



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Edited by: D.Z.

FEBRUARY 2026

Town President's Message

Dear Neighbors,

My name is Joseph Hofferth, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the new President of the Munster Town Council. I am excited to step into this role and to work alongside my fellow Council members, Town staff, and most importantly you.

As we look ahead to 2026, there is a lot to be optimistic about. In the coming year, the Council will be focused on improving Town services, maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure, supporting local businesses, and continuing to make thoughtful decisions that keep Munster a great place to live.

To name a few things, I will mention the purchase of a new fire apparatus. It is a needed upgrade for our Fire Department to safely and effectively protect our town. The continued road resurfacing, water main replacement, as well as water tower improvements will be an upgrade for our infrastructure. Working closely with the Munster Chamber of Commerce to help where we can, to support the local businesses is always a goal. We are excited about the "Bridges over Ditches" project completion this Summer. The Centennial Park Golf Course will be managed by a new company called Orion Golf. We are looking forward to see the impactful changes they make at the course.

I believe the best ideas come from open conversation, so I encourage you to attend council meetings, reach out with questions or concerns, and share your thoughts. Your input helps shape the future of our town.

Thank you for your support and being part of what makes Munster such a special community. I am looking forward to a positive and productive 2026 together.

All the best,

Joseph Hofferth
President
Munster Town Council Ward 2

Clerk-Treasurer's Message

The Munster Civic Foundation is pleased to announce that we are the recipients of the Community Heart & Soul Grant through the Legacy Foundation. What does this mean for the Town?

This grant will rely on our residents to help the Town and the Civic Foundation better understand what matters most to our community. You may feel that the Town has already done this type of assessment, and in some ways that is true. Past efforts have often

focused on parks, streets, or Town growth. This grant gives us the opportunity to learn more about what people value in their everyday lives and in the community as a whole.

I know that I enjoy the summer concerts, walking the dogs, and the many places to dine in Town. Many of you may feel the same, or you may want something entirely different. This grant will allow us to hear from more people so we can make decisions that truly reflect the entire community.

Town Meetings

You may have also noticed changes in how Town meetings are held and shared. This past July, the Indiana General Assembly updated requirements so that all public meetings must be held live, recorded, and made available for at least 90 days. While the Town was prepared for this mandate, our existing system was outdated.

Our Town Manager, Jim Marino, introduced a new way of conducting and recording meetings, and we are now hosting meetings through CivicPlus. Meetings can be joined live, and recordings of past meetings are available at www.munster.org. From the homepage, click the button labeled “Watch and listen to upcoming Town Council Meetings” to access live meetings and recordings.

We are working through this transition and believe it will ultimately make meetings more accessible for residents and more efficient for staff.

Semiquincentennial (a fun word we don’t get to use very often!)

The Town is looking ahead to a very special milestone as we prepare to celebrate America’s 250th birthday. We are working to make the semiquincentennial the celebration it deserves. Plans include an expanded fireworks display at Centennial Park, and we expect the Munster Lions Club to host an extra-patriotic July 4th parade.

Stay tuned to News You Can Use as additional plans are developed.

Winding up this Article

Please stay engaged. Share your ideas, attend or watch meetings, and participate in upcoming Heart & Soul opportunities. Munster is strongest when residents are involved, and we look forward to hearing from you and celebrating together. Contact me, contact a Town Councilor, reach out! Wendy Mis (219) 836 – 6945 or wmis@munster.in.gov

Parks & Recreation

The summer will be here before you know it – why not look for a **summer job** in the fun department? Whether it be Summer Camp, Munster Pool, Tennis, Soccer Referee, Maintenance or something else, we’ll be hiring soon. To apply, see page 13 of your current Winter/Spring Recreation Guide with positions, hourly rate, ages to apply, contact info and deadlines.

Interested in **Summer Camp** information? Become a part of our Facebook group by searching ‘2026 Munster Parks Summer Camp’ or email jhiggins@munster.org to be placed on the email list for the most up-to-date information. Registration will begin in March – date yet TBD. Camp filled in 2 hours last year, so timing is everything!

Home Improvement Fair will take place Saturday, March 7 from 10AM-3PM at Wilbur Wright Middle School. If you’re looking for inspiration for your next home update, this event will have something for everyone. If you’re interested to apply, contact Mara at mdicarlo@munster.org or (219) 836-6922.

