



1005 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana

NEWS YOU CAN USE

May 2021

Edited by E. Payne

Here is hoping that we are seeing some May flowers in Town by the time you receive this newsletter. I am certainly thinking warm thoughts, because as I write this, there is snow outside my office window.

Last month we discussed the rate changes that we will see for water and solid waste that will take effect this summer, as well as the broader cost of providing reliable and safe water, storm, and sewer utilities in the future.

I'd like to take a moment to circle back to that conversation and highlight a very reasonable question that often comes up during these conversations: "But don't my property taxes pay for that?" As a resident myself, I am well aware of the property tax responsibilities we all share.

In the broadest of strokes, it costs about \$55 million to run the Town with all our services at their current level. We receive roughly the same amount in revenue, annually. However only 15% – 20% of that revenue comes from your property taxes. The rest comes from fees, utility bills, charges for service, and other sources.

A good example of this would be the Solid Waste Fee we pay every month. This fee not only covers the cost of trash and recycling, but also our leaf and branch collection. The Homewood Disposal contract will cost \$1.74 million per year. Leaf and branch collection will cost just over \$500,000 during the same period of time. This represents an annual cost of operations of \$2.25 million. Our current revenue at our current rate is \$1.83 million per year. This is a shortfall of over \$400,000. Without a fee increase, we would not be able to offer leaf and branch collection in a manner even remotely similar to our current level of service.

Munster prides itself on offering an outstanding quality of life. There are many factors that contribute to that quality of life – from the strength of civic institutions, our communities of faith, our exceptional schools to the civil Town itself. All of these require a combination of our time, treasure, and talents to live up to their potential. We are what makes us great, and I thank you for it.

Dustin Anderson, Town Manager

Town of Munster Telephone Numbers

Town Hall	219-836-6900
Clerk - Treasurer's Office	219-836-6940
Clerk-Treasurer	219-836-6945
Water Billing	219-836-6948/6949
Public Works	219-836-6971/6970
Community Development	219-836-6990
Parks & Recreation	219-836-PARK
Fire Department	219-836-6960
Police Records	219-836-6630/6650
Code Enforcement	219-836-6659
Centennial Park Clubhouse	219-836-6983
Lake County Dispatch	219-660-0001

Exciting times here in the Clerk-Treasurer's office as all the efforts to upgrade our software over the past year will be completed this summer.

The current Town software had become challenging to use and was often just clunky. The software provider had been a leader in municipal software, but they purchased other companies, then merged, and were sold (probably not in that order, but they are a shadow of the organization they were when we first began using them 20 plus years ago). Throughout this process, we found the quality of support was slipping, our product line was less and less updated, and the annual contract was becoming increasingly expensive. We evaluated several options, surveyed neighboring towns, and the Town Council approved a contract with BS&A to become our new Town software provider.

The conversion will be completed this summer, beginning in the Clerk-Treasurer's office in May, and will finish up later this summer in Community Development. As a municipality, we expect to see increased efficiencies and improved recordkeeping capabilities.

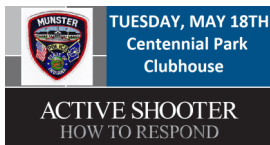
As a resident, you will see a similar but updated utility bill. Because of the software conversion, meter reading dates will be shifted to April 14, May 11, and June 15. Readings will be on the regular schedule from June forward. You can see your reading between April 14 and May 11 will be a shortened cycle, while the period between May 11 and June 15 will be slightly longer. This will create a shift in your consumption numbers, as the meter read dates will not be on the 15th as they usually are. Additionally, the bill you receive for your usage between May 11 and June 15 that will be mailed July 1 and due on July 20 will include the increased water and refuse rates. Those utility users with a dedicated (separate) sprinkler meter will see the sprinkler minimum charge appear beginning on the bill due July 20. All sprinkler meters are subject to at least the minimum rate even if they are not used.

Finally, the summer sewer discount from the Hammond Sanitary District goes into effect on April 1 and you will see the full impact of that reduction on your bill due June 20th. The discount ends October 1 and you will see the full impact on the bill due November 20. This often leads residents to believe the rate increased, especially this past year when Hammond announced their rate increase, but it is just the end of the summer flow discount. For those of you wondering, the summer discount assumes that the water you consume doesn't automatically return to the sewer but is absorbed by lawns or in pools etc. Hammond offers users a discount because we are not using the sewer system in the same gallon for gallon proportion that we do from October until March.

Please watch for information about enrolling or updating paperless utility bills and your enrollment in automated credit card payments.

