



NEWS YOU CAN USE

SEPTEMBER

1005 Ridge Rd, Munster, IN

Edited by: E. Payne

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

The Impact of COVID on the Clerk-Treasurer's Office

Thankfully, the Clerk-Treasurers office staff has been healthy throughout this public health emergency. We have been following the advice of the CDC and maintaining our social distance, wearing masks, and following a planned cleaning protocol. However, we have not escaped the impact of the coronavirus.

Among the executive orders issued by the Governor, utilities were prevented from shutoff for non-payment to assist residents struggling with their utility bills. This directive expired on August 14, 2020. We, as a municipality, have the fiscal responsibility, as defined by law, to collect for the services we provided. We do not have federal or state assistance available to write off any unpaid bills. We will work with residents with growing outstanding Town of Munster utility bills to set up a payment plan. Contact (219) 836-6949 to make arrangements. If you are struggling with rent, you can visit the state website: indianahousingnow.org for assistance. If you need help with gas or electricity, applications will be available in September or October from Indiana's 2021 Energy Assistance program. If you are a private organization providing relief, please let me know, and I will refer residents to you.

Financially, there will be an impact on our revenue stream. Gasoline tax revenue has gone down as people traveled less. Casinos were closed, so our riverboat revenue decreased. High unemployment and reduced individual income will impact our portion of the state and local income taxes, although we will not feel the impact of that until 2021 and 2022. The benefit we Hoosiers received when the property tax deadline was extended, impacted the timing of our property tax funding. We carefully monitor our cash flow and believe we are in a stable position in 2020.

As we prepare our 2021 budget, we will use information from experts and trends to make revenue projections. We want to continue to use our resources both wisely and efficiently and will be making decisions with that in mind. We will provide the services we always do: sidewalk improvements and park maintenance. The leaf truck and snowplows will continue to travel our streets. But, just as you do with your home budgets, we will prioritize spending and weigh the cost of significant expenditures in 2021 against the cost of waiting.

We are vigilantly watching the Town finances to ensure a strong Town of Munster today and in the future.

You are always welcome to contact me at (219)836-6945 or via email at wmis@munster.org.



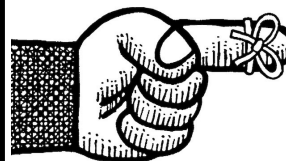
HOW TO AVOID LATE FEES

Water bills are due on the 20th of each month. If the 20th falls on a weekend or holiday, the due date moves to the next business day.

Payments received after the due date are assessed late fees. We want to help you avoid paying these extra fees and offer several ways to make your payment. These include check, credit card, and automatic withdrawal. The method you choose determines when we receive the payment, when it can be credited to your account, and when the payment is considered late.

The following handy chart explains when the different payment methods are considered on time.

Payment Method	Deadline to have payment considered on time
Check sent by mail	The payment must be postmarked by the 13th of the month
Check put in the red drop box in Town Hall parking lot	The payment must be in the red drop box by 7:00 a.m. on the business day after the due date
Automatic withdrawal from a bank account	The payment will happen automatically on the due date
Payment made at the counter in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office	The payment must be made by 4:30 p.m. on the due date
Payment made by credit card through the Town's website	The payment must be completed and time stamped by our processor 11:59 p.m. on the due date



Trash and Recycling Collection will be picked up one day later due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 7, 2020. Collection will be Tuesday thru Saturday.

September

219-836-PARK



Black Rocket Classes are back this Fall! ROBLOX Makers will teach you how to build and created 3D models. YouTube Content Creators will teach the Do's/Don'ts of the platforms and how to practice good digital citizenship. Classes are for ages 8-14 and start the week of 9/28 and will run twice a week from 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Classes will take place at your home using your compatible MAC or Windows OS. Questions? Contact Skyler at (219)836-6922.



Youth Education

We're offering a lot of new and old favorites in youth education this season: Craft in a box (monthly), Geocaching (hunt for treasures), Intro to Fishing (learn bait, fish, and more), Scavenger Hunt (hunt around the park for certain items), and Storybook Trails (read a book along the trail and create a craft).



Home Run Derby

In September at Community Park we are hosting the Homerun Derby. Participants will be thrown pitches until you get 8 outs (any ball that does not go over the fence). Each homerun will be tracked and recorded. At the end of the event, the player with the most homeruns will be crowned the champion. Homeruns lines will be adjusted back on age divisions: 7-11 (10:00 a.m.), 12-15 (10:30 a.m.), 16-20 (11:00 a.m.), 21-30 (11:30 a.m.) and 31+ (12:00 p.m.). Pre-register for \$3/person or pay \$5 on-site.



