



NEWS YOU CAN USE

1005 Ridge Road, Munster, IN

JANUARY 2021

Edited by: E. Payne



Happy New Year from the Town Council!!!

As we begin the new year, the Munster Town Council members take this opportunity to acknowledge two very special groups of people: residents and town employees.

First, we thank our residents for being engaged in our community. Despite the pandemic turning routines and traditions upside down, so many of you still found ways to make Munster a better place to live in 2020. Whether you waved to the Easter Bunny as he rode throughout town atop the fire truck, showed your support with blue porch lights during National Night Out Against Crime, participated in the Calumet-Ridge Streetscape Plan Survey, or attended one of our meetings, we value your involvement. It is one of the key factors to Munster's success.

Also, we send a big thank you to our town employees. Throughout a very difficult year full of constant challenges and ever-changing conditions, they quickly adapted and worked tirelessly to keep our streets safer, roads cleaner, major projects on track, offices more welcoming, programs more unique, and parks more interesting than ever. Their commitment keeps Munster ahead of the curve, and we appreciate their dedication beyond words.

Looking forward, we remain committed to working with residents and supporting our employees to further improve Munster and ensure it remains a vibrant community where people enjoy living, working, and playing.

Please note that you can reach any of us through the contact information provided on the back of every News You Can Use.

Munster Town Council



45th Street and Calumet Avenue Underpass Opening



Happy New Year!

At the beginning of a new year, here at the Town we are looking forward to new and helpful ways to meet and exceed your expectations. Here are a few things that we are going to be working on:

Bridge Over Hart and Cady Marsh Ditches

This project has been discussed for many years. Thanks to NIPSCO now being willing to work with us, we are now able to move forward. In 2020, the Town Council selected SEH of Indiana to design the bridge and we anticipate bidding this project out for construction sometime in the second quarter of 2021.

Street Improvements

The Town successfully applied for and received \$470,000 in matching funds for street improvements. These funds will be used for work on Elliott Drive, Timrick Drive, Crestwood Avenue, and Bluebird Drive. The work on Crestwood will include the installation of a new watermain.

Utility Rates

You may have heard about Hammond's desire to raise water rates in the news. The Town is currently working with our neighboring communities to work through the State-prescribed process with Hammond to determine what is the appropriate rate they should charge us.

There is a lot of infrastructure under our feet throughout Town. Some of it belongs to the Hammond Sanitary District, some of it to the Hammond Water Works Department, and some of it belongs to the Town. The rates you pay monthly gets split up among each of these entities.

When you hear about Hammond wanting a rate increase, this is to pay for maintenance of the infrastructure that is either in Town or serves the Town. Munster also has maintenance needs and this year we hope to take a close look at what it costs to maintain and improve our local water, sewer, and storm water systems.

Quality of Life Improvements

Once again, the Town will be working to improve our alleyways during the construction season. We are also looking forward to working on new ways to meet our community's evolving needs with regard to sidewalk maintenance and installation and neighborhood vehicle speed mitigation. We recognize that there is a need for this, and look forward to engaging in the work.

Munster Streetscape

You can read more details about the work on this initiative elsewhere in the newsletter, but I wanted to include it here because it has so much potential upside to our community.

Dustin Anderson, Town Manager



From the Clerk-Treasurer's Desk

I have been the Clerk-Treasurer for the Town of Munster for one year, and what a year it has been! I was getting into a rhythm when we were confronted with the coronavirus. Critical decisions needed to be made in uncharted territory. Rules had to be changed or modified in reaction to the national health emergency. Video webinars and meetings happen nearly every day and often multiple times a day. All these things combine to help us successfully adapt to a socially distant world, stay healthy, and continue providing services to our residents.

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January is a busy month for us in the Clerk-Treasurer's office as we close our 2020 books, clean up open purchase orders, and process all the year-end payroll documents for employees. We are preparing for our new software and are excited about the opportunities for improved efficiencies for the Town. Business registration applications for 2021 are available and will be due soon, as will annual pet licenses. You should visit the Town website at www.munster.org for additional information.

