



1005 Ridge Road, Munster, Indiana

NEWS YOU CAN USE

January 2022

Edited by E. Payne

Happy New Year!

The conclusion of a year provides a time to review what has been accomplished. Here are just a few of the items that impacted Munster residents from the Clerk-Treasurer's office perspective.

COVID

The Town of Munster began working toward a new normal as the public health emergency, which began in March of 2020, continued. We currently provide a hybrid of in-person meetings and meetings through Zoom. Once the governor ends the health emergency, we are prepared for a different look of public meetings. Ordinance 1830 was passed that allows the Town to host both in-person and virtual meetings, but we will have different requirements about attendance and participation. A schedule of meetings is on the Town website.

AMERICA IN BLOOM

The Town was awarded a grant from America in Bloom. This grant-provided functional landscape along the CN railway that is not only lovely but will provide a sound barrier to the neighboring Centennial Village and Park. One requirement of the grant was to participate in America In Bloom. This project became a collaborative event between departments in Town and community organizations. Search America in Bloom on the Town of Munster website for more information.

NEW FIRE CHIEF

Mark Hajduk was hired as the new Fire Chief. Chief Hajduk is working hard to keep Munster residents safe and is partnering with the Rotary Club of Munster to review smoke detectors in homes.

WATER AND TRASH RATES

Although unpleasant but very necessary, water and trash rates increased in 2021. The increase covers the price increase from our suppliers. This prompted a rate study, and we expect rate increases will be a part of our Town's future, not only to cover the annual rate increases from our supplier but also to make necessary improvements to our infrastructure.

FINANCIAL SOFTWARE

We have new financial software in Town. We have been learning the new program and have seen numerous functional improvements both internally and to our residents and organizations. We responded to the requests of many residents for paperless billing and we have delivered. Most residents still get their bills in the mail but more and more are shifting to via email.

WJOB

Councilor Gardiner and I discussed these items and more in further detail on WJOB on December 21st. We planned to discuss our new body cameras in the Police Department, 50/50 sidewalk replacement, the Town's efforts to become more environmentally friendly, and ARPA funds.

We believe we are continuing on a path of the betterment of Munster, and I hope to share more about the plans for 2022 in February. If you have any questions or comments, please never hesitate to reach out. (219)836-6945 or wmis@munster.in.gov.

Wendy Misi, Clerk-Treasurer



Town of Munster Radio Show

1230 AM
WJOB
104.7 FM

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.

Holiday Schedule

Homewood Disposal Service will be on a normal garbage & recycling collection schedule on Saturday, January 1, 2022. Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 17, 2022, is also a regular garbage collection schedule.

Just a reminder



BRANCH COLLECTION HAS ENDED



LEAF COLLECTION HAS ENDED



Christmas trees will be picked up by the Public Works Department starting December 27, 2021, and ending January 31, 2022, **weather permitting**. Please make sure all decorations are off the tree.

SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

With winter nearly here, snow is not far behind. Please keep in mind that according to Town of Munster ordinance, it is unlawful for any person (resident or contractor) to throw, push, or deposit snow, slush, or ice onto any street or sidewalk. Those who violate this ordinance will be subject to a fine.

Also, Town Ordinance 46-3 pertains to the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks. The Ordinance states that the owner and/or the occupant of any dwelling, building or subdivided lot or property shall keep the sidewalks in front of thereof clean at all times of the year. Within 24 hours after any snow fall or formation of ice, such snow or ice shall be removed from the sidewalks.

If you have any questions contact Kim Nordhoff, community service officer at (219) 836-6659.

POLICE

POSITIVE RESULTS FOUND IN ELEMENTARY DARE PROGRAM STUDY

Following a 3-year, independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the elementary Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program by UNC Greensboro and Prevention Strategies, they provided a report which is accessible via the link further below. A summary of some of their findings is listed below:

--**There were statistically significant reductions in the prevalence of drinking alcohol, getting drunk, smoking cigarettes, and vaping among students who received D.A.R.E.** compared to the control cases. The study also concluded that the program was entirely successful in preventing marijuana use.

--**D.A.R.E. Officers performed very well in the classroom based on both teacher and student ratings.** Teachers and students rated D.A.R.E. Officers extremely high on both program fidelity and engagement actively engaging students during program delivery.

--**D.A.R.E. Officer instruction was directly related to positive program outcomes.** That is, there were statistically significant correlations between student engagement and student scores at post-test on all variables assessed - increased student engagement was related to positive outcomes on all variables.

--**The responsiveness of the D.A.R.E. Officer to the students was also predictive of scores** at post-test for variables like decision-making, intentions to avoid drug use, and beliefs about peer norm use.

