



1005 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana

NEWS YOU CAN USE

April 2022

Edited by E. Payne

Spring has Sprung



Happy Spring! As the flowers bloom and grow, so too does the Town of Munster. As we look around Munster, the single largest project happening here isn't even the Town's. NICTD has broken ground on their Westlake Extension and will continue to work up and down the Monon corridor until the project's completion – currently scheduled for Summer of 2025. We will all be impacted by intermittent lane restrictions and closures throughout this process. We will have the most up-to-date information on known traffic interruptions on our Facebook page and website.

In addition to the NICTD work, the Town will continue our street and alley improvement program. This construction season we will be in: Independence Park working on East Delaware Parkway, Potomac, and portions of Washington Circle; River Drive between Columbia and Greenwood; Camellia, Hawthorne, Cypress, Crestwood, and portions of White Oak north of 33rd. Funding for these projects comes from both the Town and the State of Indiana through a competitive grant process. The Town has secured over \$5 million through this grant program.

In other transportation improvement news, the Town has been awarded funds for the redesign and reconstruction of Main Street. The project will be split into two phases: Columbia to Hart Ditch and Hart Ditch to Highland. Engineering and design work for Phase One has already begun, and we look forward to construction of the same in 2025. With the opportunity to redesign Main Street, we are looking forward to adding a multi-use path and/or sidewalks and bike lanes along this corridor.

Dustin Anderson, Town Manager



Founded in 1990 through an endowment from Community Hospital, the Munster Civic Foundation has played a key role in promoting, fostering, and encouraging community spirit and pride. The foundation helped fund the almost 11 miles of walking/biking trails throughout town, the Community Veterans Memorial, decades of 4th of July activities, and various special events and beautification projects.

This year, the Munster Civic Foundation is planning new and exciting events aimed to create a stronger connection with the community and further enhance the quality of life in Munster. To learn more, please join us at our Open House on Monday, April 25, at 6 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall.

We will give a short presentation highlighting past successes and future opportunities. Afterwards, attendees can ask questions and gather information on how to get involved. To ensure we can accommodate everyone, please RSVP to the Munster Civic Foundation President Chuck Gardiner at cgardiner@munster.org.

Chuck Gardiner, Town Council President



I am writing the article for this News You Can Use (NYCU) from Muncie, IN. I am attending the ILMCT Institute and Academy to help me meet the state-mandated continuing education requirement. So far we have covered topics from "Updating your Comprehensive Plan", "Payroll Matters" from the State Board of Accounts, and the session I most enjoyed "APRA Update" from the Treasury. I always appreciate these training opportunities as I come home with new ideas, and a better understanding of the ever-changing rules that govern municipal finance.

I would like to encourage any residents that have sidewalks that need repair to visit the Town of Munster website and find the 50/50 sidewalk repair program information. The Town of Munster is seeking to repair more of our sidewalks in 2022 and to accomplish this, we are working with residents to repair the sidewalks deemed trip hazards. The Town of Munster will share the cost of repairs with the homeowner. We do have a finite amount of funds and if we receive too many applications in 2022, we will add you to the list for 2023. Please review the online information or let me know if you need it mailed to you and I will get that out to you.

The NYCU is so very full of information this month so I have kept my section short. I did want to share as I always do, you are welcome to contact me with questions or concerns at (219)836-6945 or wmis@munster.in.gov.

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer





**Early Voting Satellite Location
Munster Town Hall
1005 Ridge Road
Conference Room B
April 5, 2022 - May 2, 2022**

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays (2) before Election Day

April 23, 2022 & April 30, 2022

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday, May 2, 2022 (Day before Election Day)

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Primary Election Day

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Valid photo ID is required*



Spring Cleaning

Warmer temperatures are finally on the upswing! As we enjoy longer days and say farewell to winter, some are catching glimpses of what snow and ice helped to conceal and hold in place for many months – debris. Buried under mounds of snow, debris caught during a winter storm can lay unnoticed for months until warm weather melts away its cover. Here are a few tips you can use year-round to prevent litter:

- Keep a litter bag in your vehicle to place trash. Unintended littering incidents sometimes occur due to wind blowing through an open window or ajar car door.
- Whenever possible, opt for electric receipts. This includes trips to the gas station, atm, or your favorite retailer.
- Make sure your trash is securely placed and will not escape. Napkins, straw wrappers and newspapers are notorious for being picked up by the wind.
- Educate others of the importance of properly disposing trash. Encourage others to refrain from over filling trash receptacles.
- Participate in community clean up efforts. The Munster Park District hosts seasonal events dedicated to park clean-up. Also, be sure to check with your favorite civic organization for volunteer opportunities they may provide.

Let's all do our part in continuing to make the Town of Munster the premiere Northwest Indiana destination to live work and raise a family.

Robin Streets, Deputy Town Manager



SPRING LEAF COLLECTION

Starting Monday, April 4, 2022, **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, Homewood Disposal Service 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.

BRANCH COLLECTION



Starting Monday, April 4, 2022, **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.



There will be regular garbage pickup on Good Friday, April 15, 2022

The Thorguard Lightning Prediction warning system will be reactivated beginning on April 4, 2022



**MUNSTER
CRIME WATCH
MEETING**
Thursday, April 28th at 7:00pm
Munster Town Hall

**ACTIVE SHOOTER
HOW TO RESPOND**

**MUNSTER CRIME WATCH
MEETING & ACTIVE
SHOOTER AWARENESS
PRESENTATION**

The Munster Police Department invites all residents and business representatives to attend this presentation which will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room). The meeting will include crime statistics, updates on recent incidents, and an important safety presentation on Active Shooter Awareness & Response. That presentation will include how to protect yourself if you are faced with an active shooter situation while working, dining or shopping as well as additional safety considerations. **A \$30 Target gift card will also be awarded as a door prize** and crime prevention brochures will be available. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.



