



NEWS YOU CAN USE

May 2020

1005 Ridge Road, Munster, IN

Edited by E. Payne



From the Clerk-Treasurer

COVID-19 has changed the way the Clerk-Treasurer's office is conducting business. We have had to close our doors to the public and we miss seeing our regular customers. We are putting in place some protective measures to ensure the health and safety of our staff and to those who visit our office when we open our doors. We are adding sneeze guards to the customer services counter and hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the building.

Shortly after the doors to the public closed, we began working with staggered staff schedules to comply with an Executive Order from the Governor. We have been working to complete essential services while providing a healthy environment for our staff. We are accessing and processing payments per extended State Board of Accounts guidelines so you may not see your payment reflected as timely as usual. We, in the Clerk-Treasurer's office, appreciate residents reaching out and being patient with us.

Your current water bill is probably higher than it has been in the past. Between staying home more and possibility having more people in your house, you may be using your utilities more. However, if you suspect you have a water leak, we have included information for you in this newsletter to help you assess your toilets.

While no utility services will be disconnected during the health emergency, per an Executive Order, you are still responsible for the timely payment of your utility bill. If you have any questions about the enclosed bill, you are encouraged to contact the Utilities Department directly. We can be reached at 836-6948 or 836-6949 or you can email me, and I will forward to the appropriate people.

The Clerk-Treasurer's office now has a Facebook page, *Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster*. I felt that the residents needed a place to get information and reminders about our office specifically. The page will advise residents when the utility bills were put in the mail and we will remind you of the upcoming utility due date.

We are using Facebook to remind people to complete the 2020 Census. You can still reply online and if you have not already completed, you may be receiving a paper copy in the mail. In the next few months, if you have not completed the form a representative of the 2020 Census may be coming to your door. Additional information regarding the census is included in this newsletter.

I welcome questions and comments and you can reach me at 836-6943 or via email: wmis@munster.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wendy Mis

Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster

United States
Census
2020

Visit Census 2020 online
www.2020census.gov

2020 Census Update

You should have already received two letters from the census with an access code specific to your address. You have until October 31, 2020 to complete your census online but help us out and complete it today!

Paper census questionnaires have been mailed to those who have not yet completed the online census.

Beginning in mid-August, census workers may come to your home if you have not completed either the questionnaire online or via mail.

Our community receives funding based on the results of the 2020 census and this will continue to impact our community for 10 years until the next census is taken. Funding for hospitals, fire departments, schools, libraries, and roads is provided based on numbers taken from the census.

The census is hiring in Lake County and you can apply online. The salary posted is between \$22.50-\$25.00 per hour. The positions will last several weeks and will include nights and weekends.

Watch out for Census related scams. The 2020 Census will NOT ask you for: bank account information, social security number, credit card numbers, or your political affiliation.

If you suspect census fraud, please contact the Munster Police Department.

*The official 2020 census website is: www.2020census.gov

2020 Census by the Numbers (as of *04/21/2020)

National Response Rate: 51.6%

Indiana Response Rate: 55.2%

Lake County Response Rate: 55.7%

Munster Response Rate: 70.5%

Rankings by Indiana City

- #1 Spring Hill - 78.3%
- #2 St. John - 75.1%
- #6 **MUNSTER - 70.5%**
- #11 Dyer - 69.4%
- #13 Schererville - 68.9%
- #21 Crown Point - 67.1%
- #39 Highland - 64.9%
- #53 Cedar Lake - 62.7%
- #115 Griffith - 7.6%
- #243 Hammond - 51.2%
- #437 Gary - 39.2%
- #458 East Chicago - 35.9%
- #566 Clifford - 3.3%



2020 Census response rates can be accessed at:
[2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html](https://www.2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html)



MUNSTER BEGINS STREETSCAPING PLAN

The Town of Munster is excited to announce the kick-off of the Streetscape and Corridor Improvement plan for Ridge Road & Calumet Avenue. The plan will address the public realm – the geometry and materials of streets and sidewalks, crosswalks, curb cuts, lighting, and landscaping – within the Calumet and Ridge Road business district with the goal of enhancing the walkability, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability of the corridors. The cost of the plan has been offset by a \$50,000 grant from the Indiana Lake Michigan Coastal Program.

The Town has hired leading planning and engineering firms Teska Associates and Sam Schwarz Engineering to help us complete the work. Teska has extensive experience developing corridor and streetscaping plans for municipalities throughout the Chicago region and Sam Schwarz Engineering is a national leader in multimodal transportation planning.

Over the course of about 10 months, we will be reaching out to residents and businesses in Town and offering various opportunities to get involved in the plan. If our current stay-at-home order remains in place, the open houses and meetings will be held online. Once completed, the plan will include recommendations for specific capital improvements and projects and a budget analysis organized as near term and long-range investments.

