



NEWS YOU CAN USE

APRIL 2020



Town of Munster
Town Manager
Dustin C. Anderson

Welcome to our new normal, for now.

Everyone is making adjustments to how they approach their personal and professional life. Many of these adjustments are uncomfortable. That is no less true of our organization here at the Town of Munster. However, what I hope you take away from this edition of the newsletter is that we are working hard across the entire organization to rapidly evolve our processes and meet you where you are at with the same high-quality services that you deserve and expect. Each department has worked diligently to come up with solutions to that end, and many of those ideas and updates are presented here for your information.

Just like our own challenges during this great adjustment, there will be some hiccups as we move many elements of our operation on-line and conduct most of our resident-facing business digitally. These will be solvable. Ultimately, I am confident that our organization will be stronger and able to more capably serve you at the conclusion of this - whenever that may be.

Please be well, wash your hands, and let's all stay distant together.

Dustin Anderson
Town of Munster Indiana
O: 219 836 6905
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www.munster.org

Your **vote** counts

Indiana has moved the state's May 5, 2020 primary election to June 2, 2020. This was necessary to ensure the safety of employees and poll workers. Deadlines to register to vote and the date to early vote will also change. Dates and times of early voting will be posted on our website at a later date. For complete information regarding your voting location, voting status, how to register to vote, and much more information, please visit <https://indianavoters.in.gov>.

Closed for Good Friday



Treasurer's
CORNER

Town of Munster,
Clerk-Treasurer
Wendy Mis

As I am drafting this on March 19th, it is unclear what the situation will be when you read this in April. The COVID-19 virus has created an ever-changing situation. We began preparing months ago with preventative measures such as hand washing, use of hand sanitizer and frequent workspace disinfecting. We have been meeting as the leadership of the municipality to discuss the needs of each department and determine ways we can work together to best serve Munster. We have been participating in numerous webinars to gather the most current information.

We are continuing to maintain our normal working schedule however, public access to municipal buildings has ceased. I am deeply appreciative of our staff and their faithful reporting to work each day although they may wish they could remain at home.

Our office is accepting payments via www.munster.org, through the mail and in our **red drop box** located in the parking lot of Town Hall. Stay connected through the Town of Munster Facebook page and on the Town's website: www.munster.org.

The Town must still conduct business. Executive Order 20-04 from the Indiana Governor offered us the ability to continue with public meetings but limits them to be held only for essential matters. This order also allows electronic participation at public meetings and, by the time you read this, we should have held our first virtual meeting.

I hope you can spend this time making memories, supporting local businesses, especially our restaurants, and recharging your mental batteries. My two twenty-something kids have been working remotely and taking virtual classes from our home. This means I am spending my nights playing games, doing puzzles and binge-watching TV with them.

Be kind to our police, fire, parks, building, and public works people as they go about the business of keeping the town safe and well-maintained. If you have any questions, contact me at: wmis@munster.org or 219-836-6945.

One last thought, **complete your 2020 census form**. An accurate count is extremely important to the funding the Town receives. The information you provide is used for counting purposes and will remain confidential for the next 72 years. Take 10 minutes to complete the form as we all NEED this funding.

munster **PARKS** AND RECREATION

Due to the ever-evolving COVID-19 procedures, Munster Parks and Recreation will be postponing the start date of all upcoming programs before 4/13. At this time, all egg hunt events have been postponed. We will again reevaluate the week of 4/6.

Thank you,

Munster Parks and Recreation's Office

Community **DEVELOPMENT**

The Town of Munster Community Development Office is not currently open to the public, but business can still take place. Business Permit Instructions or Contractor Registration can be completed by going to Town of Munster website and selecting proper forms. The completed forms can be submitted by email, US mail, or by placing in the big red drop box in the Town of Munster Town Hall parking lot.

Office Hours Monday - Friday,
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Telephone Number: 219-836-6990
(*please leave message with voicemail)

LIGHTNING PREDICTION AND **WARNING SYSTEM**

The Thorguard Lightning Prediction Warning System will be reactivated in April at the following parks in town: Community Park, Beech Park, Grove Park, Frank H. Hammond Park, Stewart Park, White Oak Park, Twin Creek Park, Bluebird Park and Centennial Park.