Disc Golf Tourney

This tourney allows you to play 18 holes of golf for \$10 against other local players for the opportunity to win that 1st place trophy. Brackets include: Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. Event takes place Sunday, 9/27 at 12:00 p.m. at Rivers Edge Disc Golf Course.



September Weekly Step Challenge! VIRTUAL CONTEST

Think your feet are on the pavement the most? Let's put it to the test to see who walks the most in our area. Must have pedometer or smartwatch to participate. Screenshot and email your steps each day to jhiggins@munster.org by 9:00 p.m. Staff will log steps daily and winners will be announced the following week. Competitions run Sunday-Saturday, beginning 9/6, 9/13 and 9/20.



Movie in the Park

Friday, September 25th
Centennial Park (at dusk)
A vote was taken on Parks & Recreation Facebook page in July and Toy Story 4 won! Please note concessions will not be available. Social distancing circles will be placed and please wear a mask while not seated.



Community Market

Community Park Parking Lot
September 1st & 15th
3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Free Throw Frenzy

*October 2020
Grove Park

Field Goal Free For All

*November 2020
Munster High School
*Contact Parks & Rec for dates.



Events Calendar

9/1	Yoga and Breathing - VIRTUAL
9/1	Community Market
9/4	Lighthouse Shopping Tour
9/6	Weekly Step Challenge - VIRTUAL
9/9	Tiny Tykes (ages: 2-3)
9/10	Storybook Trails (White Oak Park)
9/12	Ladies Empowerment Walk
9/13	Weekly Step Challenger - Week 2
9/14	Dribble, Kick and Goal
9/14	Youth Tennis Lessons (ages: 4-8)
9/14	Youth Tennis Lessons (ages: 9-13)
9/15	Community Market
9/16	Baseball Basics
9/16	Scavenger Hunt
9/17	Grandparents Day BINGO
9/17	\$10 Throw Down Disc Golf Tourney
9/19	Geocaching
9/20	Weekly Step Challenger - Week 3
9/22	You're not too old to play Wiffleball - League
9/23	Intro to Disc Golf
9/23	Read Between the Lines - Where the Crawdad's Sing
9/25	DEADLINE Halloween Mummy Jar Light
9/25	Movie in the Park - Toy Story 4
9/26	Homerun Derby

REGISTER NOW!

Ballet, Hip Hop, Trampoline, Kinder Parkour, Beginning Parkour, Beginner Pre-Hockey, and Learn to Skate

Private and Semi-Private Computer Lessons Available

*Contact Abby for specific dates/times
(219)836-6923



TO ALL MUNSTER LANDLORDS AND TENANTS

Historically, the water utility bill for rental properties was the responsibility of the landlord. While the tenant may have paid the bill, the landlord was ultimately responsible if the bill went unpaid. Indiana Code 8-1.5-3-8 addresses utility billing. In the most recent session of the General Assembly, this law was changed to effectively make the tenant responsible for the utility bill.

What does this mean for landlords and tenants? Unless the lease documents state the landlord will pay the utility bill, all tenants need to open an account in their name with the Town of Munster Water Utility. We are in the process of implementing the changes needed to comply with the law. We ask all renters and landlords in Munster contact us by calling 836-6948 or 836-6949 to determine who is responsible for the water bill and find out how to make the necessary changes.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Town of Munster Water Billing Dept.



Branch Collection

In an effort to keep the branch collection moving keep in mind the following:

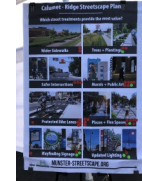
- Branches should be stacked in one direction and placed in the parkway not in the street.
- Bundle into manageable piles with twine where possible to assist the crew.

Branch Piles Will Be Skipped for the Following Reasons:

- Branches or bundled piles of brush should be able to be picked up by one person, generally with a tree diameter no greater than 5" maximum if diameter is greater the pile will be skipped.
- Any branches from a professional landscaper or tree-trimmer will not be picked up.
- DO NOT PARK VEHICLES in front of branch piles or the pile will be skipped.
- DO NOT MIX garbage, debris plant material with branch piles. Only tree branches or sticks from pruning are acceptable or the pile will be skipped. (Plant debris should be bagged for Waste Management collection).
- If your branch pile is the size of a vehicle, it is a charge pile with a minimum fee of \$130 to be paid to the Town prior to collection and a tag will be left at the door.

NOTE: In the case of a storm event, any branches that are on the street or sidewalks will be picked up prior to returning to the branch collection route. Posted on the Town's website (www.munster.org) under MAP CENTER is the Leaf and Branch Removal Map. This map indicates the Zones in Town to be referred to when the location of the chipper is given.

CALUMET AND RIDGE STREETSCAPE PLANNING CONTINUES



Thanks to everyone who visited our Munster Market Idea Booth on August 4th to share innovative ideas and input on the Calumet Ridge Streetscape.

