



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

NEWS YOU CAN USE

JUNE 2025

Edited by: D.Z.

The Munster Town Council and Clerk-Treasurer welcome our new Town Manager, Jim Marino at the April 21, 2025 Town Council meeting.



From the Town Council President

I would like all of you to join me in welcoming our new Town Manager, Jim Marino. Jim grew up in Calumet City and earned his master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He brings with him 35 years of experience in all facets of municipal government, having served as the Village Manager for the Villages of Dolton, Thornton, Homewood, and Crest Hill.

After living in Homewood for 22 years, Jim, along with his wife and their West Highland Terrier, recently moved to Crest Hill. In his free time, Jim enjoys bicycling, photography, and cheering for the Cubs, Bears, and Steelers.

We are excited to have Jim join our Munster family and look forward to the great things ahead as we work together to make Munster an even greater community to live in.

Strategic Planning Session

Last month, the Town participated in a Strategic Planning session. We had meaningful discussions and received valuable input that will help guide Munster's priorities and initiatives over the coming years. The engagement and ideas shared by participants were instrumental in shaping our vision for the future.

More details and outcomes from the session will be shared soon. Thank you to everyone who took part in this important process.



Honoring Our Police Officers

In May, the Munster Rotary Club graciously hosted a luncheon to honor all our police officers. During the event, Police Chief Steve Scheckel recognized the exceptional bravery and dedication our officers demonstrate every day.



Officer Joseph Brander received the **Life Saving Award** for his heroic actions during a recent traffic stop. As he approached a vehicle, he was alerted to an unresponsive female passenger in the back seat. Officer Brander quickly removed the individual from the vehicle and immediately began CPR while awaiting medical assistance. Thanks to his quick response, the individual regained a pulse upon arrival at the hospital.

Sergeant Thomas Kuhlenschmidt was honored for his swift and life-saving response to a medical emergency involving a pregnant woman who had accidentally stabbed herself in the leg. The injury had severed an artery, resulting in heavy bleeding. Sergeant Kuhlenschmidt expertly applied a tourniquet, stopping the blood loss and ultimately saving the lives of both the woman and her unborn child.

The **Officer of the Year Award** was posthumously presented to **Officer Ryan Perez**, who joined the Munster Police Department on October 14, 2024. During his time in the Field Training Program, Officer Perez quickly earned the admiration of his peers and supervisors. Known for his motivation, work ethic, and infectious positivity, his signature smile and laugh uplifted everyone around him. Tragically, Officer Perez was killed in a motor vehicle crash in February. His loss is deeply felt, and his legacy continues to inspire us all.

Officers Omar Padilla, Anthony Phipps, and Steven Serna received the **Medal of Valor** for their courageous actions during an active house fire in April 2024. Upon arriving first at the scene, they were informed that a young child was trapped inside the burning home.



Without hesitation or protective gear, they entered the fully engulfed structure to attempt a rescue. Despite making multiple efforts, they were only able to save the child's father. Their selfless actions in the face of extreme danger represent the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

Please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to each of these officers. Their courage, dedication, and compassion are a testament to the values that define the Munster Police Department.

Warm regards,

George Shinkan, Town Council President



Every now and then, an email pops up in my inbox that makes me pause—especially when it appears to come from a government agency. Just recently, I received a message about needing to add funds to my toll transponder. It seemed legitimate, particularly since I had just driven over the Cline Avenue Bridge. But something didn't feel right. Instead of clicking the link, I went directly to the official website and saw that my account was just fine.

Please be alert: emails and text messages that look like they're from state agencies about tolls—or similar matters—are often scams. Do **not** click the links. The Indiana Office of Technology is actively working to block these fraudulent messages, but in the meantime, always err on the side of caution.

As an added reminder: **all Town of Munster employees carry official Town-issued identification.** It's perfectly okay to ask to see it. Similarly, **door-to-door solicitors selling products or services are required to have a Town-issued permit.** If someone shows up at your door without proper identification or refuses to show it, do not hesitate to call **911**. Your safety and peace of mind come first.



Sprinkler Season Reminders



It's that time of year again when sprinkler systems across Munster are firing up. If you have a system, don't forget that state law requires annual testing of the backflow prevention assembly. Most residents with irrigation systems should have received a reminder notice from BSI, the Town's authorized agent. If you hire a company to open your system each year, this test is often included in your annual service—check with them to be sure.

