



NEWS YOU CAN USE

APRIL 2021



Closed for Good Friday



Rates

Hello there! There is a lot happening in the Town that I would like to share with you. First off, I think it makes sense to go over the water rate situation that you may have heard about. Munster is a wholesale customer of the Hammond Water Works Department. This means that we pay Hammond a flat fee for clean water. The old rate we paid was \$.52/1,000 gallons. This rate hadn't been adjusted for decades. Last fall, there was an attempt to raise the rate to \$1.90/1,000 gallons. Through negotiations with the City, Munster and the other wholesale communities were able to agree with Hammond on a new rate of \$.95/1,000 gallons, effective January 1, 2021. The retroactive effective date to January means that when the Town raises rates to accommodate this increase, it will be more than the simple difference between \$.95 and \$.52, because we will be invoiced at \$.95 all the water we have used so far this year. I am anticipating this interim increase to be considered initially at Council's first meeting in April. It will likely go into effect in June.

The Town also has costs associated with delivering that water from Hammond to our residents and business. Our current rate is \$3.13 per 1,000 gallons for the first 5,000 gallons and then a variable rate depending on volume thereafter. This rate includes both the wholesale cost of water discussed above, as well as the maintenance and operation cost of the delivery system that brings water to your tap. The Town last raised rates in 2018 by 6.8% from \$2.93 to \$3.13. This was the first rate increase in over a decade.

As of mid-March, there have been over 20 water main breaks in Town. There are significant known capital improvements needed, as well as needs likely not yet identified. The same could be said for our sanitary and storm sewer systems. Providing these services in a safe, reliable, and efficient manner is of paramount importance to our community. The cost associated with providing these services is greater than our current revenue. To address this, we have begun the process of conducting a cost of service study that will establish the engineered cost of maintenance and operations of these systems and then will devise rates based on these findings. I would anticipate this work to be complete near the end of this year.

Further, we have had to change solid waste haulers in Town. We are currently in year three of a three-year contract with Waste Management.

Our current contract provides for two one-year extensions. Waste Management informed us in late 2020 that they will not exercise their year-four option at the previously negotiated price. The Town solicited bids for this service and received three qualified responses. Our current solid waste fee with Waste Management is \$15.36 per household per month. Their bid proposal offered a renewal price of \$22.52. The next lowest bid was from Republic Services at \$19.00. The lowest bid and the one selected by Council was from Homewood Disposal at \$18.45 per month. Resident collection days for trash and recycling will remain the same. We can also continue to use our same trash and recycling bins. Rates reflecting this price change will likely be in effect by June.

Thank you for your patience and your vision for our community. It is not everywhere that a community is willing to take care of their town. Many places look to delay maintenance to save money in the short-term. But invariably, a quick win in the short-term at the expense of maintenance results in long-term costs that far eclipse any savings previously realized.

Dustin Anderson, Town Manager

CLERK TREASURER

One afternoon one of my neighbors stopped me. She shared they received a call that showed up on caller id as the Town of Munster. Concerned and curious, they answered the phone. It was quickly revealed to be a call from a scammer seeking personal financial information. Unfortunately, several Town of Munster phone numbers have been spoofed or falsified by telemarketers. If someone from the Clerk-Treasurer's office calls, we WILL identify ourselves and leave a message with a call back number. We will not ask you for any of your confidential information.

There are numerous ways you can stay current on the happenings in Munster. This newsletter contains Parks Department events and timely updates from the various departments. Contact information for town officials is listed on the back of this newsletter. We have a town website that includes a wide range of information, including dates about upcoming meetings, Town job postings, and a link to your water bill. I encourage residents to reach out to town officials with any questions, concerns, or even appreciations you may have. If you are uncertain about who you need to contact, I would be happy to listen to you and help you find the person you need to reach. The town website is www.munster.org, my email is wmis@munster.org, and my direct line is (219) 836 - 6945. I look forward to working with you.

All the best, Wendy Mis



COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY MEANS SO MANY THINGS TO SO MANY PEOPLE, AND THE WORLD TO US.
IN ALL WE DO AND ALL WE SAY, WE'RE ALL FOR COMMUNITY.

Calumet-Ridge Streetscape Plan Thank You!

Thanks to everyone for coming out to the 2nd Virtual Open House meeting on March 16th! Missed the meeting? It's not too late to review plan concepts and provide your input.

