

Town of Munster

Department of Parks and Recreation

Board Report – October 21, 2025

DIRECTOR / ADMINISTRATION

- **West Lakes Park Washroom Building**

A preconstruction meeting was held October 7 with the architect, general contractor, and staff. The contractor anticipates being on-site within two weeks. We are awaiting follow-up from NIPSCO regarding electric service and the new gas line for the facility.

- **Bridges Over Ditches**

Gariup Construction continues work on the project, which has required significant coordination with nearby gas, electric, and petroleum utilities. Bi-weekly construction meetings are being held with the engineer and all involved parties. Repaving of the Fisher Street corridor will likely be delayed until construction traffic has concluded, allowing assessment of any pathway damage from White Oak Avenue to the project site. Staff will work with the contractor to find a fair resolution if repairs are needed.

- **Golf Course Management RFP**

The review committee has completed interviews and anticipates a recommendation for the November 18 Park Board meeting.

- **Clubhouse Electrical Redistribution**

SEH continues work on redistributing electrical lines currently fed from the existing clubhouse. Next steps are expected to be presented within the month.

- **Maynard Lake Stocking**

The Indiana DNR District 1 Fish Biologist recommended adding Redear Sunfish, which coexist well with Bluegill and offer additional angling opportunities while maintaining balance for Largemouth Bass. The DNR planned to stock fish October 8-9; however, they were not observed on-site. Staff is following up.

- **Concessions Management RFP**

One submittal was received—from Troon.

- **Tree Grants**

The Town recently received several tree donations and grants:

- 10 Living Tree Memorials purchased by the Munster Lions Club
- 8 trees through a Communitree grant
- 22 trees from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (10 for Bluebird Park and 12 for Burlwood Park)

- **Air Emission Testing**

Impact Compliance and Testing conducted IDEM-required air emission testing on the new landfill gas engine last week. Testing proceeded smoothly, and results will be shared with the Town and Andrews Engineering when received.

RECREATION

- Superintendent attended the IPRA Webinar 'Leader's Guide to Mental Health and Resiliency.'
- Superintendent surpassed the 2.0 CEU requirement and renewed CPRP certification.
- 2026 dates have been collected from the Lions Club and Needle Artisans ahead of the November 3 opening of 2026 facility rentals.
- Recreation Supervisor attended the October Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Events and Programs:

- Movie in the Park (Inside Out 2) drew over 275 attendees on a beautiful evening.
- Pumpkins, Witches, and Hayrides saw strong participation with 419 wristbands sold (35% increase from 2024). Due to the larger-than-expected crowd, pumpkins sold out within an hour and trick-or-treat bags shortly after. A new feature this year—a candy drop from a Public Works bucket truck—was a hit. Volunteers from Illiana Christian and Highland High School (over 30 total) assisted.
- Bieker Woods Night Walk planning is complete, with 50+ volunteers signed up as tour guides. Event details will be shared in November.
- Fall Soccer concluded successfully despite weather challenges; all games were rescheduled and completed.
- Promotion for 'Grateful for My Guy – Mother/Son Dance' included flyers at Montessori and Westminster schools and posting to PeachJar.
- Recreation Supervisor attends weekly BINGO sessions to collect holiday party payments. Currently, 54 participants are registered.
- Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair is fully booked with 122 vendors. Munster Bandbackers will again run concessions.
- Youth Sports programs remain steady, with 11 current participants and 12 registered for next month's sessions.

