



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

MAY 2025

Edited by: D.Z.

*From Your Clerk-Treasurer ~*

## Addressing Resident Questions: Property Taxes, E-Cigarette Recycling, and Staying Informed

We've received several questions from residents recently, and we want to take a moment to share updates on a few of the most frequently asked topics.

### Impact of Proposed Property Tax Reductions

Many of you have expressed concerns about how proposed property tax reductions being considered at the state level could impact local services. At the time of writing, the Indiana General Assembly is still in session, and the outcome remains uncertain.

However, please know that we are not waiting for answers—we've been working proactively with our financial advisors since fall 2024, and with department heads since early 2025, to identify potential replacement revenue streams and cost-saving strategies. Maintaining the high level of service our community expects remains our top priority, and we are preparing for a variety of outcomes.

### Proper Disposal of E-Cigarettes

Another important issue raised by residents involves recycling e-cigarettes. These devices contain hazardous materials and should **never** be placed in your household trash or recycling bins. Instead, please take used e-cigarettes to a **household hazardous waste collection site** for safe disposal. Proper handling protects our sanitation workers, prevents fires, and helps keep our environment safe. See page 4 for schedule.



### Staying Connected with the Town

We've also heard questions about where to find accurate and timely information about what's happening in Munster. There are several great ways to stay informed:



- Tune in to **WJOB radio** for local coverage
- Read **local newspapers** for updates

Visit our website at **[www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org)** for official announcements, agendas, and community news.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Most importantly, check out the "News You Can Use"!

If you ever have questions or want to share feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at **219-836-6945** or **[wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov)**.



Let us know what you think!

We appreciate your engagement and your commitment to keeping Munster a wonderful place to live.

*Sincerely, Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer*

*From The Town Council President:*

As part of our ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility, the Munster Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer's Office is actively exploring ways to reduce costs within our town departments while maintaining the quality services our community depends on. We recognize the importance of balancing financial efficiency with effective governance, and we are pursuing innovative solutions to achieve both.



One such initiative is our recent partnership with the School Town of Munster to handle our IT department services in-house instead of using an outside contracted agency.



By working collaboratively with the school district, we are leveraging local resources and expertise to provide cost-effective IT support while maintaining the same level of service and security.

This is just one example of how we are re-evaluating our operations to identify cost-saving opportunities. We are actively reviewing other departments and services to find additional ways to improve efficiency and maximize taxpayer dollars.

Thank you for your support, and we will continue to keep you informed as we move forward with these initiatives.

Warm regards,

*George Shinkan, Town Council President*

## Reminder to Our Residents...

Monday, May 26, 2025, in observance of Memorial Day, Town Hall will be closed

Garbage and Recycling will be delayed one day.





- 5/1 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE: Youth Education Aide
- 5/2 Car Show Early-Bird DEADLINE  
(or until full)
- 5/2 CPR Certification DEADLINE
- 5/3 Car Show
- 5/4 Learn to be a Lifeguard
- 5/5 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 5/6 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 5/6 Adult Beginner Tennis
- 5/7 Kid's in the Park: Teacher Appreciation
- 5/8 Munster Pool Pass REGISTRATION OPEN until 8PM
- 5/9 Munster Pool Pass Early-Bird DEADLINE
- 5/9 Muffins with Mom
- 5/10 Cash for Clutter
- 5/12 CPR Certification
- 5/12 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE: Sports Instructor
- 5/14 Pool Pride Day
- 5/14 Cats at Paramount Theatre
- 5/15 Morton Arboretum Trip DEADLINE
- 5/16 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE: Tennis Instructor
- 5/17 Benefits of Funeral Pre-Planning
- 5/18 Learn to be a Lifeguard
- 5/24 Munster Pool Opens
- 5/30 Spring into the Morton Arboretum
- 5/30 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE: Movie/Merch Supervisor
- 5/31 Bark in the Park

Questions?

Contact the Parks Dept at 836-7275



Pool opens Saturday, **May 24**.

NOW IS THE TIME to purchase your family's season pass.

The early-bird deadline is May 9. Can't make it in during business hours – we'll be open late on May 5 to accommodate (until 8PM).



Summer is right around the corner!

Time to plan your **birthday or private pool party at Munster Pool**. To schedule a private pool party, email [jhiggins@munster.org](mailto:jhiggins@munster.org) for the party questionnaire. This must be approved prior to payment being accepted. To check available dates, call the office. To schedule a birthday party, please stop into the office.



Looking for the perfect summer job?

Take our **lifeguard certification class** and then sit for an interview.

After learning and practicing the skill set, you will demonstrate competency and take a written exam. Please note: there is online coursework to be completed before class begins.

Class takes place May 4 or 18 from 9AM-5PM at the MHS Aquatic Center. Fee: \$200

Our Annual **Car Show** will take place Saturday, May 3 from 9AM-3PM at the pool parking lot.



Enjoy a showcase of vehicles, shop the vendors and satisfy your cravings with some food truck cuisine. Interested to submit your vehicle, be a vendor or judge – contact the Park office at 836-7275 for more details.



SPRING CLEANING is in the air...

**Cash for Clutter** is where you go to sell (or buy)! Clear your home clutter and sell to the public Saturday, May 10 from 8AM-2PM.

Parking spaces are available to purchase as 2 or 3 spots. Please call for availability. If we end up being full – don't be afraid to come shop.



We need your help to get the pool ready!

Join us for **Pool Pride Day** on May 14 from 3:30-5:30 to help us get ready for the opening day on May 24. Refreshments will be served.

**Bark in the Park** will take place Saturday, May 31 from 12-6PM at Centennial Park. Show off your pooch, engage with vendors or watch demos – there will be something for all the pet-lovers out there.





