



1005 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN 46321

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## SEPTEMBER 2011

Edited by Charlene Stout 836-6999

### TOWN'S SMALL SHOPS OR OFFICES FOR LEASE (1220 TO 4020 Sq. Ft.) CALL:

Russ Snyder  
Partners Real Estate  
922-3440

Rob Klein  
Cyrus Realtors  
924-9305

Stan Wolucka  
Wolucka and Assoc.  
836-8040

### MUNSTER MAKES *FORBES* NEWLY RELEASED

#### "TOP 25 SUBURBS FOR RETIREMENT" LIST

FORBES recognized the Town of Munster as one of their top 25 choices of suburbs for retirement living.

FORBES considered suburbs that are less than 25 miles from the center of a big city and have an average home price under \$400,000. Also, factored in were: the cost of living, tax climate for retirees, availability of hospitals, and higher education. Air quality, transportation options back to the city, and crime rates also were considered.

### LABOR DAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 5, refuse and recycling will be picked up one day later than your regular scheduled collection. Collection will run Tuesday through Saturday. Munster Town Hall will be closed Monday as well.

### CHILD ABDUCTION AWARENESS PRESENTATION

D.A.R.E. Officer James Ghrist of the Munster Police Department will be providing a Child Abduction Awareness and Prevention presentation **for parents** on Tuesday, September 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the Munster Town Hall's Main Meeting Room, 1005 Ridge Road. During this presentation for parents, information will be provided in reference to child abduction statistics, methods of abduction, characteristics of offenders, and prevention tips that parents can follow to help prevent abductions from occurring. **Please note that some of the information provided will be of an adult nature and bringing young children is discouraged.**

To register for this FREE and important presentation, contact the Munster Parks & Recreation Department at 836-7275. For more information about the presentation, contact Officer Ghrist at 836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org).

### MUNSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK AND ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Munster Fire Department would like to announce its annual Fire Prevention Week and Open House! Fire Prevention Week is October 9 through the 15. The theme for the week is **"Protect Your Family From Fire!"** During this week, firefighters will visit the local schools to bring the prevention week theme and fire safety awareness to the students.

On Saturday, October 15, the Munster Fire Department will be hosting its annual Fire Prevention Week Open House. The event, which runs from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., is free and open to the public. Fire Station No. 2, 550 Fisher Street, will host the event. All Munster residents are encouraged to come and bring family and friends. There is something for everyone. The events for the day include: Antique fire engine rides, live extrication demonstrations, fire safety house, informational displays, hands-on training with a fire hose, free literature, door prizes, food, a live house fire demonstration, and much, much more!

The live house fire demonstration is at 3:00 p.m. An actual 12' by 12' furnished room will be set on fire to show the rapid spread and the devastating effects that fire can have on a structure and its contents. The importance of leaving a building and not returning during a fire, as well as getting out as fast and safely as possible will also be some important safety messages stressed during our demonstration.

The Munster Fire Department is currently seeking donations towards this year's Fire Prevention Week and Open House. This annual event is funded solely through the generosity of local residents and businesses. **If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to the Munster Fire Department, and send to: Munster Fire Department, Attn: Capt. David Strbjak, 1005 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321.**

For more information, contact the Munster Fire Department's Fire Prevention Division, at 836-6960 or email [dstrbjak@munster.org](mailto:dstrbjak@munster.org).

## **MUNSTER'S HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22,  
9:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M., AT  
THE MUNSTER PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE,  
508 FISHER STREET**

### **BIKE PATH SAFETY**

While enjoying the bicycle paths the town provides, it is important to keep in mind safety for yourself and children. Always remember to ride on the right side of the path and be conscious of faster bicyclists passing. Also, while approaching intersections be sure to obey posted signs and proceed cautiously. Remember the bike paths close at dusk for your own safety, so please do not ride your bike on the paths at night.