NOTE: The system will be operational 7 days a week from 6 am to 11 pm starting in April through November 31. The warning system may be tested, on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am. The Thorguard Lightning Prediction System will sound a warning horn (15 second blast) when a potentially dangerous weather situation is approaching. If you hear the alarm, clear the park immediately and seek proper shelter. All activities must cease once you hear the horn. Wait for the all clear (3 short horn blasts), before returning to normal activities. If the all clear does not sound after 30 minutes, cancel your park event. This system is here for your safety.

SUPPORT OUR POLICE

Executive Order #20-04

Per Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb's Executive Order #20-04, the Munster Police Department is closed to the public until further notice. Record requests, such as: police reports, accident reports, gun permits, vehicle releases, etc., can and should be done via telephone or email. Please call 219-836-6630 or 219-836-6650, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Backgrounds, fingerprinting services, and vin checks are suspended until further.

In addition to this, the Munster Police Department will be screening calls for service to determine the appropriate level of response. Calls for service that are deemed to be non-emergency in nature may be taken over the phone.

When calling to report your call for service, regardless of the nature, provide as much information to the call taker as possible to include a current phone number. If your request is determined to be of a non-emergency nature by one of our supervisors, an officer will call you back at the phone number provided, as soon as possible. **The Munster Police Department response to emergency calls will remain unchanged throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.**

Please follow the directions on the CDC website if you think you are sick or believe you may have had contact with somebody who is infected.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>



MUNSTER **CRIME WATCH MEETING** **(CANCELLED)**

The Munster Police Department will be holding their second quarterly Munster Crime Watch Meeting on Thursday, April 23rd at 7:00pm at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road. All residents and business representatives are invited and encouraged to attend. In addition to providing crime statistics and updates on recent incidents in Munster, the meeting will include a presentation on Human Trafficking in Indiana from the SAFE Coalition for Human Rights. A \$25 Target gift card will also be awarded as a door prize. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.



CHOICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL **MEETING** **(CANCELLED)**

The Choice Community Council, which is an open forum for any Munster residents who would like to help plan or volunteer for programs aimed at drug, crime, and violence prevention in Munster, will be holding their next meeting on Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00pm at the Munster Town Hall (Conference Room A), located at 1005 Ridge Road. Please note that this is NOT a Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting but any interested or concerned residents who would like to get involved in planning our events and/or programs are welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.



During this evolving national health emergency the Public Works Department like other Town Departments are following extraordinary protocols to help protect the health of its employees and the residents that we serve. We are prepared to ramp up needed actions should the situation demand as recommended by either the CDC or State of Indiana.

Our plan is to minimize in-home services such as water meter installations but to continue essential services and emergency response. We've beefed up our internal sanitation and hygiene protocols to keep Town facilities as clean as possible and are practicing social distancing, all in the effort to halt the spread of any virus. We've identified essential services and will continue to dedicate resources and respond to those primary needs, namely; maintaining a safe and robust water supply, fixing water main breaks, checking sanitary sewer backups to eliminate blockages in Town lines, removing storm damaged trees and fixing pot holes.

While all Town buildings remain closed to the public. Please reach us by phone at 219-836-6970/6971 or via email: lpramuk@munster.org/kkeane@munster.org should you have any concerns that need attention. Thank you for your patience as we work through these challenging times together.

Stephen J. Gunty
Director of Public Works

MUNSTER PUBLIC WORKS HOURS

Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
219-836-6970/6971

After Hours contact number
Lake County Dispatch Center
219-660-0001

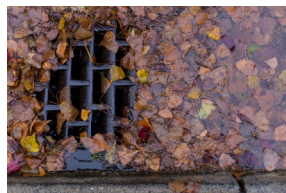


**There will be regular
garbage pick up on
Good Friday
April 10, 2020**

- Waste Management suspended picking up bulk items or other materials that would be placed on the ground.
- Residential contact centers are also suspended in an effort to protect the employees at Waste Management that work closely together by social distancing.
- There will be a recording stating changes when a customer calls the service center.
- **1-800-964-8988 Waste Management**



Crews are going through the entire Town scouting out every location that has been damaged by our snowplows. If your lawn or parkway was damaged by our plows, please call 219-836-6970 to make sure we have your address. Throughout April we will be reseeded all these areas. We will also be restoring watermain break sites that developed over the winter during this time. We should be complete by the end of April.



