



Edited by E. Payne

NEWS YOU CAN USE

OCTOBER 2019



A Note On The 2020 Town Budget

During the 2010 general election, the residents of Indiana were asked if the State Constitution should be amended to ensure property tax caps. The vote was overwhelmingly in favor. When these caps went into effect the General Assembly carved out exceptions for Lake and St. Joseph Counties that allowed the property tax caps to be slightly higher than the 1, 2, and 3 % maximums prescribed elsewhere. This was due to the significant amount of debt within each county that had been issued prior to 2008. These exceptions expire next year. This will result in more properties hitting their tax caps and less property tax revenue for local governments.

The Town of Munster has five property-tax supported funds. They are the General Fund, Redevelopment Operating Fund, Motor Vehicle and Highway Fund, Parks Fund, and the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. The Town uses property tax revenues to fund services in all our departments.

The Town began to work on this issue in the fall of 2017 by commissioning our financial advisors at Baker Tilley to project a potential impact. In December of that year, Baker Tilley projected a \$2.88 million loss in revenue for the Town. A subsequent analysis of more recent financial data amended this projection to \$1.87 million in lost revenue. This represents a 25% decrease in property tax revenues which will result in a 10% decrease in total available funds from 2019 to 2020.

No single solution would be able to bridge that \$1.87 million gap. Throughout 2018 and 2019, we worked on a host of solutions including, but not limited to: temporarily curtailing property tax-supported debt for capital purchases, providing early separation incentives, and the implementation of temporary vacancy control measures.

As a result of this work, I am pleased to report that the Town is in a strong financial position for 2020 and is poised to continue delivering the same level of high-quality services our residents expect and enjoy.

Beyond 2020, the tax caps will continue to affect the Town's property tax revenues, which are projected to grow approximately 5% year-over-year in the next three subsequent budgets. Knowing that additional properties will hit the circuit breaker, we will continue seeking and implementing solutions to manage our costs, balance the wants and needs of the organization, and maintain services and amenities throughout the community.

Questions, comments, or concerns can be directed to the Town Manager at danderson@munster.org or 219-836 - 6905.



IMPORTANT

NOTICE

.....PLEASE READ

Recycling Information!

Due to a continual increase in illegal dumping and contamination, which results in increased costs, the Lake County Solid Waste Management District has decided to end its Recycling Center Drop Off Program. Electronic Recycling ONLY is at 508 Fisher Street. Residents without curbside recycling are encouraged to contact their garbage hauler for curbside recycling options. Dumping of plastic and cardboard recyclables is PROHIBITED at 508 Fisher Street. This site is equipped with security cameras.



Leaf Collection Begins on October 1, 2019

It is almost leaf season! We intend to make at least four complete passes through the Town. Please helps us move as efficiently as possible by following these guidelines:

- Please DO NOT PARK VEHICLES in front of leaf piles between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Leaves MUST BE in a continuous long pile called a "windrow" on parkway grass (between curb and sidewalk) NOT ON THE STREET and less than 4' from curb.
- Please do not place any: sticks, bricks, stones, grass, garbage, branches, bushes, or other debris in the windrow. We have found all these and more while picking up leaves. These items slow the collection rate and damage equipment.
- DO NOT PARK VEHICLES OVER LEAF PILES - this may result in fire.
- Please note branch collection will end once leaf season begins.

We anticipate publishing a weekly schedule and posting daily updates for your convenience. This schedule will be posted on the Town's website and Facebook page.



Household Hazardous Waste Sites

Saturday, October 5th

Griffith Public Works

134 S. Colfax St., Griffith, IN

Saturday, October 26th

Hammond Public Works

601 Conkey St., Hammond, IN

*Hours 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

October Happenings

Munster Park & Recreation 219-836-PARK

LET'S GO ON A HAYRIDE



Pumpkin & Witches Hayride
Centennial Park
Saturday, October 5, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Pick a pumpkin from our gardens, go on a hayride, have your face painted, jump in bounce houses, play games, enter our costume contest, trick-or-treat local businesses, pet some animals and more!

Child all-access wristband \$10/Parent Pass \$5 (limited activities). Sponsored by our friends at: Community Healthcare System, Montessori Children's Schoolhouse and Wadas Dental. If you're interested in becoming a business or food vendor at this event, contact us at jhiggins@munster.org.



Munster Ale Fest
Centennial Park
Saturday, October 12, 2019
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Bring your taste for great beer and spirit for fun to this year's Ale Fest. Explore the flavors of the newest breweries, enjoy

food truck cuisine, play yard games, and try your hand at winning prizes! Purchase tickets now at www.munsteralefest.com - many options available.



