



NEWS YOU CAN USE

DECEMBER



Message from the Town Manager

It's been a year.

We've all had to make adjustments in how we live our lives – how we work, how we interact with one another, and how our families operate. It has been no different for the Town in 2020.

We have split our shifts to socially distance on the Governor's order. We have worked overtime to cover for our colleagues who are out sick or in self-quarantine. We have also installed additional safety features in our common areas of Town Hall. Much like when we started wearing masks, it seemed odd at first, but we've all adjusted and are safer for it.

And here we are. We've made it. As we look forward to 2021, we will continue to work through the ongoing public health emergency. However, we will put some trouble behind us. I am thinking specifically of the construction for the realignment of 45th Street and Calumet Avenue. While Calumet opened completely in November, construction crews continue to work on 45th. Depending on the weather we've had between the time I am writing this and when it is delivered to your home, we might actually see this project reach substantial completion in 2020. If not, 45th will be completely finished during the first half of 2021.

There will also be new things to work on. The Clerk-Treasurer's section alludes discussion on water rates. Indeed, there will be a discussion on that water rate increase Hammond seeks, as well as a broader discussion on what it costs to reliably and efficiently provide the services residents depend on at the level you deserve.

2021 will see other opportunities for our community to continue to grow and improve through both new development and redevelopment, but also in how we maintain our infrastructure and approach meeting your needs as residents and stakeholders in the success of our Town.

Further, NICTD is projecting that they will begin significant construction of the Westlake Extension in Munster in 2021 with completion estimated in 2025.

We are well-situated for stability and success and, I am looking forward to another year of good work in service to the Town of Munster.

From all of us at Town Hall, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Dustin C. Anderson
Town Manager



From the Clerk-Treasurer's Desk

Many are discussing the City of Hammond's proposed water rate increase and I thought this would be the perfect time to review the charges on your monthly utility bill. The following information is for a *typical* situation and your specific home or business *may be different*. For additional information, I recommend you refer to **Utilities Billing Policies, Rules and Regulations** on the Town of Munster website.

Your water bill begins with a water charge which has a minimum charge that is dependent on the size of your meter. And yes, that gets billed even with zero usage and any usage over your meter size minimum will be based on actual usage. This is where you could see the impact of the Hammond water rate increase. If you have a second water meter, you are also subject to the minimum charge but you are only billed during sprinkler season for the bills due July through November.

The Hammond Sanitary District (HSD) provides our sewage treatment services. You may see two charges on your utility bill that we collect and then send to HSD. The admin charge is a flat rate to cover the fixed and administrative costs of the HSD. The flow charge isn't quite as simple. A slight change in the rate will be seen in November and this charge is back to normal levels from December until June. There is an assumption that, for the bill due in July, not all the water you use is returned to the system because we are watering lawns, washing our cars, or adding water to pools and such.

The sewer and stormwater fee covers the cost of maintaining the sewers and stormwater collection system and is a property specific charge. The trash collection is a fixed monthly amount while the hydrant maintenance fee is based on the size of your water meter. All these variables combine to give you your monthly Town of Munster Utility bill.

Phew.... that is a lot to take in so on a final note, something much more fun! The Munster Civic Foundation and the Town of Munster, with a lot of support from our Public Works department, are preparing a holiday display at Munster Town Hall. We encourage you to safely drive around the front of Town Hall and enjoy the holiday lights.

The Clerk-Treasurer's Office always welcomes your calls and input at 219-836-6945 or at wmis@munster.org. We wish our residents and local businesses a happy, healthy holiday season. All the best, Wendy

Wendy Mis
Clerk-Treasurer





Come join us!

Now is the time to register for your **KEEN-AGER MEMBERSHIP.**

Beginning 12/1, we will begin taking memberships from seniors 50+. What's the incentive for your membership? You are allowed daily activity use at the Social Center (Pinochle, Bridge, Bingo), receive a monthly newsletter with an opportunity to win a gift card by completing the puzzle and you're offered discounted rates for some programs. This is an annual membership for the 2021 calendar year.

Individual: \$15R/\$20NR,

Couple: \$20R/\$30NR



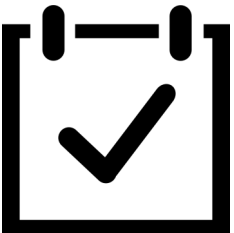
Canes and Cocoa is a new event this year.

