



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

MAY 2023

Edited by E. Payne



Town Council members and staff have recently received many questions about the Ridge Road Streetscape plan.

The idea to improve Ridge Road was addressed in the Town's 2010 Comprehensive Plan. The Council members, staff, and residents at that time highlighted opportunities and desires for the corridor. With the South Shore train extension closer to a reality, the Council decided it was a good time to address what had been talked about for years. The Town hired a consultant to develop a plan to improve stormwater runoff, reduce neighborhood street flooding, improve walking and biking connectivity, and make the corridor more attractive and safer overall. It was a year-long process that included extensive community outreach activity that engaged both staff, businesses along the corridor, school administration, and residents for their input.

That process produced a concept plan. Now it is time to engage a design engineering firm and traffic specialist to conduct more in-depth analyses. The design and engineering phase will include more public discussion and full staff input including our Fire and Police departments. It will analyze current and projected traffic volumes, traffic speed, potential spill over to neighboring streets, emergency vehicle accessibility, and safety improvement strategies. It will also identify solutions for long-term issues like the double stoplight at Harrison, the volume of curb cuts, and the abundance of unsightly utility poles. The goal is to produce an outcome that all residents can be proud of and one that will improve the quality of life along the Ridge Road corridor.

The project will invest \$21 million into the northern part of Munster, with \$4 million coming from the Town due to a large federal grant we received in 2022. The \$4 million will be taken from money on-hand that must be used for capital projects. We are restricted by the grant parameters and state statute how to legally spend the funds.

A list of frequently asked questions is available at munster.org. Please email additional questions to any of the council members or the town manager.

Munster Town Council



I recently met with a couple of local banks about the Town accounts. I am pleased to share our current bank is in a solid, stable financial position. The level of services they provide and the protection we have against fraud is strong. We are constantly monitoring for frauds and scams and modify our practices to protect the Town and our residents.

The Town offers various methods of payment that should fit our residents needs and comfort levels. We accept payment of all types physically in our office. The office is open weekdays from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm. We have a drop box in the parking lot in which you can deposit payment checks. Just a reminder, this is not a postal box because, usually around Christmas, we will get residents outgoing mail. For the tech savvy, you can pay your bill online and set up automatic payments with Invoice Cloud, our third party administrator. Just a reminder, Invoice Cloud charges a convenience fee and the Town does not.

If you have questions and concerns, please contact me at (219)836-6945 or wmis@munster.org.

Wendy Mis, Clerk Treasurer

YOUR WATER RATES AT WORK!

You may have noticed some activity at the water pumping station on Calumet Avenue. Last month, crews began sandblasting the interior of one of the ground storage water tanks behind the station in preparation for full interior reconditioning. After the interior work is completed, a new coat of blue paint will be applied to the exterior of the tank. The second tank will receive a similar treatment. It will take about a month to complete the work on each tank. This work is being staged to keep the pump station operational throughout the improvements. In addition to work on the tanks, flow metering and chlorine dosing pumps will be installed in the pump station.

In August, the elevated tank on Ridge Road will be getting a facelift. Both the interior and exterior of this tank will be sandblasted to remove the old coating systems. The tank will be shrouded to contain the dust from the sandblasting operations. New coatings, including a new logo, will be applied.

The Town's remaining five water storage tanks are scheduled for reconditioning over the next four years. The improvements will protect these important assets in our water system.

Jill DiCommaso, Deputy Town Manager



- 5/1 Tai Chi Gong
- 5/3 Intro to Cricket
- 5/4 VolleyKidz
- 5/4 Jr. Volleykidz
- 5/5 Puppet theatre for Kids w/ South Shore Arts
- 5/5 CPR DEADLINE
- 5/5 Cash for Clutter Early-Bird DEADLINE
- 5/6 Car Show
- 5/6 Let it go – Ladies Empowerment Walk
- 5/6 Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
- 5/8 Youth Tennis Lessons (Ages: 4-8; 9-13)
- 5/8 Adult Drill and Play
- 5/9 Youth Tennis Lessons (Ages: 4-8; 9-13)
- 5/9 Tennis Adult Beginner
- 5/9 Skateboarding: Leveling up
- 5/10 Pool Pride Day
- 5/12 **Pool Season Pass Early-Bird Registration DEADLINE**
- 5/15 CPR Certification
- 5/16 Koolaid and Kanvas
- 5/18 Wado-Ki Karate
- 5/19 Long Grove Chocolate Festival
- 5/20 Cash for Clutter
- 5/22 Cupcakes & Competition
- 5/25 Red, White and Blue BINGO
- 5/27 Munster Pool opens



Now accepting Private Party rentals, Birthday Party Rentals and Group Rentals for Munster Pool. For availability, call us at (219)836-7275. Private parties must submit a questionnaire before reservations are taken. Email jhiggins@munster.org for the questionnaire.



Munster Pool Season Passes
Season passes are currently on sale. When coming to the Park Office to register, please bring each person in your family that will be purchasing a season pass so updated pictures can be taken. **Early-bird deadline is May 12th.**



Centennial Park pay to park is active. Munster residential households are entitled to register two vehicle license plates per year. Please visit the Centennial Park page on the Town's website at www.munster.org for more information.

Tennis Anyone?

