



1005 Ridge Road, Munster, IN

NEWS YOU CAN USE



MARCH 2021

Edited by: E. Payne



Greetings! As I write this, we have all just finished digging out from the big snow we received after Valentine's Day, and the temperature is a downright balmy 23 degrees Fahrenheit. As we set our hopeful eyes towards spring and begin to hope for a thaw, I am also thinking of new starts, shoots of green, and opportunities for improvement.

One of those opportunities is about trash and recycling. I am anticipating a new solid waste contract in 2021 that will reflect the soft demand for recyclables worldwide. One way that we can contain costs for solid waste is to reduce the volume of waste our community generates over time.

To that end, below are three suggestions to consider that would incrementally reduce the amount of municipal solid waste that is generated in our community.

Suggestion 1 – Try to limit the purchase of plastic beverage bottles. Reusable cups and water bottles are everywhere mitigating the need to buy a single-use plastic bottle. Even though we all recycle, the challenge is the demand created by the initial purchase. Further, demand for recycled materials has dropped, lowering the incentive for many waste haulers to offer competitive pricing for recycling services.

Suggestion 2 – Similar to the first suggestion, is to begin to examine how much plastic is being purchased. Is there a reusable alternative? There are often economical options for items like detergents and shampoos that are environmentally friendly and minimize waste.

Suggestion 3 – Consider composting your household food waste. Approximately 22% of all municipal solid waste is from food scraps. Much of that could be composted and thus diverted from the landfill. Composting enriches soil, helping retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests. It also reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and encourages the production of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter.

If we can incorporate small incremental changes over time the results could be considerable to our pocketbook and community.

Dustin Anderson - Town Manager



Munster Civic Foundation

The Munster Civic Foundation is seeking members for its Executive Committee. The Munster Civic Foundation works to promote, foster, and encourage community spirit and pride by supporting projects and activities which enhance the quality of life in Munster.

The Executive Committee is made up of residents of the Town of Munster looking to celebrate the Town in unique ways. We have recently created committees to investigate opportunities for public engagement. We are looking at enhancing our existing participation in the July 4th celebration. We are looking at ways to turn our holiday lights into a winter celebration. We want to find new and exciting ways to showcase our public art, including adding new art to our Town. All these programs are designed to enhance, enrich our community and bring enjoyment to the region.

If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, complete a Board Application, which you will find on the Town of Munster website (www.munster.org).

If you have questions or would like additional information, you may contact the Civic Foundation President Chuck Gardiner at cgardiner@munster.org or Foundation Secretary-Treasurer Wendy Mis at wmis@munster.org.

Munster Civic Foundation



From the desk of Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer Town of Munster

We are so excited that the Town of Munster is a 2021 America in Bloom (AIB) community. In addition to a grant, we will submit a community profile of Munster. A team of AIB volunteers will assess the profile looking at what makes our community unique and great. AIB will provide us with feedback including improvement areas and we may even be acknowledged for the things we are doing right! The Town Planner, Tom Vander Woude, and I are working with local organizations and individuals to complete the profile.

We ask all our residents for additional assistance to assess our community vitality, flowers, landscaped areas, urban forestry, environmental efforts, celebrating heritage, and the overall impression. Please share information we may not be aware of, like unique gardens, public art, and volunteer recognition programs. If you have something that will help us, you can review the application on the Town of Munster website and call or email me with your information.

I shared on the Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster Facebook page I had not received my February utility bill. As a reminder, your utility payment is due on the **20th of each month**. If you do not get your bill, you can view your account online at www.munster.org and you are responsible for timely payment. I went to the Town website and found the amount that will be deducted via autopay. If you do not want to miss a payment, you are encouraged to sign up for ACH deduction from your bank account, or schedule an auto charge to your debit or credit card.

I welcome your comments and questions. The town website is www.munster.org, my email is wmis@munster.org, and my direct line is (219)836-6945. I look forward to working with you.

Wendy Mis - Clerk-Treasurer

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

School Town of Munster 2021-2022 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Beginning March 8, 2021 you may access kindergarten enrollment information at www.munster.us

Please complete: 1) *Kindergarten Enrollment Form* and 2) *Registration Gateway*.

Next, please contact your child's school to schedule an enrollment appointment:

Eads Elementary School	8000 Jackson Ave.	219-836-8635
Elliott Elementary School	8718 White Oak Ave.	219-838-5250
Frank Hammond Elementary	1301 Fran-Lin Parkway	219-838-2060

To register for kindergarten a child must be five years old on or before August 1, 2021.

To register for first grade a child must be six years old on or before August 1, 2021.