Quite a few changes all at the very same time so if you have a question, you can call my office at (219) 836-6945 or via email: wmis@munster.org

Wendy Mis, IAMC, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer



ACTIVE SHOOTER AWARENESS PRESENTATION

The Munster Police Department will be offering an **Active Shooter Awareness Presentation on Tuesday, May 18th at 6:00pm at the Centennial Park Clubhouse, located at 1005 S. Centennial Drive in Munster** for any interested residents or business representatives. This important safety presentation will include information about maintaining situational awareness while shopping, dining, or at work along with how to respond if you are ever involved in an active shooter situation. Seating will be spaced for social-distancing purposes and masks will be required. Please note that the subject matter is not appropriate for children.

Due to limited seating space being available, participants must pre-register in advance by contacting Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org by no later than Sunday, May 9th. No walk-ins will be accepted. Registration will also close once all of the limited number of seats are filled, so please RSVP ASAP if you are interested in participating. Please contact Officer Ghrist with any questions.



Homewood Disposal

www.mydisposal.com/munster

Customer Service: (219)931-9000

Beginning on May 2021, waste and recycling collection for households in Munster, Indiana will be provided by Homewood Disposal. No action is needed by homeowners. Collection days and recycling schedules will remain the same. The first waste collection day is **Monday, May 3, 2021**. HDS will collect (1) one bulk item or (1) one large appliance per week. Contact HDS to schedule a bulk item or appliance pickup at (219)931-9000. The Town will no longer pick up large appliances. Plastic bags are not recyclable. Do **NOT** bag your recycling, keep it loose in the recycling container. **Garbage and Recycling will be delayed one day Monday, May 31, 2021 in observance of Memorial Day**



Important Notice: Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing Coming to Multiple States/Area Codes Indiana 219, 574

What will be the new dialing procedure?

To complete all locals calls, you will need to dial area code + telephone number. This applies to all calls within your area code that are currently dialed with seven digits.

Who will be affected?

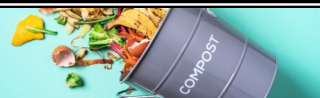
Anyone with a telephone number from your area code will need to make this change from 7-digit local dialing to 10-digit local dialing.

When will the change begin?

Beginning **April 24, 2021**, you should begin dialing 10 digits (area code + telephone number) for all local calls. If you forget and dial just 7 digits, your call will still be completed.

Starting on **October 24, 2021**, you must use 10-digit dialing for all local phone calls, if you do not use 10 digits, your call will not be completed and a recording will instruct you to hang up and dial again.

Beginning **July 16, 2022**, dialing "988" will route your call to National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline.



Composting is a great way to reduce waste and create nutrient-rich soil that can be used in place of fertilizer! Here are some tips to help you get started.

- **Vocabulary:** greens and browns will be used frequently to distinguish the different types of compostable material. "Greens" are things like fruit and vegetable scraps, lawn trimmings, live plant material, and even coffee grounds! "Browns" are things like dead plant materials (branches, twigs, and leaves), cardboard, paper, newspaper etc.
- **Layering** is key. Start with greens, add a layer of browns, then add as many layers as necessary. You will always want the final layer to be browns to deter unwanted flies and bugs.
- Strive for a 2:1 ratio of browns to greens, but anything above 1:1 works well.
- Turning/stirring the pile of compost weekly or bi-weekly ensures proper aeration.
- Any container for the compost pile will work. Make sure to keep all openings small enough that little animals cannot get inside.
- Compost piles can take a couple of months to turn into usable fertilizer, so start now to be ready for summer gardening! Additionally, here are some locations where you can drop off food scraps to be composted:

Drop off locations for food scraps

- First Christian Church - 9540 5th St., Highland, IN 46322
- Portage Compost Site - 6451 US-12, Portage, IN 46368
- Valparaiso Composite Site - 2150 W Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46385

What TO Compost*	What NOT to Compost*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Fruits and Vegetables *Eggshells *Coffee grounds and filters *Tea bags *Nut shells *Shredded newspaper *Cardboard, Paper *Yard trimmings *Grass clippings *Houseplants *Hay and straw *Leaves *Sawdust *Wood chips *Cotton, Wool, Rags *Hair and fur *Fireplace ashes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Black walnut tree *Coal or Charcoal ash *Dairy products and eggs *Diseased or insect-ridden Plants *Fats, grease, lard, or oils *Meat/fish scraps *Pet waste *Chemically treated plants

**listed taken from <https://www.epa.gov>*

The Munster Garden Club
Annual Plant Sale
Friday, May 21, 2021
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
1101 Oriole Dr.
Munster, IN

See what's happening this month!