### **FRAN-LIN PARKWAY CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN WITH STORM SEWER**

The town's original intent was to reconstruct Fran-Lin from White Oak Avenue to 45th Street this construction season. Soil information was gathered in April, however, the results of these tests required a more substantial design than expected. The storm sewer design portion of the project also took longer than expected because the sewer will drain into Hart Ditch at the Fran-Lin Bridge, which is under the jurisdiction of the Lake County Highway Department. Because of the delay, it was decided that it would be unwise to expose sub-base (clay) to fall rain conditions. It was decided that there is not enough time to bid the project and construct in the remainder of this season. The storm sewer portion of the job will be bid and constructed this Fall, with the sewer trench and bad spots in the road surface being temporarily patched until the street can be reconstructed next spring. After a contractor is selected, town staff will hold meetings with local residents to explain the impact on their neighborhood. For more information, call James Mandon, PE town engineer, at 836-6995.

### **NORTHCOTE BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS ADVANCE**

The Northcote bridge is legally the responsibility of Lake County, but flood proofing modifications would be funded by Hammond and Munster. The bridge deck is currently about four feet lower than the flood walls, and is the first location where floodwater would threaten to flood the Wicker Park neighborhood. The plans call for a new reinforced bridge deck and solid walls on either side of the deck, where an open guardrail now exists. When flood waters rise beyond the height of the deck, the river will be contained within the flood walls and solid bridge walls, keeping the driving surface open.

Earlier in the year, the Army Corps ran hydraulic models to see what impact solid bridge walls had on the water height during a high water event. Those analyses showed negligible impact, however, the designers also had to convince the Corps of the structural strength of the bridge during flood pressures. The required permit applications to the Indiana Department of Natural

Resources and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management were also filed in August, and should be secured by October. Final plans are expected to be finalized in November, with the Army Corps approval coming soon after. The current cost estimate for the bridge modification is \$510,000, to be shared by Hammond and Munster. If you have any questions about this project, call James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995.

### **PENNSY PATH - CALUMET AVENUE TO MAIN STREET COMPLETED**

The last element of the Pennsy bike/pedestrian path was completed in August. Several years ago, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources identified a linear area east of the dog park at Centennial Park, paralleling the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks as "smooth green snake habitat". The town was required to install a wooden bridge, which was recently completed, to span over the habitat area. With this completion, the path is continuous from Calumet to Main Street. Federal funding was recently awarded to the town for the continuation of the path from Calumet to the state line, where Lansing's path is already in place. The path is expected to be completed during the 2012 construction season. If you have any questions about this project, call James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995.

### **LANDFILL GAS WELL RENOVATION BEGINS**

If you were visiting Centennial Park for the first time, you would probably never know there was a 144-acre landfill underneath. There will always be a landfill underneath, and the long-term care of that landfill must continue long after it is converted on the surface to another land use. One of the by-products from the landfill which must be managed is gas. Several years ago a gas collection system was installed and the gas was burned in an open flare. Three years ago when Centennial Park was built, two turbines were installed to make productive use out of the gas being collected and burned. The town is currently working with Energy Systems Group to install a larger generator to make productive use (electricity) of more of the gas. As a result, the existing gas wells must be renovated to make them more productive and efficient. This means there will be less odor for residents and more revenue for the town. This \$194,000 project is currently underway and should be completed during October. A grant from the U.S. Department of Energy will pay half of the expense of this work. If you have any questions about this project, call James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995.

### **GARBAGE, WHITE GOODS & RECYCLE COLLECTION**

As a reminder, Republic Services collects garbage and recycling throughout town. Their scheduled hours of pick-up are from **6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Garbage and recycling items must be placed at the curb or alley by 6:00 a.m. on your scheduled day of collection. Republic Services will pick-up one large item per week with your regular garbage. A large item can be a chair, couch, television, mattress and box spring, etc. Also, if you are disposing of carpet, Republic Services will take it on your regular pick-up day **only** if it is cut into 5 foot sections, rolled and

secured with electrical tape, rope, or string. Republic Services **WILL NOT** pick-up construction debris such as drywall, lumber, shingles, tires, or batteries. The town will pick-up white goods each Wednesday. If you have a white-good item to be picked up, please call the Town of Munster Public Works Department at 836-6971. White goods include washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, microwaves, and water heaters. If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

## DISPOSAL OF PAINT

Paint is **NOT** accepted at the Munster Public Works Garage Recycling Center.

