



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Edited by: D.Z.

MARCH 2026

Clerk-Treasurer's Message

Something Uniquely Munster and a Little of Fun

Munster is truly unique in our region for the number and variety of public art pieces throughout our community. Our public art story began in 1974, with early works funded through tax abatements and donations from Town residents. Since then, Munster's landscape has continued to grow and evolve in colorful and creative ways.

In recent years, we have added six-foot tulips, murals, and we are currently creatively electrifying utility boxes across Town, adding color and character to everyday spaces. These projects have been made possible through private donations and the continued support of the Munster Civic Foundation.

In upcoming *News You Can Use* issues; we will be turning public art into a little art hunt. Future issues will feature a different piece of public art along with information about the artist and the artwork's history in Munster. The location of the piece will be intentionally left out and that is where you come in!

If you think you know where the featured artwork is located, email ourmunsterart@munster.org and share your guess. The correct location will be revealed in the following issue. Residents who participate will be entered into a drawing for a Munster Civic Foundation Light the Night insulated cup featuring the Kaske House at Heritage Park.

Whether you are rediscovering familiar favorites or noticing something new for the first time, we invite you to take a moment to explore and enjoy Our Munster Art throughout Town.

Upcoming Utility Rate Adjustments & Infrastructure Improvements

Residents are reminded that water rates, sewer maintenance rates, and solid waste collection rates will be increasing. These adjustments are necessary to support vital infrastructure projects scheduled for 2026 that will enhance Munster's water, sewer, and roadway systems. This schedule is subject to change as projects progress. We appreciate your understanding and investment in Munster's future. If you have any questions, please contact the Town of Munster for more information.

Planned improvements include:

- Roadway and water main replacements on:
 - Oakwood Avenue, water main improvements
 - Pump stations and water tower communications upgrade, design for 2026
 - Design work to be start for water main improvements for construction in 2027
 - Forest Avenue from Ridge Road to north end
 - Kraay Avenue from Fairway to Ridge Road
 - White Oak Avenue

- Wren Drive
- Storm Sewer Work, Schoon and Hart Ditch bank stabilization and clean-up work.
- Storm Sewer improvements to be done on Columbia Avenue in preparation for Columbia Avenue paving north of 45th Avenue.
- Water tank maintenance on River Bend tank
- Ongoing branch, leaf, recycling and garbage pickup
- 2026 Proposed Road Paving
 - Primrose Lane from Azalea Drive to Camelia Drive
 - Ridgeway Avenue from Calumet Avenue to Tapper Avenue
 - Oakwood Avenue from 33rd to Fairway Avenue
 - Cedar Court from Harrison Avenue to cul-de-sac
 - Singleton Drive from Columbia Avenue to Calumet Avenue
 - Baring Avenue from Lambert to Ada
 - State Line Road from Ridge Road to I-80/94
 - Indiana Parkway from Superior Avenue to Progress Avenue
 - Progress Avenue from Indiana Pkwy to Valparaiso Avenue
 - Valparaiso Avenue from Progress Avenue to Superior Avenue
 - New Devon St from Leicester Road to Carnaby
 - River Drive from Frederick Avenue to Harrison Avenue
 - Exeter Rd from Margo Lane to Norwich Drive
 - Columbia Avenue from River Drive to Ridge Road

Paperless Option for Utility Bills

Are you looking to save a tree and receive your water bill via paperless billing through an email address?

Please email us at waterbilling@munster.org with your name, address, and preferred email address.

We will set up the paperless method for you!

Are you looking to set up a FEE FREE ACH/Auto Pay for your water bill through your checking/savings account?

Visit www.munster.org/waterbilling and click “Sign up for ACH/Auto Pay”

Warmer Days Ahead

As we look forward to spring, our parks will once again become busy gathering places for residents and visitors. Munster is fortunate to have beautiful parks throughout Town, and we encourage everyone to enjoy them responsibly.

As a reminder, residents may register up to four vehicles for parking at Centennial Park. Our Parks and Recreation staff work hard year-round to keep our parks clean, safe, and welcoming. We are also grateful for the many quiet, behind the scenes volunteers who take it upon themselves to pick up litter and care for these shared spaces. Their efforts do not go unnoticed and are sincerely appreciated.

