



NEWS YOU CAN USE



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

DECEMBER 2023



Edited by E. Payne

Happy Holidays

ELECTION 2023

The local municipal elections took place this past November, determining the Town Councilors and Clerk-Treasurer who will serve Munster for the next four years. I would like to share some interesting statistics with you. Munster boasts 19,070 registered voters, with a 29.36% turnout in the general election. Precinct participation varied from a low of 18.70% to a high of 37.69%, averaging 29.06%. Considering Lake County's overall turnout was 16.97%, Munster residents made a commendable effort to have their voices heard. Local elections significantly impact individuals, and I encourage you to communicate with your elected officials. The current council's information is on the back page of this newsletter, and details about the new council will be provided in the January edition. Contact us via email or telephone with questions, concerns, or support. We need to hear from you beyond election day to keep Munster as a leading community in the region.

SOFTWARE UPGRADE - TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE TO THE PUBLIC ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th

We are transitioning our financial software to the cloud. This exciting upgrade will bring us enhanced capabilities, but it does come with a temporary disruption to our services. On Friday, December 1, we will be issuing paper receipts as a temporary measure. Our office will be closed to the public on Monday, December 4th as we migrate to the updated system and reconcile our financial records. We plan to reopen to the public on Tuesday, December 5th, at our regular operating time of 7:30 am.

2024 LICENSES AND REGISTRATION

We will begin to accept your 2024 pet licenses and business registrations no earlier than December 5, 2023. If your business email address needs to be updated, contact achew@munster.org. Feel free to contact me at wmis@munster.org or (219)836-6945.

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer



Munster Town Offices Closed

Christmas Holiday

Monday, December 25, 2023

&

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

New Year's Holiday

Monday, January 1, 2024

&

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Homewood Disposal Closed

Christmas Day, Monday December 25, 2023

New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024

**All service will be delayed one day for this week only*

"May your holidays sparkle with joy, laughter and wishing you and your family a safe and relaxing holiday season"- Town of Munster



MUNSTER TOWN COUNCIL 2024 -2028

George Shinkan Ward #1

Joe Hoffarth Ward #2

Chuck Gardiner Ward #3

Dave Nellans Ward #4

Jonathan Petersen Ward #5

Wendy Mis Clerk-Treasurer





BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

We are currently accepting applications for boards, commissions, and for the Munster Civic Foundation. You can find the application at www.munster.org. We have a few openings in 2024. Applications are retained for three years. If you have previously applied and your interests have changed or if you are no longer available to serve, please let us know and we will update your application. The Clerk-Treasurer's office will accept your completed or updated application.

BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Oversees the various operations and activities of the Munster Parks and Recreation Department and meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm at Munster Town Hall.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

The Town of Munster Board of Zoning Appeals hears requests for variances and conditional use permits. The Board of Zoning Appeals meets at the Munster Town Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:45 pm.

PLAN COMMISSION

The Town of Munster Plan Commission maintains the Town's Comprehensive Plan and hears requests to subdivide property and amend the zoning codes and maps. The Plan Commission meets at the Munster Town Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

BOARD OF SAFETY

The Board of Safety meets every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 am unless otherwise noted. Board of Safety is a state required board which oversees the Police and Fire Departments, included in this is hiring, promotions, discipline exceeding 5 days and terminations.



MEETING INFORMATION

All Town of Munster Town Council, Redevelopment Commission, and Boards & Commission meetings are open to the public (exception-Executive Sessions) and available via zoom. Please go to the website www.munster.org and look under tab "Agenda & Minutes" to obtain zoom information. If you are unable to attend meetings in person or via zoom, meetings are available on the YouTube Town of Munster channel.

WWW.MUNSTER.ORG/219-836-6900



Christmas trees will be picked up by the Public Works Department starting Wednesday, December 26, 2023, and ending Friday January 29, 2023, **weather permitting**. Please make sure all decorations are off the tree.



