



1005 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

May 2022

Edited by E. Payne



This is the time of year the Clerk-Treasurer's office will see an uptick in calls regarding utility bills so I thought this would be a good place to try to bring some clarity to your monthly utility bill.

## UTILITY INVOICE 101

Your utility bill is a monthly bill. Your water meter is read around the 15th of each month. The change between meter readings is the consumption amount used to calculate your usage. Your water rate is based on water consumption and meter size.

You will receive your monthly bill, either electronically or through the mail, around the first of each month. Your Town of Munster utility bill is due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month unless the 20th is a holiday or weekend. So, the following may help to clarify. Your next meter reading will be on May 16th. The 15th is a Sunday so it will be read on the next business day. Your usage is calculated on the meter readings between May 16th and June 15th. In the days following June 15th, your bill will be assessed for any applicable late fees, and a current new bill will be generated, reviewed, sent to the printer, reviewed again, and then distributed to the address for each account. The bill you receive around July 1<sup>st</sup> will be for the meter reading between May 16<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> and will be due on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Your water meter reading or usage impacts HSD Residential Flow and the Sales Tax line items on your bill. The HSD Admin Charge, Trash, Sewer Maintenance, and Hydrant line items are all flat fees. All invoices should have both the HSD Admin Charge and HSD Residential Flow charges except the approx. 50 homes in town that have septic systems. Septic users should not see any charges for the HSD Admin Charge or HSD Residential Flow.

## SUMMER RATES

The Hammond Sanitary District changes the way the HSD Residential Flow charge is calculated during the summer months. The summer rate is based on your highest winter usage.

This assumes that we, the consumers, are not putting the same amount of water into the sewer system that we do during the winter months, as some of our summer water usage is used to fill pools, water lawns, and wash our cars. Each home is different as far as usage so you may not see much of a change, especially if you are a home that only uses the minimum or the base rate each month.

Approximately 1,000 homes in Munster have a second meter which is primarily used by their inground sprinkler or lawn irrigation systems. All these homes will have a minimum charge, regardless of usage, during the months in which the bill is due in July through November. Residents will often question a November sprinkler bill but remember this would be for usage between September 15th and October 15th and it is common to still be watering our lawns during those months.

The good news is you are not responsible for calculating this! You can trust we are working hard to ensure each resident has the most accurate monthly invoice possible. I do encourage you all to review your bills regularly and if you have any questions, you can contact water billing at (219)836-6948.

## ONE LAST THOUGHT



Enjoy the Munster tulips. We planted thousands of bulbs this past fall and you may still be enjoying the final days of the spring color. The Munster Civic Foundation is behind the efforts to extend the tulip season and beginning at the end of May you will find over thirty-five artfully decorated five-foot-tall tulips throughout town. We hope you find and visit each one and we look forward to your photos! Please contact me at (219)836-6945 or [wmis@munster.org](mailto:wmis@munster.org).

*Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer*

**TO ALL OUR VETERANS  
THANK YOU!  
MUNSTER TOWN HALL OFFICES  
WILL BE CLOSED  
MONDAY, MAY 30TH  
MEMORIAL DAY**

# What's Happening...?



## Car Show

Saturday, May 7th  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Munster Pool Parking Lot  
Celebrating our 24<sup>th</sup> year,

we continue this amazing show with a fabulous display of cars and trucks. This event is free to the public and is family friendly. We will have music, delicious food truck cuisine, vendors with items for show and sale and an awesome display of vehicles. Vehicle entry to be judged \$20 (pre-register) or \$25 (on-site). Looking to not be judged? You'll park in the grassy area and pay \$10 the day of to participate! We're still seeking judges – contact Jill at [jhiggins@munster.org](mailto:jhiggins@munster.org).



## Pool Pride Day

Wednesday, May 11th  
4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Munster Pool - FREE  
Have you ever wondered what it takes to get a pool ready for the season?

Come learn and earn some volunteer hours as we prepare the pool for opening day on May 28. Everyone who helps will receive a complimentary dinner – please pre-register so we can plan food accordingly.



## Cash for Clutter

Saturday, May 21st  
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Munster Pool Parking Lot

Resident: \$28/Non-Resident: \$38 (2 spaces)  
Resident: \$45/Non-Resident: \$55 (3 spaces)  
Clear the clutter and earn some quick cash by selling those things you just don't have the room for anymore. Spaces are 9'x16'. Your registration fee gets you two parking spaces in the lot. Pre-registration is required!

## calling all Vendors

Seeking vendors for all upcoming events: Community Market Hub, Touch A Truck, Colors of the World Culture Fest, Region Eats Food Festival, Bark in the Park Pet Fair and more. Contact Jill at [jhiggins@munster.org](mailto:jhiggins@munster.org) to see what events would best suit your business or organization.



## Skateboarding: Leveling Up

This class is designed for riders of all ages that are experienced or new riding their skateboard. These lessons help develop the basic skills needed for beginners, such as balance, learning to ollie, pushing correctly, rolling down banks, safety in the park and turning. As skills are learned, you will level up to the next station therefore truly making it a class for everyone! Instructor: Jeff Zie, Driftwood Skate --- Class takes place M/W, 5/9-5/25 from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30pm at Community Park Skateboard Park.



**Munster Pool Season Passes** are now on sale for Munster Pool. Check out your current Recreation Guide – page 4 for pricing. Early bird deadline is Friday, May 27. Each paying member will receive a card to enter Munster

Pool to make the entry quicker. Can't make it during business hours? We'll be open from 5:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. on May 18th and 24th - stop by the Parks Office.

