



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

FEBRUARY 2023

Edited by E. Payne



News From The Clerk-Treasurer's Office

Many of you will not like to read this next little bit but residents must be made aware that Town of Munster utility rates are on the rise effective on your utility bill due on **March 20, 2023**. As many of you will contact us with questions, I am sharing information with you about your upcoming utility bill that may help you. If you still have questions, concerns, or need assistance with your bill, contact utility billing at (219)836-6948 or email waterbilling@munster.org.

You have already seen an increase in the trash line item. Effective on the utility bill due on January 20, 2023, there was a rate increase to \$ 26.25 per month from \$ 23.80. The Town Council passed Ordinance 1881 on November 7, 2022, and that meeting agenda includes a detailed memo explaining what the rate increase covers.

On April 4, 2022, the Munster Town Council passed Ordinance 1857 with annual water rate increases through the year 2025. Your water rate is based on consumption and your water meter size. There is a charge for minimum usage to help cover the cost of providing water service to your location.

Copies of Ordinance 1857 are available in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office or online at www.munster.org. The back side of your utility bill features a brief explanation of fees.

REMINDER: Monday, February 20th is the Town of Munster Utility bill due date. This is NOT a Town recognized holiday and your bill will be past due if it is received after the 20th of February. To the Town of Munster residents with **auto withdrawal arranged directly through the Town**, your bank account may have the 21st as the withdrawal date and you will NOT be assessed a late fee.

If you are on autopay online through Invoice Cloud or pay your bill through Invoice Cloud, please be advised your convenience fee, which goes directly to Invoice Cloud, will increase from \$ 2.75 to \$ 3.25. To avoid this fee, you can set up auto withdrawal from your checking or savings account directly with the Town. Contact water billing at the above telephone and email address for a sign-up form or visit the Town website and search ACH to access the sign-up form.

If you have any questions, you are always welcome to contact me. Occasionally I will forward your voicemail or

or email directly to the people or department who can best assist you. My direct line is (219)836-6945 and my email is wmis@munster.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Wendy Mlis, Clerk-Treasurer

Listen & Watch now!

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. The program runs the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am.

SIDEWALK CLOSED

50/50 Sidewalk Program

Per Town Code, property owners are responsible for the repair and upkeep of sidewalks in front of and alongside their property. Recognizing the importance of maintaining pedestrian access throughout town, the Town Council adopted the 50/50 Sidewalk Replacement Program to assist homeowners with repairs to sidewalks deemed a tripping hazard.

How does it work?

We use two methods to repair sidewalks – concrete lifting and complete replacement. The repair method is selected based on the cause and severity of the damage. Each year, the Town hires a contractor to repair sidewalks throughout town. Under the program, the Town pays for half the cost of replacing eligible sidewalk and the property owner pays the other half. Property owners participating in the program receive the benefit of lower construction costs the Town receives through a larger contract.

Do you have a sidewalk that needs to be fixed? Fill out the form available on the Town's website to request an assessment of your sidewalk. If eligible, you will be placed on this year's list. Additional details can be found on the Town's website: www.munster.org under "Current Projects".





Be Storm Water Smart What is Green Infrastructure?

Runoff from stormwater is a major cause of water pollution in urban areas. It carries trash, bacteria, heavy metals, and other pollutants through storm sewers into local waterways. Heavy rainstorms can cause flooding that damages property and infrastructure.

Historically, communities have used gray infrastructure-systems of gutters, pipes, and tunnels - to move stormwater away from where we live to treatment plants or straight to local water bodies. The gray infrastructure in many areas is aging, and its existing capacity to manage large volumes of stormwater is decreasing in areas across the country. To meet this challenge, many communities are installing green infrastructure systems to bolster their capacity to manage stormwater. By doing so, communities are becoming more resilient and achieving environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Green infrastructure filters and absorbs stormwater where it falls. Green infrastructure is "the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspire stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters."

Green infrastructure elements can be woven into a community at several scales. Examples at the urban scale could include a rain barrel up against a house, a row of trees along a major city street, or greening an alleyway. Neighborhood scale green infrastructure could include acres of open park space outside a city center, planting rain gardens, or constructing a wetland near a residential housing complex. At the landscape or watershed scale, examples could include protecting large open natural spaces, riparian areas, wetlands, or greening steep hillsides. When green infrastructure systems are installed throughout a community, city, or across a regional watershed, they can provide cleaner air and water as well as significant value for the community with flood protection, diverse habitat, and beautiful green spaces.

To learn more visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/what-green-infrastructure>



For after hours utility emergencies such as water main breaks, burst pipes, and pot holes contact Lake County Dispatch (219) 660-0001 for Town of Munster Call-Out Personnel. Town Hall Office phones are not manned after hours, but calls will be returned the next business day.



Centennial Park Parking 2023

The pay to park system will be in effect April 1, 2023 - October 31, 2023. No fees are required during the other months of the year.

Upon entering, a visitor has 15 minutes to either pay via the 'ParkbyApp' app, at the meter, or exit the parking lot. Otherwise, you run the risk of receiving a violation. Fees and validation should

be done immediately after parking to avoid violations. Fees are non-refundable and not prorated. Management of the parking system, including enforcement, is done by Asta Parking Inc.

Golfers and driving range users can validate their parking inside the Pro Shop. Parking rates are \$2/hour, \$5/day or \$120/vehicle for the calendar year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31 annually). There is also a convenience fee of 50 cents per transaction when paying via the app.

Each Town of Munster household is allowed to register 2 vehicles for the year for no charge. The 2 registered vehicles can park without any further action or payment after receiving confirmation.



Registration will be available after March 1, 2023. Registration in 2022 will not be forwarded for the 2023 season. 2023 registration can be done online at www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com after March 1, 2023.