MAILBOXES AND SNOWPLOWING

Residents are reminded to inspect their mailbox and make needed repairs prior to the winter to ensure that it is in sound structural shape. Rarely does a snowplow hit a mailbox, but often snow thrown from a plow truck hits mailboxes, causing damage. The Town will replace mailboxes damaged by snowplows only if the mailbox was in prior good condition. Residents must ensure that their mailbox is solidly attached to its post and that the post has not deteriorated.

TIPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

- Winterize water pipes
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses
- Check your chimney
- Winterize your sprinkler system
- Clean the gutters
- Check your thermostat
- Check your fireplace
- Perform furnace maintenance
- Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detector



EMERGENCY CAR KIT FOR WINTER

- Cellphone, portable charger, and extra batteries
- Items to stay warm - hat, coat, mittens, and blankets
- Shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Water and snack food
- Tire chains
- Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water
- First aid kit
- Windshield scraper
- Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- Cat litter or sand to help tires get traction, or road salt to melt ice



DECEMBER

- 12/1 CPR Certification Registration Deadline
- 12/1 Premier Travel Show
- 12/1 Light the Night Winter Festival 
- 12/2 Home Alone Training
- 12/2 Holiday Arts/Craft Fair
- 12/3 Holiday Arts/Craft Fair
- 12/4 Welcome Back Chip Party
- 12/6 Keen-ager Holiday Luncheon 
- 12/7 Wado-Ki Karate
- 12/11 CPR Certification
- 12/13 Koolaid & Kanvas
- 12/13 Cinderella Lunch and Show at Drury Lane
- 12/14 White Elephant BINGO
- 12/19 Lucille Ball Lunch and Show 
- 12/21 Cupcakes & Competition
- 12/25 PARK OFFICE CLOSED
- 12/26 PARK OFFICE CLOSED



Light the Night Winter Festival
Friday, December 1, 2023
Munster Town Hall
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Santa and other characters will be in attendance with food vendors, pony rides, bounce houses and games while we light up the town grounds.



Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
Munster High School
Saturday, December 2, 2023
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday, December 3, 2023
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Over 125 vendors selling everything holiday related you can think of. Shoppers can use entrance A, J, K, or Q. Stop by Parks & Recreation photobooth on Sunday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to see a special guest.



Lucille Ball Lunch/Show
Tuesday, December 19, 2023
Social Center
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Storyteller - Jillann Gabrielle will share the story about the most famous American comedienne of all time! A box lunch is included in the fee.

\$45 Keen-Ager
 \$50 Non-Keenager



We Need Your Input!

Help us with the Munster Parks & Recreation 5 Year Comprehensive Plan



The Town of Munster Parks & Recreation Department strives to provide the community with diversified recreational opportunities. Please help the department fulfill that mission by providing feedback with the survey below.

www.munster.org/parksurvey



We are now taking **2024 rentals**. This includes the Community Park Social Center, Park Shelters, Heritage Park Gazebo, Centennial Park Stage and Gardens. All rentals must be made in person at the Parks Office. The rental fee + 7% tax + refundable deposit are due in full at time of reservation. If you have questions on availability, call us at (219)836-7275.

MUNSTER TOWN HALL

(219)836-6900

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

CLERK-TREASURER OFFICE

(219)836-6940

Monday-Friday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

PARKS & RECREATION

(219)836-7275

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(219)836-6992

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

PUBLIC WORKS

(219)836-6971/6970

Monday-Friday 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

FIRE DEPARTMENT

(219)836-6960

Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

POLICE RECORDS

(219)836-6630/6650

Monday-Tuesday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wednesday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

**All Town Hall Offices are closed on the weekends*
**Beginning Jan 1, 2024 - Police Records Office Hours will be Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm*

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors
- Be careful with holiday decorations.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.

BEFORE HEADING ON TO BED!

- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- More than one third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



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TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 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. **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.**

Board of Safety Mtg.	December 1, 2023	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	December 4, 2023	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	December 7, 2023	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	December 12, 2023	6:45 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	December 12, 2023	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	December 18, 2023	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	December 19, 2023	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	December 21, 2023	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



Dr. Ken Schoon



Lee Ann Mellon



Chuck Gardiner



Steve Tulowitzki



Dr. Andy Koultourides



Wendy Mis

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