



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

NEWS YOU CAN USE

OCTOBER 2025

Edited by: D.Z.



Dear Munster Residents,

This year marks a truly historic milestone in our community: **the 100th Anniversary of the Munster Fire Department!**

Founded in May 1925 by a group of twenty dedicated volunteers, the Munster Fire

Department began with modest equipment—a wooden hose cart with just 300 feet of hose, pulled by a Model-T Ford—and a big mission: to protect the people of Munster. With Leonard Brink serving as the first Fire Chief and the town's population barely 800 residents at the time, these early volunteers laid the foundation for what would become one of the most respected fire departments in the region.

Over the past century, the department has grown into a modern, well-trained, and fully equipped team of paid-on-call professionals who leave home at a moment's notice to respond to emergencies with courage, skill, and compassion. Beyond fighting fires, the department has led life-saving rescue efforts, provided fire safety education, supported community events, and stood as a steadfast protector of our homes, businesses, and families.

As part of the centennial celebration, the Munster Fire Department is in the process of reacquiring **fire engine one, a 1939 Ahrens-Fox**. Dubbed "*Old Fox*," this historic engine was Munster's first fire engine and served the department for decades before being sold in 2006. Now, the department has a unique opportunity to reclaim this beloved piece of history. To help make the return of Old Fox a reality, donations can be made payable to: *The Firefighters Association of Munster at 550 Fisher St.*



The community celebration doesn't end there. **The Munster Historical Society is joining in the festivities with two special tributes honoring 100 years of service:**

- ♦ A month-long display at the **Lake County Public Library, Munster Branch** throughout October, showcasing artifacts, photographs, and stories from the Fire Department's remarkable history.
- ♦ A specially decorated tree for the **Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society's Festival of Trees** at the Center for Visual and Performing Arts, where it will shine throughout the 2025 holiday season.

As we celebrate this century-long legacy, we honor the past generations of firefighters whose dedication built this department and the current team who proudly carry that tradition forward. Most importantly, we thank you—the residents of Munster—for your ongoing support. It's what has allowed the department to thrive and grow for a century.



We invite you to join us in commemorating this remarkable occasion at the **Fire Prevention Week Open House on Saturday, October 11, from 11:00 AM – 3:30 PM at Fire Station 2, 550 Fisher St.**

Together, we'll celebrate our history, recognize our firefighters, and look ahead to the future of fire safety in Munster.

Let's come together as a community to honor the brave men and women who have served—and continue to serve—with dedication, pride, and heart.

Warm regards,

George Shinkan, Munster Town Council President



Fall in Munster ~ From the Clerk-Treasurer

I love the fall season and look forward to cooler nights, Friday night lights, and pumpkin spice delights.

Utility Bill Reminders

Utility bills are due on the 20th of each month (or the following Monday if the 20th falls on a weekend). For October, the due date is : **Monday, October 20th.**

We want paying your bill to be simple and convenient. Options included:

- ♦ **AutoPay (free):** Set up through our website or by contacting waterbilling@munster.org for automatic withdrawals from your checking or savings account. Bills will be clearly marked "Auto Bank Draft – Do Not Pay."
- ♦ **Invoice Cloud (fee applies):** Use a credit card or bank account through our third-party processor.
- ♦ **In person or by mail:** Cash (at the counter only), check, or use the red drop box at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office.

Please note: credit card payments cannot be accepted over the phone.

Construction Updates

Construction season is winding down. Many projects required extensive underground work on sewers and stormwater systems, which can make progress seem slow. Thank you for your patience and once reopened, the smoother roads and improved drainage will be worth the wait.

Stay Connected

The Town of Munster website is your go-to resource for updates on events, meeting announcements, agendas, minutes, and links to pay your utility bill. We encourage residents to check it regularly to stay in the know.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and feedback. You can reach me at wmis@munster.in.gov or (219) 836-6945.

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster



- 10/1 Benefits of Funeral Pre-Planning
- 10/2 2/3 Bear Gymnastics at Patti's
- 10/2 Line Dancing w/ Dancin' Deeva
- 10/3 Jr. Beginner Gymnastics at Patti's
- 10/3 Mayflower Travel Show
- 10/4 Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides
- 10/4 Birding in Munster
- 10/4 Fur-ightfully Fun: Spooky Pooches Party
- 10/5 Pinch Pot Pumpkins at South Shore Arts
- 10/6 4 Bear Tumblebear at Patti's
- 10/6 Ninja Bears at Patti's
- 10/6 All American Ninjas at Patti's
- 10/6 E-S.T.E.A.M. Experience – 3-2-1 Blast off!
- 10/8 Frightening Family Bingo
- 10/8 Cardiovascular/Stroke Prevention and Health
- 10/9 Wado-Ki Karate
- 10/15 The Collective Canvas – Cheerful pink Jack O'Lantern
- 10/16 Ballet/Tap/Tumble at Susan's
- 10/16 Tiny Tot at Susan's
- 10/18 Jewelry Journey w/ South Shore Arts
- 10/18 Bieker Woods Night Walk
- 10/20 Pizza Party w/ Rockin' Robbins Kitchen
- 10/22 Boo Bag Bonanza
- 10/23 Mad Science Lab w/ South Shore Arts
- 10/23 Day off School Camp
- 10/24 Billie Burke Lunch/Show
- 10/25 Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
- 10/29 The Writing Bug Bit me ... so, what's next?
- 10/30 Tiny Punters
- 10/30 Creepin' it Real BINGO

We hope to see you for our annual Fall Festival ~
Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides

When: 10/4 from 10AM-2PM.