# Have You Heard?

- 5/2 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 5/2 Tennis Adult Drill and Play
- 5/2 National Museum of Mexican Art Tour Van Trip
- 5/3 Spring Swing Wiffleball League
- 5/3 Adult Beginner Tennis
- 5/7 Car Show
- 5/9 Cupcakes and Competition
- 5/10 Android Basics
- 5/10 Koolaid and Kanvas
- 5/11 Park Pride Day
- 5/13 CPR Certification Deadline (class 5/23)
- 5/15 Cuban Salsa Dance
- 5/16 Paint Party - Small Size
- 5/17 Iphone Basics
- 5/21 Best of the Northwest Pickleball Tournament
- 5/21 Cash for Clutter
- 5/23 CPR Certification
- 5/24 Ipad Basics
- 5/24 Ice Cream Social
- 5/25 Mosaic & Mimosa's
- 5/26 Red, White, and Blue BINGO
- 5/27 Munster Pool Season Pass Early-Bird Deadline
- 5/28 Munster Pool Opens
- 5/31 Youth Tennis Lessons (4-5, 6-9 and/or 10-13)  
M-Th or Tu/Th option



## MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING 2022 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT DONATIONS

The Munster Police Department and Choice Community Council of Munster are **currently seeking donations through June 12<sup>th</sup>** towards Munster's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out Against Crime Celebration which will take place in August at the Munster Community Pool. Funds are being collected now so that necessary activities and supplies can be ordered in advance of the event. The National Night Out is held annually to promote positive police and community partnerships through a variety of both fun and educational activities for all ages such as a Community Parade, free swimming for residents, kids games, door prizes, a magic show, emergency vehicle displays, many booth participants, K-9 demonstrations, food, music, awards, safety information, fireworks sponsored by Krazy Kaplan's, and more.

The event, which is consistently ranked as one of the top National Night Out events in the United States each year (#4 in 2021 and #1 in 2020 in our population category), is completely funded through donations from area residents, businesses, and community organizations.

**If you would like to provide a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the Town of Munster (memo: NNO) and mail them to the Munster Police Department, c/o Officer James Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321.**

For more information, please contact Officer Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org). Thank you in advance for your generosity and support this year!

### HELP WANTED

Public Works is seeking Summer Help. Applicants can complete an application from the Town website [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org) or pick up an application at the Public Works facility or send a resume to [lpramuk@munster.org](mailto:lpramuk@munster.org).

### FREE

Public Works will offer free wood chips on the first Saturday of the month beginning in May and will run through October. Bring your own shovel and something to place the woodchips in.



## Preparing for Spring Showers

A gentle warm breeze combined with the fresh scent of blossoming tulips make spring in Munster one of the most majestic times of the year. As you enjoy longer days and seasonal activities, we encourage you to take a moment to make sure that you are prepared for the springtime rain. Flooding is one of the most common occurring natural disasters in the United States. Spring weather can be unpredictable, but you don't have to get caught off guard. Provided below are several tips to help you prepare for and navigate a flood event.

- Check to make sure stormwater grates around your home and curb are free of debris that may obstruct drainage.
- Check downspouts and sump pump discharge ensuring they are directly away from your home. Use rain barrels to capture water when possible.
- Do not drive or walk-through flowing water. Six inches of water is enough to sweep a person off their feet.
- Be sure to report downed or submerged power lines (911). Electrical current can travel through water.
- Make an emergency plan for you and your family. Practice this plan.



**DRAIN GRATES** 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.



**Branch Collection** 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 (219)836-6971.

- Spring Leaf Collection ended April 14, 2022.
- Garbage and Recycling will be delayed one day Monday, May 30, 2022, in observance of Memorial Day.



### Water Loss

Unaccounted for water occurs when water is consumed within the town by way of Hammond transmission lines from Lake Michigan but does not get metered through a home or business. There will always be instances of unaccounted water due to preventative maintenance efforts such as hydrant or main flushes and the occasional fire event. Water loss outside of these activities can be structurally damaging to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. It can also be costly, ultimately resulting in higher service rates. It is imperative that the town address water loss incidents immediately. You too can help our public works department in the effort! Several signs to be on the lookout for that indicate a leak or break in the water main are:

- The sound of running water in a storm drain when you normally would not expect it.
- Unusual humming noises coming from a residential service line or fire hydrant.
- A sudden or unusual drop in water pressure where there are no fires or neighbors watering their lawn.
- Ponding or running water that is not the result of rainfall or a sprinkler use.

If you suspect a water main break or leak in your area, please call the Munster public works department at (219) 836-6970/6971 or after hours (219)660-0001 or visit <http://www.munster.org> and click the “Service Request” icon on the landing page to report your concern.



**Munster Pool**  
**Opens Saturday, May 28th**  
**Monday - Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Sunday: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Now accepting private parties**



### TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR MAY 2022

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 Mtg.	May 2, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Safety Mtg.	May 5, 2022	7:00 a.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	May 10, 2022	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Mtg.	May 10, 2022	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	May 12, 2022	1:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	May 16, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Mtg.	May 17, 2022	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)



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 Koulourides	Ward #5	(219)595-5606	drkoul63@gmail.com
Wendy Mis	Clerk-Treasurer	(219)836-6945	wmis@munster.in.gov

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 Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.