- 4/1 Accepting Munster Pool Season Pass Memberships
- 4/1 Madame Curie Lunch and Show
- 4/3 Underwater Egg Hunt
- 4/3 Adult Open Soccer
- 4/3 Cuban Salsa Dance
- 4/6 Succulent 101
- 4/8 Flashlight Egg Hunt
- 4/9 Community Egg Hunts
- 4/9 Spring Soccer Starts
- 4/11 Ladies Golf Lessons - to register call (219)836-6931
- 4/11 Cupcakes and Competition
- 4/12 Koolaid and Kanvas
- 4/12 Youth Golf Lessons - register call (219)836-6931
- 4/13 Create a Record Mandala
- 4/14 Men's Golf Lessons - register call (219)836-6931
- 4/14 Volley Kidz - outdoors
- 4/14 Volleyball Skills and Drills – outdoors
- 4/14 Chicago River Architecture Tour Van Trip
- 4/14 CPR Certification Deadline
- 4/20 Henna Art
- 4/20 Tiny Tykes
- 4/21 Earth Day BINGO
- 4/22 Craft in a Box Deadline - Rainbow Popsicle Stick Bird Feeder
- 4/22 Mayflower Travel Show
- 4/23 Spring Soccer Picture Day
- 4/23 Birding Hotspots in Lake County
- 4/24 Park Pride Day
- 4/25 CPR Certification
- 4/26 Free Digital Communication Tool Basics
- 4/27 Mosaic & Mimosa's
- 4/28 Wado-Ki Karate



Season Pass Membership at **Munster Pool** is now available within the Parks and Recreation Office. The season will run May 28th - August 7th and include 4 special members-only exclusive parties. Also taking group reservations and birthday party rentals. For private party inquiries, please email jhiggins@munster.org for a private party request form (**NEW THIS YEAR**).



Cuban Salsa Dance Class stems from a very strong and deeply rooted culture. Merge your body and soul while you learn and grasp the Cuban rhythm. The best part? **NO PARTNERS NEEDED!** Ages: 18+. Next session begins Sunday, 4/13 from 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Social Center.



Egg Hunt



It's almost Egg Hunt time!

Underwater Egg Hunt on Sunday, 4/3 at Munster High School

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. or 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. time slots available

Open to those 2+

Eggs are both floating and sunken. After the Egg Hunt, the Bunny will be around for pictures. Treat bags will be given out and Family Swim will fill the remainder of the time.

Flashlight Egg Hunt on Friday, 4/8 at Community Park Promptly at 8:30 p.m. teens aged 9-13 will seek the field for prize-filled eggs. Some eggs will include a raffle prize.

Community Egg Hunts on Saturday, 4/9 at Community Park

Promptly at 9:00 a.m., youth ages walking – 8, plus CSRI will seek the field for prize-filled eggs. Some eggs will include a raffle prize.



We're partnering together with Planting Possibilities to offer a **Succulent 101** program. This class will allow you to plant your own succulent garden or create a gift for someone else. All materials are provided. Select from an array of succulents, planters, and decorative accents to take home a one-of-a-kind creation. Class takes place Wednesday, 4/6 from 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Social Center for \$55/person.



Show your community pride and participate in our upcoming **Park Pride Day** on Sunday, 4/24. Volunteers will weed, pickup trash, and/or mulch at certain parks. Everyone will receive a complimentary hotdog lunch upon completion of the day. All are welcome to volunteer. It is highly recommended to bring your own work gloves and basic landscaping tools.



Get your child involved!
We have a lot to offer this month for the kiddos!

- 4/11 Cupcakes and Competition
- 4/12 Koolaid and Kanvas
- 4/13 Create a Record Mandala
- 4/14 Volleyball
- 4/20 Henna Art
- 4/20 Tiny Tykes Soccer
- 4/28 Waldo-Ki Karate



Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

2022 DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Munster Police Department (Lobby)
1001 Ridge Road
Saturday, April 30, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal. DEA's next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is **April 30, 2022**. The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Visit DEATakeBack.com for other collection sites near you and to locate an authorized collector in your area for year-round disposal.

****Program is only for prescription medication, absolutely no needles and no over the counter medication.***

2022 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Munster Public Works

508 Fisher St.

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Proof of Lake County, IN residency is required. Collection is NOT for businesses, schools, organizations or those who live outside Lake County, IN.

www.lcswwmd.com



Are you struggling to pay your energy or water bill?

You may be qualified to receive federal funding to help pay some of your bills this winter. The Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) are federally funded programs to help Indiana residents pay their utility bills and prevent utility shut-offs.

Households that earn less than 60% of the state median income (60 SMI) may qualify to receive this benefit. The application is open from **October 1, 2021, to May 16, 2022**. Learn more about eligibility and how to apply at EAP.ihcda.in.gov.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR APRIL 2022

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster Town Hall at (219)836-6900 to confirm meetings. Public meetings are also available utilizing Zoom technology. Visit the Town of Munster website: <https://www.munster.org> (Select Agendas and 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 Mtg.	April 4, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	April 12, 2022	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Mtg.	April 12, 2022	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	April 14, 2022	1:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	April 18, 2022	7:00 a.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Mtg.	April 19, 2022	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	April 28, 2022	1:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)



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

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

(219)765-8052
(219)757-1332
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Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to Community Programming Initiative, in which members of the Munster Town Council and guests discuss issues in town. Program runs the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.