



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

September 2022

Edited by E. Payne



Hello there! I'd like to provide an update on a few things happening throughout Town. By the end of this construction season, we will have paved over two miles of local streets and alleys and 4,000 feet of sidewalks. Going into the fall, we are evaluating proposals for water tank maintenance that will begin in the spring as well as teeing-up a request for proposals for help replacing our water meters throughout Town.

While you'll have the opportunity to read more about it elsewhere in this document, I mention the Comprehensive Plan Update here to encourage your participation in the public engagement process. There is an online community survey at <https://hla.fyi/munstercompplan> as well as a collaborative map where you can add points of interest and comments.

Your participation and vision for our community is one of the most significant resources that we have. Indeed, when the Town engaged our consultants for the Ridge Road and Calumet Avenue Streetscape Plan, we received over 2,000 pieces of feedback from residents.

Comments and suggestions from residents and businesses in Town showed that there is a widely held perception that sidewalks and street crossings are unsafe; outdoor seating and retail space is desired; that businesses need additional parking; and that trees and plantings within the project corridor are lacking.

The directions that we received resulted in a bold plan to imagine something different for those two corridors, a plan that generated palpable excitement. The preferred option would see portions of some travel lanes on Ridge Road be converted to on-street parking and additional space for plantings and pedestrian safety measures like mid-block crossings and wider sidewalks.

This means that the average distance that a kid has to be in the street to cross Ridge Road is reduced by half from over 90 feet to 45 feet. This means that there will be a 25% reduction in impervious surfaces that shed water straight into our stormwater system and into the river. This means patio and retail space for small businesses. This means shade in the wilting heat. This means a place to go to, rather than a place to get through.

Traffic engineers estimated that the proposed changes would result in a one-to-three-minute increase in travel time from the State Line to Calumet Avenue at peak travel times. In life, there are trade-offs to every decision. Survey results showed that all the improvements and amenities that we would gain would be worth an extra three minutes of travel time in our cars.

Staff took this energy and plan and submitted a \$17 million application to the US Department of Transportation for a highly selective Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant for the implementation of the Ridge Road portion of the Streetscape Plan. Munster was one of about 150 communities nationwide that were awarded funding.

This is an exceptional accomplishment for our community.

So what will happen next? We will have to select an engineering partner for the design of the project. That engineer and their team will have to conduct significant due diligence, including updating traffic counts and models. This will take at least a year. After design is complete, the plans will have to be bid and a contractor selected. Construction will take at least two seasons. If all goes well, this project will be complete by the end of 2026.

Dustin Anderson, Town Manager

MUNSTER, INDIANA

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

We are pleased to announce the start of the Munster Comprehensive Plan effort. Over the next year and a half, the Town will be working with Houseal Lavigne Associates, a professional community planning consultancy based in Chicago to build upon past planning efforts, evaluate current data and trends, and incorporate the input and perspectives of Munster residents and businesses into a plan that will serve as a guiding document for the growth and development of the Town for a minimum of 10 years. This will be the first town-wide plan since the 2010 Master Plan. Key outcomes of the plan will be a future land use map, framework plans for transportation, housing, economic development, and community facilities and infrastructure, as well as a detailed implementation plan.

The plan is being guided by a 17-member Advisory Committee which includes the Town Council and representatives of local businesses, the schools, and other stakeholders. The project kicked off in August and we expect to submit the plan for Town Council adoption in late 2023. We need your input! Visit the project website <https://hla.fyi/munstercompplan> to take the online survey and map out your issues and opportunities using the map.social mapping tool. Documents will be posted on the website as they are prepared. Watch the website and the News You Can Use for information about an upcoming Community Visioning workshop to be scheduled in the fall of this year.

Thomas Vander Woude, Director Community Development



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK-TREASURER

September is the beginning of the busy season in the Clerk-Treasurer's office. We are in full on 2023 budget preparation as well as participating in determining our capital improvement plan for the Town, water, and sewer/stormwater systems. The public hearing for the budget will be during the September 19th Town Council meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting, as with all Town Council meetings, is open to the public and you are encouraged to attend and participate. The Town Council will formally adopt the budget at the meeting on Monday, October 3rd. This will be our first full year with our new financial software, and we appreciate the many enhancements the program offers especially during budget season.

The Town of Munster received some very exciting, front page news announcing the awarding of a significant grant to help us improve Ridge Road beginning at the state line. This transformational funding will create a welcoming and safe entrance into Munster from the west. I am looking forward to seeing how this project unfolds. We are at the beginning of crafting a comprehensive plan for the Town. Your input is needed so please take time and complete the online questionnaire. The questionnaire can be found on www.munster.org.

Finally, my family experienced the unexpected loss of a young husband, and the father to a six-month-old I would like to end this article with a sentiment my niece shared "hug the people you love and tell them you love them every single day." All the best to you.

Wendy Mis, wmis@munster.org, (219) 836-6945



Munster Fire Department's Fire Prevention Week and Annual Open House

Saturday, October 8, 2022

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Fire Station #2 - 550 Fisher St.

FPW: October 2, 2022 - October 8, 2022

Free event, live house fire demonstration, antique fire engine rides, live extrication demonstrations, fire safety house, hands-on training with a fire house, door prizes and concessions.



BRANCH COLLECTION

In an effort to keep the branch collection moving, keep in mind the following:

- Branches should be stacked in one direction and placed in the parkway not in the street.
- Bundle into manageable piles with twine where possible to assist the crew.

BRANCHES WILL BE SKIPPED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- Branches or bundled piles of brush should be able to be picked up by one person, generally with a tree diameter no greater than 5" maximum. If diameter is greater the pile will be skipped.
- Any branches from a professional landscaper or tree-trimmer will be not be picked up.
- DO NOT PARK VEHICLES in front of branch piles or the pile will be skipped.
- DO NOT MIX garbage, or debris plant material with branch piles...only tree branches or sticks from pruning are acceptable or the pile will be skipped. (Plant debris should be bagged for Waste Management collection)
- If your branch pile is the size of a vehicle, it is a charge pile with a minimum fee of \$130 to be paid to the Town of Munster prior to collection and a tag will be left at the door.



The lawn watering restrictions put in place in July are no longer in effect. We thank residents for adhering to these guidelines and helping protect our water infrastructure and conserve natural resources.



Homewood Disposal
www.mydisposal.com
(219)931-9000 or (708)798-1004

Trash and Recycling Collection will be picked up one day later due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 5, 2022. Collection will be Tuesday thru Saturday.



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.

September



Friday, September 9th
Centennial Park
Dusk

Movie in The Park - Featuring Encanto

Bring your blanket and watch a movie under the stars. Concessions will be available for purchase. Sponsored by Supercuts.



Saturday, September 10th
Pool Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Cash for Clutter

Want to sell your household items you no longer need? Register for a vendor space at the Parks Office. Want to find some treasures? It's free to attend.



Sundays
September 11th - October 2nd
Social Center
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Cuban Salsa Dance

Merge your body and soul while you learn and grasp the Cuban rhythm.



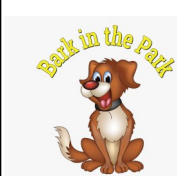
Mondays
September 12th - October 24th
Social Center
6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Tai Chi Gong

Sitting/standing, gentle breathing, meditation and movement exercise class will address balance, breathing issues, pain/stress reduction and stiffness.



Thursdays
September 15th - November 3rd
Wilbur Wright Middle School
5:00 p.m. - 5:50 p.m.
Cardio Drumming

This high energy, low impact group fitness class will have you sweating, burning calories and reducing stress.



Saturday, September 17th
Centennial Park
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Bark in the Park

Lucky Dog Adventures will be on-site w/ Lure Coursing (\$10/dog to participate).

Fetch Portrait's will have a selfie station set-up. Other vendors, contests, raffle prizes, demonstrations and training methods will be offered as well as food concessions.

你好
 nǐ hǎo
 (Hello)

Mondays
September 26th - October 24th
Social Center
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Language & Art of the Chinese Zodiac

Holly Wang has taught Chinese for over 10 years and will share the zodiac animal cycle, the story behind it, how to say the 12 animals in Chinese, draw the characters as well as learn the calligraphy style.

