45th. The project was awarded earlier this summer to Rieth Riley, but required paperwork at the Indiana Department of Transportation delayed start-up. The project involves adding a lane and then resurfacing the entire street. The added lane will provide a continuous left turn lane the entire distance. This will improve traffic flow so that left turns onto the busy driveways in the commercial area will not slow down through traffic. The contractor will be able to work behind the curbing installing storm sewers, relocating underground utilities, etc, so that next spring the widening will go quickly. If the contractor would have been permitted to begin pavement work this fall then it was likely that the street would be reduced to one lane in either direction with barricades and uneven pavement through the winter. If you have questions about this project, please call James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995.

NORTHCOTE BRIDGE STUDY

The Northcote Bridge has been the subject of much discussion both before, but especially since the September, 2008 flood. Although it was not the source of the flooding, the elevation of the bridge is below the elevation of the flood walls and levees which are currently being installed. The Army Corps of Engineers anticipates sandbags being used to close the bridge when floodwaters rise to a certain elevation. The Munster Town Council would prefer another alternative which would offer continuous flood protection without requiring anyone to do anything. The Lake County Highway Department has jurisdiction over bridges in the county. They, along with Hammond and Munster, met and discussed the need to study alternatives which would prevent the bridge from being a source of flooding in the future. The three agreed to share the cost of the study and an engineering company was hired. DLZ identified several alternatives including replacing the bridge with one at a higher elevation, closing the bridge and continuing the floodwall across the current street, placing flood walls on either side of the current bridge, installing flood gates which could be closed when the flood water reached a certain elevation, and continuing to rely on sandbags. They identified the strengths, weaknesses and costs for each. Lake County, Hammond, and Munster will continue to meet and discuss the results of the study. If you have questions about this study, contact James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995. A complete copy can be found on the Town's website, or at the Engineer's office in town hall.

MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT SEEKING DONATIONS FOR THEIR ANNUAL "SHOP WITH A COP" PROGRAM

For the past five years, officers from the Munster Police Department have joined other departments from all over the area in shopping with underprivileged children during the holiday season. During this memorable annual event, selected children are able to go shopping with funds donated from local residents and businesses. Over fifty children were taken shopping last year by Munster Police Officers due to the generosity of others who helped to make their holiday season a little brighter.

Residents and businesses wishing to make monetary donations to this important and meaningful program are asked to please make checks payable to: **The Town of Munster** (memo line "Shop with a Cop") and send them to the Munster Police Department, c/o Officer James Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana 46321. Officer Ghrist can be contacted with questions at 836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Munster Police Department would like to remind residents of the following tips in regards to safety during the holidays:

- Do not carry large amounts of cash when shopping.
- Be wary of people in stores attempting to distract you while an accomplice steals your wallet or purse.

- Carry your wallet in your front pocket when shopping.
- Shop with a friend.
- Don't leave large amounts of purchased items in plain view inside your vehicle. Only visit a few stores at a time and store items inside your trunk when necessary.
- Try to park in a well-lit area and have your keys ready when coming from or going to department stores. Panic alarms can be helpful in attracting attention if necessary.
- Report suspicious people who appear to be sitting randomly in cars or who are aimlessly walking through parking lots looking inside vehicles.
- If you are attacked, try to remain calm. Hand over items such as wallets or purses and do not try to be a hero. Items can be replaced, your life cannot.
- If you are leaving Town for the holidays, contact the Police and notify your trusted neighbors. Used timed lighting and ask a friend to park in your driveway.

For more safety information please contact Officer James Ghrist at 836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org. We hope that everyone has a safe holiday season.

SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

With winter nearly here, snow is not far behind. Please keep in mind according to Town of Munster ordinance, it is unlawful for any person (resident or contractor) to throw, push, or deposit snow, slush, or ice onto any street or sidewalk. Those who violate this ordinance will be subject to a fine.

