



1005 Ridge Rd., Munster, IN 46321

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## JANUARY 2013

Edited by Charlene Stout 836-6999

### **THERE WILL BE NO REFUSE AND RECYCLING PICK UP ON New Year's Day, Tuesday, January 1, 2013**

**Refuse and recycling will be picked up one day later after the holiday.  
Town Hall will be closed December 31 and January 1 in Observance of the Holiday.**

**Christmas Trees** will be picked up by the Public Works Department on your regularly scheduled pick up day. Collection of trees will begin January 7, 2013 and end January 25, 2013. Please make sure all decorations are removed from your tree. If you have any questions, contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

### **SNOW POLICY**

The town is applying liquid chemicals (brine) to the roadways prior to a snow event to prevent the formation of ice. The brine is applied to the main, secondary, and hill streets prior to the snow event.

The town's policy is to start plowing when there is an inch of snow on the roadways. Main, secondary, and hill streets are plowed first, then residential and cul-de-sacs.

The town will only salt main and secondary streets at intersections, railroad tracks, school zones, curves, bridges, and around the hospitals. Once the snow has stopped, crews will salt the main and secondary streets all the way through following with the residential streets. The town will only salt residential streets at stop signs once the snow event has stopped. The town will no longer salt mid-block of the residential streets.

### **POPLAR LANE BRIDGE OPEN**

The Lake County Highway Department has jurisdiction over all the bridges in the county, even if they are in municipalities. Based on inspections conducted this past summer, the Poplar Bridge was identified as a priority to replace. The county usually uses dollars allocated by the Indiana Department of Transportation (InDOT) when replacing or rehabilitating a bridge. Because InDOT funds are used, the state actually bids out these projects. On May 9, three bids were received from contractors, all of which were over the engineer's estimate for this project. Since that was the case, the bids were rejected and InDOT intended to start the process over again. InDOT re-bid the Poplar Bridge Project on July 11.

This time InDOT awarded the contract to Ellas Construction, who then started the job in September. Based on the late start, all parties involved thought that this bridge would be constructed over more than one construction season, with only one lane open over the winter. Ellas Construction accelerated the work schedule to the point where, while the bridge is not completed, it is open with two full drive lanes for the winter months. If you have questions or comments about this project you may contact James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at [jmandon@munster.org](mailto:jmandon@munster.org).

### **COMMUNITY PARK PHASE 2 MAKING GOOD PROGRESS**

Phase 2 of the Community Park improvements, which did not commence until October 1, has made steady progress during the favorable weather this fall. In just two months, two softball fields were demolished, sewers and water main installed, two new parking lots constructed, underground electrical work installed, four dugouts constructed, backstop, fencing, gates, and foul poles installed, sod laid, and ag-lime and red granite applied. In early spring, sports lighting and walkways will be completed, finishing Phase 2. The leagues will be able to play on all fields during the spring-summer season. The scope of Phase 3 improvements will be discussed during the winter and bid out in the spring for a late summer start-up. If you have questions about this project, call James Mandon, PE, town engineer, at 836-6995, or email [jmandon@munster.org](mailto:jmandon@munster.org).

### **MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT THANKS 2012 D.A.R.E. PROGRAM SPONSORS**

The Munster Police Department would like to thank this past year's sponsors of the Munster Police Department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program. The D.A.R.E. Program has provided instruction on the subjects of following rules, bullying prevention, drug prevention, internet safety, choosing good friends, and the importance of making good decisions to almost 2,000 total students in kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, and 8th grade for over 20 years in Munster.

The Munster Police Department would not be able to present this program without the financial support of the following businesses, organizations, and residents: The Parent Teacher Organizations (P.T.O.'s) of Elliott, Eads, Frank Hammond, St. Paul's Lutheran, and St. Thomas More Schools; St. Thomas More Church; the Munster Rotary Club; the Munster Lions Club; Munster-Highland Tri-Kappa; Miss Print; Dante's House of Pizza; Pepsi Americas;

Jewel Foods; Schoops Hamburgers; Strack & Van Til's; Hohman Floral; Munster Donut; and David & Paula Nellans.

