



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

NOVEMBER 2025

Edited by: D.Z.

Bridges Over Ditches Project – Connecting Our Communities

Dear Munster Residents,

The Town of Munster takes great pride in our pathway system, and we're excited to share progress on the long-awaited **Bridges Over Ditches Project**.



With its completion, Munster will be connected to our neighboring communities in all directions: **Hammond to the north, Lansing to the west, Schererville to the south, and Highland to the east**. This places Munster at the heart of a key regional trail interchange.

The vision for this connection dates back to the late 1990s, when an agreement with NIPSCO opened the door for an east-west trail in the high-tension wire corridor stretching from the Illinois/Indiana State Line to Highland. Today, that vision is becoming reality.

On **September 5th**, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction on this important project. The work will extend the Fisher Street Trail, which currently starts at the Pennsy Greenway near the State Line, eastward into Highland. The extension will include:



- **Two bridges** – one over Hart Ditch and another over Cady-Marsh Ditch – connecting the Fisher Street Trail to Brantwood Park in Highland.
- **A new paved trail segment** between the two ditches running south to Martha Street, improving access for both Munster and Highland residents.

This project is made possible through a **Transportation Enhancement Award** from the State of Indiana, which covers **80% of the total cost**. The remaining 20% is being split equally between the Towns of Munster and Highland.

We are proud to partner with our friends and neighbors in Highland to provide this new connection and grateful for their involvement in making it possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected region for everyone to enjoy.



Warm regards,

George Shinkan

Munster Town Council President

From the Clerk-Treasurer's Office ~

As the banners celebrating Munster businesses come down and our holiday decorations go up, it's a wonderful reminder of what makes our community special. This time of year, is about more than twinkling lights and festive traditions, it's also about supporting one another and keeping Munster strong.



Saturday, November 29th is Small Business Saturday, a chance



to recognize and support the many local businesses that make our Town unique.

While Munster is often known for its strong medical community, we're also home to a wide variety of retail, dining, and service options. From the shops along Calumet Avenue to the storefronts in

Centennial Village, Ridge Road, and 45th Street, there are so many ways to "shop small" and support your neighbors. Every dollar spent locally helps strengthen our economy, sustain the businesses we already enjoy, and encourage new ones to grow.

This year, our Light the Night event will be a simple gathering on Monday, December 1st at 6:00 PM, just before the Town Council and Redevelopment Commission meetings. We'll flip the switch to light up Town Hall, share hot chocolate, and enjoy the start of the season together. We'd love for you to join us!



Adding to the holiday cheer, the Choice Community Council and Munster Civic Foundation are sponsoring holiday trees, each decorated by local businesses and organizations. These festive trees will be on display along the south side of Town Hall on Ridge Road. We invite you to take a walk, enjoy the lights, and admire the creativity that shines through when our community comes together.

This holiday season, let's celebrate not only with decorations and events, but also with our everyday choices; supporting local businesses, sharing time with family, friends and neighbors while investing in the place we all call home. Munster truly thrives when residents, businesses, and organizations work to make our Town brighter.



As always, feel free to reach out! (219) 836-6945 or email: wmis@munster.in.gov.

Sincerely,

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster



- 11/1 Pet Portraits in Pastel Workshop w/ South Shore Arts
- 11/4 Benefits of Funeral Pre-Planning
- 11/5 Little Scarecrows, Big Fun
- 11/5 Rookie Rundown
- 11/7 Keen-Ager Holiday Party Registration Deadline
- 11/7 CPR Certification Registration Deadline
- 11/8 Grateful for my Guy – Mother/Son Dance
- 11/10 The E-S.T.E.A.M> Experience (Savory and Sweet)
- 11/10 Jumpstart Hoops
- 11/12 Couple's Cooking Challenge w/ Rockin' Robbins Kitchen
- 11/15 Home Alone
- 11/17 CPR Certification
- 11/18 How to use Chat GPT | Artificial Intelligence
- 11/18 Chat GPT Side Hustle | Making an Income working from home
- 11/19 The Collective Canvas (Give Thanks – Cozy Acorns and Autumn Leaves)
- 11/21 Emily Dickinson – Lunch and Show

Any questions related to any park events, contact Parks Department at 219-836-7275



Town Hall Offices will be closed
in observance of Veterans Day.