Watch the Town of Munster website, www.munster.org for additional details. 2023 registrations will be verified against Indiana BMV records to verify residency and ensure the limit of 2 license plates are registered per household. A process will be setup for appealing those that are rejected via that process if necessary.

The parking system uses license plate reading technology at the entry and exits of the two parking lots to verify a vehicle has paid or has the season pass. Enforcement will begin on April 1, 2023.

Members of the Centennial Park dog park and Centennial Park Golf Course members are both allowed to register for one free vehicle for the year. Registration for the 2023 season will re-occur after March 1, 2023. Details on that will be available at the Munster Parks office.

Further questions regarding the pay to park system at Centennial Park can be directed to Munster Parks and Recreation at (219)836-7275.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay by plate at meter (on property only).
- Download ParkByApp (App Store/Google Play)
- Go to ParkByApp.com
- Call to make payment 844-320-1APP

FEBRUARY

- 2/1 Intro to Violin w/ Heidi
- 2/1 Learn to play Mahjong
- 2/2 Language & Art of the Chinese Zodiac
- 2/3 Coffee and Canvas
- 2/3 Puppet Theatre for Kids w/ South Shore Arts
- 2/4 Daddy Daughter Date Night
- 2/6 Slam Dunk Basketball
- 2/6 Tai Chi Gong
- 2/8 Galantine's Night
- 2/9 Valentine's Day BINGO
- 2/9 Tiny Punters
- 2/11 Relaxation w/ Diamond Painting
- 2/15 Little Sluggers
- 2/17 Servsafe Food Manager
- 2/18 TLC for your Health
- 2/19 Preschool, Youth, Parent/Tot Swim Lessons
- 2/19 Private and Semi-Private Swim Lessons
- 2/20 Cupcakes & Competition
- 2/24 Spring Soccer Early-Bird DEADLINE
- 2/24 Premier Travel Show
- 2/27 Craft in the Box DEADLINE (Pot O'Gold)
- 2/27 Medicare & Scamming – Protection from Scams
- 2/28 Kool-Aid and Kanvas



Language & Art of the Chinese Zodiac

– Students will learn about the zodiac animal cycle, the story behind the zodiac, how to say the 12 animals in Chinese, draw the characters for the animals and learn about their own zodiac animal. Class takes place Thursdays, 2/2-3/2 from 4:30-5:30 pm at the Social Center for children 6-12.



Tiny Punters

Using basic football drills, games and activities, players will develop early football skills in this non-contact class while having fun. Class runs Thursdays, 2/9-3/2 from 6:30-7:30 pm at Frank Hammond for ages 4-8; 9-13.



Home Improvement Fair

is Saturday, March 4th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Wilbur Wright Middle School. We're still seeking vendors!! Contact Mara at (219) 836-6922 for the application.



Happy Galentine's!

What's better than spending the night out with your girls? Come enjoy some laughs while you play games and eat food. This event will take place Wednesday, February 8th from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the Social Center.



TLC for your Health

Whether your goal is to lose weight, regulate your blood sugar, lower your cholesterol or just improve your vitality for life, this class will teach you the steps to achieve better health through necessary lifestyle changes and accountability. Class takes place on Saturdays from 2/18-3/18 from 9:00 am - 9:45 am at the Social Center.



Reserve Now

Since it's the month of love – keep us in mind if you know someone that gets engaged and needs a bridal shower or wedding venue – we have many spaces to offer between Heritage Park (gazebo), Centennial Park (stage or gardens) and the Social Center. Contact us at (219) 836-7275 for more information.



Mahjong Classes

Learn to play Mahjong with current Keenager member: Janice Eriks. Class takes place on Wednesdays from 2/1-3/1 from 2:00 pm –4:00 pm at the Social Center.



Spring Soccer

Early-bird deadline is approaching – February 24! Don't forget to register – as no late registrations will be allowed. Final deadline is March 10th.



Snow Removal Ordinance

Ordinance:

It is hereby declared and proclaimed that it is necessary to the public health and safety that the streets of the town be cleared of snow, and if the clearing of snow is impeded and delayed by vehicles parked on the streets, such impediment and delay is detrimental to the public health and safety.

Whenever there has been snow of two inches or more, in order not to delay the clearing of such streets, all vehicles parked on all streets of the town, except streets in the area bounded by, but not including, Manor, Hohman, Ridge Road, and the northern town limits, shall be removed by the owner. These are the one-way streets between Manor and Ridge Road in the northwest section of town.

If such vehicles are not removed from the streets after two inches of snowfall occurs, and after ticketing, it shall be the duty of the police department of the town to forthwith employ some reputable person to remove such vehicles from the streets.

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.

If you believe that a residence or business is not following this ordinance, please contact either the Munster Police Department by calling 911 or you can report the matter to Code Enforcement Kim Nordhoff at (219)836-6659 for follow-up. If the situation is an extreme safety concern, always call 911.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

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.

Site Plan Review Mtg.	Feb. 2, 2023	1:30 pm	Munster Town Hall
Town Council & Redevelopment Mtg.	Feb. 6, 2023	7:00 pm	Munster Town Hall
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	Feb. 14, 2023	6:45 pm	Munster Town Hall
Plan Commission Mtg.	Feb. 14, 2023	7:30 pm	Munster Town Hall
Board of Safety Mtg.	Feb. 16, 2023	Cancelled	Munster Town Hall
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Feb. 16, 2023	1:30 pm	Munster Town Hall
Town Council & Redevelopment Mtg.	Feb. 20, 2023	7:00 pm	Munster Town Hall
Park Board Mtg.	Feb. 21, 2023	5:00 pm	Munster Town Hall

ALL MEETINGS LISTED WILL BE HELD IN THE MAIN MEETING ROOM



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



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