Thank you again for your support on behalf of the many students who benefit from your generosity each year. For more information about how you can help to support the Munster Police Department's D.A.R.E. Program, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org).

### **MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING**

The Munster Police Department will be holding their first quarterly Crime Watch Meeting of the year on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall. All Munster residents and business representatives are invited to attend. This meeting will provide recent crime statistics and information to the public, along with a chance for residents to ask questions or raise concerns to police officials during or immediately after the meeting.

In addition, Lake County Sheriff John Buncich will also be in attendance to provide information about resources for the public that are available through the Lake County Sheriff's Department as well as on how their agency works with the Munster Police Department to fight crime in this area.

For more information, contact Officer James Ghrist at 836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org). We hope to see you there!

### **CHOICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Munster's CHOICE Community Council is an open forum for any Munster resident who would like to help plan or provide suggestions for community policing or safety programs. CHOICE will be holding their first quarterly meeting of the year on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall, Conference Room A. During this meeting we will be discussing plans and programs for the coming year. For more information, contact Officer James Ghrist at 836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org).

### **MOTORISTS REMINDED TO YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS AT CROSSWALKS**

Motorists are reminded that they must always yield to pedestrians who are crossing roadways at marked crosswalks, and that they should remember that there are also marked crosswalks in areas other than intersections. Some of these areas include east of Munster High School and east of Community Hospital on Columbia Avenue. Motorists are also prohibited from driving around vehicles which have stopped to permit pedestrians to cross at marked crosswalks.

Motorists involved in collisions with pedestrians or vehicles at crosswalks can be cited or even arrested depending upon the way they were driving prior to the collision. Motorists are asked to use caution and to be aware of pedestrians crossing the roadway when

entering areas containing marked crosswalks, school zones, or other areas with posted blinking yellow signals or crosswalk signage.

Pedestrians are prohibited by state law, however, from entering the roadway if there is not enough suitable time for an approaching vehicle to stop safely and must also yield to approaching emergency vehicles that have their lights and sirens activated. Pedestrians should always wait for an appropriate time to cross and to wait, if necessary, for approaching vehicles to stop before proceeding. If a walk/don't walk signal is available, please make use of these devices as well as for safety purposes.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS ON DISPLAYING HOUSE NUMBERS**

In order for emergency vehicles to respond quickly to calls, please display house numbers in a position easily observed and readable from the public right-of-way. According to Munster Code, Sec. 26:1203, all number should be at least three inches high and be a contrasting color from the background.

### **MUNSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY: HEATING SAFETY**

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

#### **FIRE FACTS:**

- Half of all home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

#### **BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER:**

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment; such as the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three foot "kid-free" zone around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters, or central heating equipment according to local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from the home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly.

### HEATING EQUIPMENT SMARTS:

- Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation.
- All fuel burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.
- Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning.
- If you smell gas in your home, leave your home immediately and call 911 and the gas company.

For questions or more information on Fire Safety, email Capt. David Strbjak at [dstrbjak@munster.org](mailto:dstrbjak@munster.org) or call 836-6960, or visit the Town's website at [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org).

### WINTER STORM FACTS

Primary concerns are the potential loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies if storm conditions continue for more than a day. Keep ahead of the storm by listening to NOAA weather radio, commercial radio, and television for the latest winter storm watch, warnings, and advisories. **You can better prepare yourself by listening for these terms:**

**Winter Weather Advisory** - Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not become life-threatening. **The greatest hazard is often to motorists.**

**Winter Storm Watch** - Severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, are possible within the next couple of days. **Prepare NOW!**

**Winter Storm Warning** - Severe winter conditions have begun or are about to begin in your area. **Stay indoors!**

**Blizzard Warning** - Snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow, deep drifts, and life-threatening wind chill. **Seek refuge immediately!**

**Be prepared!!! Have available:** Flashlight and extra batteries, battery powered NOAA weather radio and portable radio (these may be your only link to the outside), water and extra food which does not require cooking, medicine and baby items, first-aid supplies, emergency heating source - such as a fireplace, or wood stove, and fire extinguisher and smoke detector.