The Munster D.A.R.E. Program has now been presented in the Munster schools for 33 years and includes lessons for approximately 2,000 total kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade students each year in Munster. The Munster Police Department appreciates the continued support of their efforts in educating our students about drug prevention, bullying prevention, the importance of making positive choices, and more each school year.

D.A.R.E.

**TO RESIST DRUGS
AND VIOLENCE**

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- 1/9 Parent/Child Swim Lessons
- 1/9 Preschool Swim Lessons
- 1/9 Private Swim Lessons
- 1/9 Semi-Private Swim Lessons
- 1/9 Youth Swim Lessons
- 1/9 Cuban Salsa Dance
- 1/11 Adult Open Basketball
- 1/13 Shake the Winter Blues BINGO
- 1/13 Let's Dance! (hip-hop dance)
- 1/13 Line Dancing
- 1/13 Wado-Ki Karate
- 1/13 ZUMBA
- 1/14 **Daddy Daughter Date Night**
early-bird registration deadline
- 1/17 School Day Off Camp
- 1/17 Part-Time Job Fair
- 1/18 Koolaid and Kanvas - Snowman
- 1/19 We're off to IKEA
- 1/19 Henna Art
- 1/22 Wintertime Bird Feeding
- 1/24 Sewing 101
- 1/26 Mosaic and Mimosa's
- 1/28 Craft in A Box Deadline: Mason Jar Crafts Love



We're excited to offer **winter swim lessons** again at Munster High School Aquatic Center. Classes run January 9th - February 20th. Preschool, Parent-Tot, Youth, Private and Semi-Private

will be available. Register quickly as classes will fill.

No Class: 1/30

Fee: \$70 Resident/\$80 Non-Resident



With the kids being off school on Monday, January 17th, let us take care of the fun in our **School Day off camp!** We'll offer a day of fun, games, arts/crafts, movie, lunch and more!

Camp will run from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. at the Social Center.

Fee: \$20

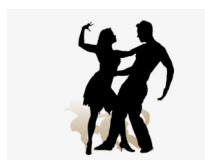
Ages: 5-12

PART-TIME JOBS FAIR....



Looking for a job this spring/summer?

We're hosting our **Part-Time Job Fair** on Monday, January 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Munster Town Hall. Looking to hire for soccer referees, tennis and sport instructors, lifeguards, swim instructors, pool admissions, concession stand attendance, pint-size camp aides, seasonal park maintenance and summer camp. We've raised our pay rates to become more competitive in the field. Some positions have certain age requirements - please see our Recreation Guide, page 18 or contact us at (219)836-7275. Won't be around for in-person interviews, schedule a ZOOM for that week by emailing jhiggins@munster.org.



Cuban Salsa Dance

Sundays, January 9th - February 6th

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: Social Center

Ages: 18+/Fee: \$85

Cuban Salsa dance is a unique style in the world, one that stems from a very strong and deeply rooted culture. Merge your body and soul while you learn and grasp the Cuban rhythm. No partners needed and classes taught by Edson Cabrera.



Daddy Daughter Date Night

Saturday, February 5th

Wilbur Wright Middle School

Don't miss the early-bird deadline of January 14th at 4:30 p.m. The night will include special memories, a catered dinner, corsage, dancing, photo booth and special favor. Professional photos on-site for an additional fee.



Join Ashley, the owner of Skin Colour Events, as she will break down the design elements that make up traditional **Henna Art**. You will learn about Henna, where it comes from, how to hold/use a Henna cone, as well as history of the art.

All supplies included. Wednesday, 1/19 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for \$25. Ages: 12+



Winter/Spring Recreation Guide

is now out, check your mailboxes if you have yet to see it or view it online at

www.munster.org



MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING

The Munster Police Department invites all residents and business representatives to attend their first quarterly Munster Crime Watch Meeting of the year on Thursday, January 27th at 7:00 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road. **This meeting will include:**

- **Crime statistics from 2021** in comparison to previous years
- **Updates on recent incidents** in Munster
- **A presentation from our Community Policing Unit** on the department's community outreach programs along with how residents can get more involved
- **A chance for participants to ask questions or raise concerns** during or following the meeting.
- **Several door prizes including a \$30 Target gift card** will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Please note that non-vaccinated participants are asked to please wear a mask inside of the Town Hall. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.



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.

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 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.	January 3, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Site Plan Review Committee Mtg.	January 6, 2022	1:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	January 11, 2022	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Mtg.	January 11, 2022	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council Redevelopment Mtg.	January 17, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Mtg.	January 18, 2022	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)



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

Ward #1
Ward #2
Ward #3
Ward #4
Ward #5
Clerk-Treasurer

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