Also, Town Ordinance 46-3 pertains to the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks. The Ordinance states that the owner and/or the occupant of any dwelling, building or subdivided lot or property shall keep the sidewalks in front of thereof clean at all times of the year. Within 24 hours after any snow fall or formation of ice, such snow or ice shall be removed from the sidewalks.

If you have any questions contact Russ Shelton, community service officer at 836-6659.

NEWS FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT 836-PARK

Golden Opportunity Book \$25 - Recession proof your wallet and SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ by purchasing a coupon book today!!!!

The Park and Recreation Department is always looking for new ideas and instructors. If you have a hobby or are interested in teaching, give us a call at (219) 836-7275. We are currently looking for mah jongg and pinochle instructors.

DAY TRIPS

- Mon., Nov. 16 - **Little Traveler Holiday Shopping** - 8:30am - 5:00pm
- Thurs., Nov. 19 - **Autumn Festival in Villa Park** - 9:45pm - 5:30pm

- Mon., Nov. 23 - **Cosmic Collisions** - 9:45am - 3:15pm
- Wed., Dec. 02 - **Chicago Bulls Game** - 5:45 - 11:00pm
- Wed., Dec. 09 - **White Christmas Musical Review** - 9:30am - 3:30pm

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

- Dec. 1 - 3 - **Christmas at Frankenmuth** - Single \$719 / Double \$599 / Triple \$579
- Dec. 10 - 13 - **Kansas City Christmas** - Single \$1,049 / Double \$899 / Triple \$879
- Mar. 20 - 27, 2010 - **Gulf Coast** - Call for more information
- Feb. 5 - Mar. 1, 2010 - **New York city at the Waldorf** - Single \$2,949 / Double \$1,999 / Triple \$1,969
- Mar. 23 - April 1 - **Shades of Ireland** - Single \$2,999 / Double \$2,449 / Triple \$2,419

HOLIDAY ARTS and CRAFTS FAIR - Munster High School, Sat., Dec. 5 and Sun., Dec. 6, 9:00am - 4:00pm

Celebrate the Season at one of the region's best holiday traditions! Visit over 115 juried arts and crafts booths to find just what you want for yourself or that special someone. Admission is FREE and concessions will be available.

LUNCH WITH MRS. CLAUS - Centennial Park Clubhouse, Sun., Dec. 13, 11:30am - 1:30pm

Enjoy an early afternoon lunch with Mrs. Claus. Mrs. Claus will share stories about Santa, Rudolph and the rest of the reindeer gang. She's even scheduled a special stop in Santa's schedule, so bring your camera!

KEEN-AGER PROGRAMS

- Nov. 13, 12:00-2:00pm, **Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?**, Centennial Park
- Nov. 18, 12:00-4:00pm, **Christmas Schooner (Lunch & Show)**, Center for Visual & Performing Arts, \$48R / \$53NR / \$46KA
- Dec. 3, **Keen-Ager Holiday Party at Centennial Clubhouse**, Includes: meal catered by Glenwood Oaks, entertainment, favors & raffles, 12:00-3:00pm, \$15KA / \$35non-member
- Dec. 13, 12:00-4:00pm, **A Fabulous 50s Christmas**, Lunch at Edwardo's Restaurant following by the show at The Towle Theater, \$35R / \$40NR / \$30KA

CANDY CANE HUNT (AGES 2-5)

Bring a basket for your goodies and meet at the Community Park Social Center. You will hunt for candy canes outside, so dress appropriately. You will then come inside, decorate sugar cookies and enjoy hot chocolate. Parents should plan on helping with cookie decorating.