Peoples Bank
you first banking **Friday, September 30th**
Social Center
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

FREE - Please pre-register

People's Bank is sponsoring a series this Fall and the first program is reverse mortgages. Dru Boeck will answer all your questions from how the process works from beginning to end and how it can help senior clients achieve their financial goals

- 9/9 CPR Certification DEADLINE
- 9/9 **Movie in the Park featuring: Encanto**
- 9/10 **Cash for Clutter**
- 9/11 Community Market Hub
- 9/11 **Cuban Salsa Dance**
- 9/12 **Tai Chi Gong**
- 9/12 Sporties for Shorties (Ages: 3-5)
- 9/13 Little Travelers Shopping Bus Trip
- 9/13 Super Strikers (Ages: 4-8, 9-13)
- 9/13 Crime Scene Investigation (Ages: 8-16)
- 9/14 Tiny Tykes Soccer (Ages: 2-3)
- 9/15 Prince: The Immersive Experience Bus Trip
- 9/15 Skateboarding: Leveling Up (Ages: 6-16)
- 9/15 Cupcakes and Competition (Ages: 7-11)
- 9/15 **Cardio Drumming**
- 9/16 Travel Show w/Mayflower Tours/Cruises
- 9/17 Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training Ages: (11+)
- 9/17 Bark in the Park
- 9/19 CPR Certification
- 9/20 Yahtzee Challenger-Keenagers
- 9/20 Koolaid and Kanvas (Ages: 6-12)
- 9/23 Servsafe Food Manager
- 9/25 Community Market Hub featuring entertainment from Haley LeRand
- 9/26 Medicare & Scamming—Presented by Humana
- 9/26 Language and Art of the Chinese Zodiac (Ages: 6-11)
- 9/27 Learn to be a Detective (Ages: 18+)
- 9/28 Chinatown Explorer Tour Registration DEADLINE
- 9/29 Falling for the Keen-Agers BINGO
- 9/29 VolleyKidz USA (Ages: 7-10)
- 9/29 VolleyKidz USA Jr. (Ages: 11-14)
- 9/30 **People's Bank Series: Reverse Mortgages**



The Munster Fire Department and the Firefighters Association of Munster are joining the fight against cancer by teaming with the Cancer Resource Centre for a fundraiser to benefit the Cancer Resource Centre. The Munster Fire Department is selling shirts and sweatshirts and all profits received from the sales will be donated to the Cancer Resource Centre. For additional information please contact: David Strbjak at (219)902-9474/dstrbjak@munster.org or Janice Rebey at (219)836-6960/jrebey@munster.org



FRONT

- Short Sleeve T- Shirt (SM-XL) \$20.00
- Long Sleeve T-Shirt (SM-XL) \$25.00
- Pull Over Hoodie (SM-XL) \$30.00
- Zip Up Hoodie (SM-XL) \$30.00
- Crewneck Sweatshirt (SM-XL) \$30.00



BACK

**For larger sizes there is an extra charge of XXL/ \$1.00 for XXXL/\$2.00, XXXXL/\$3.00*



**RED RIBBON WEEK
POSTER CONTEST BEGINS
SEPT. 21ST**

The Munster Police Department and Choice Community Council invite and encourage all Munster public and parochial school students to participate in their annual Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest, which is held to promote drug prevention and safety awareness for our community's youth. Starting on Wednesday, September 21st, students in grades K-12 can enter the contest by creating a poster on an 8 X 11 sheet of paper or poster board (nothing larger please). Entries must also include the words "Munster" and "Red Ribbon" somewhere in the poster design. Students must turn in their posters at the main office of their respective school by no later than Friday, October 7th. Winners will be announced during Red Ribbon Week (October 23-29), with individual school winners receiving \$25 gift cards and one grand prize winner receiving a \$50 gift card. Please encourage your child or teenager to enter this year's contest. **For more information, please contact DARE Officer James Ghrist at (219) 836-6639 or jghrist@munster.org.**

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

Site Plan Review Mtg.	Sept 1, 2022	1:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Special Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Sept. 6, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	Sept. 13, 2022	6:45 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Plan Commission Mtg.	Sept. 13, 2022	7:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Board of Safety Mtg.	Sept. 15, 2022	7:00 a.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Sept. 15, 2022	1:30 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Sept. 19, 2022	7:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Park Board Mtg.	Sept. 20, 2022	5:00 p.m.	MTH (Main Meeting Room)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Sept. 29, 2022	1:30 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

(219)765-8052
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