## HELP WANTED

### Public Works is seeking Summer Help

Applicants can complete an application from the Town website [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org) or pick up an application at the Public Works facility or send a resume to [lpramuk@munster.org](mailto:lpramuk@munster.org).



## DRAIN GRATES

Now that Spring Leaf Collection has ended, spring rains can cause flooding of yards and streets. Most of the time flooding can be prevented by making sure the drain grates are kept free of debris. It doesn't take much to clog a drain and have it cause significant flooding of streets and/or yards.



As material such as leaves, twigs, and litter are washed from the ground surface it collects onto the drain grating and acts like a rubber plug. The flow of water runoff into the drainage system is drastically reduced when material collects near or on the drain grate. Residents can do their part by helping keep drains near your home free of debris.

## REGISTER YOUR AREA NOW FOR THIS YEAR'S 2025 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTY CONTEST!

The Munster Police Department is now registering blocks and subdivisions **through July 1<sup>st</sup>** for Munster's 4th Annual National Night Out Block Party Contest, which will be held throughout the day and evening on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> all throughout town.

The purpose of the contest is to promote unity and safety in our neighborhoods during the days leading up to our National Night Out Celebration. The Munster Town Council recently waived the usual fees associated with holding block parties (including barricade delivery) for that day only in an effort to encourage participation in this year's contest. Multiple winners, chosen by members of the Munster Police Department, Munster Fire Department, and other volunteers who will be visiting the parties throughout the afternoon and evening to meet with residents, will be awarded with Block Unity Award signage for their neighborhoods during the National Night Out Celebration on August 5th.

**Participating areas must register by July 1<sup>st</sup> by contacting Sergeant James Christ at 219-836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org) with your party location, area that you are representing, contact person, contact number, contact email, time period of your party, and any additional information that you would like to provide.** Please consider organizing a party in your area this year in an effort to get to know your neighbors!



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS  
**BLOCK PARTY CONTEST**



## MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT DONATIONS

The Munster Police Department is seeking monetary donations **through June 13<sup>th</sup>** towards Munster's 30th

Annual National Night Out Celebration, which will be held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> in the area of the Munster Community Pool. This fun, memorable, and nationally recognized event for all ages is held annually to promote positive police and community partnerships through activities such as free swimming for residents, emergency vehicle displays, door prizes, K-9 demonstrations, over 100 booth participants, a magic show, music, giveaways, games, prizes, safety information, special guests, food, awards, a Community Parade, and more. *Munster's event was ranked by the National Association of Town Watch as the #2 National Night Out event in the United States for our population category in 2024!*

We are currently collecting donations so that we can reserve vendors and purchase supplies in advance of the event. **If you would like to provide a donation, please make checks payable to the Town of Munster (memo: NNO) and mail/drop them off to the Munster Police Department, c/o Community Policing Unit, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana 46321.** For more information about how you can support or get involved with this year's event, please call 219-836-6639. Thank you in advance for your support this year!



## MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING FEATURING THE K-9 UNIT

The Munster Police Department invites all residents and business representatives to attend the next Munster Crime Watch Meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road. This meeting will include recent crime statistics compared to previous years and a presentation from the four members of the police department's K-9 Unit about their duties.

**Several door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of this meeting** which will only last one hour. For more information, please contact the Community Oriented Policing Unit at 219-836-6639. We hope to see you there!



Come celebrate the day and be a part of the **2025 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade!**

Visit the Town's website at: [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org) for more details and to fill out the Parade Registration!

**Munster Public Works**  
**Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday**  
**(219) 836-6971/6970**



- **Spring Leaf Collection ended in April.**
- Garbage and Recycling **will be delayed one day, Monday - May 26, 2025**, in observance of Memorial Day.
- Public Works offers free wood chips on the first Saturday of the month, 8 am – Noon, May through October. Bring your own shovel and something to put the wood chips in.
- Branch Collection: Branches should be no longer than 7' long and 5" in diameter. 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 836-6970 or 6971.



**Did You Know?**

Plastic bags are used for an average of 12 minutes but spend up to 1,000 years in the landfill.

Consider using reusable shopping totes or opting for paper bags instead of single-use plastic bags.

ACS Publications. 2020. "Degradation Rates of Plastics in the Environment," Pages 3495, 3499-3500, 3503.

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acssuschemeng.9b06635>

**Household Hazardous Waste Collection**



**LAKE COUNTY**  
 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
*Join the Journey*

All Collections from 9 am – 1 pm

Loads are limited to 100 pounds.

Latex Paint is no longer accepted at these collections.

\* Saturday, May 14, 2025, Hobart Public Works, 340 S. Shelby St., Hobart

\* Saturday, May 31, 2025, Hudson Campbell Center, 455 Massachusetts St., Gary

**TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS MAY 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.**

Site Plan Review Mtg.	May 1, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	May 5, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	May 13, 2025	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	May 15, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	May 13, 2025	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	May 21, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	May 20, 2025	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	May 20, 2025	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



George Shinkan

Ward #1

(219)718-4481

[gshinkan@munster.org](mailto:gshinkan@munster.org)

Joseph Hofferth

Ward #2

(219)689-2225

[jhofferth@munster.org](mailto:jhofferth@munster.org)

Chuck Gardiner

Ward #3

(708)606-7223

[cgardiner@munster.org](mailto:cgardiner@munster.org)

David Nellans

Ward #4

(219)680-6364

[dnellans@munster.org](mailto:dnellans@munster.org)

Jonathan Petersen

Ward #5

(219)803-4550

[jpetersen@munster.org](mailto:jpetersen@munster.org)

Wendy Mis

Clerk-Treasurer

(219)836-6945

[wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov)