Time marches on as the seasons change here in Munster. If you are new to Town, you may be wondering what to do with your leaves. This is covered elsewhere in the newsletter in greater detail, but in short: rake them to the curb and we will pick them up once every two weeks until all the leaves are gone, or the weather turns uncooperative. We post the location of the leaf truck every day on our Facebook page.

Hopefully we’ve likely all adjusted to our various school routines by now - shuttling, walking, or riding the bus to school, schlepping kids to and from extra-curriculars, and somehow finding a way to make sure they’re fed and the homework gets done. One thing I hope is a part of your routine is looking out for kids and parents that are walking or biking to and from school. We all get in a hurry sometimes, but there has been some very reckless driving in the mornings and afternoons lately. Our police and crossing guards can only be in so many places at one time. The Town has always made School Zone Safety a priority and I would ask that you do as well.

We have all been inconvenienced at one time or another by the utility work that has been going on around town by NIPSCO. This work is to resolve utility conflicts with NICTD’s rail project. The Town is also working in advance of NICTD’s project by hiring our own architects to enhance the aesthetics and functionality of their terminal station at the south end of the Town.

Finally, Trick or Treat will take place on Halloween from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. as usual.

Many of you are thinking of football and festivals. In Munster Town Hall, we are excited for the October Budget Season. The Clerk-Treasurer’s Office submitted our budget on the Indiana Gateway for Government Units. These numbers tell the State of Indiana what we believe we will need in revenue to cover our projected 2022 expenses. We take many factors into account in determining the revenue number. Ultimately, the State of Indiana informs us how much money we can expect, and what an exciting day that is when we get that notification.

The Indiana Gateway for Government Units can provide you with various financial information for all Indiana municipalities, and I encourage you to visit https://gateway.ifionline.org/ to see for yourself. The October 4th Town Council meeting will have a public hearing for the budget, and as with all public meetings, anyone can attend. A zoom link is provided in the agenda posted on www.munster.org and in the budget submission.

The American Rescue Plan provides an excellent opportunity for our Town. We have already received half of the estimated $5,074,463.52 we expect to obtain from the plan. The Department of Treasury provided an interim final rule that provides guidelines for governments about how they can spend the money. The first requirement is that we create a plan before we have the authority to spend any of the funds. We have been earnestly working on developing a plan that has a significant effect on our residents. I am pretty excited about the impact this money can have in Munster.

I try to stress in each of these articles that you are welcome to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have, and I appreciate those of you who have reached out. I enjoy talking with the residents, and the feedback from you has been positive and encouraging. If I cannot help you, I share it with the people I believe will answer your question. My email wmis@munster.org, and my office number is (219) 836-6945.
October is National Bullying Prevention Month in the United States, and residents are encouraged to help with raising awareness to their children and teenagers about the importance of always treating others with respect while also making sure that everyone is included. Kids and teens should also be encouraged to tell a trusted adult immediately (either at home or school) if anyone is ever making them feel isolated, afraid, or if anyone is hurting them around your neighborhood or at school so that the issue can be handled right away. Children should be advised not to ever be afraid to report an ongoing situation where they are not feeling safe. Please also encourage your child to respond appropriately if they are a bystander and are in a position to help others by either reporting the issue, providing support to the bullying victim, or by being a good role model and discouraging others from being involved with such activity.

The Munster Police Department regularly provides lessons on bullying prevention to many students throughout the school year and encourages them to share the information that they learned with their parents and others. Let’s all work together to help prevent bullying in our community.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day
Saturday, October 23, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Munster Police Department (Lobby)
1001 Ridge Road

National Prescription Drug 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 abuse of medications.

MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING
Thursday, October 28, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Munster Town Hall (Main Meeting Room)
1005 Ridge Road

The Munster Police Department invites all residents and business representatives to attend the next quarterly Munster Crime Watch Meeting. Crime statistics, updates on recent incidents in Munster, crime prevention tips, and a presentation on fraud and scam prevention will be provided to the participants. A $30 Target gift card and several additional door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting. Please note that non-vaccinated participants are asked to wear a mask inside of the Town Hall. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.