Two options to remain involved:

- (1) Swing by Town Hall for our DIY Open House! Streetscape Plan exhibits are posted in the halls. There you can review concepts up close, grab your marker, and comment on the input sheets.
- (2) Visit the Project Website! Click on the Documents tab to review past planning activities and materials.
<https://munster-streetscape.org/>

Or Scan the QR Code below:



PRESERVING PEACE
PREVENTING CRIME
PROTECTING LIFE



MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING

The Munster Police Department invites all residents to attend their next quarterly Munster Crime Watch Meeting on Thursday, April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at Centennial Park Clubhouse, located at 1005 S. Centennial Drive. Please note that seating will be limited and seating will be spaced for social-distancing purposes. This meeting will include crime statistics,

updates on recent incidents in Munster, and crime prevention tips. In addition, **members of the police department's K-9 unit will be providing information about the benefits that their program provides to our community and a \$30 Target gift card will be awarded as a door prize** at the conclusion of the meeting. Masks are required for entry. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.



MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING 2021 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DONATIONS

The Munster Police Department and Choice Community Council of Munster are currently seeking donations towards Munster's 26th Annual National Night Out Against Crime Celebration, which is tentatively set to be held on Tuesday, August 3rd. We are hoping

to be able to hold an event that is similar to ones that we have held during past years but will adjust plans as necessary depending on the health situation as the summer approaches. **Last year's activities were ranked as the #1 National Night Out event in the United States** in our population category thanks to great support and participation from our community, and each year's event is funded completely through donations from the public.

If you would like to provide a donation towards this year's National Night Out, please make checks payable to the Town of Munster (memo: NNO) and mail them to the Munster Police Department, c/o the Community Policing Unit, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana 46321. In order for us to be able to order our event supplies in advance, we are asking that donations are received by June 10th. For more information, please call 219-836-6639. Thank you in advance for your support!



Munster Community Pool details to be shared soon! Check our Facebook and Instagram social media pages for updates or contact us at (219)836-7275 after April 1.

Public Works is seeking Summer Help! Applications can be obtained from Town of Munster website or picked up at the Public Works Facility. Please drop off applications at Public Works Facility or email resumes to lpramuk@munster.org.

Semi-Annual Cash for Clutter Event Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Munster Community Pool.

Golf Programs are back! Contact Pro Shop at 219-836-6931.

Got Drugs?



**DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
Saturday, April 24, 2021**

**Munster Police Department - Lobby
1001 Ridge Road
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The National Prescription Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Any questions contact Munster Police 219-836-6630/219-836-6650.



Bridal Fair
Wednesday, April 7, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Centennial Park Clubhouse
FREE

Did you recently just get engaged? Now is the time to plan! We'll have one-way traffic weaving around the Centennial Park Clubhouse through our many vendors. From clothing and flowers, to music and décor, you can coordinate all your wedding plans here. Mask is required for entry.





Drive-by Bunny Visit
Thursday, April 1, 2021
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Munster Town Hall - Front Lawn

Gear up, strap in and come visit the Easter Bunny social distance-style. Honk your horn, say "hi" or give a smile and you will get a wave back. He's busy gearing up for the holiday, so he can't stay long. No pre-registration necessary, just stop on by!



Spring Swing Wiffleball League
Tuesdays or Thursdays
6:00 p.m.

With a 3-person team MINIMUM, compete in the oldest recess game, Wiffleball! Each team will have 3 players in the field including a pitcher but can have as many as 5 players on the roster that will all hit in the lineup. This is a hitting and fielding-only league with no running of bases. This league will have 6 weeks of regular games that will seed the playoff bracket.

Individual fee: \$15/Team Fee: \$40
 Winning team receives gift card to 313 Taproom

ADULT

Easter Egg Hunt!

Adult Egg Hunt
Thursday, April 1, 2021
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Centennial Park Clubhouse

Who says the kids need to have all of the fun! Enjoy food, drinks, an egg hunt, contests and raffles. Please

bring your own basket and flashlight. We will serve a light dinner and hide eggs for all participants to find and enjoy. Cash bar.
 Open to ages: 21+/Fee: \$35 R/\$40 NR



Koolaid and Kanvas is coming up!
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Community Park Social Center
 We will be using a brush scoop or brush tip measuring method. After the background is painted, we will take a little break while it dries and enjoy some Koolaid. Then, we'll move onto

the details and foreground.
 Ages: 6-12/Fee: \$20



Championship Challenge
Soccer Shoot-Out
Sunday, April 11, 2021
Grove Park

Bring your sneakers and soccer ball and compete against others to shoot the furthest distance from the goal. Open to multiple age groups: 7-11, 12-15, 16-20, 21-30 and 31+.

Contact Skyler at (219) 836-6922 for your exact competition time per age group.

Fee: \$3 pre-registered/\$5 on-site.