Community Market
Community Park
Every Tuesday until October 15, 2019
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Don't forget we still have the market running! It's never too late to become a vendor, contact Parks & Rec. at 219-836-7272.



Park Shelter Rentals 2020

Are you looking to rent a facility or shelter with us in 2020? We begin taking all 2020 rentals on Friday, November 1, 2019. In order to rent a facility with us, you must come in person to our office and pay the entire fee (Rental fee + Tax + refundable deposit). *No dates will be held without full payment.



Continuing Education

We offer an array of Continuing Education and online programs: Clinical Medical Assistant, EKG Certification, Pharmacy Technician, Dental Assisting (+), Dialysis Technician (+), Phlebotomy Technician(+), Medical Billing and Coding (+), Paralegal

Program (+) and more! You have 6 months to complete online courses (+). Contact Jill Higgins at jhiggins@munster.org or (219) 836-7275 for more information.

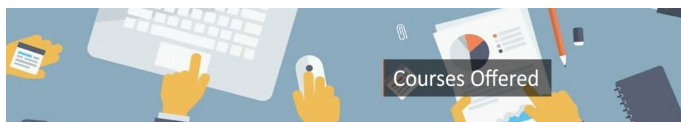


Classes held at Midwest Training and Ice 10600 White Oak Ave, Dyer, IN

- | | |
|------|--|
| 10/2 | Trampoline (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/4 | Beginner Pre-Hockey (Ages 3+) |
| 10/5 | Beginner Tot Learn to Skate (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/5 | Pre- Alpha Beginner Skate (Ages 6+) |
| 10/6 | Parkour (Ages 3-5 and 6+) |
| 10/7 | Trampoline (Ages 6+) |



- | | |
|-------|---|
| 10/3 | Wado-Ki Karate (Ages 4-6 and 6+) |
| 10/10 | The Lorax (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/12 | Intermediate Drawing (Ages 9-13) |
| 10/12 | Intro to Cartooning (Ages 9+ and Adult) |
| 10/12 | Intro to Drawing (Ages 9-13) |
| 10/14 | Adult/Tot Sports (Ages 2-4) |
| 10/14 | Floor Hockey (Ages 6-9) |
| 10/15 | Basketball Clinic 101 (Ages 6-9) |
| 10/15 | Lil' Dribblers (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/15 | Yoga and Breathing (Ages 12+) |
| 10/17 | Boys Action Adventure (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/17 | Tiny Tots (Ages 2-3) |
| 10/18 | Basketball Clinic 201 (Ages 9-12) |
| 10/18 | Pee Wee Soccer (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/19 | Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training (Ages 11+) |
| 10/23 | Gridiron Flag Football (Ages 4-6) |
| 10/23 | T-Ball Skills Clinic (Ages 3-5) |
| 10/28 | Parent/Tot Tumblebear Gymnastics |
| 10/28 | Preschool Tumblebear Gymnastics |
| 10/28 | School Age Tumblebear Gymnastics |



- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10/6 | Advanced Wire Tapping |
| 10/8 | Intro to Drawing (Adult) |
| 10/9 | Intermediate Drawing (Adult) |
| 10/14 | Clinical Medical Assistant |
| 10/16 | Excel-In-A-Day |
| 10/21 | EKG Technician Certification |
| 10/21 | Pharmacy Technician |
| 10/26 | Developing a personal and Home Protection Plan |



- | | |
|-------|---|
| 10/8 | Autumn In Geneva |
| 10/17 | Jewelry, Fashion, and Accessories Show Trip |
| 10/24 | Maggiano's Little Italy |



- | | |
|-------|---|
| 10/1 | Chair Yoga |
| 10/22 | Lady Catherine and the Real Story of Downtown Abbey |
| 10/31 | Halloween BINGO |



Fitness Pointe Offers a Variety of Classes!!

Aqua Pilates, Chi Gong, Pilates Sculpt, Cycle, and many more!

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 10/9 | Fitness Pointe Deadline for Signup |
| 10/14 | Fitness Point Classes BEGIN THIS WEEK |

PRESERVING PEACE
PREVENTING CRIME
PROTECTING LIFE

MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING



The Munster Police Department invites and encourages all residents to attend the final quarterly Munster Crime Watch Meeting of the year on Thursday, October 24th at 7:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road. This meeting will include:

- Crime statistics and updates on recent incidents in Munster.
- A presentation from members of the Munster Police Dept. Tactical Patrol Unit.
- A \$25 Target gift card will be awarded as a door prize.

For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639/jghrist@munster.org. We hope to see you there!



CHOICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Choice Community Council, which is an open organization for any Munster resident who would like to help plan or volunteer for programs aimed at drug, gang, or violence prevention in Munster, will be holding their final quarterly meeting on Thursday, October 24th at 6:00pm at the Munster Town Hall (in Conference Room A). Please note that this is NOT a Crime Watch Meeting (that meeting is held at 7pm that same evening in the Main Meeting Room). Again, anyone is welcome to participate and to provide ideas or suggestions for crime prevention programs. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.



MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING "COPS & KIDS" SHOPPING PROGRAM DONATIONS

The Munster Police Department is seeking monetary donations through Friday, November 8th towards this year's "Cops & Kids" holiday shopping program. Each year, Munster officers take area children in need shopping around the holidays with funds donated by local residents, businesses, or community organizations. Last year's event involved almost 100 area children thanks to the generosity of others.

If you would like to provide a donation, please make checks payable to the Town of Munster (memo: Cops & Kids) and mail them to the Munster Police Department, c/o Officer James Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321. For more information, please contact Officer Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org. Thank you in advance for your support this year!



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 6th through the 12th. The theme for the Week is "**Not every hero wears a cape. PLAN and PRACTICE your ESCAPE!**" During this week, firefighters visit the local schools to bring the prevention week theme and fire safety awareness to the students.

On Saturday, October 12th the Munster Fire Department will be hosting its annual Fire Prevention Week Open House. The event, which runs from 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., is free and open to the public. Fire Station No. 2, located at 550 Fisher Street, will host the event, as in years past. We encourage all residents of Munster and surrounding communities to attend and bring their families & friends. There is something to do for everyone. Some of 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 more.

The live house fire demonstration is at 3:00 p.m. An actual 12' X 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 TOWN OF MUNSTER** and mailed to 550 Fisher Street Munster, IN 46321 **ATTN: Deputy Chief David Strbjak**.

For more information, please contact the Munster Fire Department's – Fire Prevention Division at (219) 836-6960 or email dstrbjak@munster.org or jrebey@munster.org.





Munster Town Hall
1005 Ridge Road
Munster, IN 46321
Conference Room B

Munster Town Hall is an Early Voting Satellite Location. The following dates/times for Early Voting, which begins on October 8, 2019 are listed below:

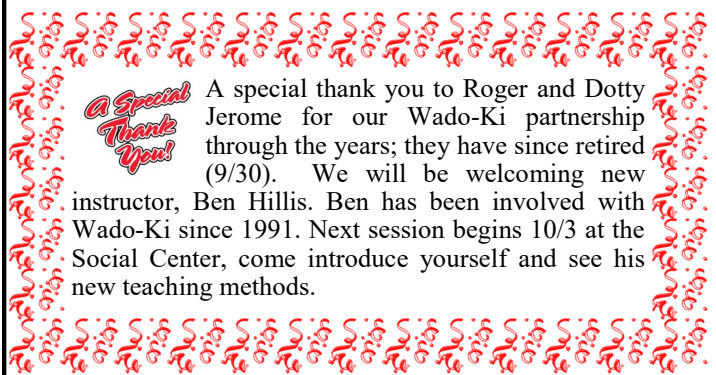
Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
 October 8 - November 4, 2019
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursdays
 October 10, 17, 24 and October 31, 2019
 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays
 October 26 and November 2, 2019
 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

***Final Day for Early Voting**
Monday, November 4, 2019
 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

*Please remember to bring photo ID when voting.



TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER

Park Board Meeting	October 1, 2019	Noon	Centennial Park
Town Council Mtg/Redevelopment Com.	October 7, 2019	7:00 p.m.	Main Meeting Room
Board of Zoning Appeals	October 8, 2019	7:00 p.m.	Main Meeting Room
Plan Commission	October 8, 2019	7:30 p.m.	Main Meeting Room
Board of Safety	October 10, 2019	7:00 a.m.	Main Meeting Room
Park Board Meeting	October 15, 2019	5:00 p.m.	Main Meeting Room
Town Council Mtg/Redevelopment Com.	October 21, 2019	7:00 p.m.	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>.

Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to "Community Programming Initiative" which members of the Munster Town Council discuss issues in town, the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m.

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

Lee Ann Mellon	219-757-1332	lmellon@munster.org
John Reed	219-712-4104	jpratlaw@aol.com
Dr. Andy Koultourides	219-595-5606	drkoul63@gmail.com
Dave Nellans	219-923-3490	dnellans@munster.org
Joseph Simonetto	219-789-6177	jsimonetto@munster.org
David Shafer	219-836-6945	dshafer@munster.in.gov



L. Mellon



J. Reed



A. Koultourides



D. Nellans



J. Simonetto



D. Shafer