Please watch the Munster website and Facebook pages for meeting announcements and project materials.

Indiana Primary Election Day is Tuesday, June 2, 2020

- Early in-person voting will be held from May 26, 2020-June 1, 2020. At this time, locations have not yet been announced. The Town of Munster home page will share updated information when it is received.
- **Online Voter registration deadline is May 4, 2020.**
- All registered voters may choose to cast a ballot by mail/absentee ballot in the upcoming June 2, 2020 Primary Election.
- A voter does not need to indicate a reason for the absentee ballot. If you have already submitted an application for the original primary date, there is no need to resubmit an application for upcoming primary election.
- Application for the 2020 Primary Absentee Ballot is now available for download and printable at www.IN.gov (Form ABS -Mail Primary 2020).
- Application may be submitted as follows: In person, by mail, by email lcabsenteevoting@lakecountyin.org, or by fax at 219-755-3801.
- Please return completed absentee ballot to your county election officials by deadline date of May 21, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. local time.
- Mailed in absentee ballot address: Lake Co. Board of Voter Registration, 2293 N. Main Street; A205, Crown Point, IN 46307.
- For a valuable source of election related information including application to register to vote, your voter registration status, vote by mail options, voting locations and election security visit www.indianavoters.in.gov.
- Lake County Election Board telephone number 219-755-3467.



WHY IS MY WATER CONSUMPTION HIGH?

The most common reason for increased water consumption is a leaking toilet. This does NOT mean you will see water pooling on the floor outside the toilet. The water is simply running through the toilet. That is why identifying if a toilet is leaking should be done as soon as you suspect a leak! Here are some simple steps you can take to test a toilet for leaks.

One way you can check your toilet for leaks is to open the toilet tank, drop a dye tablet or some food coloring in, and wait 15 to 20 minutes. **DO NOT FLUSH THE TOILET DURING THIS TIME.** When you return, look in the toilet *bowl* (not the tank). If you see colored water in the bowl, then you have a leak.

There are other ways to check the toilet, if you don't have food coloring or dye on hand. Make sure your water level isn't above the overflow pipe in the tank. If it is, then you may have a problem with your fill valve. If you see water trickling down the inside of the toilet bowl when it hasn't been flushed, this is a sign of a leak. If your unused toilet is making lots of noise (a running noise), then you definitely have a leak. If you can jiggle the handle and make the running stop then you probably need to adjust the flapper valve or the chain connecting the flush handle to the flapper valve.

If you think your toilet might be leaking, but none of these tests work, there is one last way to determine if a toilet has a bad seal. Before you go to bed, shut the water off to the toilet in question. In the morning, check the water level in the tank. If the water level is low and close to the bottom of the tank, then one or more of your tank parts is bad and is allowing the leak.

Robin Lawson

Deputy Clerk-Water Billing
Clerk-Treasurer's Office
219-836-6949
rlawson@munster.org



As the weather warms and the seasons change, so do our service priorities here in Town. You will see road resurfacing and reconstruction throughout our community. Alleys along Belden, Beacon, Beverley, Gregory, Adelaide, and Ridge Road will be repaved. Watermains and streets will be resurfaced of Harrison. Hohman and Margo will see significant improvements, as will Southwood and Camellia.

While these neighborhood projects progress, we are also making significant progress on our 45th Street Grade Separation and Intersection Realignment Project. Currently, retaining walls for the train bridge are being constructed, drainage structures on Calumet are being installed, and the underpass is being excavated. Walsh is working extended hours to keep this project on schedule to be complete by the end of this year.

We also continue to adjust our operations to meet what is nearly hourly changes in the best-practices of living in the time of COVID.

All Town staff appreciate the flexibility, patience, and understanding of our community. These are uncertain times, and we will continue to do the best we can to serve you.

Dustin Anderson

Town Manager
Town of Munster Indiana
O: 219 836 6905
C: 219 712 8752
www.munster.org