At the time of the scheduled enrollment appointment, parents must provide:

- Certified/original birth certificate of the child. (Baptismal and hospital records are not acceptable as proof of birth)
- A valid driver's license with current Munster address.
- Residency verification documents (a complete list can be found on the Registration Gateway site.)

Please note: You must have legal residence in Munster to apply for enrollment. Only a parent or legal guardian may enroll a student.

TELEPHONE SCAM PREVENTION TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Residents are encouraged to read through the following types of phone scams which are reported to our department throughout the year.

- **GRANDPARENT SCAM** - Residents, usually senior citizens, will receive a phone call from a suspect pretending to be a grandson, granddaughter, or other relative who is claiming to have been arrested or in a bad car accident. The suspect will ask the resident to either wire money directly to them or to purchase gift cards and call back with the redemption codes. If the resident asks too many questions, the suspect will sometimes hand the phone to a "police officer" who will tell the resident that the money needs to be sent immediately. Always hang up and call your relative directly (on their actual phone number) to check on them.
- **FBI/IRS SCAM** - The suspect will call you pretending to be from the IRS or FBI while claiming that you either have an active warrant or owe back taxes. The suspect will then ask you to either wire money directly or purchase gift cards and call back with the redemption codes to satisfy the "tax debt" or "warrant." These suspects will often threaten the victim with arrest and even claim that they are on the way to your house if you are not cooperating. Always hang up immediately and call the police if you are concerned for your safety.
- **INTERNET/COMPUTER SCAM** - The suspect will call you while claiming to be from a computer company, or may also pose as a police officer while claiming that your computer or IP address was hacked and that you are in danger of having your identity stolen. The suspect will sometimes ask you to go to your computer to provide them with remote access (never do this!), ask for bank account information, or will advise you to purchase gift cards and call back with the redemption codes to fix the matter.
- **LOTTERY SCAM** - The suspect will call you advising that you won the lottery while advising that you have to send money to cover the taxes either through wiring it or by purchasing gift cards and calling back with the redemption codes. They will say that if you hang up you will lose your "winnings."
- **BANK SCAM** - The suspect will call while pretending to be from your bank and will advise that your account was hacked. The suspect will ask for your bank account or Social Security information to "verify" who you are.
- **CHARITY SCAM** - The suspect will call while advising that they are from a local charity (sometimes from the police department) and that they are collecting money for their cause. You should only provide donations to organizations that you know and trust, and which you can send donations to directly at an address that has been verified.

NEVER provide personal or bank account information over the phone to people you do not know and **NEVER** purchase gift cards for the purchase of reading redemption codes over the phone. **Please call the Munster Police Department (911)** if you ever are concerned that your identity has been stolen or if you need to speak with an officer with any questions.

MARCH

219-836-PARK

3/2	Koolaid and Kanvas – Shamrock for St. Patrick's Day
3/6*	ROBLOX Makers (Ages: 8-14)
3/10*	Scavenger Hunt – Community Park
3/11	St. Patrick's Day BINGO
3/12*	DEADLINE: Spring Soccer
3/15	CPR Certification
3/16	Are your legs keeping you down? Learn how to make them feel better.
3/17	Gridiron Flag Football (Ages: 5-9)
3/17	Intro to Sports (Ages: 2-4)
3/17	DEADLINE: Spring Fling Virtual Fair
3/18	Picnic Playdate (Ages: 3-5)
3/18*	Are your legs keeping you down? Learn how to make them feel better.
3/19	Museums of Valparaiso
3/20-21*	Spring Fling Virtual Fair
3/20	Breakfast w/ the Bunny (call 836-6930 for more information)
3/22	Bingo & Pizza (Gametime Series) CSRI Program
3/24	Poppin' N Flix – CSRI Program featuring Croods New Age
3/24	Munster Magic Matinee
3/25	Wado-Ki Karate
3/26	DEADLINE: April Craft in a Box Umbrella Door Décor
3/26	Flashlight Egg Hunt (Ages: 9-13)
3/27*	Community Egg Hunts (Ages: walking-8 + CSRI)
3/27	Ladies Empowerment Walk (Ages: 15+)
3/30	Egg Decorating – CSRI program
3/31	Spanish Program – (Ages: 3-5, 6-11 and 18+)

* Please see detailed description in right column of newsletter



Easter Egg Hunt
Community Egg Hunts are BACK this year!
Friday, March 26th & Saturday, March 27th
Community Park Softball Field

Friday, March 26th at 8:00 p.m.

(Ages: 9-13 yrs.) participants will use their flashlight to search for their eggs.

Saturday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m.

(Ages: walking and up to 8 yrs.) Participants will have the opportunity to search the softball fields for candy-filled eggs.

