



1005 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana

NEWS YOU CAN USE

December 2021

Edited by E. Payne



This monthly newsletter, News You Can Use (NYCU), is ready to be mailed in the final days of the preceding month, along with your utility bill. We expect most residents will receive delivery in the first day or two of each month, mail permitting. Occasionally, you may open your mail or receive the newsletter after an important date, and I have become increasingly mindful of this. I will remind readers that NYCU is available on the Town website, and a link is provided with the paperless invoices emailed on the first of the month.

All that being said, the Munster Civic Foundation is hosting a first-time event on December 3rd, and it is evolving into quite a community celebration. Read all about it in the MCF article in this newsletter. I feel it is important to risk the information getting into your hands after the event because I believe it will be better if MORE people are aware and attend.

Annual pet license tags are available in the Clerk-Treasurers for \$10 per cat and dog beginning December 1st. You will need proof of rabies vaccination. Business registration reminders have been mailed and will be due after the first of the year.

As I type this, we are awaiting our 1782 budget notice. The 1782 is provided to us from the Department of Local Government (DLGF) and will verify our budget is within statutory amounts, is fundable and proper procedures have been followed.

I wish you and your family the happiest of holiday seasons. Wendy Mis at wmis@munster.org (219)836-6945



Munster Civic Foundation

The Munster Civic Foundation works to promote, foster, and encourage community spirit and pride by supporting projects and activities which enhance the quality of life in Munster. MCF is excited to announce two new, upcoming events that we hope will enhance and enrich the great spirit that exist throughout our Town. A big thank you goes out to our residents that make up the Executive Committee of the Munster Civic Foundation. Their energy and input have given new life to the Munster Civic Foundation. Thank you to Nupur Arora, Dawn DeMario, Brad Hemingway, James Juarez, Diane Kitchell, Matt Maloney, Kerry Meyer, Mike McIntyre, Tom Newman, and Deborah Straka.



Tiptoe through Town Make Munster Bloom in 2022!

The Munster Civic Foundation is promoting a public art project featuring five-foot tall tulip sculptures. We are seeking businesses, clubs, schools, churches, and other organizations to sponsor and decorate a tulip. Sponsors will choose to collaborate with a local artist or adorn the sculptures themselves. In May 2022, we will install the uniquely designed tulip sculptures throughout town to create a colorful exhibit for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy.

If you are interested in sponsoring a tulip sculpture, visit the Town of Munster website at www.munster.org and click on the Tiptoe thru Town logo for the full sponsorship packet. Or, email Lee Ann Mellon at lmellon@munster.org.



Light the Night Friday, Dec 3, 2021 Munster Town Hall

On Friday, December 3rd, 2021, there will be a very collaborative community event at Town Hall. The Munster Civic Foundation will host – Light the Night beginning at 5:30 pm. The Munster Chamber of Commerce will host a vendor fair, and the Munster Education Foundation will kick off their Merry and Bright home decorating contest. The scouts will be participating, expect some photo opportunities, food vendors, a performance of the Munster Chorale and the Munster Fire Department will deliver a very special guest, Friends of the Police Department will be present, and many others activities.

At 5:45 p.m. we will flip the switch constructed by Public Works to light the Town Hall holiday display and commemorate the beginning of the Holiday season. We hope many residents will attend.

Parking at the Town Hall will be limited, and you are encouraged to park north of Town Hall in Grove Park. Southside Christian Church and The Center for Visual and Performing Arts are available for overflow parking. Please note The Munster Parks Department had to cancel the outdoor version of their annual Holiday Craft Fair.

MUNSTER TOWN HALL CLOSED
Christmas Holiday - December 23rd & December 24th
New Years Holiday - December 30th & December 31st

Winter Ready

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.

MAILBOXES AND SNOWPLOWING

Residents are reminded to kindly inspect their mailbox prior to the winter to ensure that it is in sound structural shape. Rarely does a snowplow hit a mailbox, but often snow thrown from a plow truck hits mailboxes, which can sometimes cause damage to a mailbox especially if it is loose or has a rotted post. It has been our practice to replace damaged mailboxes if caused by a Town snowplow but only if the mailbox was in prior good condition. It is the resident's responsibility to ensure that their mailbox is solid enough to withstand being hit by the often-wet heavy snow thrown from a plow truck. If a damaged mailbox is determined to be from a weakened or deteriorated condition, the Town is relieved of any responsibility to repair it if snow operations cause further damage.

PLOWING

The Town Public Works Department starts plowing when there is an inch of snow on the road, beginning with main streets, hospital areas, school areas, secondary streets and hilly streets. These high priority areas get plowed first (ahead of residential streets, cul-de-sacs and alleys) and are salted down to bare pavement until the snow has stopped. Alleys are plowed last and only after a minimum 4" snowfall.

**A WORKING
SMOKE
DETECTOR
SAVES LIVES!**



- 26% of households do not have smoke detectors.
- 29% of households have smoke detectors that do not work or are outdated.
- 3 out of 5 home fire deaths result from fires in properties with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Half of home fire deaths happen between 11:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. when most people are asleep.
- The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with a working smoke alarm.
- Annually there are over 2500 deaths from house fires.



Thanks to a grant given to the department from the Rotary Club of Munster, the Munster Fire Department will be starting a new home safety initiative in the upcoming weeks - "Don't Let Your World Go Up In Smoke."