MUNSTER PARKS & RECREATION 219-836-PARK

*** ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO COVID-19**

- 5/2 Car Show (Postponed – stay tuned for new date!)
- 5/4 Intro to Disc Golf (7 thru Adult)
- 5/5 LaCabana (Out to Lunch Small Van Trip)
- 5/6 Mayflower Travel Show – FREE
- 5/6 - 5/27 Intro to Pickleball (6-17)
- 5/7 The Skin you're in
- 5/7 - 5/28 Intro to Pickleball (18+)
- 5/12 Princess Di: Gone by still Kicking
- 5/13 Kids in the Park Series – Planting and Pulling
- 5/14 Great Chicago Fire Tour
- 5/16 Cash for Clutter
- 5/17 **Park Pride Day (moved from 4/23)**
- 5/17 Funky Wire and Fairy Beach Glass Suncatcher
- 5/18 CPR (Deadline: 5/8)
- 5/19 Four Winds Casino
- 5/20 Dueling Pianos at Starved Rock
- 5/21 **Detox your home (moved from 4/2)**
- 5/23 Munster Pool to OPEN
- 5/30 (Best of the Northwest Pickleball Tourney
(Doubles Tournament)
- 5/30 Developing a Home and Personal Protection Plan



NOW IS THE TIME TO PURCHASE YOUR POOL PASS

Before you forget, the deadline is May 22. Check out the early-bird rates on Page 15 (Sumer Recreation Guide) or contact us for more information. Package rates are for families within the same household. Is a season pass not for you? Interested in a coupon book? This 5-entry pass book is great for guests, friends, grandparents, babysitters or as gifts! Season Pass Holder: \$25, Resident: \$30, Non-Resident: \$45

SUMMER CAMP 2020 Summer Camp 2020
June 2, 2020 - July 31, 2020
Eads Elementary School
You have your choice!
Kids Camp Original (Ages: 6-12), All About Sports Camp (Ages: 6-12) or Counselors-in-Training (Ages: 12-14). All camps include swimming at Munster Pool, field trips, themed games/activities, special guest speakers and more! Full Day, Half Day Afternoons, and Tuesday/Thursday options available. Registration is now being taken!

HELP WANTED

Seeking Vendors for Community Market beginning June and running through September. Please contact Jill Higgins at 219-836-6926 to sell!

Interested in becoming a trip chaperone? Contact Skyler at 219-836-6922.

thank
you!

SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP

Summer Enrichment

June 8, 2020 - June 19, 2020

June 22, 2020 - July 2, 2020

Eads Elementary School

PreK-8th grade

Options will include: art, science, creative writing, coding, Black Rocket and more!



Summer Recreation
Guide
out beginning of May
Keep an eye out!



WASTE MANAGEMENT

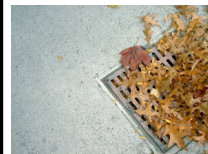


**Effective Monday May 11th, 2020,
we will resume the collection of
bulky items in your community.**

Collection will follow regular schedules and guidelines. We respectfully ask that residents with a large amount of bulk material continue to adhere to the volume limits of your community. We ask that residents with more items place these items out over time. This is strictly to ensure our collection teams can complete all core services each week.

Munster Public Works will only pick up large appliances such as washers, dryers, dishwashers or refrigerators on its Wednesday "white goods" pick up day if scheduled by 3 pm Tuesday.

DRAIN GRATES



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.

PLEASE!!
NOTE

**Garbage and Recycling
will be delayed one day
Monday, May 25, 2020
in observance of Memorial
Day.**

COVID-19 RESOURCES

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/>

Lake County Department of Health

<https://www.lakecountyin.org/portal/group/health/page/coronavirus>



Town of Munster Phone Listings

Town Hall	219-836-6900
Clerk Treasurer's Office	219-836-6940
Water Billing	219-836-6949
Public Works	219-836-6971
Fire Department	219-83-6960
Community Development	219-836-6990
Parks & Recreation	219-836-PARK
Police Department Records	219-836-6630
Lake County Dispatch Non-Emergency	219-660-0001

Lake County Indiana Phone Listings

Health Department	219-755-3655
Election and Voter Registration Board	219-755-3795
Surveyor Office	219-755-3745
County Council	219-755-3280
Assessor Office	219-755-3100
Coroner Office	219-755-3265
Clerk's Office	219-755-3460
Circuit Court	219-755-3488
Prosecutor Office	219-755-3720

**Online Services - Traffic ticket payments may be made at public. Courts.in.gov/pay*

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR MAY

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>.

Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	Monday, May 4, 2020	7:00 p.m.
Park Board Meeting	Tuesday, May 5, 2020	Noon
BZA Meeting	Tuesday, May 12, 2020	7:00 p.m.
Plan Commission Meeting	Tuesday, May 12, 2020	7:30 p.m.
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	Monday, May 18, 2020	7:00 p.m.
Park Board Meeting	Tuesday, May 19, 2020	5:00 p.m.
Board of Safety Meeting	Thursday, May 21, 2020	7:00 a.m. CANCELLED

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.



Ken Schoon

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



Lee Ann Mellon



Chuck Gardiner

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



Steve Tulowitzki

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708-606-7223
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Dr. Andy Koulourides

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Wendy Mis