The Planning Team set up a booth on August 4 in Community Park to gather input for the streetscaping plan. Farm fresh-themed idea posters were pinned up, comment maps and image preference boards were posted, open-ended comment sheets were rolled out, and plenty of sanitizer and wipes were on hand, of course. Especially in the age of COVID, public placemaking and safer streets continue to be at the forefront of all our minds. From jotting down and mapping ideas to conversation with residents and visitors, the planning team scored so much knowledge, input and ideas on what people viewed as important issues and key opportunities for the Calumet-Ridge Streetscape areas.

Thanks to everyone who visited our Munster Market Idea Booth on August 4th to share innovative ideas and input on the Calumet Ridge Streetscape.

Of all the great ideas you shared with us at the Community Market in terms of "wants" - the following ideas were the ones reiterated the most:

- Make the streetscape safe and functional first.
- More pedestrian and bike friendly amenities
- More softscape and greening, including trees, planters, and lawn parkways.
- Calm traffic - cars drive too fast today!
- Bury - or relocate - the overhead utility lines.
- Refer to positive streetscape examples, such as Lansing, Downtown Crown Point, Indianapolis, and Arlington Heights (IL).
- Incorporate public art, such as Highland or Centennial Park.
- Make Ridge Road a destination with unique experiences such as outdoor dining, seating, public art, and food trucks.

A more detailed summary report can be found on the project website here: <https://munster-streetscape.org/documents/>.

Have an idea for the Streetscape Plan? It's not too late --- please take the quick poll [here](https://teska.survey.fm/munster-neighborhood-poll-1-public) <https://teska.survey.fm/munster-neighborhood-poll-1-public> All input is most welcome.

Sec. 62-54 - Duties of Property Owners

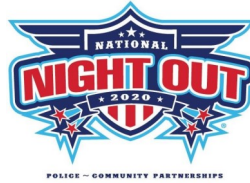
(A)

The responsibility for the purchase, planting, maintenance and removal of all trees and shrubs growing or planted in the public way shall be that of the property owner whose property abuts the area in question, but this subsection shall not limit the town's authority to have such work performed.

(B)

It shall be the duty of each property owner whose property abuts street shade trees to keep such trees properly trimmed to a proper height so as not to interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic, and to remove dead limbs that may be doing damage to the buildings or property of either his own or his neighbor's property. Property owners are also responsible for the care trees need, including treatment or removal by reason of any type of tree disease. Trees that are dangerous to public safety or trees not in conformity with the street tree plan may be removed by the owner of the property at the town's expense.

Kim Nordhoff, MS4CECI
Code Enforcement Officer
Town of Munster Police Department
(219)836-6659



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME EVENT UPDATE COMING SOON!

The Munster Police Department and Choice Community Council of Munster will soon be providing an update in regards to Munster's 2020 National Night Out Against Crime. The event was postponed from August to early October and we hope to hold activities in conjunction with other communities around the United States at that time.

Any possible plans or activities will be announced through the Munster Police Department's Facebook page, Crime Watch newsletter, and website by mid-September. Please watch those media sources for updates during the coming weeks.

For more information about the National Night Out Against Crime, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.

Munster 2020 Pet License

- Ordinance No. 6-4 b New Animal Pet License within 30 days of obtaining a dog or cat.
- Ordinance No. 6-4 c Renewal Pet License due within 60 days after the start of the calendar year.



MUNSTER TOWN COUNCIL

Dr. Ken Schoon

Lee Ann Mellon

Chuck Gardiner

Steve Tulowitzki

Dr. Andy Koultourides

Wendy Mis



Dr. Ken Schoon
 Lee Ann Mellon
 Chuck Gardiner
 Steve Tulowitzki
 Dr. Andy Koultourides
 Wendy Mis

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 Ward #3
 Ward #4
 Ward #5
 Clerk-Treasurer

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Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to "Community Programming Initiative" which members of the Munster Town Council discuss issues in town, the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER

Notes: The below schedule is subject to change. Please telephone Town Hall at 219-836-6900 to confirm meetings. A schedule of these meetings and others is maintained on the Community Calendar at the Town of Munster website: <https://www.munster.org>.

Park Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 1, 2020	Centennial Park Clubhouse	Noon
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	Monday, September 7, 2020	NO MEETING	
Board of Zoning Appeals	Tuesday, September 8, 2020	Main Meeting Room	7:00 p.m.
Plan Commission Meeting	Tuesday, September 8, 2020	Main Meeting Room	7:30 p.m.
Park Board Meeting	Tuesday, September 15, 2020	Main Meeting Room	5:00 p.m.
Board of Safety Meeting	Thursday, September 17, 2020	Main Meeting Room	7:00 a.m.
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	Monday, September 21, 2020	Main Meeting Room	7:00 p.m.