



*At Your Service*

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**For Release: Immediate**

## **Munster Makes Changes to Sidewalk Ordinance**

### **PRESS RELEASE** **TOWN OF MUNSTER**

#### **THE TOWN OF MUNSTER ADOPTS NEW SIDEWALK ORDINANCE**

The Town of Munster requires the construction of sidewalks in all new subdivisions. After the approval of a subdivision in the past, some lots have remained vacant for an extended period of time without the construction of a sidewalk. The delay in completing the sidewalk across a vacant lot on blocks where surrounding lots have provided sidewalks prevents the completion of an integrated sidewalk system and requires pedestrians to walk in the street or across bare ground. The provisions of the new ordinance are as follows:

1. This section shall apply to all subdivisions approved after March 1, 1978.
2. Sidewalks shall be provided in all new subdivisions. The location is to be at the outer boundary of land dedicated for streets unless a special problem exists. Sidewalks are to be rerouted around trees deemed to be healthy by the Town Manager or Designee.
3. When houses have been constructed and certificates of occupancy issued for 90 percent of the approved lots, the owner of any lot on which a sidewalk has not been constructed shall receive written notification from the Town requiring construction of a sidewalk on the lot within one year of the date of notification, and the owner shall be required to construct the sidewalk within one year of the notification regardless of whether a residence or structure has been constructed on the lot. If the notice to the lot owner is issued after April 15 of the year of the notice, the lot owner shall have until April 15 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year following notice to install the required sidewalk. If a sidewalk is not installed as required, a \$250 fee shall be assessed monthly. If there are attorney fees, these will be assessed against the violator as well.
4. The owner of a lot who receives the notification may appeal the requirements to construct the sidewalk to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and upon notification and hearing

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as required for variance requests, and a finding of hardship or practical difficulty to the Owner, the Board of Zoning Appeals may extend the time in which construction of the sidewalk is required.

5. In the cases when subdivisions are built in blocks of additions or phases, each block, addition or phase shall be treated separately for purposes of calculating the 90 percent of construction.

6. The Munster Building Department shall monitor and enforce the requirements of this Ordinance.

7. In all cases where all or part of an existing sidewalk is replaced or repaired, the concrete debris from the previous sidewalk shall **not** be disposed of by land filling, but shall be recycled at an appropriate recycling facility. Any party violating this provision shall be subject to a fine in the amount of \$1,000.

8. This amendment shall take effect April 1, 2010.

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