Pre-registration preferred \$3/child

On-site registration (45 minutes prior to event beginning) \$5/person



Spring Soccer is BACK this year! This co-ed league will have your child learning the newest tips and tricks out there today in the soccer world while competing against others. Don't miss out! FINAL DEADLINE: March 12. Games run April 10-May 15. Age groups:

4-5, 6-7, 8-9 and 10-13. Always seeking volunteer coaches, both Head and Assistant coaches. Questions? Contact Skyler at (219) 836-6922 or sramberger@munster.org.

Sponsored by: Land O'Frost

ROBLOX

ROBLOX Makers – Unlock the power of ROBLOX studio! You will learn how to build 3D models and create an adventure in your ROBLOX. Bring characters to life with unique animations you design.

Student-created projects will be available on a password protected Black Rocket website. Class runs Saturdays, 3/6-4/10 from 8:30 am - 10:30 am or 11:00 am - 1:00 pm for ages 8-14. \$109/student – register online at www.blackrocket.com/online/mpr

When you support
small business,
you're supporting
a dream

Arts/Crafts, small businesses, home-based businesses, this Virtual Spring Fling is for you! Through our Facebook group, you will be scheduled for a certain time where your information will BLAST to everyone in the group on March 20 or 21. Request an application from jhiggins@munster.org for more information - \$20 to participate.

SCAVENGER



Whether it's freezing or just chilly, we're starting up our Scavenger Hunts again! On Wednesday, March 10, search Community Park for the secret tags and have the opportunity to win a prize. FREE to everyone, however pre-registration required. Call us at (219)836-7275 to be registered.



Habla Espanol? Taught by Language Skills in Action, youth ages 3-5, 6-11 and adults 18+ will have the opportunity to learn basic Spanish skills geared towards their age. Classes take place Wednesdays, 3/31-5/5 at the Community Park Social Center.



REGION VEIN Are your legs keeping you down? Learn how to make them feel better with Dr. Karamichos, owner of Region Vein in Munster who has over 14 years of experience helping patients achieve healthier legs. He will share information on the causes of leg swelling, varicose and spider veins and his treatment options. Drinks and snacks will be provided along with a question and answer session. Two sessions available: Tuesday, 3/16 from 6-7 pm or Thursday, 3/18 from 9-10 am Both classes will take place at the Community Park Social Center. FREE – pre-register so we have a head count for snacks/drinks to (219)836-7275.



CSRI stands for Cooperative Special Recreation Initiative. A whole section either at Centennial Park Clubhouse or Community Social Center, facilities are dedicated to those with special needs. This month we have a popcorn and movie event and family game night scheduled. Pre-registration required. Questions? Contact Abby at (219)836-6923 or akresal@munster.org.



Alley Garbage and Recycling Collection

Public Works strives to keep alleys clear after a snowfall. In the event there is a large snowfall of 5" or greater, the snow that is pushed from the alley can accumulate on either side. The garbage and recycling totes can become immobile once buried in the snow. Waste Management (WM) is unable to retrieve the container using their automated arm if the snow becomes too high or iced over. Public Works requests residents to shovel around their totes when there is an accumulation of snow to insure access for WM.

Parkway & Mailbox Damage

Occasionally during snowplow season parkways and mailboxes can be damaged. If your parkway grass is damaged during a snow event from a snowplow contact Public Works at 836-6971 to report the damage. In the spring, the damaged area will be reseeded to restore the parkway. If your mailbox is damaged by a snowplow during a snow event call Public Works to report. If the mailbox is unusable a temporary mailbox will be installed and, in the spring, a permanent mailbox will be installed.

Electronic Recycling

Waste Management does not pick-up electronics or televisions. Electronics such as personal computers, laptops, printers, cell phones, DVD players and televisions can be brought to the electronic recycling shed located at 508 Fisher Street. The recycling shed is located outside of the gates at the Public Works facility, so it is always open. Your electronic items can be dropped off at any time because there is not an attendant. Electronic Recycling is available for Lake County residents only and not for non-profits, businesses or schools use.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR MARCH 2021

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster Town Hall at 219-836-6900 to confirm meetings. During the National Health Emergency, public meetings may be available utilizing Zoom technology. Visit the Town of Munster website: <https://www.munster.org> (Select Agendas & Meetings) or contact the appropriate department to access the meeting ID and passcode. Also a schedule of these meetings and others are maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website.

Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	March 1, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	March 2, 2021	Noon	Centennial Park Clubhouse
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	March 9, 2021	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Meeting	March 9, 2021	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	March 15, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	March 16, 2021	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Safety Meeting	March 18, 2021	7:00 a.m.	MTH (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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Clerk-Treasurer

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