



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

SEPTEMBER 2025

Edited by: D.Z.

Dear Munster Residents,

We're proud to highlight the incredible work of Munster Parks and Recreation, a department dedicated to creating vibrant spaces and meaningful experiences for all who call Munster home. From scenic green spaces to engaging community programs, their efforts continue to enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages.



The team manages 345 acres of property, including 30 parks, 19 playgrounds, and miles of trails for walking and biking. Amenities also include a 9-hole golf course, disc golf course, community pool, the Lions Club Social Center, 17 picnic shelters, entertainment stage, fitness stairs, and a treasured historical museum. Sports and recreation are well supported with 20 ball fields, 15 tennis courts, 7 basketball courts, 4 volleyball courts, 4 pickleball courts, several soccer fields, and a cricket pitch.

Beyond these facilities, the department offers a packed calendar of events throughout the year. Seasonal highlights include Cruisin' the Ridge, the Family Bike Ride, Munster Monarch Fest, Cash for Clutter Community Garage Sale, Movies in the Park, and Community Concerts, all designed to bring neighbors together and celebrate community spirit.

We encourage everyone to take full advantage of the many opportunities Munster Parks and Recreation provides. Whether it's a peaceful trail walk, joining a league, or attending a special event. These shared experiences are what make Munster such a special place to live, work, and play.

A sincere thank you to our Parks and Recreation staff for their ongoing dedication, creativity, and care. To stay up to date on programs and events, visit [www.munster.org/parks](http://www.munster.org/parks) or follow us on Facebook.

Warm regards,

*George Shinkan*  
*Munster Town Council President*



## From Trapper Keepers to Traffic Safety: A Back-to-School Reminder

Back-to-school season always stirs up a little nostalgia. The thrill of picking out the perfect Trapper Keeper, the sparkle of Lisa Frank folders, the scent of a brand-new box of Crayola crayons, and maybe a little dried Elmer's glue on our fingertips. Mornings filled with cereal commercials and Ray Rayner, lunchboxes that matched our personalities, and afternoons spent plunking out "Chopsticks" on the piano or tuba.

I am now thinking about crosswalks, flashing lights, and ways we can help to get our kids get to school safely. The new school year has its excitement, but it comes with a heightened sense of responsibility.

Munster takes school zone safety seriously, and this year we've invested in upgrades that will make our roadways safer for students. You may have already noticed new school zone signage and road marking near all of our elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as private schools. These are designed to catch your attention, and they work best when you pay attention to them.



Additional flashing lights are on order and will be installed at key crossings to remind drivers to slow down and remain alert. These are our reminders to drive with caution and stay alert in all marked school zones.

As you drive through Town heading to work, the gym, juggling drop-offs, or simply running errands, kids may be crossing the street at any time. Many students arrive early for band, sports, or tutoring, and stay late for after-school programs. Just because the final bell has rung doesn't mean pedestrian traffic is over.

Talk with your children about safe ways to walk or bike to school. Always use the designated crosswalks, and where available, cross with the help of a crossing guard. Never dart across traffic, even if you're running late. Children should be dropped off at school in the designated areas, not in traffic (even if traffic is stopped). We're working hard to create safe paths, and we need your help to make sure those paths are used properly.



School zone signs are neon yellow-green for a reason. They are bright, bold, and meant to grab your attention don't let them fade into the background. Observe reduced speed limits. Avoid distractions. Put down the phone. Slow down when you see kids near the road. The safety of our children is a shared responsibility.



Thank you for doing your part to help every student arrive safely at school and back home again.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at (219) 836 - 6945 or [wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov)

*Sincerely,*

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



The fight against cancer goes on. There is no one I know who can say they DO NOT have a friend or relative who has battled this terrible illness.

The Munster Fire Department and the Firefighters Association of Munster are joining the fight against cancer by teaming up with our Cancer Resource Center. The Munster Fire Department and the Firefighters Association of Munster are selling shirts and sweatshirts to benefit the Cancer Resource Center. All profits from the sale of the shirts and sweatshirts will be donated to the Cancer Resource Center.

We are taking orders for shirts and/or sweatshirts

Short Sleeve T-Shirt (SM-XL) \$20.00  
Long Sleeve T-Shirt (SM-XL) \$25.00  
Pull Over Hoodie (SM-XL) \$30.00  
Zip Up Hoodie (SM-XL) \$35.00

\*\*There is an additional charge of :  
\$1.00 for 2X  
\$2.00 for 3X  
\$3.00 for 4X

**For additional information please contact:**

David Strbjak at 219-902-9474  
email: dstrbjak@munster.org

Janice Rebey at 219-836-6960  
email: jrebey@munster.org



**MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING FEATURING THE CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT**

The Munster Police Department will be holding their final Munster Crime Watch Meeting of the year on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road.

This meeting will include recent crime statistics compared to the past several years, updates on recent incidents in Munster, and a presentation from the department's **CRIME SUPPRESSION UNIT** which conducts investigations involving drugs, guns, and other serious offenses. **Several door prizes (gift cards) will also be awarded** at the conclusion of the meeting, which will only last for approximately one hour. For more information, please contact Sergeant James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org. We hope to see you there!



**Safety Reminders Regarding Electric Scooters & Bikes**

We have recently received several concerns regarding kids and teens on electric scooters or electric bicycles who are not following traffic rules or who are riding past pedestrians at a high rate of speed. Please advise your children to wear a helmet and to always ride safely.