To support both staff and these unsung volunteers, we ask all park visitors to be mindful when using our public parks and to properly dispose of trash in designated receptacles. If you encounter full or insufficient trash containers, please contact us at (219) 836 - 6900 so the issue can be addressed.

Please also remember that all Town parks are non-smoking. We thank those who smoke for respecting this policy and for properly disposing of waste, helping to protect wildlife and keep our parks enjoyable for everyone.

With warmer days ahead, we look forward to seeing residents make the most of our parks while helping to preserve the natural beauty that makes Munster such a special place.

Don't be shy

We love hearing from residents! Share your ideas, attend or watch meetings. Munster is at its best when residents are engaged, and we can't wait to hear from you. Reach out anytime; contact me, a Town Councilor, or just drop us a line. (219) 836 6945, wmis@munster.in.gov

Sincerely,

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer

Munster Civic Foundation

ELECTRIFYING MUNSTER Beauty & the Box Program Program Overview

The **Munster Civic Foundation (MCF)** is thrilled to keep the momentum going with its eye-catching community beautification initiative: **Electrifying Munster: Beauty & the Box!**

Launched in 2025, **Beauty & the Box** is a multi-year, town-wide project transforming ordinary utility boxes into vibrant works of art through original, shrink-wrapped designs. Now, RESIDENTS, local businesses, Munster-based civic and nonprofit organizations, or just fans of Munster are invited to be part of the transformation by sponsoring one of the remaining electrical boxes throughout town.

Sponsors collaborate with a graphic designer to create artwork that fits the program's design guidelines. Once approved, the design will be professionally produced as a vinyl wrap, installed and displayed for two years. Each wrapped box proudly features the MCF logo along with the phrase "Sponsored by:" followed by the sponsoring entity's name, displayed on the two larger sides at the bottom of the box. The sponsorship price per box is \$2,000 - \$2,500 and includes production and installation of the graphics.

This is a fun, meaningful way to showcase creativity, support public art, and leave a lasting impression on the Munster community. Let's make Munster even more beautiful—one box at a time! For more information regarding this exciting new initiative or email the **MCF** at CivicFoundation@munster.org.

Parks & Recreation

2026 Centennial Park Parking Registration

Registration will begin on March 1, 2026 at www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com

Town of Munster residents can register up to 4 vehicles per household to park for free at Centennial Park for the 2026 parking season.

- Registration will begin on March 1, 2026 at www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com.
- **Previous registration will not carry over to 2026.**

Registration can also be done at the Parks and Recreation office at Munster Town Hall during regular office hours. Once a vehicle is registered and proof of residency is confirmed, a confirmation email is sent to the resident. At that point, the registered vehicle is safe to park at Centennial Park without receiving a violation notice. **Parking fees are effective and will be enforced from April 1 - October 31, 2026.** 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.

Unregistered vehicles have a 15-minute grace period from when they enter the parking lot to either leave the parking lot or to pay at one of the meters or via the ParkByApp app on a smartphone. Credit/debit cards are the only forms of payment accepted. For more information, please visit the Town's website at www.munster.org.

Upcoming Events

Egg Hunts are back for all youth! Flashlight Egg Hunt for teens 9-13. Community Egg Hunts for ages 1-8 and Underwater Egg Hunt for all ages. Please see the brochure for all dates, times and fees.

ZOOM Classes are back and POPULAR! Want to learn AI? This is your time. All classes are ZOOM, therefore done at your home on your own personal device. You will be sent login information a day prior via email. Classes include: **Chat GPT Side Hustle: Making an Income working from home, How to use Chat GPT: Artificial Intelligence or Using Chat GPT AI – find ways to cut back costs.** Not interested in AI? How about **Personal Finance for hard working people or Getting Published on Amazon in 24 hours?** Each class is \$30.

Collective Canvas features “Hearts in Bloom” on Wednesday, 2/11 from 5-6:30PM at the Lion's Club Social Center. All supplies are included and you will go home with an 11”x14” canvas painting. Open to ages: 6—adult.