Branch Collection
Branch collection will continue in the month of October and will end on October 29, 2021 and will resume in the Spring.
What's Happening

PARKS & RECREATION

219-836-PARK

10/2  Pumpkins, Witches and Hayrides Fall Festival
10/4  Sewing 101
10/5  Koolaid & Kanvas – This is Halloween
10/5  First Base Baseball
10/7  Ballet/Tap/Tumble at Susan’s School of Dance
10/7  Tiny Tot at Susan’s School of Dance
10/9  Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
10/9  Ladies Empowerment Walk – Refresh, Renew, and Regenerate
10/11 CSRI Yoga
10/11  Clinical Medical Assistant
10/11  EKG Technician Certification
10/11  Baller Basics Basketball
10/12  Four Winds Casino
10/14  Cupcakes and Competition
10/14  First Down Flag Football
10/15  Mayflower Travel Show
10/16  Car Maintenance
10/22  Craft-in-a-box – Give Thanks Wreath
10/22  Walk in the Woods
10/23  Trunk or Treat
10/23  Bieker Woods Night Walk
10/27  Mysterious Munchkins Halloween Party
10/27  Old Joliet Prison Tour
10/28  Trick or Treat BINGO
10/29  Balance 101

All events listed below are produced in cooperation with the South Shore Convention and Visitors Authority.

Pumpkins, Witches, and Hayrides
Saturday, October 2, 2021
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Centennial Park
Tickets and wristbands will be available on-site for $10.00. This price includes admission to hayrides, inflatables, pony ride, pumpkin patch, eurobungy, face painting, balloon artist, and food vendors will be on site for food purchases. Free activities include: character meet/greets, costume contest, stage entertainment, games, and trick-or-treat.

Walk in the Woods
Friday, October 22, 2021
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Heritage Park (Gazebo Entrance)
Walk the illuminated trail and see the local resident’s pumpkin creations. Interested in carving a pumpkin for the trail? It’s FREE. Call us at 219-836-7275 to pre-register. On-site ticket sales apply to walk the trail - $1/person.

Trunk or Treat
Saturday, October 23, 2021
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
School Administration Building (Parking Lot nearest Bieker Woods)
Trick or Treat the decorated trunks or enjoy some goodies from the food vendors. Free admission.

Bieker Woods Night Walk
Saturday, October 23, 2021
6:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
Bieker Woods
Tour guides will lead you through chills and thrills around every turn in the woods. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. On-site ticket sales apply - $5/person.

Seeking volunteers for all above events.
Contact Jill Higgins at jhiggins@munster.org

MUNSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 9, 2021
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Fire Station #2
550 Fisher Street
Every year, hundreds of people attend and enjoy the numerous activities. The events of the day will include: a live fire demonstration, fire safety awareness training, antique fire engine rides, informative displays, concessions, door prizes and much more.
TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 2021

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.

Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting October 4, 2021 7:00 PM MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Safety Meeting October 7, 2021 7:00 AM MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting October 5, 2021 Noon Centennial Park Clubhouse
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting October 12, 2021 6:45 PM MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Meeting October 12, 2021 7:30 PM MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Meeting October 18, 2021 7:00 PM MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting October 19, 2021 5:00 PM MTH (Main Meeting Room)

Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to “Community Programming Initiative” where 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 Ward #1 (219)765-8052 kschoon@munster.org
Lee Ann Mellon Ward #2 (219)757-1332 lmellon@munster.org
Chuck Gardiner Ward #3 (708)606-7223 cgardiner@munster.org
Steve Tulowitzki Ward #4 (219)226-8973 tulo@munster.org
Dr. Andy Koultourides Ward #5 (219)595-5606 drkoul63@gmail.com
Wendy Mis Clerk-Treasurer (219)836-6945 wmis@munster.in.gov