Music in the Air

Outdoor concert season has arrived! You can catch performances on the front lawn of Town Hall on select Sundays, or at Centennial Park's amphitheater on various Tuesdays and weekends throughout the summer. For a full schedule, visit the Town of Munster website, follow us on the Parks and Recreation or Town Facebook pages, or flip to pages 18 and 19 in the Parks Summer Recreation Guide.



Serve Your Town

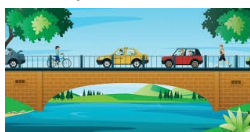
Are you looking for a way to give back to your community? We are always accepting applications for our Town Boards and Commissions. Right now, there's a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals. If you have a background or interest in planning, zoning, or land use, I encourage you to apply at www.munster.org.

Improving Communication

A frequent concern we hear from residents is about how the Town communicates with the community. We're listening. This year, we've partnered with an organization to help us evaluate and improve our outreach. Our goal is to provide more timely, clear, and effective communication—so you're always in the loop.



45th Street Bridge Closure



Finally, we have some important infrastructure news: During demolition work on the north half of the bridge, the bridge substructure was found to be in poor condition. The concrete was heavily deteriorated with wide cracking and corroded reinforcing steel. To construct the new northside piers, additional substructure removal was required at the center of the bridge. The additional removal became a safety concern for both the traveling public and the construction workers. The safest route forward is to close the bridge for replacement. The closure will reduce the project duration, reduce costs, and provide a safe environment for both the public and workers.

On Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 45th Street between White Oak Drive and Southwood Drive will be closed to traffic. The closure has been coordinated with emergency services, schools, and the post office. Both Ridge Road and Main Street will be used to detour traffic. All truck traffic is required to use Main Street. 45th Street will be opened to traffic on October 31, 2025.

Contact me if you have questions or concerns at (219) 836-6945 or via email at wmis@munster.in.gov. I enjoy hearing from you.



Sincerely, Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster



- 6/1 Pool Season Pass Adult Swim (11:45AM-12:45PM)
- 6/1 Jr. Beginner Gymnastics at Patti's All-American
- 6/2 Youth + Preschool Swim Lessons
- 6/2 Intro to Diving
- 6/2 Rising Stars Basketball
- 6/2 Soccer Superstars
- 6/2 Youth Tennis (4-5, 6-9, 10-13 year olds)
- 6/2 Ninja Bears + All-American Ninjas at Patti's All-American
- 6/2 Adult Drill and Play
- 6/3 Diamond Stars Baseball
- 6/3 Sport Discovery Camp
- 6/3 Youth Tennis (4-5, 6-9, 10-13 year olds)
- 6/3 Teen Intermediate Tennis
- 6/3 Adult Beginner Tennis
- 6/5 2/3 Tumblebears at Patti's All-American
- 6/6 4 Bear Tumblebears at Patti's All-American
- 6/7 Youth, Parent/Tot + Preschool Swim Lessons
- 6/7 Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
- 6/8 Pool Season Pass Adult Swim (11:45AM-12:45PM)
- 6/8 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: 28 Days
- 6/9 Destination Espanol
- 6/9 CSRI Pool Party
- 6/9 Summer Smiles on the Pier DEADLINE
- 6/12 Ballet/Tap/Tumble and Tiny Tots at Susan's School of Dance
- 6/12 Munchkin Masterpieces
- 6/13 Coffee and Canvas
- 6/13 Night Golf – contact Caleb at the Pro Shop (219) 836-6931
- 6/14 Experience Joy Journaling Workshop & Guided Meditation
- 6/15 Pool Season Pass Adult Swim (11:45AM-12:45PM)
- 6/15 Father's Day at Munster Pool
- 6/16 Youth + Preschool Swim Lessons
- 6/16 Intro to Diving
- 6/16 Destination Espanol
- 6/16 2-hour Tennis Camp
- 6/16 Movie and Merch – featuring Mufasa
- 6/17 Learn to play golf – Youth

JUNE Events Continued...