Join us for a flashlight hunt based on your child's age. Grab the right candy canes and win a special prize. After, we'll supply you with the hot cocoa. Please bring a flashlight. Ages: walking-3, 4-7 and 8-10. \$5/person



Virtual Contest

Now is your time to shine, literally! Do you have the best decorated house in Northwest Indiana? We don't believe you. Submit your address by 12/15. Houses will be viewed 12/17 and then winners will be announced 12/18. Categories will be based on the entries received. Limited to the first 10 houses to register.



2021 rental reservations

Looking to get married? Planning a surprise birthday party or family reunion? Looking to schedule a baby or wedding shower? Let us help by knocking the facility off your to-do list. Rental Fee, Deposit and 7% tax all due at the time of booking. Questions? Contact us at (219) 836-7275 for availability – must book in person.



On December 22nd from 1-3pm, we will be partnering with local Girl Scout Troop 10271 and Brownie Troop 15459 to offer a **socially distance Santa visit**. Just like we did for the Easter Bunny, Santa will chill out at Town Hall and you can drive-by and wave and talk with him. Girl Scouts will be caroling and giving away goodie bags while supplies last.



Interested in furthering your career or getting into the medical field? Let us help! We offer online courses of the following: Clinical Medical Assistant, Dental Assistant, Dialysis Technician, Phlebotomy Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Medical Administrative Asst., Medical Billing and Coding, Medical Terminology, Medical Coding to ICD-10, ECK/EKG Course for Nurses, Paralegal Program and Veterinary Assistant. Contact Jill Higgins at (219) 836-6926 for prices and how to get started!



12/1	Yoga and Breathing VIRTUAL
12/3	Wado-Ki Karate (Little Dragons and Beginner/Advanced)
12/5	Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training
12/9	Canes & Cocoa
12/10	Shopping the World at Little Traveler
12/11	Hot Chocolate Social with Skyler
12/15	House Decorating Deadline to Register
12/17	Holiday BINGO
12/22	Social Distancing Santa Visit
12/24-25	Munster Town Hall CLOSED
12/31	Munster Town Hall CLOSED

Midwest Gymnastics and Cheer Classes begin early December: Ballet & Gymnastics, ballet, tap, ballet & jazz, hip hop, trampoline, and parkour

Midwest Training and Ice classes begin early December: Pre-Hockey, Tots Learn to Skate, and Parkour

Black Rocket Classes this season and lots of dates to choose from-check out <https://blackrocket.com/online/mpr> for more information. Registration will be taken via Black Rocket.



We're Now Hiring Paid-On-Call Firefighters FREE TRAINING PROVIDED

Requirements:

- Must reside in Munster or have residency within 1 mile of the Town of Munster.
- Physically fit and able to pass rigorous Physical Agility Testing.
- Firefighter Pre-Employment Physical Exam to include drug/alcohol screening.
- 18+ years of age
- Valid Drivers License and dependable transportation
- High School Diploma or GED equivalent
- Pass thorough background investigation - No Criminal History
- Must be able to attend the fire academy located in St. John, Indiana for 6 months. Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday evening and all day on Saturday


Interested persons should contact the Munster Fire Department at 219-836-6960 or email jrebey@munster.org.





BREAKING NEWS

There are now new options available on our website for Munster Water Utility customers: e-Billing, Paperless Billing, and AutoPay by debit/credit card.

Here is how you can sign up.

- Go to munster.org and have your account number and your address (numbers only) handy.
- From the homepage, click on .
- At the bottom of the next screen, choose **Sign Up for e-Billing**.
- Either create an account or sign-in to your online account if you already have one.
- Fill in the two boxes as shown on the screen and click **Find Account**.
- Under **Account is Not Associated**, click on **Associate**.
- Once you associate your water account with your e-Billing account, you will see the E-billing options.
- You may sign up for AutoPay by itself.
 - * You will still receive paper bills and will NOT receive e-Bills if you ONLY sign up for AutoPay.
- You may sign up for e-Billing:
 - * You must sign up for e-Billing before signing up for Paperless billing.
 - * Once signed up for Paperless, you will no longer receive a paper copy of your bill.
- Finally, you may sign up for Paperless Billing
 - * You must sign up for e-billing before signing up for Paperless billing.
 - * Once signed up for Paperless, you will no longer receive a paper copy of your bill.
- A few notes:
 - * You will receive notifications via e-mail for each change you make to your User Account.
 - * We strongly encourage you to review your bill when received each month and call **219-836-6940** if you have any questions.