**Carry a WINTER STORM SURVIVAL KIT in your car:** Blankets/sleeping bags, flashlight with extra batteries, first-aid kit with knife, non-perishable food, extra clothing to keep dry, bag of sand or cat litter, shovel, windshield scraper and brush, tow rope tool kit, booster cables. Also, keep your gas tank near full to prevent ice in the fuel and fuel lines, try not to travel alone, and let someone know your timetable and route.

### WINTER DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

- ◆ Carry a first aid kit, map, ice scraper, snow brush, matches, candles, flashlight & extra batteries, tow & battery jumper cables, shovel, bag of sand, blanket, winter gloves, emergency "HELP" sign, and flares
- ◆ Add gas line anti-freeze to every second tank of gas
- ◆ Keep your gas tank over half full
- ◆ Keep windshield wipers in good shape or install winter wipers
- ◆ Keep windshield washer fluid full
- ◆ Check engine oil & have winter weight installed
- ◆ Keep battery terminals clean, tight & free of corrosion
- ◆ Check tire pressure (once a month) & conditions, including the spare tire
- ◆ Have tires balanced
- ◆ Have a mechanic check the charging system & belts
- ◆ Check coolant, transmission, & brake fluids
- ◆ Check all of the lights
- ◆ Check exhaust system for leaks
- ◆ Start slowly & brake in slow steady strokes
- ◆ Stay a safe distance behind snowplows & other vehicles
- ◆ Be aware that bridges & overpasses may freeze first
- ◆ Watch for "Black Ice" - It may appear to be a wet road but will be glazed ice
- ◆ Turn on your headlights to be seen
- ◆ Drive below the posted speed limit in bad weather
- ◆ Don't use the cruise control
- ◆ Don't be overconfident in 4 x 4 vehicles; they don't stop faster than other vehicles
- ◆ Don't pass snowplows unless absolutely necessary
- ◆ Watch rear view mirrors for vehicles that might rear end you
- ◆ Treat a non-working traffic light as a four-way STOP
- ◆ Reduce speed when approaching intersections & bridges
- ◆ Don't pump anti-lock brakes. Push firmly & steer to a stop
- ◆ When braking a vehicle without anti-lock brakes, press the pedal firmly & slowly to avoid locking up the wheels. Pump & steer until you reach a complete stop

### MUNSTER PARKS AND RECREATION 836-PARK (7275)

You should have received you 2013 **Winter/Spring Recreation Guide** in the mail the end of December. If you did not, please stop by the park office for a copy!

**Did you know the park department can help you with your New Year's Resolutions?** There is a **strict registration deadline of January 9** for Fitness Pointe Classes: Bike & Tone, Cycle Workout, Ballet Tone, Belly Dance Tone, Low Express, Pilates4Core, Restorative Yoga, Pilates Sculpt, Aqua Workout and Deep Water Aerobics.

Other park fitness programs include: Building Nutrition, Energy & Wellness, Small Group Personal Training, Pilates for Everyone, Yoga and Breathing and Zumba. **FREE Zumba Party** on Sunday, January 6, 6-7:30 p.m. at Centennial Park

Clubhouse. We can also help you with your weight loss and smoking through hypnosis classes....see below.

**PART-TIME JOB AND VOLUNTEER FAIR**

**Centennial Park Clubhouse  
Monday, January 14, 2013  
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Look for applications online at, www.munster.org, or pick one up at the Parks Office.  
Bring resume and dress appropriately. Parents are not permitted in the interview room.

**DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT**

**Wilbur Wright Middle School  
Saturday, February 2, 2013  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Early Bird registration ends 1-24, final registration deadline 1-29.