To properly dispose of latex paint, remove the lid and stir enough kitty litter, oil dry, or sand into the container until it is difficult to stir, let it dry. Once it is solid it can be set out with the regular trash, uncovered, so that Republic Services can see that it is dry. Latex paint is **NOT** accepted at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Oil based paint can be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection site.

## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING ORDINANCE

Garbage and recycling containers should be placed out for collection **NO EARLIER** than noon on the day preceding your collection day. Please make sure your garbage is in a container with a tight fitting top so animals cannot get into your garbage. Emptied receptacles must be **returned to the premises at the end of your collection day**. If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

## MAILBOX REPAIRS

It has been the town's practice to replace mailboxes at the curb that are damaged when streets are being plowed. The snowplow does not hit the mailboxes 99 percent of the time, the snow that is being thrown off of the snowplow can damage the mailbox. Many mailboxes that are damaged when plowing, were in disrepair before the snow season. This Fall town crews will be out before the snow season and inspect mailboxes. Any mailbox that is in poor condition will be noted and the resident will be notified by mail that they need to make repairs to their mailbox. The Town of Munster will not be responsible for repairs of mailboxes if repairs are not made.

## LAKE MICHIGAN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT HOUSEHOLD WASTE SCHEDULE (1.800.946.4449)

- **Sat., Sept. 24, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** - Hobart City Barn, 340 South Shelby St.
- **Sat., Oct. 1, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** - Lake County Fair Grounds, 889 S. Court St., Crown Point

- **Sat., Oct. 22, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Munster Public Works Garage, 508 Fisher St.**

These collections are for Lake County, Indiana, residents **ONLY** and are not available to businesses, schools, organizations, or residents living in a nearby county.

## TREE TRIMMING OF PARKWAY TREES CUTTING BACK TREES & SHRUBS IN ALLEYS

According to Munster code, it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep trees trimmed to a proper height so as not to interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. There are numerous trees that are over growing into the streets hitting vehicles. The Public Works Department will be cutting back these trees in the fall and spring to prevent damage to vehicles. The tree limbs hanging over the street will be cut back to the curb line.

There are alleys in town that are overgrown with shrubs and trees. Town trucks and garbage trucks are unable to get through these alleys without damage to the vehicles. Crews will be cutting back these trees throughout the fall and spring to prevent damage to vehicles.

Please maintain your own trees and shrubs if you do not want the town to do the trimming. If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

## HAUNTED HISTORY

at Heritage Park

Saturday, October 22

Hosted by the Munster Historical Society

In cooperation with the Munster Junior Historical Society

For info, updates, volunteer auditions, advance ticket sales, visit:  
[www.munsterhistory.org](http://www.munsterhistory.org).

Join us, if you dare, for a spine-tingling tour of the historic 1910 Kaske House, frightfully decorated and haunted by ghosts, goblins, witches, and other creatures of the night. Meet the ghoul on the gazebo, walk the candlelit tombstone trails, and listen to chilling ghost tales and local folklore. Food tent, family fun, and small children activities available throughout the park.

## MUNSTER PARKS & RECREATION 836-PARK

There is still time to get that last swim in for the summer! **Labor Day hours: Sept. 3 - 5, Open 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

All **Dog Park Members** are invited to register for **Doggie Paddle at the Pool** to be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 6, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Fee per dog: \$10.**

**Munster Centennials Vintage Base Ball Fall Games:**

Centennial Park, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 11

Saturday, September 24

**Farmer's Market**

Centennial Park, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

October 2, 9, 16 &amp; 23

**Big Wheel 500**

Frank Hammond Track, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday., September 18 (rain date Sept 25)

Ages 3 - 6, divided by age groups

\$15 Resident / \$25 On-site

**Bounce House**

Frank Hammond Track, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

\$3 pre-register / \$5 On-site

**Cash for Clutter**

Community Pool Parking Lot, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 17

Join us for a chance to turn your clutter into cash! Or come and shop for unique, one-of-a-kind treasures!