Offices will re-open regular
business hours the following day.
Thank you.



Looking to gain more insight into artificial intelligence ... specifically Chat GPT?  ChatGPT

For \$30, you can take one of two courses:
How to use Chat GPT or How to use Chat GPT by making
an income working from home. ***Please note: This is an
ONLINE ZOOM program.***

You will be emailed the link from the instructor a few days
prior to class. Open to ages: 18+. Both classes take place on
Tuesday, 11/18 from the comfort of your own home!

We have 2 life skills classes happening this
month w/ our instructor Tresa Rademacher.

If you need to get CPR certified, make sure to
register for the CPR Class on 11/18 from 6-
8:30PM.

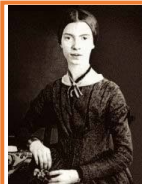


If you have a child who is at the age where they can start
staying home alone, increase your
confidence and theirs with our Home
Alone Training on 11/15 from 8:30-
10:30AM. Both classes take place at the
Lions Club Social Center.



Join us for another fun painting class

On 11/19 from 5-6:30PM where we will paint cozy acorns
and autumn leaves for the season of giving
thanks! Bring some friends and enjoy quality
time together while creating a quality
masterpiece with step-by-step instructions
from instructor, Lauren Thiel.



Emily Dickinson is a popular name in history!

Are you interested in learning more about how
her poems came to be? Join us for the Emily
Dickinson Lunch/Show on Friday, 11/21 from
12-2PM where you will learn more about her.

Also, included is a catered lunch from a local business.

Rookie Rundown is the perfect way to learn
the sport of baseball while breaking it down
into fundamental stages. Class focuses on
skill development, teamwork and fostering a
passion for the sport.



The **Choice Community Council of Munster** and **Munster Civic Foundation** are proud to sponsor our first Light the Night Tree Decorating Contest, which will be located along the pathways south of the Munster Town Hall at 1005 Ridge Road. All net proceeds will benefit the Munster Police Department's "Cops & Kids" holiday shopping program for area children in need.



For a donation of only \$100 your school, business, community organization, church, or even neighborhood can sponsor a 4-foot tree which will decorate our Tree Walk. **There will be a strict limit of 30 trees this year, so please act quickly if you would like to participate!** Each tree will include standard white lights already attached and can then be decorated by the sponsor. Please note that due to being outdoors, the decorations must be environmentally-friendly, and we reserve the right to remove any trees that use offensive language or that detract from the festivities. Trees will be displayed through the beginning of January 2026 and participants will be notified of when to remove their decorations.



The trees will be turned on during the Light the Night activation on Monday, December 1st after which judging will begin. **Three awards will be presented by mid-December for** 1) First Responders Award; 2) Choice Community Council Award; 3) and 3) Peoples Choice Award (most "likes" on Facebook by the listed deadline).

To enter the contest, please make your check payable to the Town of Munster (memo: Choice-TREE CONTEST) and include the name of your organization and contact person/e-mail in the envelope. Please mail or drop it off to the Munster Police Department, c/o Sgt. James Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321.

The deadline is Friday, November 14, 2025.

For more information, please contact Sgt. Ghrist at jghrist@munster.org. Thank you in advance for your participation and support this year!