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS**

- **Colors of the Rainbow** - Tues., 1/8-29, \$40R
- **Mommy & Me Art** - Tues., 1/8-29, \$40R
- **Creative Movement** - Tues., 1/8-2/12, \$65R
- **Tumble Time** - Tues., 1/8-2/12, \$65R

**YOUTH EDUCATION / SPORTS**

- **Girls Night w/ your BFF (16+)** - Fri., 2/22, \$50R
- **Zumbatomic FREE trial class** - Tues., 2/5, FREE
- **Basketball Basics** - Mon., 2/4-3/4, \$30R

- **Dribble, Kick & Goal!** -Tues., 1/2-/2/26, \$30R
- **Introduction to Sports** - Sat., 2/2-23, \$30R
- **Early Bird Soccer Registration Ends - 2/22, \$45R**
- **T-Ball 101** - Thurs., 2/7-3/7, \$30R
- **Volleyball Professionals** - Thurs., 1/31-3-14, \$75R

**LEISURE EDUCATION**

- **Guided Meditation** - Wed., 2/6-27, \$45R
- **Lose Weight through Hypnosis** - Thurs., 1/17-2/7, \$80R
- **Smoking Cessation** - Tues/Wed., 1/29 & 1/30, \$90R
- **Self-Defense for Life!** - Weds., 2/6-27, \$45R
- **What is Pinterest?** -Wed., 1/23, \$40R

**TRIPS**

- **Four Winds Casino** - Tues., Jan. 22
- **Woodfield Mall & IKEA** - Fri., Feb. 8
- **Mayflower Travel Show** - Tues., Feb. 19
- **Canada's Atlantic Coast** - June 20-29, \$3,099 Double
- **Eureka Springs/Ozarks** - May 21-25, \$1,249 Double
- **Where Eagles Soar** - Mar. 15-17, \$539 Double
- **New Orleans Gulf Coast** - Mar. 18-23, \$1,049 Double
- **In the Footsteps of Henry Ford** - May 15-18, \$799 Double
- **Memphis Kings/Civil War Generals** - May 31-June 4, \$899 Double

**KEEN-AGER PROGRAMS**

- **Smile Again** - Tues., Jan. 22, Free program brought to you by the EON Clinics.

**TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2013**

Board of Zoning Appeals	Tues., January 8	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Plan Commission	Tues., January 8	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room
Town Council Mtg/Redevelopment Com.	Mon., January 14	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room
Board of Safety	Thurs., January 17	7:30 am	Conference Room "C"
Park Board Meeting	Tues., January 21	7:00 pm	Munster Town Hall
Town Council Mtg/Redevelopment Com.	Mon., January 28	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room

**Notes:**

- The above schedule is subject to change. Please telephone Town Hall at 836-6900 to confirm meetings. A schedule of these meetings and others is maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website: <http://www.munster.org>.

**TOWN COUNCIL & CLERK-TREASURER TELEPHONE AND E-MAIL LIST**

**JOHN EDINGTON** - 836-2637, [jwedington34@comcast.net](mailto:jwedington34@comcast.net)      **JOHN REED** - 219-712-4104, [jpratlaw@aol.com](mailto:jpratlaw@aol.com)  
**DR. ANDY KOULTOURIDES** - 922-4403, [drkoul63@gmail.com](mailto:drkoul63@gmail.com)      **DAVE NELLANS** - 923-3490, [dnellans@munster.org](mailto:dnellans@munster.org)  
**JOSEPH SIMONETTO** - 838-1856, [381stsmw@att.net](mailto:381stsmw@att.net)      **DAVE SHAFER** - 836-6940, [dshafer@munster.in.gov](mailto:dshafer@munster.in.gov)  
**MUNSTER TOWN HALL** - 836-6900      **MUNSTER POLICE DEPT. DISPATCH** - 836-6600

**MUNSTER BUSINESS COMPLEX, CALUMET AVENUE, SHOPS OR OFFICES FOR LEASE  
(1220 TO 4020 Sq. Ft.) CALL:**

Russ Snyder  
Partners Real Estate  
922-3440

Rob Klein  
Cyrus Realtors  
924-9305

Stan Wolucka  
Wolucka and Assoc.  
781-4767