Youth Spring Tennis Lessons for Ages 4-8

Bluebird Park
Mon/Wed (5/8 - 5/25): 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Tue/Thu (5/9 - 5/25): 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Fee: \$45 Resident/\$50 Non-Resident

Youth Spring Tennis Lessons for Ages 9-13

Mon/Wed: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Tue/Thu: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Fee: \$45 Resident/\$50 Non-Resident

Adult Drill and Play

Munster High School
Mon/Wed (5/8 - 5/25): 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fee: \$75 Resident/\$85 Non-Resident

Tennis Adult Beginner

Munster High School
Tuesdays (5/9 - 5/23): 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fee: \$40 Resident/\$45 Non-Resident

MUNSTER PARKS AND RECREATION 219-836-PARK



25th Annual Car Show

Saturday, May 6th
Community Pool Parking Lot
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us for our 25th Annual Car Show! We will have music, delicious food truck cuisine, vendors with items for show and sale, and an awesome display of vehicles. \$20 to pre-register your vehicle by 5/5. \$28 to register on-site.



Cash for Clutter

Saturday, May 20th
Community Park Pool Parking Lot
8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Clear your clutter and earn some quick cash by selling those things you don't have the room for anymore. All registrations for this event need to be made in person at the Parks and Recreation Office. \$18 resident fee; after May 5th \$28

Pool Pride Day

Wednesday, May 10th
Community Park Pool
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm



Help us get ready for the summer season. Please pre-register by calling us at (219) 836-7275 so we can have a proper head count for complimentary dinner.



MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING



Thursday, May 25th at 6:30 pm
Munster Town Hall - Main Meeting Room
All Munster residents and business representatives are invited and encouraged to attend this important safety meeting which will include crime statistics, updates on recent incidents, and a presentation from the Munster Police Department's new Crime Suppression Unit which targets drugs, stolen vehicles, and other necessary issues. A \$30 Target gift card will also be awarded as a door prize. Please note the earlier start time for this meeting. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or via email at jghrist@munster.org.

MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT DONATIONS



The Munster Police Department is seeking monetary donations through June 17th towards Munster's 28th Annual National Night Out Against Crime Celebration, which will be held on Tuesday, August 1st in and around the area of the Munster Community Pool. This nationally-recognized event is held each year to promote positive police and community partnerships through a variety of both fun and educational activities for all ages. The event is completely funded through donations from the public.

If you would like to provide a donation, please make checks payable to the **TOWN OF MUNSTER (memo: NNO)** and mail them to the **Munster Police Department, c/o Officer James Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana 46321**. Thank you in advance for your support and please mark your calendars now for this year's fun and exciting event! For more information about sponsorships or this year's event, please contact Officer Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or via email at jghrist@munster.org.

HELP WANTED

Public Works is seeking Summer Help. Applicants can complete an application from the Town website www.munster.org or pick up an application at the Public Works facility located at 550 Fisher St. or send a resume to lpramuk@munster.org.



HIRING PAID-ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS



The Munster Fire Department are accepting applications for the upcoming Fire Academy starting June 23rd. Employment applications can be picked up and turned in at 550 Fisher St. For more information, contact (219)836-6960 or email jrebey@munster.org.

- Must reside in or within 1 mile of the Town of Munster.
- Firefighter Pre-employment physical exam to include drug/alcohol screening.
- 18+ years old with valid drivers license.
- High school diploma or GED equivalent.
- Pass thorough background investigation-no criminal history.



DRAIN GRATES

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.

BRANCH COLLECTION

Branches should be no longer than 7' 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 Munster Public Works Department at (219)836-6971.

FREE WOOD CHIPS

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





PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL RECREATIONAL BURNING

Burning shall be in a non-combustible container that is sufficiently vented and has enclosed sides and bottom. Only clean wood can be burned (no painted wood, trash etc.). The fire shall be extinguished if it creates a nuisance, fire hazard or pollution problem. No burning shall be conducted during unfavorable meteorological conditions such as high winds, temperature inversions, air stagnation, when there is a pollution alert, ozone action days or during a Red Flag warning. Burning should be at least 10 feet away from any structure.

MUNSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (219)836-6960

last but not least....

**Garbage and Recycling will be delayed one day
Monday, May 29, 2023 in Observance of Memorial Day.**

Spring Leaf Collection ended in April!

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

Polls are open from 6:00 am - 6:00 pm.

Remember to vote at your regular polling site on Election Day.

If you need to locate your polling site visit www.indianavoters.in.gov.

Please follow the Town of Munster Facebook page for up-to-date information.



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.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR MAY 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.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg. | May 1, 2023 | 7:00 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |
| Board of Safety Mtg. | May 2, 2023 | 7:00 am | Munster Police Department |
| Site Plan Review Mtg. | May 4, 2023 | 1:30 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |
| Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg. | May 9, 2023 | 6:45 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |
| Plan Commission Mtg. | May 9, 2023 | 7:30 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |
| Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg. | May 15, 2023 | 7:00 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |
| Park Board Mtg. | May 16, 2023 | 5:00 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |
| Site Plan Review Mtg. | May 18, 2023 | 1:30 pm | Main Meeting Room (MTH) |



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)666-7175
(219)757-1332
(708)606-7223
(219)226-8973
(219)595-5606
(219)836-6945



kschoon@munster.org
lmellon@munster.org
cgardiner@munster.org
tulo@munster.org
drkoul63@gmail.com
wmis@munster.in.gov