This is a great event to kick off the Halloween season! Pick a pumpkin from our gardens, go on a hayride, have your face painted, get a balloon animal, jump in bounce houses, take a pony ride, play games and MORE. Make sure to take some photos with our special character friends!



Come in costume and enter our 1:30PM contest and don't forget to trick-or-treat with local business vendors. \$20/child wristband.

Have a pooch registered w/ the dog park?

Join us on 10/4 from 11AM-1PM for the **Fur-ightfully Fun: Spooky Pooches Party** at the Dog Park.



For \$10/dog, all will enjoy music, a festive treat hunt and a paws-itively adorable costume contest.

Munster Parks and the Girl Scouts are excited to bring the scares again at our Annual **Bieker Woods Night Walk** on 10/18 from 6:30-9PM.



Tour guides will lead you through chills and thrills, new frights or perhaps a forgotten graveyard. Are you brave enough to join us on this haunting adventure? \$5/ticket – on-site purchases only. Ticket sales ends at 9PM.

Line Dancing w/ Dancin' Deeva runs Thursdays, 10/2-10/23 from 5:30-6:30PM at the Lion's Club Social Center. This moderately paced and rhythmic dance combines exercise and dance into one.



Line Dance targets the waist, hips, legs, knees and feet for a moderate amount of exercise. Fee: \$72 Resident



Need a place to send your kids on their asynchronous eLearning day?

Register your child for the **Day off School Camp** on Thursday, 10/23 from 9AM-4PM at the Lion's Club Social Center.

Typical camp fun will be had through games and crafts – lunch will be provided. Open to ages 5-12. Fee: \$25/child

Learn about the early signs and symptoms of heart attacks and strokes and what to do if these are experienced through the **Cardiovascular/Stroke Prevention and Health** with Dyer Stroke and Cardiac Coordinators.

Class will take place on Wednesday, 10/8 from 9-10AM at the Lion's Club Social Center. Fee: \$5





OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

National Crime Prevention Month is observed every October to raise awareness about crime prevention and personal safety in communities across the United States. Community members are encouraged to follow these important safety tips not only this month but throughout the entire year:

- Keep your personal valuables safe by never placing purses in carts and by keeping your wallet in your front pocket while shopping. Keep purses or other valuables locked up in drawers, cabinets, or lockers while at work that only you and management have access to.
- Always keep your vehicle locked up, with the windows rolled up, when you are away from it and remove all valuables from plain view. Never leave purses or wallets on your front seat with your back turned to the vehicle while pumping gas and prevent auto thefts by never leaving your vehicle engine running outside of your residence or outside of a business, even for a few minutes.
- Always shop, dine, walk, jog, or bike with a friend and carpool with them as well. Keep a look out for each other.
- Keep your guard up against scams and warn senior citizens you may know about common types such as the grandparent scam, IRS/FBI scam, utility worker scams, computer repair scams, lottery scams, and others that may target them. Remember that if you are asked to obtain funds via gift card, Bitcoin, or large amounts of cash that it is a scam and never to provide personal information.
- Talk with your children about strangers and what to do if they get lost. Make sure to keep them near you and that they are never playing or walking alone.
- Keep your residence well-lit using dusk to dawn, motion-detecting, and timed lighting and keep bushes trimmed below the window line to limit hiding places. Consider alarms and video surveillance along with accompanying signage to let burglars know that it is present.
- Watch out for your neighbors when they are on vacation and ask them to look out for your property.
- Report suspicious activity immediately to the police department by calling 911.



MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING DONATIONS - ANNUAL "COPS & KIDS" HOLIDAY SHOPPING PROGRAM

The Munster Police Department is now seeking monetary donations towards their 21st Annual "Cops & Kids" holiday shopping program for area children in need. Each year, Munster Police officers, assisted by civilian department employees, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and members of the Munster Junior Woman's Club take pre-selected children in need shopping for toys and clothing with funds that have been donated by area residents, businesses, and community service organizations. Over the past 20 years, a large number of children have been assisted during the holidays thanks to the generosity of others.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to the **Town of Munster (memo: Cops & Kids)** and either mail or drop them off to the **Munster Police Department, c/o Community Policing Unit, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana 46321. The deadline for donations is Wednesday, November 12th.** Thank you in advance for your support this year!