Please also remind your children that bicyclists and individuals on scooters must ALWAYS follow the same rules of the road that motor vehicles have to, including stopping at all stop lights and stop signs, and that motor vehicles have to and they should also be traveling with the flow of traffic. In addition, e-bicyclists must remember the following:

- State of IN code allows Class 1&2 e-bikes on any bicycle path in the State. Class 3 e-bikes are PROHIBITED on trails. Those allowed on Munster bike trails and connecting communities are Class 1&2 e-bikes.
- Class 1 e-bikes have an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 20mph, and are pedal assist only. There is no throttle.
- Class 2 e-bikes have an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 20mph, and are pedal assist and have a throttle so they can be ridden without pedaling.
- Class 3 e-bikes have an electric motor using 750 watts or less, a maximum assisted speed of 28mph, and are pedal assist only. There is no throttle.
- If a bike with an electric motor does not exactly meet one of these definitions, then it is not an e-bike and is considered a motorized vehicle.



**MUNSTER Monarch Festival**

**September 7, 2025 12-4pm**

Heritage Park, located at the Southeast Corner of Ridge Rd. & Columbia Ave., Munster, In.

**FREE FAMILY FUN - rain or shine!**

EVENT PARKING AT MUNSTER SCHOOLS ON COLUMBIA AV.

- Dance Gallery Dancers
- Plant giveaway - while supplies last
- LIVE butterfly release!
- Learn about pollinators, and how we can help!
- Experts on Bees, Hummingbirds & Birds
- Native Plants and Books for sale
- Crafts for all ages
- Native plant uses
- EXPERTS ON PLANTS, SEEDS, & GARDENING
- Tours of Munster History Museum
- Sticker giveaway - while supplies last
- Food, Music, Dances
- Be a part of the butterfly effect!

Happy Labor Day!

**WE'RE CLOSED**

Munster Town Hall will be closed for Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2025.

All offices will re-open on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

# September

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 9/4  | Ballet/Tap/Tumble                                       |
| 9/4  | Tiny Tot  |
| 9/8  | Sporties for Shorties                                   |
| 9/8  | Adult Drill and Play                                    |
| 9/9  | Mini Strikers   |
| 9/9  | Adult Beginner Tennis                                   |
| 9/11 | Adult Red Ball Tennis                                   |
| 9/12 | Cardiovascular/Stroke Prevention & Health               |
| 9/12 | Movie in the Park featuring: Inside Out 2               |
| 9/13 | Cash for Clutter  |
| 9/13 | Kids Ceramics   |
| 9/15 | How to use Chat GPT   Artificial Intelligence           |
| 9/15 | Chat GPT Side Hustle   Make an income working from home |
| 9/15 | How to use Google Gemini   Artificial Intelligence      |
| 9/20 | Let go w/ Ease – Ladies Empowerment Walk                |
| 9/22 | CPR Certification                                       |
| 9/24 | CSRI All Abilities Gym and Play Group                   |
| 9/25 | Pinatapalooza   |
| 9/25 | Cardio Drumming   |
| 9/27 | Home Alone Training                                     |

## Seeking Community Park Concessions Operator

The Town of Munster will be accepting Letters of Interest from qualified firms or individuals to operate the Town-owned concessions facilities at Community Park beginning in 2026.



Please see the full Request for Proposals Professional Concessions Services for Community Park announcement on the Town's website at [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org).



The **Fall Recreation Brochure** is out and registration is open!

Don't miss out on your favorite classes or seeing what's new that we have to offer.

Our final **Movie in the Park** of the year will take place on Friday, September 12 featuring Inside Out 2.



The movie will begin around dusk (7:15PM) at Centennial Park. Bring your chair, blanket and snacks and enjoy the cozy outdoor theatre. Concessions will be available.

Looking to purge from your home? **Cash for Clutter** is the place to sell it!



We're accepting vendors until 9/12 (or until full). Vendor fees apply. If you're just looking to shop – join us from 8AM - 2PM on 9/13 at Munster Pool Parking Lot.



**Adult Red Ball Tennis** is a new offering this season. Open to all skill levels, this class will put a twist on using larger, softer and slower balls to make it easier to rally, learn and enjoy! The slower

pace means more play, less pressure – and lots of laughs.

Class takes place Thursdays, 9/11 - 10/2 from 7 - 8PM at Munster High School courts.



## STROKE PREVENTION



**Cardiovascular/Stroke Prevention and Health** will take place on Friday, 9/12 from 9-10AM.

Offered by Dyer Stroke and Cardiac Coordinators from Franciscan Health, this class will help you to learn about the early signs and symptoms of heart attacks and strokes and what to do if these are experienced. Class is \$5/person and takes place at the Lion's club Social Center.



## Centennial Park Parking

Town of Munster residents can register up to 2 vehicles per household to park for free at Centennial Park for the 2025 parking season. 2025 registration began on March 1, 2025 at [www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com](http://www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com).



**Previous registration will not carry over to following year.**

Registration can also be done at the Parks and Recreation office at Munster Town Hall during regular business hours (Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm). For more information, please visit the Town's website at [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org).

## LABOR DAY HOLIDAY COLLECTION

Trash and Recycling Collection will be picked up one day later due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 1, 2025.

Collection will be Tuesday thru Saturday this week.

Homewood Disposal  
219-931-9000



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Lake County Solid Waste Management District has a program for residents of Lake County to dispose of household hazardous waste. Any questions on the Household Hazardous Waste pick up should be directed to Lake County Solid Waste Management District at 219-853-2420.

The Munster Public Works Facility **DOES NOT** accept household hazardous waste.



## SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 20, 2025,  
Hammond Public Works, 601 Conkey St., Hammond, 9am – 1pm

## OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Saturday,  
October 18,  
2025,  
Griffith Public Works, 134 S. Colfax St., Griffith, 9am – 1pm



## TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS SEPTEMBER 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.	September 4, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	September 4, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	September 9, 2025	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	September 9, 2025	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	September 15, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	September 16, 2025	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	September 16, 2025	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	September 18, 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

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Ward #4

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Ward #5

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Clerk-Treasurer

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