2025 FALL LEAF COLLECTION

LEAF COLLECTION PICK UP

WILL BE ONCE EVERY 2 WEEKS



The Town of Munster 2025 Fall Leaf Collection has begun and will continue through December **weather permitting**. Leaves will be picked up between the hours of 7 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The Street Department crews will begin each day where they left off the previous day. **PICK UP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS.** State Law prohibits disposal of leaves into landfills. Therefore, **leaves in bags will not be picked up by the town or Homewood Disposal Service.**

Collection begins each morning promptly at 7 am, please have your leaves ready for collection prior to that time. Due to the large area which must be covered each day, we will not be able to back-track into areas which have already been collected. The Town's leaf pickup route will be traveled approximately once every **2 weeks, weather permitting**. The following tips will help us continue to provide quality service:

1. **DO NOT** place leaves in alleys. They will **NOT** be picked up.
2. Place your leaves in a continuous long pile called a "WIND ROW" in your parkway. We will be using a leaf vacuum to collect your leaves.
3. If your street has curbs, place your leaves right behind the curb on the parkway grass. **Please do not place leaves in the street.** If it rains, these leaves could cover the street drains and cause unnecessary flooding.
4. If your street does not have curbs, place your leaves on the edge of the street pavement.
5. Please refrain from parking on the streets adjacent to piles of leaves between the hours of 7 am to 2:30 pm.
6. Do not place leaves around trees, sign posts, light or telephone poles.
7. Do not place **sticks**, bricks, stones, grass or other materials in piles of leaves. High velocity equipment is used during our removal efforts and these items can do damage to equipment or more importantly, may injure an employee or bystander.

IMPORTANT: Leaves will not be picked up in bags. Please rake leaves to parkway. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at 836-6971 or 836-6970.



The Town is collaborating with a consultant to create a strategic communications plan. This plan will guide how the Town interacts with residents via its website, social media, emails, newsletters, and more.

The consultant, American Structurepoint, will suggest ways to enhance each of these communication channels to make them more informative.

We would appreciate your feedback on how effectively you believe the Town is communicating and what improvements you think we could make. An online survey for you to provide your feedback will be accessible on the Town's website in the coming weeks.

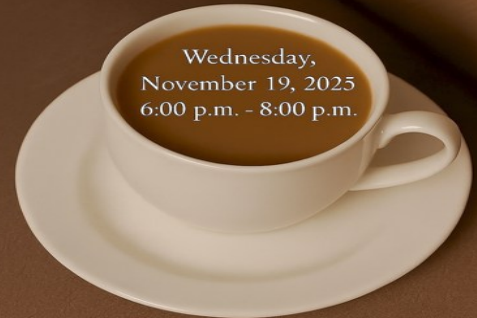
Please take the time to share your input. Thank you.

Coffee with the Council

Curious about the Boards and Commissions that oversee various areas of the Town?

Interested in an active leadership role?

Join the Munster Town Council for Coffee and additional information



TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS NOVEMBER 2025

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster Town Hall (MTH) at (219)836-6900 to confirm meetings. Public meetings are also available utilizing Zoom technology. Visit the Town of Munster website: <https://www.munster.org> (Select Agendas and Meetings) or contact the appropriate department to access the meeting ID and passcode. Also, a schedule of these meetings and others are maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website. **Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to Community Programming Initiative, in which members of the Munster Town Council and guests discuss issues in town. The program runs the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am.**

Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	November 3, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	November 6, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	November 12, 2025	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	November 12, 2025	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	November 17, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	November 18, 2025	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	November 18, 2025	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	November 20, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)

Town Council Elected Officials:

- George Shinkan, President, Elected Official, Ward 1, Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
- Joseph Hofferth, Vice President, Elected Official, Ward 2, Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
- Chuck Gardiner, Elected Official, Ward 3, Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
- David B. Nellans, Elected Official, Ward 4, Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
- Jonathan Petersen, Elected Official, Ward 5, Term 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027



George Shinkan



Joseph Hofferth



Chuck Gardiner



David Nellans



Jonathan Petersen



Wendy Mis

Ward #1

Ward #2

Ward #3

Ward #4

Ward #5

Clerk-Treasurer

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