- 5/1 Car Show
- 5/3 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 5/4 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 5/4 Koolaid and Kanvas - Mommy and Me Paint Party
- 5/7 DEADLINE: CPR Certification
- 5/8 Ladies Empowerment Walk (Refresh, Renew Rengerate)
- 5/9 Mother's Day Brunch - contact Centennial Park at (219) 836-6930
- 5/10 How Money Works
- 5/12 Kids in the park Series - Pool Clean-up
- 5/13 Picnic Playdate—Steal the bacon + craft
- 5/14 Snacks and a Movie featuring Ferris Bueller's Day Off
- 5/15 Cash for Clutter
- 5/16 Park Pride Day
- 5/17 CPR Certification
- 5/18 Munster Magic Matinee
- 5/19 Poppin & Flix - CSRI featuring Spies in Disguise
- 5/22 Ladies Empowerment Walk (Refresh & Renew)
- 5/23 Championship Challenge - Golf Long Drive Competition
- 5/24 Bingo & Pizza - Gametime Series - CSRI
- 5/27 Red, White and Blue BINGO
- 5/28 Let's Shop the Sales
- 5/29 Munster Community Pool OPENS



Park Pride Day
Sunday, May 16, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Community Park Lion's Shelter
 Celebrate the 51st Anniversary of Earth Day with us! We welcome everyone to help clean up our parks. Those who pre-register will receive a hot dog, compliments of your efforts.

LET'S
 SHOP

Let's Shop the Sales
Friday, May 28, 2021
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Enjoy a shopping trip searching Memorial Day bargains at Lighthouse Premium Outlets in Michigan City. In addition, we will be having lunch at "Royale", a well-established burger house. We'll complete the day with a trip to Lange's old-fashioned meat market. Lunch is on your own.



Summer Camp
June 1, 2021 - July 30, 2021
Frank Hammond School

We are allowing 50 campers per week. Call us for details at (219)836-7275 or search 2021 Munster Parks Summer Camp on Facebook Groups.



CSRI stands for Cooperative Special Recognition Initiative, an entire section dedicated to those with special needs. This month we have a popcorn and movie event and also a family game night scheduled. Pre-registration required. Questions? Contact Abby at (219) 836-6923 or akresal@munster.org



Car Show
Saturday, May 1, 2021
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Community Pool Parking Lot
 Celebrating our 23rd year, we will have an awesome display of vehicles, music, delicious food and vendors.



Scavenger Hunt
All Around the Town of Munster
Wednesday, May 12, 2021
On your own time!
FREE

This scavenger hunt is a little different. Grab a napkin from Dairy Queen or a straw from Starbucks and we'll have you navigating

Munster to complete this fun hunt. The first 6 people to email akresal@munster.org with all the items from the packet will receive a special prize. Please pre-register!



Cash for Clutter
Saturday, May 15, 2021
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Community Pool Parking Lot

Clear the clutter and earn some quick cash by selling those things you just don't have room for anymore. You may purchase 2 or 3 parking spaces. Pre-registration is required.



Munster Pool Opens
Saturday, May 29, 2021
Monday - Saturday
11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.

- Memberships, daily admissions and coupon books will all be sold - no price increases.
- Early-bird membership rates expire May 28th.
- Memberships can only be taken in person.
- Passes are per individual and cannot be shared.
- Questions contact Parks & Rec (219)836-7275.
- To be considered a "resident", one must possess a current drivers license or State ID showing Munster or Highland residency. A family is identified as parent(s) and/or any unmarried children who are living at a single address. Adult children must show proof of residency. Other relatives, may not be included on the family membership.

SEASON POOL PASS RATES	Early-Bird Resident	After 5/28 Resident
Individual	\$80	\$95
2-Person Family	\$145	\$165
3-Person Family	\$195	\$225
4-Person Family	\$235	\$265
Each Additional	\$30	\$35
Childcare Provider*	\$50	\$75
Ages 2 and Under	FREE	FREE

Spring Clean-Up

Spring Leaf Collection ended on April 16, 2021!

Branch Collection 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.

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.

Public Works offers free wood chips on the first Saturday of the month, 8:00 a.m. - Noon, May through October. Bring your own shovel and something to put the wood chips in.

Household batteries are not being accepted for drop off at Town Hall or the Public Works Facility due to Covid 19. Household batteries are accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection (see below for locations) – No CAR batteries.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection - All Collections from 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
Loads are limited to 100 pounds and Latex Paint is no longer accepted at these collections.
Saturday, May 22, 2021 at Hobart Public Works, 340 S. Shelby, Hobart, Indiana

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR MAY 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	May 3, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	May 4, 2021	Noon	Centennial Park Clubhouse
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	May 11, 2021	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Meeting	May 11, 2021	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	May 17, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	May 18, 2021	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Safety Meeting	May 20, 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 Koultourides



Wendy Mis

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

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

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

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