- 6/17 TUNES ON TUESDAYS: John David Daily
- 6/19 Wado-Ki Karate
- 6/19 Poolside Picnic – Pool Season Pass after hours party
- 6/20 FRIDAYS ROCK: Cheap Foreign Cars
- 6/20 Mayflower Tours/Cruises Travel Show
- 6/21 Retirement by Design
- 6/22 Pool Season Pass Adult Swim (11:45AM- 12:45PM)
- 6/22 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES: The Throwbacks
- 6/23 STEM Storytime Camp w/ Fun4All
- 6/23 Challenger British Soccer Camp
- 6/23 Marshmallow Dodgeball
- 6/25 Summer Smiles on the Pier
- 6/26 Tropic Like it's Hot at Munster Pool
- 6/27 Beryl Markham Lunch and Show
- 6/27 CPR Certification DEADLINE
- 6/28 Home Alone Training
- 6/28 Region Eats Food Fest
- 6/29 Pool Season Pass Adult Swim (11:45AM-12:45PM)
- 6/30 Intro to Diving
- 6/30 Macro Close-up Photography

Munster Pool is now open daily.

Hours: Monday-Saturday from 11AM-6PM. Sunday from 1-6PM.

Want more information on Private, Semi-Private, or regular swim lessons – contact Abby at akresal@munster.org. Looking to schedule a private party for an upcoming birthday, graduation, reunion of club event – contact jhiggins@munster.org for the questionnaire.



Adult with season passes are welcome to attend Sunday's Adult Swim from 11:45AM-12:45PM weekly.

Mark your calendars now for your summer concerts!

Sponsored by: Munster Civic Foundation and at Centennial Park



*John David Daily plays 6/17 at 6:30PM

*Cheap Foreign Cars plays 6/20 at 6:30PM

Sponsored by: Peoples Bank and at Munster Town Hall

* 28 days plays 6/8 from 6:30-8PM

* The Throwbacks plays 6/22 from 6:30-8PM

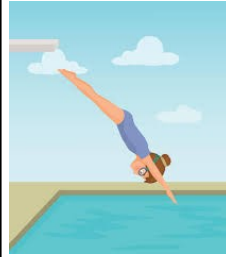
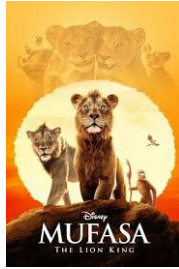


Parks & Recs Events Continued...



Movie and Merch in The Park

June 16 will feature 'Mufasa' at dusk. Starting at 3 that day, a vendor market will be on-site along with food vendors and bounce houses. Can't make the market? Come early for the Hispanic Heritage dance performance. Interested in becoming apart of our vendor market – contact Mara at mdicarlo@munster.org.



Intro to Diving starts 6/2, 6/16 or 6/30.

With instructors, Dar and Dee Novak, you will learn the fundamental skills and safety techniques needed to perform basic dives from a springboard, including proper approach, entry positions and body posture. Questions? Contact Abby at (219) 836-6923.



Region Eats will take place Saturday, 6/28 from 5-9PM at Centennial Park. With over 15 food vendors confirmed, this event will allow you to consume the flavors and aromas of the amazing food you'll smell. Enjoy live music from "The Nick Danger Band" or the beer garden.



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

Beryl Markham Lunch/Show

Friday, 6/27 from 1-3PM at the Lion's Club Social Center.

Beryl became the first person to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean from Britain to North America in 1937, the same year Amelia Earhart disappeared from the sky. Storyteller: Lynn Rymarz. Fees: \$45, KeenAger: \$40



2025 Centennial Park Parking Registration

Registration is now open.
www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com

Town of Munster residents can register up to 4 vehicles per household to park for free at Centennial Park for the 2025 parking season.

• **Previous registration will not carry over to 2025.**

Parking fees are effective and will be enforced from April 1 - October 31, 2025. If a vehicle is not registered for a free pass and fees are not paid, license plate reading technology will be used to issue notice violations via the mail. Park visitors using the golf course or golf driving range can validate parking inside the Pro Shop but must be done immediately after parking.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DONATIONS COLLECTED THROUGH JUNE 15TH

The Munster Police Department is collecting donations towards Munster's 30th Annual National Night Out Celebration through June 15th. This fun and exciting annual event promotes positive police and community partnerships through a variety of activities for all ages such as games, emergency vehicle displays, swimming, fireworks, giveaways, prizes, K-9 demos, a parade, and more. **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 Sgt. Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321.** Thank you in advance for your generosity and please mark your calendars for August 5th!



Independence Day
Parade Registration
Deadline is June 16th

Register to Participate in the
Annual Parade Today!!