\$15R / \$25NR / \$10 table rental

Learn, play, and scrimmage at **NFL Flag Football** this fall. Taught by members of the High School football team, drills will be done the first 45 minutes and the last 45 minutes will be dedicated to scrimmaging. Each player will receive a reversible jersey and medal. Class runs Sundays, Sept 25 - October 30, from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. or 2:30 - 4:00 p.m., depending on age.

Get fit this fall by registering for one of our **Fitness Pointe** classes. Pick from 10 different classes and various days/times. Strict registration deadline: Wed., September 7.

**JOIN US ON A DAY TRIP**

- Sept. 10 - **Wind Farms of Benton County**, \$75R / \$80NR / \$74K
- Sept. 16 - **Kick Back in Saugatuck**, \$42R / \$50NR / \$42K
- Sept. 20 - **Four Winds Casino**, \$30R / \$35NR / \$28K
- Sept. 27 - **Shipshewana**, \$35R / \$40NR / \$34K

**MULTI-DAY TRIPS**

- Sept. 27 - 29 - **Autumn on the Rivers**
- Sept. 28 - 30, - **Door County**
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 6 - **Washington, D.C. / Williamsburg**
- Oct. 4 - 8 - **Branson 5 Shows**
- Oct. 28 - Nov. 4 - **Texas Roundup by Rail**
- Oct. 30 - Nov. 2 - **Treasure Island / Mall of America**
- Nov. 29 - Dec. 2 - **Christmas Traditions of the World**

**CONTINUING EDUCATION  
MEDICAL COURSES**

**Classes begin in October. Registration deadline: Fri., Sept. 23, Begin a new career or enhance your resume.**

- **EKG Technician Certification** \$ 999
- **Medical Asst. Admin. Program** \$ 999
- **Medical Billing & Coding Program** \$1,799
- **Pharmacy Technician** \$ 999

**TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2011**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Town Council Meeting	Mon., Sept. 12	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Board of Zoning Appeals	Tues., Sept. 13	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Plan Commission	Tues., Sept. 13	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room
Board of Safety	Thurs., Sept. 15	7:30 am	Conference Room "C"
Park Board Meeting	Tues., Sept. 20	7:00 pm	Munster Town Hall
Town Council Meeting	Mon., Sept. 26	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room

**Notes:**

- The above schedule is subject to change. Please telephone Town Hall at 836-6900 to confirm meetings. A schedule of these meetings and others is maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website: <http://www.munster.org>.
- To keep up with what's going on in Town, tune in to AT&T U-Verse, Channel 99 (where available). Currently, this channel is showing a bulletin board of events and public information announcements for various activities within Munster. Soon, the channel will have television shows too!

**TOWN COUNCIL & CLERK-TREASURER TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL LIST**

**JOHN EDINGTON** - 836-2637, [jwedington34@comcast.net](mailto:jwedington34@comcast.net) **MICHAEL MELLON** - 836-1766, [mmellon@ambfinancial.com](mailto:mmellon@ambfinancial.com)  
**DR. ANDY KOULTOURIDES** - 922-4403, [drkoul63@gmail.com](mailto:drkoul63@gmail.com) **ROB MANGUS** - 972-9359, [rob.mangus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rob.mangus@sbcglobal.net)  
**DAVE NELLANS** - 923-3490, [dnellans@munster.org](mailto:dnellans@munster.org) **DAVE SHAFER** - 836-6940, [dshafer@ci.munster.in.us](mailto:dshafer@ci.munster.in.us)