



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

**FEBRUARY 2024**

Edited by E. Payne



At the Clerk-Treasurer's office, we're committed to making your experience with us as convenient and flexible as possible. Your feedback matters, and we've listened!

## **WE LISTENED AND YOU HAVE OPTIONS**

In response to your requests for fewer paper bills, we partnered with Invoice Cloud to offer an alternative. Munster residents have the option to go paperless and receive their monthly utility bill electronically, along with the link to our informative "News You Can Use."

Here are some noteworthy statistics from our 2023:

- 20% of our customers are enjoying the convenience of paperless billing.
- 24% have opted to pay their utility bills online.
- 14% of customers have enrolled in Invoice Cloud autopay, even with a small fee.
- 400 utility customers were prenoted in the last half of 2023. These customers switched bank accounts, signed up for new service, or began utilizing our FREE direct Autopay through the Town of Munster.
- In December 2023, the Town of Munster had 8,621 utility accounts billed and 3,284 or 38% were ACH customers.

You can pay your bill in our office and the red drop box is a fixture in the Town Hall parking lot, we have found the mail is the option that most of our residents use. We understand everyone has their preferred way of handling bills, whether it's in-person, by mail, online, or through automated options, we're here to accommodate your bill-paying lifestyle.

## **EXPLORE BACK ISSUES OF "NEWS YOU CAN USE"**

I usually look at past issues of "News You Can Use" for inspiration for the current article. As your upcoming utility bill will reflect higher water and solid waste rates, the February 2022 edition addressed utility rate increases, shedding light on why water rates experience annual increases. I encourage you to explore the January 2024 issue for insights into the recent solid waste rate hike.

You can find these issues and articles dating back to 2009 on the Town of Munster website [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org) and click the "News You Can Use" tab on the right side.

## **NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIAL TRAINING**

At the beginning of each new term, the newly elected officials have the opportunity to attend fundamental and essential training sessions. One day was spent with my Clerk-Treasurer peers focusing on my specific role in the Town. The following days centered on the broader topics of tax increment financing, public finance, ethics, open-door laws, and access to public records. While most of this information was familiar, however, it is essential to stay informed especially as rule changes do occur. I am always pleased to learn new things or get a greater understanding of the many facets of the role of a municipal Clerk-Treasurer.

As always, you are encouraged to contact me with any of questions, and I will do my best to answer.

**Wendy Mis, Clerk Treasurer**

[wmis@munster.org](mailto:wmis@munster.org) or (219)836-6945

**DID YOU  
KNOW...?**

## **WE'VE BEEN HACKED!**



On November 30, 2023, the Munster Parks and Recreation Facebook Page was hacked. We can no longer access that account. Facebook is our #1 way to advertise what we offer, so if you could help by liking and following us, and sharing our NEW page with your friends, family, coworkers, acquaintances, neighbors or groups you participate in, we would be forever grateful. After all, we have 10,000+ followers to regain!  
**Facebook link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/MunsterParks>

This also means we do not have access to our Munster Parks Summer Camp page. Should you be interested in receiving Summer Camp details when they become available in March, please follow our new **Camp Page link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mprcamp>

**Thanks from Munster Parks & Recreation!**



## 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### OPEN

*\* Service will be on schedule during the week*

**Presidents Day - February 19, 2024**

**Juneteenth National Independence Day - June 19, 2024**

**Columbus Day - October 14, 2024**

**Halloween - October 31, 2024**

**Veterans Day - November 11, 2024**

### CLOSED

**Memorial Day - May 27, 2024**

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

**Independence Day - July 4, 2024**

*\*Wednesday service will be on schedule. Thursday and Friday residential service will be delayed one day for this week only*

**Labor Day - September 2, 2024**

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

**Thanksgiving Day - November 28, 2024**

*\*Monday - Wednesday service will be on schedule. Thursday and Friday residential service will be delayed one day for this week only.*

**Christmas Day - December 25, 2024**

*\*Monday and Tuesday service will be on schedule. Wednesday - Friday residential service will be delayed one day for this week only.*

## CURBSIDE RECYCLING

- Newspaper
- Office paper
- Envelopes
- Magazines
- Brown paper bags
- Books
- Wrapping paper
- Cardboard boxes
- Cereal boxes
- Tin/steel cans
- Trays and pie tins
- Aluminum cans



- Aerosol cans
- Household flat glass
- Light bulbs
- Wet or soiled cardboard
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Shredded paper



## SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCES

Public Works would like to remind residents of the Town of Munster's ordinances for snow removal.

1. Parking is prohibited on all streets in Town after two inches of snowfall.
2. Residents are responsible for removing snow from sidewalks within 24 hours after any snowfall.
3. It is unlawful to push snow, slush, or ice onto any street or sidewalk.

If you believe that a residence or business is not following these ordinances, please contact either the Munster Police Department by calling non-emergency (219)660-0001 or you can report the matter to Code Enforcement at (219)836-6659. If the situation is an extreme safety concern, always call 911.



## ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Homewood Disposal Service does not pick-up electronics or televisions. Electronics such as personal computers, laptops, printers, cell phones, DVD players and televisions can be brought to the electronic recycling shed located at 508 Fisher Street. The recycling shed is now located inside of the gate at the Public Works facility, the hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 am - 3 pm. There is not an attendant. Electronic Recycling is available for Lake County residents only and not for non-profits, businesses or schools.



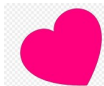
- Stay at least 50 ft. behind snowplows.
- Do not attempt to get in between plows if they are plowing in tandem.
- Yield to snowplows, they travel slower than posted speeds.
- Never drive through a snow cloud or whiteout conditions.
- Never pass a plow on the right side.