To most residents, the annual budget preparation process is not very exciting but, in our office, the receipt of our 1782 budget notice is a reason to shout hooray. The Department of Local Government (DLGF) reviewed our 2021 budget and issued the 1782 in late December verifying our budget is within the statutory amounts, is fundable and proper procedures had been followed. The recommendations of the DLGF are one of the final steps in the budget certification process. The 1782 is important for municipal finance because it is critical for us to pay bills and for the Town to provide services.

Sometimes it is the little things. Town Hall has had a hands-free water fountain installed. It may not be much to you, but it has improved our quality of the workplace, and that is a good thing.

One last thing, we encourage you to safely drive around the front of Town Hall and enjoy the holiday lights before they are turned off in next week. The Munster Civic Foundation and the Town of Munster, with a lot of support from our Public Works Department, prepared a holiday display. We appreciate the Munster Education Foundation and Munster Parks Department for including us on your holiday light maps. As I drove throughout the town, it was wonderful to see so many homes lit up for the holiday.

Here at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, your calls and input at 219-836-6945 or at wmis@munster.org are always welcome. All the best, Wendy Mis.

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer



Town of Munster Utility Bills

You spoke we listened! Utility bills are now available for paperless delivery. You can set up AUTOPAY by using your credit card, sign up at www.munster.org. If you need assistance please feel free to call the Clerk-Treasurer's office at 219-836-6940.



Munster 2021 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.
*Pet license fee is \$10.00 (please provide rabies vaccination form).



Chief Dave Pelc has announced his retirement

He began his career in 1971 when he joined the department. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1979, Captain in 1980 and Battalion Chief in 1983. In addition to this, he was head of training for 15 years. In March 2014 he was appointed Interim Chief and two months later was appointed Chief.

His career also included working for 2 years in Public Works as the Building Manager for all the town properties which at the time included 30 buildings.

Chief Pelc was a member of the team that created the Local Mass Dispensing & Vaccination Plan for Lansing and Munster which protects the public's health from communicable disease or undue harm from bioterrorism agents.

For the past 8 years he has been a MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) Advisor. In 2019 he was on the committee for the Fallen Heroes Memorial at Wicker Park.

In 2020 the department received an upgraded ISO score from a 4 to a 3 which he took great pride in. It showed the department had improved in all areas of fire service and protection.

Chief Pelc stated that it doesn't seem like 50 years have gone by and he will miss firefighting.

Thank you Chief, for all your years of service!

"When a man becomes a fireman, his greatest act of bravery has been accomplished. What he does after that is all in the line of work."

Edward F. Croker



Big thanks to those who joined our Virtual Public Open House to view streetscape concepts and alternatives on December 10th. We loved hearing your creative and thoughtful insights, including describing your future visions for Calumet and Ridge.

"Two couples go to dinner at different restaurants and take the long walk back to the car down the public and well-lit greenways. They bump into neighbors they haven't seen in a while and stop to catch up deciding to walk to a nearby bench to catch up."

"Much better welcoming look to the Town of Munster."

"More outdoor dining areas, larger area around the fountain, plaza for art shows or live music, more lighting for walks, train station that fits the neighborhood."

Missed the meeting? Want to hear more inspired ideas? Please log on to the project website where you can watch a video of the public presentation, download preliminary concepts and continue to provide your input.