PINT SIZE CHEF

Come learn fun and easy recipes. Dec. 2, 4:30-5:45pm, \$25R / \$35NR

SHOPPING LOCK-IN

Drop your child off at Susan's School of Dance and enjoy an afternoon of shopping. Your child will do craft projects, have playtime and watch movies while you are gone. December 9 and 16, 1:15-4:00pm, \$30R / \$40NR

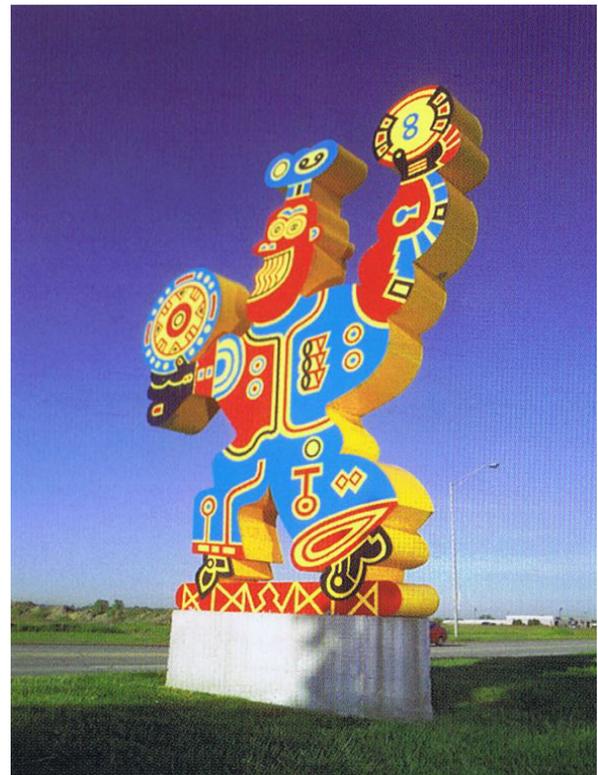
TOWN OF MUNSTER

ART ON THE TOWN

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

The Town of Munster has a very innovative way of promoting art within the community. When the town awards a tax abatement to a business looking to expand or move to the area, 1 percent of the value of that tax abatement must be used to fund a piece of art to give the community a cultural amenity to enjoy. This program brought multiple pieces dotting the landscape with additions on the way.

Each month, a different piece of art will be highlighted. This is the eighth in the series. "The Baker" is in front of dawn Foods located at 201 W 45th Street. This colorful piece was created by Karl Wirsum. Wirsum's work has been showcased throughout the United States - everywhere from the Chicago Art Institute to the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. Munster's piece is an Aztec baker that loosely represents its sponsor, Dawn Foods. The Baker is made of steel with yellow, red, blue, and black baked enamel paint. This jolly baker livens up 45th Street and adds a playful component to the area.



AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENT OF TOWN OF MUNSTER WATER UTILITY BILLS

I (We) hereby authorize the Town of Munster Water Department, hereinafter called TOWN, to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking account indicated below and the depository named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, to debit same to such account.

Depository Name _____ **Branch** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Transit/ABA # _____

Account # _____

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until TOWN and DEPOSITORY have received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford TOWN and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Printed name(s) _____

Signature(s) _____

Address _____ **Date** _____

Please return this form with your water utility bill payment or bring it to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office WITH A VOIDED CHECK.

Office Use
Account # _____ Prenote Date _____ Live Date _____

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2009

Event	Date	Time	Location
Town Council Meeting	Mon., Nov. 9	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Park Board Regular Meeting	Tues., Nov. 17	7:00 pm	Conference Room "A"
Board of Safety	Thurs., Nov. 19	7:30 am	Conference Room "C"
Board of Zoning Appeals	Tues., Nov. 24	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Plan Commission	Tues., Nov. 24	8:00 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>.
- To Keep up with what's going on in Town, tune in to AT&T U-Verse, Channel 99 (where available). Currently, this channel is showing a bulletin board of events and public information announcements for various activities within Munster. Soon, the channel will have television shows too!

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

MICHAEL MELLON - 836-1766, mmellon@ambfinancial.com	HELEN BROWN - 922-7881, hbeckbrown@sbcglobal.net
ROB MANGUS - 972-9359, r_mangus@sbcglobal.net	DAVE NELLANS - 923-3490, dnellans@munster.org
JOHN EDINGTON - 836-2637, jedington43@comcast.net	DAVE SHAFER - 836-6940, dshafer@ci.munster.in.us