<u>Month</u>	<u># of Rentals completed</u> Lion's Club Social Center, weddings, shelter rentals + Munster Pool
January	8
February	11
March	11
April	10
May	42
June	58
July	54
August	34
September	23
2025 Total	251

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF COMPLETED PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	R	NR	REVENUE	EXPENSE	VARIANCE
<i>Adult Beginner Tennis</i>	1	5	\$325.00	\$138.00	\$187.00
<i>Adult Drill and Play Tennis</i>	6	3	\$660.00	\$179.25	\$480.75
<i>Cardiovascular/Stroke Prevention</i>	3	0	\$15.00	\$5.00	\$10.00
<i>Chat GPT Side Hustle</i>	2	0	\$60.00	\$40.00	\$20.00
<i>How to use Chat GPT</i>	3	1	\$120.00	\$80.00	\$40.00
<i>Line Dancing w Dancin Deeva</i>	11	3	\$1,076.00	\$500.00	\$576.00
<i>Mini Strikers</i>	4	1	\$205.00	\$60.00	\$145.00
<i>Patti's All American Fall Partnership</i>	1	0	\$219.00	\$131.40	\$87.60
<i>Pinatapalooza</i>	2	2	\$200.00	\$140.00	\$60.00
<i>Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides</i>	1200+		\$11,188.30	\$6,736.97	\$4,451.33
<i>Sporties for Shorties</i>	5	1	\$185.00	\$60.00	\$125.00
<i>Youth Tennis</i>	12	2	\$710.00	\$546.34	\$163.66
TOTAL:	50	1,218+	\$14,963.30	\$8,616.96	\$6,346.34

PARK MAINTENANCE

In addition to daily trash collection, restroom cleaning, Social Center setups, and landfill system operations, the following projects were completed:

- Pool buildings winterized; lift pump replaced.
- Continued repainting of park shelters and replacement of seasonal banners.
- Weekly soccer field restriping and fountain repairs completed.
- Fence repairs completed at Community Park backstops, bullpens, and batting cages; cleared trees/vines behind the north Babe Ruth field.
- Set up and support for *Pumpkins, Witches, and Hayrides* (including painting of game tables and trimming along the hayride route).
- Cleared Bieker Woods trails for the Night Walk.
- Planted 8 trees through a NIRPC grant (4 at Circle Park, 2 at Beech Park, 2 at Eads Elementary).
- Planted 11 Lions Club memorial trees in Community Park.
- Planted 10 trees at Bluebird Park and 12 at Burlwood Park via Little Calumet River Basin grant.
- Removed dead pine tree at West Lakes Park and installed six new memorial plaques.
- Cut sod around sprinkler heads and repaired 4" irrigation line and valve.

Jenbacher Engine Production

Date	Run Hours	MWh	Methane Flow
6/10/25	454	145.5	219,790
7/9/25	755	236	443,808
8/14/25	1,297	372	690,545
9/4/25	1,715	518	991,168
10/15/25	2,631	793	1,602,353

CENTENNIAL PARK GOLF

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
September		
Member Rounds	680	453
Public Rounds	1,593	1,371
Green Fees	\$27,145	\$20,069
Range Fees	\$12,018	\$8,000
Cart Fees	\$10,072	\$8,083

Pro Shop

As the golf season winds down, play has slowed due to cooler temperatures and shorter days. Focus is shifting toward membership renewals, pro shop sales, and off-season maintenance to ensure a strong start next spring.

A fall clearance sale is underway to move remaining inventory. Marketing includes in-store signage, social media, and email promotions.

Early membership renewals are being promoted to secure next season's rates and build offseason revenue stability.

Concessions

The Triple Play Café has closed for the season. Staff completed end-of-year cleanup, winterization, and storage. The café had a productive season, and operations will be reviewed for improvement before reopening next year.

Golf Course

Cooler temperatures and rain have improved turf conditions.

- Through September, rainfall totaled 20.2 inches, the lowest in the past decade.
- Five fallen trees from a windstorm were removed (with poison ivy present).
- Cleaned and trimmed the east fence line and removed 12 dead or dying trees, improving playability.
- Continued methane pipeline restoration with strong germination results.
- 10.7 million gallons pumped through September—1 million above the 3-year average.
- Tees aerated October 6; greens completed October 8 following rain delays. Fairways and range tees scheduled by month's end.
- Fall fertilizer and herbicide treatments underway.
- Quote received for asphalt repairs related to pipeline and tree damage.
- Recycling: 520 lbs of aluminum collected (~43 bags). Proceeds fund staff refreshments. Cardboard recycling also continues.