Munster to Highland Pedestrian Bridges Groundbreaking

The Towns of Highland and Munster joined together on Friday, September 5, 2025 for a groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited 'bridges over ditches' project. This pedestrian pathway will extend the Fisher Street trail which begins at the Pennsy Greenway near the Illinois/Indiana state line east into Highland through the NIPSCO hi-tension wire/multiple pipeline corridor. It will include two bridges to cross over Hart Ditch and Cady-Marsh Ditch to connect the Fisher Street trail to Brantwood Park in Highland. As part of the project, a new paved trail will run from between the two ditches south to Martha Street providing better access for those areas of Highland and Munster.

The Indiana Department of Transportation awarded the project in May 2025 to Gariup Construction Company Inc. from Gary, Indiana at a cost of just under \$1.8 million. The project is being funded thanks to a Transportation Enhancement award from the State of Indiana which is covering 80% of the project leaving the Towns of Highland and Munster to equally split the 20% local match for the project.

Special thanks to the many groups that are helping to make the project possible including Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, NIPSCO, Lake County Surveyor Bill Emerson Jr., Lake County Drainage Board, Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, the Town of Highland, and the Town of Munster. This project, which has been envisioned for 25+ years, will begin this fall and is expected to be completed by summer 2026.

Shown in the attached picture representing the Town of Munster (left to right):

- ◆ Mark Heintz, Town of Munster Director of Parks and Recreation
- ◆ Chuck Gardiner, Town of Munster Town Council
- ◆ Mike Andrade, Indiana State Representative
- ◆ James Marino, Town of Munster Town Manager
- ◆ George Shinkan, Town of Munster Town Council
- ◆ Wendy Mis, Town of Munster Clerk-Treasurer
- ◆ Dave Nellans, Town of Munster Town Council
- ◆ Patricia Abbott, Town of Munster Controller
- ◆ Jose Gutierrez, Town of Munster Park Board
- ◆ Dan Repay, Town of Munster Park Board



Photo credit: Ben Tomera



Fire Department Open House

The **Munster Fire Department Open House** will take place on Saturday October 11th from 11am-3pm at Station 2, 550 Fisher Street.

Come join your fire department to learn more about home safety, see fire equipment up close, and watch live demonstrations.

Also, representatives from NICTD will be on hand to answer questions about rail safety.



Smoke Alarm Canvas

Munster Fire Department will be conducting a smoke alarm canvas in the area west of Hohman Ave. south of Ridge Road on *Saturday October 25*. Firefighters will go door to door offering free inspection and installation of new smoke alarms. Smoke alarms will be provided at no cost to residents by the American Red Cross.



Residents that are not home will be provided with contact information to schedule a smoke alarm install at another time. Any Munster resident can request a free smoke alarm inspection by calling the fire department at 219-836-6960.



From Phones to Power Tools: Munster Fire Department Urges Residents to Know the Risks of Lithium-Ion Batteries this Fire Prevention Week

This year's FPW campaign is "*Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.*" It highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely.

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that's rechargeable uses this type of battery.

If not used correctly or if damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start a fire, or even explode. To reduce these risks, look around your home — it's important to know which devices are powered by them. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps people understand the importance of using these batteries correctly to prevent fires in the home and to follow the Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely approach.

Buy only listed products.

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards.

Charge devices safely.

- Follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

Recycle batteries responsibly.

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them.



2025 FALL LEAF COLLECTION

LEAF COLLECTION PICK UP

WILL BE ONCE EVERY 2 WEEKS



The Town of Munster 2025 Fall Leaf Collection will begin on, Wednesday, October 1, 2025, and will continue through December **weather permitting**. Leaves will be picked up between the hours of 7 am to 2 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. Place your leaves in a continuous long pile called a "WIND ROW". We will be using a leaf vacuum to collect your leaves.
2. 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.
3. If your street does not have curbs, place your leaves on the edge of the street pavement.
4. Please refrain from parking on the streets adjacent to piles of leaves between the hours of 7 am to 2 pm.
5. Do not place leaves around trees, sign posts, light or telephone poles.
6. 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. Make sure to separate leaves pile from branch pile.

Comingled piles of leaves and branches will NOT be picked up. 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 6970.

Branch Collection

Final month for the chipper truck.

Branch collection will continue in the month of October and will end on Friday, October 31, 2025 and will resume in the Spring.



Household Hazardous Waste Site

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

Please note:

This will be the last Household Hazardous Waste collection in Lake County for 2025.



Halloween Trick or Treat hours are from 5 - 7pm.

Friday October 31, 2025

- ♦ **Dress safely:** Wear reflective clothing, carry a flashlight, and use non-toxic makeup.
- ♦ **Stay in groups:** Trick-or-treat with a trusted adult or friend.
- ♦ **Stick to well-lit areas:** Avoid dark streets or alleys.
- ♦ **Never enter a stranger's home:** Accept treats at the door only.
- ♦ **Inspect candy:** Check for signs of tampering or homemade treats.
- ♦ **Cross streets carefully:** Look both ways before crossing, and use crosswalks when possible.
- ♦ **Carry a cell phone:** In case of an emergency, have a way to contact help



TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS OCTOBER 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.	October 2 , 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	October 6, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	October 14, 2025	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	October 14, 2025	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	October 16, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	October 20, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	October 21 , 2025	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	October 21, 2025	5:00 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	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