Keen-Ager Membership is open to those 50 years of age and older. This membership includes a monthly newsletter, discounts on programs, and daily activities Mon-Thurs (like Bridge, Pinochle, Mahjong, Euchre, Bingo and more). Rates are per individual or couple. Membership is valid for one calendar year.

Butterfly Glow Candle Making Workshop is open to both youth and adults. The youth class (ages: 8-17) will take place 2/16 from 5-6:30PM while the adult class will take place 2/23 from 5-7PM – both at the Lion’s Club Social Center. Each class will allow participants to create their own intention candle using natural wax, fragrance oils and beautiful herbs and gemstones.

Spring Soccer will run Saturdays, 4/11-5/16 for youth ages: 4-13. Throughout this 6-week season, players will learn and reinforce skills and fundamentals in league play w/ their volunteer coaches. Practices will be held once/week. Interested to coach or have questions? Contact Abby at akresal@munster.org or (219) 836-6923.

Plan for our Cricut classes in February. Vinyl designs will take place on Saturday, 2/7 from 10AM-12PM. Iron-on designs will take place on Saturday, 2/18 from 10AM-12PM – both at the Lion’s Club Social center. These classes are best for those who wish to create simple cutouts to elaborate projects and more about what all the Cricut can do! Instructor: Anitra Staley.

2/1	Butterfly Candle Making (Youth) Registration Deadline	2/12	Be Mine BINGO
2/2	All-American Ninjas at Patti’s All-American	2/13	Mayflower Travel Show
2/3	2/3 Bears (Parent/Tot) at Patti’s All-American	2/16	Butterfly Glow Candle Making Workshop (Ages: 8-17)
2/3	Acrylic Paint Pouring and Spin Art at South Shore Arts	2/21	Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
2/3	Jr. Beginner Gymnastics at Patti’s All-American	2/22	Private and Semi-Private Swim Lessons *Parent/Tot, Preschool, and Youth*
2/4	Benefits of Funeral Pre-Planning	2/23	Butterfly Glow Candle Making Workshop (Adult)
2/5	Ninja Bears at Patti’s All-American	2/27	Anne Frank Lunch/Show
2/6	4 Bear Tumblebears at Patti’s All-American	2/27	Spring Soccer Early-Bird Deadline
2/7	Cricut Vinyl Designs – Beginner	2/27	CPR Registration Deadline
2/7	Daddy Daughter Date Night	2/28	Cricut – HTV Iron-on Designs – Beginner
2/8	Butterfly Candle Making (Adult) Registration Deadline		
2/11	Babysitting Program Registration Deadline		
2/11	The Collective Canvas: Hearts in Bloom		

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



MINI MUSTANGS PRE-K PROGRAM

Pre-enrollment for the 2026-27 school year
will open on Thursday, February 5 at 7:00 am.



Police & Fire

AUTO THEFT PREVENTION TIPS

According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, over 850,000 vehicles were stolen across the United States, with one being stolen every 37 seconds. Nine vehicles were stolen in Munster last year. Please follow these important safety tips to help prevent your vehicle from being stolen:

- Always take your vehicle key. Never leave it in your vehicle or leave it running and unattended outside of your residence or a business, even for a few moments.
- Close and lock all of your doors and windows when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas when possible.
- Equip and activate an anti-theft system on your vehicle.
- Consider the use of a wheel lock.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside of the vehicle.

Public Works

A message from the Director of Operations: The Town of Munster Water Department has teamed up with a consulting company named 120Water to assist with monitoring and tracking lead water service lines throughout town as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Letters were sent to those residents who did not notify the Water Department about the material composition of their water service line.

If you have scheduled an appointment with the Water Department to inspect your service line or if the Water Department verified your service material within the last year you may disregard this letter.

If you are unsure whether your service line material has been verified, please call the Public Works Department at (219) 836-6971.

If your service material has not been verified and your home was built before 1986, please call the Public Works Department at (219) 836-6971 to schedule an appointment, or you can follow the instructions provided in the letter. We thank you for your cooperation with our ongoing efforts to provide safe and clean drinking water to our residents.

LEAF COLLECTION

The Public Works Dept. will continue with leaf vac operations for as long as it takes to get through the whole town, and we will not stop until every pile has been picked up. This is also weather dependent. As long as temperatures allow "which is above freezing" and precipitation in snow form does not hinder the operation, we will get to your pile. We would like to thank everyone for their patience during this leaf season and the crews are doing their best.

SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCES

Please read and remember the Town of Munster's ordinances for snow removal.

Ordinance:

It is hereby declared and proclaimed that it is necessary to the public health and safety that the streets of the town be cleared of snow, and if the clearing of snow is impeded and delayed by vehicles parked on the streets, such impediment and delay is detrimental to the public health and safety.

Whenever there has been snow of two inches or more, in order not to delay the clearing of such streets, all vehicles parked on all streets of the town, except streets in the area bounded by, but not including, Manor, Hohman, Ridge Road, and the northern town limits, shall be removed by the owner. These are the one-way streets between Manor and Ridge Road in the northwest section of town.

If such vehicles are not removed from the streets after two inches of snowfall occurs, and after ticketing, it shall be the duty of the police department of the town to forthwith employ some reputable person to remove such vehicles from the streets.

Ordinance:

The owner and/or occupant of any dwelling, building or subdivided lot or property shall keep the sidewalks in front thereof clean at all times of the year. Within 24 hours after any fall of snow or formation of ice, such snow or ice shall be removed from the sidewalks.

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, push or deposit in any manner snow, slush or ice onto any street or sidewalk in such a manner as to impede the safe progress and movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Persons who violate this subsection are responsible for the costs incurred by the town to remove the impediment to safe progress and movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

If you believe that a residence or business is not following this ordinance, please contact either the Munster Police Department by calling 911 or you can report the matter to Code Enforcement at 219-836-6659 for follow-up. If the situation is an extreme safety concern, always call 911.

Meeting Schedule

Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	February 2, 2026	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	February 5, 2026	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	February 10, 2026	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	February 10, 2026	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	February 16, 2026	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	February 17, 2026	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	February 17, 2026	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	February 19, 2026	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)

Elected Officials

Town Council Elected Officials:

- George Shinkan, Elected Official, Ward 1, Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
- Joseph Hofferth, President, Elected Official, Ward 2, Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027
- Chuck Gardiner, Vice President , 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

Lake County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule



LAKE COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2026

MAR
SAT 21
9AM-2PM

CROWN POINT

Lake County Fairgrounds
889 Court St., Crown Point, IN

APR
SAT 11
9AM-2PM

MUNSTER

Munster Public Works
508 Fisher St. Munster, IN

MAY
WED 13
3PM-7PM

HOBART

Hobart Public Works
340 S. Shelby St., Hobart, IN

MAY
SAT 30
9AM-2PM

GARY

Hudson Campbell Center
455 Massachusetts St., Gary, IN

JUN
WED 17
2PM-6PM

LOWELL

Lowell Middle School (N. Parking Lot)
19250 Cline Ave., Lowell, IN

JUL
SAT 25
9AM-2PM

HIGHLAND

Highland Public Works
8001 Kennedy Ave., Highland, IN

AUG
WED 12
2PM-6PM

WHITING

Whiting Public Works
1915 Front St., Whiting, IN

SEPT
SAT 12
9AM-2PM

HAMMOND

Hammond Public Works
601 Conkey St., Hammond, IN

OCT
SAT 17
9AM-2PM

GRIFFITH

Griffith Public Works
134 S. Colfax St., Griffith, IN

OCT
SAT 24
9AM-1PM

LATEX PAINT RECYCLING EVENT

Lake County Solid Waste Management District
8695 Broadway Ave., Merrillville, IN

Latex Paint is **NOT accepted** at HHW collections

- Free and open to all Lake County, IN **residents**. (No businesses, schools, or organizations)
- Limit of **100lbs** of waste per household
- **Paper Shredding** is available at all events

What is accepted?

- Aerosols
- Ammunition
- Antifreeze
- Automotive Fluids
- Batteries (household only, no car)
- Compact Fluorescent Lights
- Corrosives
- Diesel Fuel
- Fire Extinguishers (household-sized only)
- Fireworks
- Flammable Liquids
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Fungicides
- Gasoline
- Helium Tanks (household-sized only)
- Herbicides & Insecticides
- Kerosene
- Medications
- Mercury-Containing Products
- Oils and Other Fluids
- Oil Based Paint (No Latex Paint)
- Pesticides
- Poisons
- Propane Tanks (household-sized only)
- Sharps (medical needles in a rigid container)
- Smoke Detectors
- Solvents
- Thermometers (in a sealed bag)
- Thermostats (in a sealed bag)
- Thinners
- Vapes
- Waste Fuels

Learn More Here