1. View and download presentation materials here: <https://munster-streetscape.org/documents/>
2. Share your input at the website here: <https://munster-streetscape.org/ideas/>
3. View results Poll #1 here: <https://munsterstreetscape.files.wordpress.com/2020/11/munster-poll-1-summary.pdf>
4. Take Poll #2 today! <https://teska.surveymf.com/munster-neighborhood-poll-2>



Munster Parks will be **partnering with the Southland Center**, based in Lynwood, IL. Due to no school access, we're able to use court space for indoor programs until further notice. *Southland Center rule: Only 1 adult allowed in per child.*



We don't know what the 2021 summer will provide but we do know we'll be ready either way. The **Part-Time Virtual Job Fair** will take place on Wednesday, January 20 via ZOOM. You can be home, away at school or across the country, if you want to apply you have the opportunity! You must be 14+ to apply. Some jobs require you to be 16+ or 18+. Please refer to page 18 of the current Recreation Guide for clarification. To schedule an interview, please email the following information to jhiggins@munster.org (name, position title, 3 time slots you are available for an interview – please submit in CST).



Isn't it your New Year's Resolution to get that heart pumping, get in shape and to lose a couple pounds? Join us for this **Active Zone Challenge**. On your smartwatch, select workout. Get your sweat on by gaining your active zone minutes at the gym, on a walk or by a workout video at home. Screenshot your active zone minutes each week and submit to jhiggins@munster.org: Monday-Sunday. Due each Monday, 1/11, 1/18 and 1/25. Winners will receive social media recognition.



Best in SNOW competitors: Assuming we will have a measurable snowfall this month, send us your snow creations. This can consist of a snowman, snow Angel, an igloo – whatever your imagination can create. Send pictures to jhiggins@munster.org by 1/25 for social media acknowledgement.

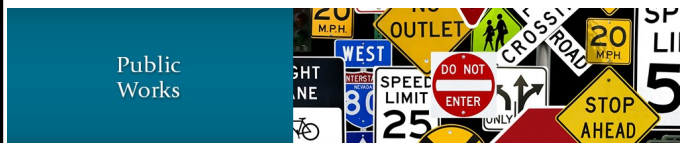


Dissatisfied with your current job? Looking to get a new career? Look no further! Munster Parks offers online programs: Clinical Medical Asst., Dental Assisting, Dialysis Tech, Phlebotomy Tech, Pharmacy Tech, Medical Administrative Asst., Medical Billing & Coding, Medical Terminology, Medical Coding to ICD10, ECG/EKG Courses for Nurses, Paralegal Program and/or Veterinary Asst. Pay the registration fee, have 6 months to complete the program and then take the certification exam. Some classes qualify for externships, some do not. Call Jill at (219) 836-6926 for more details per program.

WHAT'S HAPPENING.

1/1	Munster Parks Offices CLOSED
1/4-1/10	Active Zone Minutes Competition
1/7	New Year's BINGO
1/9-2/13	Young Authors – Black Rocket Program (Ages: 7-10 and/or 11/14)
1/11-1/17	Active Zone Minutes Competition
1/13	CSRI Poppin & Flix – Movie TBA (Open to all ages)

1/15	Daddy Daughter Date Night Early-bird Deadline
1/18	CSRI Bingo/Pizza (Open to all Ages)
1/18-1/24	Active Zone Minutes Competition
1/20	Part-Time Virtual Job Fair
1/22	Craft in a Box – Pieces to my Heart Door Décor deadline (Open to all Ages)
1/23-2/27	Virtual Reality: The Future is Now – Black Rocket Program (Ages: 8-14)
1/25	Best in SNOW competition
1/26	Youth Book Club (Dog-Man: Grime and Punishment (Grades: 2-4)
1/26-3/9	*Adult Open Basketball (Ages: 18+)
1/28-3/11	*CSRI Open Basketball (Open to all Ages)
1/28-3/4	*Indoor Soccer Skills (Ages 5-9)
1/28-3/4	*Intro to Baseball (Ages: 5-9)
1/28-3/11	*Youth Hoops Clinic (Ages: 6-11)



HOLIDAY SCHEDULING INFORMATION

CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020
NEW YEAR'S DAY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021
Refuse and Recycling will be picked up one day later than your regular pickup day after the holiday.



Christmas trees will be picked up by the Public Works Department starting December 28, 2020 and ending January 29, 2021 **weather permitting**. Please make sure all decorations are off the tree.