April showers bring more than May flowers. Spring rains can cause flooding of yards and streets. Most of the time flooding can be prevented by making sure the drain grates are kept free of debris. It doesn't take much to clog a drain and have it cause significant flooding of streets and/or yards. As material such as leaves, twigs, and litter are washed from the ground surface it collects onto the drain grating and acts like a rubber plug. The flow of water runoff into the drainage system is drastically reduced when material collects near or on the drain grate. Residents can do their part by helping keep drains near your home free of debris.

**curbside
leaf collection}**



SPRING LEAF/BRANCH COLLECTION

Both starting April 1, 2020

Weather permitting for 2 weeks. Munster will be having the spring leaf collection. **Do not put leaves in your garbage can, plastic bags or in brown bags, Waste Management will not pick them up.** Rake your leaves to the curb for the spring leaf collection.

Since pick-up quantities are not known, it is difficult to predict exactly which neighborhood will be picked up on which day, so please have your leaves out. We will start on the northwest section of Town and work south. Please place your leaves in a continuous long pile.

We will be using a leaf vacuum to collect your leaves. If your street has curbs, please place your leaves right behind the curb on the grass parkway. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE LEAVES IN THE STREET.** If your street does not have curbs, please place your leaves on the edge of the street pavement. Also, please be careful not to mix leaves with large sticks, rocks or other debris, which could cause injury to an employee or damage to the equipment. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, you can contact the Public Works Department at 219-836-6971.

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Weather permitting; branches will be picked up with the chipper. These branches should be no longer than 5' long and 5" in diameter. Twigs and yard waste should be put into your garbage cans or bagged. Small branches should be bundled and tied; these will be picked up with your garbage. If you have any questions, you can contact the Public Works Department at 219-836-6971.

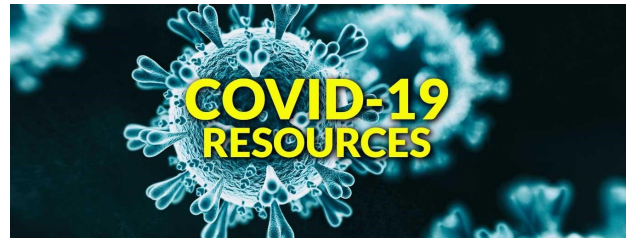


As a reminder, the following products are **NOT** flushable, and should be disposed in a waste basket. Wastewater Treatment Plant Will be Overwhelmed, Consumers Will Face In-Home Plumbing Backups and Blockages.

- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Kleenex and other tissues
- Wet wipes/baby wipes (even those labeled as “flushable” wipes)
- Diapers
- Feminine hygiene products



Due to suspension of bulk goods collection by Waste Management, the Public Works Department is limiting it's Wednesday collection of white goods to strictly **large appliances only**, such as washers, dryers, refrigerators and dishwashers. Please note you must contact Public Works Department 219-836-6971 on Tuesday to schedule pickup for Wednesday. Thank you for your patience as we work through these difficult times.



Top Websites To Find Information on COVID-19

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
<https://www.hhs.gov/>

Indiana State Department of Health
<https://secure.in.gov/isdh/>

U.S. Department of State
<https://www.state.gov/>

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR APRIL TBD AT LATER DATE

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 NUMBER AND E-MAIL LIST



Ken Schoon

Ken Schoon
Lee Ann Mellon
Chuck Gardiner
Steve Tulowitzki
Dr. Andy Koultourides
Wendy Mis



Lee Ann Mellon



Chuck Gardiner

Ward #1
Ward #2
Ward #3
Ward #4
Ward #5
Clerk-Treasurer



Steve Tulowitzki

219-765-8052
219-757-1332
708-606-7223
219-226-8973
219-595-5606
219-836-6945



Dr. Andy Koultourides



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