# February



- 2/2 Crochet, Knit, and Weave, Oh My! w/ South Shore Arts
- 2/3 Hawks & Owls of Northwest Indiana
- 2/5 A look into the Spanish Language
- 2/6 Learn to play Mahjongg
- 2/6 Koolaid and Kanvas
- 2/8 Wado-Ki Karate
- 2/9 Mayflower Travel Show
- 2/10 Daddy Daughter Date Night
- 2/14 CeraMix w/South Shore Arts
- 2/15 Hallmark Holiday BINGO
- 2/16 Fishing, Travel and Outdoor Expo
- 2/23 Joan & Betty, Betty and Joan Lunch/Show
- 2/23 **EARLY BIRD DEADLINE FOR SPRING SOCCER**
- 2/24 Dessert Battles - Donuts
- 2/24 Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
- 2/26 Salsation
- 2/28 Body Works Plus Abs



Munster Pool season passes are currently on sale! The season will be May 25th - August 11th. All members of the family must come in person when purchasing so updated photos can be taken. Early-bird deadline is May 10th. Call us for pricing.



Spring Soccer will be here before you know it. The early-bird deadline will creep up on you, so don't forget! Register by February 23rd to obtain the early-bird rate. Always looking for volunteer coaches!



Still seeking Home Improvement businesses to participate in our Home Improvement Fair on Saturday, 3/9 from 10AM-2PM at Wilbur Wright Middle School. Interested in being a vendor? Contact Mara at (219)836-6922 or mdicarlo@munster.org.



Summer Camp information will be available late March. To get details when available, contact jhiggins@munster.org to be added to the email list.



Later this month, we'll already be planning the Summer Recreation Guide. If you have a special skill or hobby and you would be interested in running a class with us, contact us at parkoffice@munster.org.



## 2024 CENTENNIAL PARK PARKING REGISTRATION

Town of Munster residents can register up to 2 vehicles per household to park for free at Centennial Park for the 2024 parking season. Registration will begin on March 1, 2024 at [www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com](http://www.centennialparkvehiclereg.com). Previous registration will not carry over to 2024. Registration can also be done at the Parks and Recreation office at Munster Town Hall. Once a vehicle is registered and a confirmation email is received after proof of residency is confirmed, that vehicle is safe to park at Centennial Park without receiving a notice violation.

Parking fees are effective and will be enforced from April 1-October 31, 2024. If a vehicle is not registered for a free pass and fees are not paid, license plate reading technology will be used to issue notice violations via the mail. Park visitors using the golf course or golf driving range can validate parking inside the Pro Shop but must be done immediately after parking.

Unregistered vehicles have a 15-minute grace period from when they enter the parking lot to either leave the parking lot or to pay at one of the meters or via the ParkByApp app on a smartphone. Credit/debit cards are the only forms of payment accepted. For more information, please visit the Town's website at [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org).



### PAY-TO-PARK ENFORCED APRIL 1ST - OCTOBER 31ST



- Be on the lookout after March 1st for information on renewing your license plate for free parking at Centennial Park.
- You must renew each year!

### SUMMER WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, SO LET'S START PLANNING!

- We're looking to hire for Spring/Summer positions. Please see page 15 of your current Recreation Guide for positions.
- We have facilities for rent for your graduation party, family reunion, birthday party and more. Call us for availability!
- Looking for an outdoor venue to get married? How about Heritage Park Gazebo or Centennial Park Stage or Gardens?
- Looking for a pool party? Now accepting birthday parties and private pool parties.
- Interested in becoming a lifeguard, but don't know where to start? Start off with a lifeguard course scheduled for April 21st! Please contact Abby for more details (219)836-6923.





### HAVE AN EMERGENCY?

If you smell natural gas, think you have a natural gas leak, have carbon monoxide symptoms or have some other natural gas emergency situation, stop what you are doing, leave the area **IMMEDIATELY** (if inside, get out) and, **FROM A SAFE LOCATION**, call 911 and NIPSCO at 1-800-634-3524 (24/7).

For any electric emergency, including a downed power line, power outage or other electric-related situation, **FROM A SAFE LOCATION**, call NIPSCO at 1-800-464-7726 (24/7).

If you are experiencing a power outage, please visit [nipsco.com/outages](https://nipsco.com/outages), text OUT to 444111 or report your outage on the NIPSCO app, available on the Apple App Store or on Google Play.

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## MUNSTER MONARCH PROJECT

### EARTH DAY WEED WRANGLE

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Heritage Park



Please register for the event at our Munster Monarch Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/3k5kk514W>

Also follow group on Facebook "Munster Monarch City"



More Info



- Munster has up to 15 Monarch way stations (yards with milkweed, nectar flowers, and trees designed to help guide the monarchs in their migration).
- Munster Monarch Project supported educational programs on Healing Spaces and Healing Gardens, Native Gardening, and worked with the Munster Branch Library that offered many Monarch themed programs.
- Please follow page for more valuable information.

## TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FEBRUARY 2024

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.**

Site Plan Review Mtg.	February 1, 2024	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	February 5, 2024	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	February 13, 2024	6:45 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	February 13, 2024	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	February 15, 2024	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	February 15, 2024	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	February 19, 2024	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	February 20, 2024	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



George Shinkan

Joseph Hofferth

Chuck Gardiner

David Nellans

Jonathan Petersen

Wendy Mis



Ward #1

Ward #2

Ward #3

Ward #4

Ward #5

Clerk-Treasurer



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