Rocket League Doubles eSports Tournament
Saturday, April 17, 2021
10:00 a.m. (Online)

With the Rocket League world championships coming up, find a partner and compete in our event! This league will be hosted online from the comfort of your own home through private

Rocket League servers and discord. All ages and all gaming platforms are welcome. Upon registration, you must communicate discord account name to us. Questions? Contact Skyler at 219-836-6922 or sramberger@munster.org

Fee: \$10/team.

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| 4/1 | Drive-by Bunny Visit |
| 4/1 | Adult Egg Hunt |
| 4/4 | Easter Brunch at Centennial Park – call (219) 836-6930 for more details) |
| | Koolaid and Kanvas – Earth Day w/ Plants |
| 4/6 | Tiny Tykes |
| 4/7 | Spring Bridal Fair |
| 4/7 | Spring Soccer begins |
| 4/10 | Ladies Empowerment Walk |
| 4/10 | Championship Challenge – Soccer Shoot-out |
| 4/11 | Land O’Frost’s CSRI Intro to Soccer |
| 4/11 | Family Game Night: Gametime Series – CSRI |
| 4/12 | Ladies Golf |
| 4/12 | Private Tennis Lessons |
| 4/12 | Clinical Medical Assistant |
| 4/12 | EKG Technician |
| 4/12 | Youth Golf |
| 4/13 | Youth Golf |
| 4/14 | Kids in the Park Series – Park Clean-up |
| 4/14 | Men’s Golf |
| 4/15 | Picnic Playdate (Simon Says w/ craft) |
| 4/15 | Golf Outing at George W. Dunne Course |
| 4/16 | Rocket League Doubles eSports Tournament |
| 4/17 | Spring Dance – CSRI |
| 4/19 | How Money Works |
| 4/19 | Save the Earth BINGO |
| 4/22 | DEADLINE: Mason Jar Flower Vase – Craft in a Box |
| 4/22 | Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training |
| 4/24 | Spring Soccer Picture Day |
| 4/24 | Ladies Empowerment Walk |
| 4/24 | \$10 Spring Fling Disc Golf Tournament |
| 4/25 | Spring Swing Wiffleball League |
| 4/27 | It’s Raining Cats and Hot Dogs |
| 4/27 | Poppin & Flix – CSRI featuring Onward |
| 4/28 | Kids can Cook – VIRTUAL |
| 4/30 | |



SPRING LEAF COLLECTION



Starting April 5, 2021 **weather permitting for 2 weeks**, Munster will be having the spring leaf collection. **Do not put leaves in your garbage can, plastic bags or in brown bags, Waste Management will not pick them up.** Rake your leaves to the curb for the spring leaf collection. Since pick-up quantities are not known, it is difficult to predict exactly which neighborhood will be picked up on which day, so please have your leaves out. We will start on the northwest section of Town and work south. Please place your leaves in a continuous long pile. We will be using a leaf vacuum to collect your leaves. If your street has curbs, please place your leaves right behind the curb on the grass parkway. **PLEASE DO NOT PLACE LEAVES IN THE STREET.** If your street does not have curbs, please place your leaves on the edge of the street pavement. Also, please be careful not to mix leaves with large sticks, rocks or other debris, which could cause injury to an employee or damage to the equipment. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, you can contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

BRANCH COLLECTION



Starting April 5, 2021 **weather permitting**; branches will be picked up with the chipper. These branches should be no longer than 5' long and 5" in diameter. Twigs and yard waste should be put into your garbage cans or bagged. Small branches should be bundled and tied; these will be picked up with your garbage. If you have any questions, you can contact the Public Works Department at 836-6971.

DRAIN GRATES



April showers bring more than May flowers. Spring rains can cause flooding of yards and streets. Most of the time flooding can be prevented by making sure the drain grates are kept free of debris. It doesn't take much to clog a drain and have it cause significant flooding of streets and/or yards. As material such as leaves, twigs, and litter are washed from the ground surface it collects onto the drain grating and acts like a rubber plug. The flow of water runoff into the drainage system is drastically reduced when material collects near or on the drain grate. Residents can do their part by helping keep drains near your home free of debris.



**THERE WILL BE REGULAR GARBAGE PICKUP ON
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021**



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

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster Town Hall at 219-836-6900 to confirm meetings. During the National Health Emergency, public meetings may be available utilizing Zoom technology. Visit the Town of Munster website: <https://www.munster.org> (Select Agendas & 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.

Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	April 5, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	April 6, 2021	Noon	Centennial Park Clubhouse
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	April 13, 2021	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Meeting	April 13, 2021	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Safety Meeting	April 15, 2021	7:00 a.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	April 19, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	April 20, 2021	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)



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
Clerk-Treasurer

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