The purpose of this program is to ensure that every home has smoke detectors installed and in working order. The alarms will be provided and installed by a member of the Fire Department. In conjunction with the smoke alarm installation, the Munster Fire Department and Rotary Club of Munster will also offer a Home Fire Safety Inspection. There is no charge for either of these services.

To participate in the program for a smoke detector installation and/or the home safety inspection you will be required to submit an application to the Fire Department. Applicants will then be contacted to set up an appointment for the installation and/or inspection.

Applications can be found on the town website, or you can email jrebey@munster.org and one can be sent to you electronically or through the mail. For further information please contact the department at (219)836-6960.



Holiday Events with PARKS & RECREATION

Light the Night

Friday, December 3, 2021

5:30 p.m. - 6:30pm

Munster Town Hall

Munster Civic Foundation presents the inaugural "Light the Night" at Munster Town Hall to kick off the holiday season! Join us for this event and a special visit from Santa – FREE admission.

Canes and Cocoa

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: Walking-3

5:45 p.m. - 6:15p.m.: Ages 4-7

6:30 p.m. -7p.m.: Ages 8-10

Munster Social Center

Open to 3 different age groups, this event will have you searching for those hidden candy canes. Find the special ones and receive a prize. Enjoy hot chocolate inside after the event. Fee: \$5/person

Keen-Ager Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Center for Visual and Performing Arts

Enjoy a catered meal, musical entertainment and gifts.



Munster History Museum
Free Holiday Event
1910 Kaske House - Heritage Park
Saturday, December 4, 2021
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Bring a camera to take a FREE Family Photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Dress for the weather and for walking around the park, carolers are welcome! Wrapped treats will be available! Free parking at the Munster Schools/ Administration Building (south of Ridge Road on the west side of Columbia Avenue). Heritage Park is just a short walk north on the east side of Columbia Avenue. Handicapped Drop Off on driveway. Parking is strictly prohibited at Heritage Park during event hours. Event hosted by The Munster Historical Society in cooperation with Munster Junior Historical Society and Munster Parks and Recreation Department.

**Social Distancing Practiced and Masks Required*



December is coming soon - Sign up Today!

12/3	Light the Night
12/4	Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
12/7	Koolaid and Kanvas
12/8	Canes and Cocoa
12/10	Chicago History Museum Tour
12/15	Mosaics and Mimosas
12/15	Keen-Ager Holiday Party
12/16	Ugly Sweater BINGO
12/16	Cupcakes and Competition

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Homewood Disposal Service has advised because the Christmas and New Year's holiday is on Saturday, December 25th and Saturday, January 1st there will not be a disruption of service. There will be normal garbage and recycling collection the week of December 19th and December 26th.

Bulky Item Pickup!



Bulk Item and Appliance Pick Up

Residents are allowed one large bulk item with their weekly collection on their garbage day. Collection of appliances is scheduled with Homewood Disposal Service.

CALL 219-931-9000 TO SCHEDULE A PICKUP



South Shore Railroad West Lake Construction to Begin in January

Beginning in January 2022, contractors for the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District (NICTD) and NIPSCO will begin construction work for the West Lake commuter rail project. Initial work will include the relocation of aboveground utility poles and lines, relocation of underground utilities, site clearing including tree cutting, and installation of erosion control measures such as silt fencing. Residents should expect some road closures during the construction.

Residents with questions can call NICTD at (219)250-2920 or visit www.nictdwestlake.com



HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER P.D.

- When shopping, attempt to do so with a friend.
- Always carry your wallet in your front pocket or keep your purse zipped up and slung in front of you while shopping or at holiday events to help prevent pickpocket attempts. Never leave your purse in your shopping cart and be alert for distraction techniques used by pickpockets.
- If you are shopping at multiple places, store purchased items in your trunk and out of public view. Never leave shopping bags in plain view inside of your vehicle. Ask store security or the police department for an escort to your car if you are concerned about walking out to it.
- Never carry large amounts of cash or unnecessary credit cards. Only take what you need to shop with.
- Keep your home well-lit at night by using dusk-to-dawn, motion-detecting, and timed lighting and keep shrubs trimmed below the window line to help prevent hiding places.
- Do not display large amounts of gifts under your Christmas tree in plain view through your home's window.
- Use caution with anyone who comes to your door or calls you asking for donations to various causes. Only provide donations directly to causes or charities that you know and trust, and never provide personal or bank account information over the phone.
- Only allow reputable companies (that are permitted through the town) or the children of friends to assist you with snow removal. Never allow strangers into your home.
- If you are leaving for the holidays, contact the Records Division of our police department by calling (219)836-6650 and also encourage trusted neighbors to keep an eye on your home. Stop mail, arrange for snow removal, and ask a neighbor to park in your driveway to make it look as if someone is at home.

Always report suspicious activity immediately by calling 911

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 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.

Board of Safety Meeting	Dec. 2, 2021	7:00 a.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	Dec. 6, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	Dec. 7, 2021	Noon	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting	Dec. 14, 2021	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Meeting	Dec. 14, 2021	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Commission Meeting	Dec. 20, 2021	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Meeting	Dec. 21, 2021	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)

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



Dr. Ken Schoon

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



Lee Ann Mellon



Chuck Gardiner

Ward #1
Ward #2
Ward #3
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Clerk-Treasurer



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