REGULATIONS FOR FIREWORKS

Per **Munster Ordinance 1834**, consumer fireworks may be discharged within Town limits only on the following dates and times:

- * June 19: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight
- * June 29 – July 3 and July 5 – July 9: 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
- * July 4: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight

A violation of this ordinance carries a **\$100 fine per occurrence.**



REGISTER FOR THE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTY CONTEST THROUGH JULY 10TH!

The Munster Police Department is registering blocks and subdivisions for Munster's 4th Annual National Night Out Block Party Contest through July 10th. On Saturday, August 2nd, Munster Police officers, Munster Firefighters, and other volunteers will be visiting block parties around town to interact with residents while also choosing the award winners for this year based on planned activities and neighborhood unity. This is a great way to promote unity in your neighborhood while also catching up with or getting to know your neighbors.

The Town Council has WAIVED ALL FEES associated with block parties for August 2nd only to encourage participation, and approximately 20 areas participated last year.

To register your area, please contact Sgt. Ghrist no later than July 10th by emailing him at jghrist@munster.org with your contact person, their contact information, the block party location/area, time period of your party, and any other important information. Thank you in advance for your participation this year!



Come join us for one of the finest fireworks shows in the area!

Enjoy a beer garden, food trucks and live music on Thursday July 3

Gates Open at 6pm

Live Music by The Unstoppables from 7:30 – 11pm

Fireworks begin at 9:30pm

Independence Day Parade will be Friday July 4th at 2pm



Town of Munster Mosquito Control Program

Mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, Zika virus, and several types of encephalitis. They can also transmit heartworms to dogs. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), mosquito-borne diseases cause over a million deaths annually worldwide.



The Town of Munster is committed to protecting the health and well-being of our residents. We currently employ four licensed pesticide applicators, certified in Category 8 through Purdue University's School of Agriculture. Their training and certification include comprehensive instruction in pest identification, pesticide chemistry, calibration, application techniques, and safety protocols.

Category 8 applicators are essential to public health, playing a key role in controlling mosquito populations and minimizing the risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.



For any questions, please contact Public Works at 836-6970 or 6971. Thank you.

THE FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF MUNSTER PRESENTS

Friday, July 4th at 10:00

Parade begins at the corner of Foliage & Oriole, and ends at White Oak & Elliott

SNACKS * DRINKS * PRIZES

Flag ceremony by Munster Boy Scout Troop 533

Sponsored by the Firefighters Association of Munster
With other sponsorship's provided by:
Munster Chamber of Commerce
McDonalds of Munster
Munster Little Store

The CCMG projects are currently underway



Please have consideration and patience for all of the workers on these construction sites. The Town strives for clean and safe work zones.

This project is for Cardinal Drive from Cardinal Drive to the east end, Heather Drive from Chestnut Lane to the east end, Oakwood Court from Chestnut to the east end, Broadmoor Avenue from Calumet Avenue to Columbia Avenue and Woodlawn Avenue from Broadmoor Avenue to the south end.



If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Public Works Department at 836-6970 or 836-6971. Thank you.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection



Loads are limited to 100 pounds

Latex Paint is no longer accepted at these collections.

Next Collection: WEDNESDAY, June 18 from 2 PM – 6 PM

Lowell Middle School North Parking Lot

Latex paint can safely be thrown in the trash when:

1. The paint is dried.
2. The lid of the paint can remains off and thrown away separately.

In order to dry out your unwanted latex paint, leave the lid off of the cans if they are less than half full. In addition, stirring in non-clumping cat litter, dirt, or inexpensive paint drying products that you can purchase at home improvement stores will expedite the drying process.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS JUNE 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.	June 2, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	June 3, 2025	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	June 5, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	June 10, 2025	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	June 10, 2025	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	June 16, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	June 17, 2025	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	June 17, 2025	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	June 19, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



George Shinkan	Ward #1	(219)718-4481	gshinkan@munster.org
Joseph Hofferth	Ward #2	(219)689-2225	jhofferth@munster.org
Chuck Gardiner	Ward #3	(708)606-7223	cgardiner@munster.org
David Nellans	Ward #4	(219)680-6364	dnellans@munster.org
Jonathan Petersen	Ward #5	(219)803-4550	jpetersen@munster.org
Wendy Mis	Clerk-Treasurer	(219)836-6945	wmis@munster.in.gov