White Goods



White Goods Collection

The Public Works Department will pick up large appliances on Wednesdays. This is a scheduled pick up and you will need to call the Public Works Department by Tuesday at 3 p.m. at 836-6971 or 836-6970. Items must be at the curbside by 7 a.m. on Wednesday for pick up.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PLEASE READ

BRANCH COLLECTION HAS ENDED!
LEAF COLLECTION HAS ENDED!



Tree Contractors or landscapers are to take the branches and debris after removal. The contractor is not to leave the branches on the parkway or the alley for town of Munster branch pickup!

Munster Public Works
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
219-836-6971/219-836-6970



REMOVING SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS

It is especially important for residents to remember the Town of Munster's ordinance in regards to removing snow and ice from sidewalks. If you leave snow along your sidewalks it could prevent students and other pedestrians from being able to get through and could lead to them having to walk in the street.

For everyone's safety, please follow this ordinance: The owner and/or occupant of any dwelling, building or subdivided lot or property shall keep the sidewalks in front thereof clean at all times of the year. Within 24 hours after any fall of snow or formation of ice, such snow or ice shall be removed from the sidewalks.

It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, push or deposit in any manner snow, slush or ice onto any street or sidewalk in such a manner as to impede the safe progress and movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Persons who violate this subsection are responsible for the costs incurred by the town to remove the impediment to safe progress and movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Town Departments Directory

Munster Town Hall	219-836-6900
Clerk-Treasurer's Office	219-836-6940
Public Works	219-836-6971/836-6970
Police Department Records	219-836-6630/219-836-6650
Fire Department	219-836-6960
Parks & Recreation	219-836-PARK



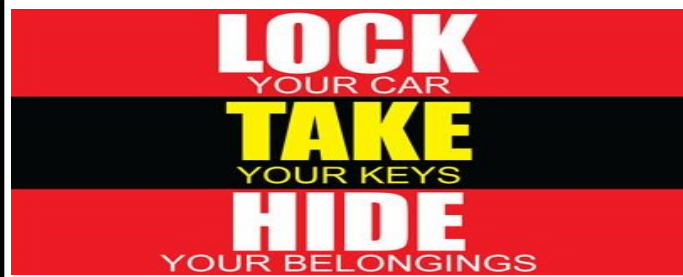
Follow us Town of Munster, Clerk-Treasurer -Town of Munster, Munster Police Department, and Munster Parks and Recreation on Facebook!



NO NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH MEETING IN JANUARY

Due to the current health situation, the Munster Police Department will not be holding an in-person Neighborhood Crime Watch Meeting in January, however, they will be posting a PDF file of the presentation at www.munster.org/police on Thursday, January 28th for the public to read and make note of. It will contain announcements and news, crime prevention tips, and crime statistics for the previous quarter as well as all of 2020 in comparison to the previous four years.

If any residents are interested in setting up a Neighborhood Crime Watch group on their block, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org. There are over 100 active groups in town and thousands of participating residents. To receive our Neighborhood Crime Watch newsletter by e-mail each week, please go to www.munster.org/police and click on the "Police Blotter" sidebar to find and complete the electronic form. The report contains news, police blotter items, crime prevention tips, and upcoming community events.



TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2021

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster 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	January 5, 2021	Noon	Centennial Park Clubhouse
Special Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	January 7, 2021	7:00 p.m.	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals	January 12, 2021	6:45 p.m.	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Meeting	January 12, 2021	7:30 p.m.	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting	January 18, 2021	7:00 p.m.	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Meeting	January 19, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Meeting	January 21, 2021	7:00 a.m.	Main Meeting Room (MTH)

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.



Dr. Ken Schoon



Lee Ann Mellon



Chuck Gardiner



Steve Tulowitzki



Dr. Andy Koulourides



Wendy Mis

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

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Ward #2
Ward #3
Ward #4
Ward #5
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