 **Munster Town Hall Closed**
Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24th
Christmas Day
Friday, December 25th
New Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31st
New Year's Day
Friday, January 1, 2021 

IMPORTANT

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Always keep your home well-lit at night, using dusk to dawn, timed, or motion-detecting lighting.
- Keep bushes trimmed below the window line and also keep foliage trimmed so that your home is well visible by neighbors and from the street.
If you are leaving town for work or on vacation, notify trusted neighbors and encourage them to park their car in your driveway to make it appear as if someone is at home. Arrange for snow removal or lawn maintenance, stop your mail, or ask a trusted neighbor to retrieve it for you. Contact the Munster Police Department at 219-836-6650 or munsterpolice@munster.org with your name, address, emergency contact number, and the dates that you will be gone so that our officers and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) can provide exterior checks of your residence while you are away.
- Never leave spare keys under a mat or in a fake rock, and never post notes on your door advising that you will be away.
- Be careful about posting to social media that you will be going on vacation or any photos that show that you are out of town at a vacation destination. If you are posting vacation photos, do so after you return home.
- Do not place boxes for expensive electronics equipment in front of your home (for garbage pick-up) until it is dark outside, or cut up the boxes and place them into the recycling bin for pick-up.
- If you are at home during the day, help to keep an eye out for your neighbors and report suspicious activity on their properties immediately by calling 911.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULING INFORMATION

THANKSGIVING DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2020

CHRISTMAS DAY

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

NEW YEAR'S DAY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

Refuse and Recycling will be picked up one day later than your regular pickup day after the holiday.

Christmas trees will be picked up by the Public Works Department starting December 28, 2020 and ending January 29, 2021 weather permitting. Please make sure all decorations are off the tree.

Munster Public Works Hours

Monday - Friday

7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

219-836-6971/836-6970



AUTO THEFT PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **ALWAYS** keep your vehicle locked.
- **NEVER** leave your keys or key fob inside of your vehicle, even if it is parked in the garage.
- **NEVER** leave your vehicle running and unattended outside of your home, at gas pumps, or outside of a place of business.
- **ALWAYS** try to park your vehicle in a well-lit area when shopping or at your home, preferably in the driveway or garage if you have one.
- **ALWAYS** activate your vehicle's alarm system.
- **NEVER** leave valuables inside of your vehicle in plain view.
- **RESEARCH** additional theft prevention devices for your vehicle to use in addition to your alarm system.
- **REPORT** suspicious individuals in your neighborhood or around the business districts immediately by calling 911.



Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 219-660-0001
Munster Police Records 219-836-6630/6650
Officer Jim Ghrist 219-836-6639



REMOVING SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS

It is especially important for residents to remember the Town of Munster's ordinance in regards to removing snow and ice from sidewalks. If you leave snow along your sidewalks it could prevent students and other pedestrians from being able to get through and could lead to them having to walk in the street. For everyone's safety, please follow this ordinance:

The owner and/or occupant of any dwelling, building or subdivided lot or property shall keep the sidewalks in front thereof clean at all times of the year. Within 24 hours after any fall of snow or formation of ice, such snow or ice shall be removed from the sidewalks.

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, push or deposit in any manner snow, slush or ice onto any street or sidewalk in such a manner as to impede the safe progress and movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Persons who violate this subsection are responsible for the costs incurred by the town to remove the impediment to safe progress and movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 2020

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster Town Hall at 219-836-6900 to confirm meetings. A schedule of these meetings and others is maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website: <https://www.munster.org>.

Park Board Meeting	December 1,	Noon	Centennial Park Club House
Board of Safety Meeting	December 3,	7:00 a.m.	Zoom
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	December 7,	7:00 p.m.	Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	December 8,	6:45 p.m.	Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Meeting	December 8,	7:30 p.m.	Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	December 15,	5:00 p.m.	Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	December 21,	7:00 p.m.	Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room)

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.



Dr. Ken Schoon



Lee Ann Mellon



Chuck Gardiner



Steve Tulowitzki



Dr. Andy Koulourides



Wendy Mis

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

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

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