Spring Soccer is open to youth ages: 4-13. In this non-competitive league, your child will learn and reinforce skills and fundamentals with our volunteer coaches through practice and game play. The season runs Saturdays, 4/11-5/16. The final registration deadline is March 13. If you're interested to volunteer coach or have questions about the league, contact Abby at (219) 836-6923 or akresal@munster.org.

Crime Scene Investigation for youth, ages 7-11 will take place on Tuesdays, 3/17-4/14 from 4:30-6:30PM at the Lion's Club Social Center. Learn about forensics and fingerprinting, searching for evidence, gathering clues, perform chemical analyses and bring home your own detective kit.

Not going anywhere for Spring Break and need child care? **Spring Break Camp** it is!! This 3-day camp will have your child busy with games, crafts and other activities. Open to ages: 5-12. Monday-Wednesday, 3/30-4/1 from 9Am-4PM at the Lion's Club Social Center.

3/1	Personal Finance for Hard Working People	3/14	Using Chat GPT AI: Find ways to cut back costs
3/1	Butterfly Candle Making (Youth) Registration Deadline	3/16	Butterfly Glow Candle Making Workshop (Ages: 8-17)
3/2	Woodfield Mall Registration Deadline	3/17	Crime Scene Investigation
3/3	Mini Strikers	3/18	Woodfield Mall Day Trip
3/5	Wado-Ki Karate	3/21	Home Alone Training
3/5	Cardio Drumming	3/23	Butterfly Glow Candle Making Workshop (Adult)
3/5	Line Dancing w/ Dancin' Deeva	3/25	Upcycled Flower Power Pop-up!
3/7	Home Improvement Fair	3/25	Collette Travel Show
3/8	Butterfly Candle Making (Adult) Registration Deadline	3/27	Flashlight Egg Hunt
3/9	Sporties for Shorties	3/28	Community Egg Hunts
3/9	CPR Certification	3/29	Underwater Egg Hunt
3/11	The Collective Canvas: Lucky Little Cottage	3/30	Spring Break Camp
3/13	Spring Soccer Final Deadline		
3/13	Lucky Little Hunters Flashlight Hunt		
3/14	How to use Chat GPT: Artificial Intelligence		

Our Munster Art

A new sculpture in Munster celebrates creativity, history, and transformation. Artist Terry Karpowicz has crafted a striking piece titled *Rail & Radius*, which draws inspiration from Leonardo da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man* while incorporating industrial materials in a fresh and imaginative way.

Karpowicz fashioned the sculpture from recycled steel I-beams and railroad line, giving new life to materials with a past. The circular form, partially painted in a vibrant "Mustang red," pays subtle homage to the nearby high school and adds a dynamic visual pop. The piece symbolizes renewal, balance, and the connection between art and industry, reflecting the thoughtful integration of creativity and community in its design.

Commissioned by developer Jack Lieser, *Rail & Radius* represents both a work of art and a tribute to the area's industrial roots. Lieser notes that the sculpture captures a sense of place while serving as a lasting artistic statement.

Terry Karpowicz brings extensive experience to the project. His sculptures have been displayed at venues including the University of Illinois-Chicago, Lincoln Park Zoo, Governors State University, Prairie State College, and several corporate and public spaces across the Midwest. His work consistently blends technical skill with inventive vision, making each piece a conversation between form, material, and meaning.

With *Rail & Radius*, Munster gains more than a sculpture, it gains a symbol of imagination, transformation, and the power of art to connect community, history, and industry.

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Public Works

Residents can contact NIPSCO directly to report a streetlight outage. NIPSCO streetlight poles can be identified as wooden poles not aluminum poles. The web address for reporting a streetlight outage is

<https://www.nipsco.com/outages/power-outages/report-a-street-light-outage>

The Town of Munster does not control the amount of time for NIPSCO to repair the streetlight.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, March 21 from 9am – 2 pm

Lake County Fairgrounds
889 Court St.
Crown Point, IN

Saturday, April 11 from 9 am – 2 pm

Munster Public Works
508 Fisher St.
Munster, IN

* Paper Shredding is available at ALL HHW Events * LATEX PAINT IS **NOT** ACCEPTED AT HHW COLLECTIONS

Homewood Disposal Service

If your garbage or recycling container is in need of repair, contact HDS at 219-931-9000 to request the repair.

Meeting Schedule

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