



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

November 2022

Edited by E. Payne



The recent announcement of the \$17 million Rebuilding America Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to improve Ridge Road from the

State Line to Calumet Avenue was a significant accomplishment for the Town of Munster; however, it caught many by surprise.

As with many municipal projects, the start of this process occurred some time ago. In 2019 the Town began planning to improve the Calumet Avenue and Ridge Road corridors. This planning effort spanned more than a year and consisted of traffic studies/modeling, four advisory committee meetings, two meetings with the Munster Public Works Staff, one meeting with the Munster Plan Commission, one meeting with the Munster Town Council, three public workshops, multiple stakeholder Interviews, two online polls and a publicly accessible website.

Throughout this comprehensive and public process, great care and attention were paid to the following planning principles:

1. Business Vitality
2. Economic Health
3. Develop a more welcoming environment for walking and biking
4. Reinforce a sense of place in our community.
5. Enhance the ability to absorb stormwater and reduce flooding.

With the awarding of the RAISE grant, the planning, engineering and public input does not stop; in fact, it continues. There are many steps that need to take place, even before hiring the engineering firm that will eventually design the plans and put together the construction documentation for the project. This will take some time. We may not see the start of construction until the middle part of 2025.

Please be assured that the traffic on Ridge Road will be of great importance throughout the planning and execution of this project. Additional traffic studies will be taken, industry best practices will be implemented, public input will be solicited and discussion and decisions will be made at public meetings.

Through careful and proactive planning we feel very strongly that this project has great potential to improve Business and Economic Vitality, bring environmental and stormwater benefits to our residents, develop a great environment for walking and biking and reinforce the sense of community that is so strong in Munster.

If you have any questions or would like to express any further comment please reach out to any member of the Town Council.



As we are nearing the end of 2022, here are a couple of tidbit items from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office:

- We will begin to accept your 2023 pet licenses and business registrations no earlier than December 1, 2022. If your business email address needs to be updated, contact achew@munster.org.
- A recent rash of door tags that were not from Munster alerted me to the need to share what one of the Towns tags will look like. You may receive a notice that says a member of the water maintenance staff stopped by your home. The notice is printed on fluorescent pink paper! We provide the Town of Munster utility department telephone number (219)836-6948 for you to contact us for specific information regarding the reason for your tag. This is a service notification and not related to your account status.
- We are currently accepting applications for boards, commissions, and the Munster Civic Foundation (MCF). Applications can be found at www.munster.org. We retain applications for three years and if your interests have changed or if you are no longer available to serve, please let us know and we will update your application. The Clerk-Treasurer's Office will accept your completed or updated applications.

The MCF is working on celebrating the holidays and will host our second annual tree-lighting community event on Friday, December 2nd from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. We are planning an evening filled with community groups and holiday cheer. If you are interested in participating in the event, contact wmis@munster.org or tulo@munster.org.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANWE WANT YOUR
FEEDBACK

The Town of Munster is updating our Comprehensive Plan and we need your ideas!

The purpose of this project is 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. 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.

Please visit the project website to learn about the project, take the community questionnaire, and build your own map using map.social.



COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE:
<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/c5dfc55667294dc8907d0572b2cce918>



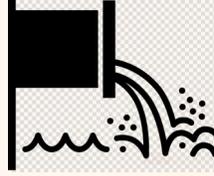
PROJECT WEBSITE:
<https://hla.fyi/munstercompplan>



MAP.SOCIAL:
<https://map.social/Community.php?CommunityID=346>



- You will need to continue to pay your bill for minimum usage. To ensure we are paid accurately and on time, we encourage automatic payment (ACH).
- You will be assessed late fees if an amount goes unpaid.
- You may call us to check on your account balance at www.munster.org/utilitybill. You need your account number to see your balance.
- We can temporarily send your bills to another address and send them to your local address when you get back. Call us to arrange this before you leave and when you have a return date.
- If you want your water turned OFF, you must schedule a time, it must be when someone will be there to confirm it is off (\$28 fee turn on/\$28 fee to turn off).
- Please call (219)836-6948/6949 to address any of these topics.

Be Storm Water Smart**What is an Illicit Discharge?**

An illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of rainwater or groundwater. Illicit discharges include: automotive fluids; cooking oil and grease; paints, solvents, and chemical cleansers; chlorinated swimming pool water; improperly applied pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer; landscape waste; soils and sediment; dumpster leachate; sanitary sewer wastewater; and trash.

What is an Illegal Connection?

An illegal connection is the discharge of pollutants or non-stormwater material into a storm sewer system via a pipe or other direct connection. Some sources of illicit connections include sewer laterals connected to the storm sewer rather than the sanitary sewer and floor drains tied into the storm sewer system.

Finding, fixing, and preventing illicit discharges & illegal connections is important to help prevent pollution of our waterways.

Residents can help by reporting illicit discharges or illegal connections to the Public Works Department via email publicworks@munster.org or by calling (219)836-6970.

- Look for makeshift pipes or hoses that lead to a storm drain or body of water.
- Watch for stains, unusual odors and colors, structural damage to streets or gutters, and abnormal vegetative growth in nearby creeks and streams.
- During dry weather, stormwater flows should be nonexistent or minimal. Look for suspicious liquids flowing from pipe outfalls during these times.
- Keep an eye out for anyone dumping anything into the storm sewer system or drainage ditches.

Homewood Disposal will be closed on **Thursday, November 24, 2022**. Monday - Wednesday service will be on schedule. Thursday and Friday service will be delayed one day for this week only.

www.mydisposal.com
(219)931-9000

Early Voting**Munster Town Hall (Room B)**

Tuesday, November 1st:	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wednesday, November 2nd:	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Thursday, November 3rd:	9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday, November 4th:	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday, November 5th:	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Monday, November 7th:	9:00 am - Noon

Election Day, Tuesday, November 8th

6:00 am - 6:00 pm

***Vote at your normal polling site**

November



- 11/1 We will start taking 2023 rentals (Social Center, Shelters, and Weddings)
- 11/2 Little Sluggers
- 11/6 Cuban Salsa Dance
- 11/8 Day off School Camp
- 11/9 CPR Certification DEADLINE
- 11/9 Slither, Ribbit, and Learn
- 11/11 Park Office CLOSED
- 11/14 Hedy Lamarr Lunch/Show
- 11/17 Gobble Gobble BINGO
- 11/17 Cupcakes and Competition
- 11/18 People's Bank Series—First Time Homebuyers
- 11/18 Premier Travel Show
- 11/19 CPR Certification
- 11/22 Koolaid and Kanvas
- 11/24 Park Office CLOSED
- 11/25 Park Office CLOSED
- 11/28 Interview Preparation



People's Bank Series— First Time Homebuyers Class will take place on Friday, November 18th from 10:00 am –11:00 am at the Community Park Social center. Austin Logue, Senior Mortgage Banker looks forward to working with first time home buyers every step of the way—from the start of the application through closing. FREE program!



Interview Preparation will take place on Monday, November 28th from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm at the Community Park Social Center. The class will be taught by a Valparaiso University Journalism Professor. This class will make you more confident about the job you are interviewing for now and in the future.
Fee: \$15/person

Munster Town Hall Closed
Veterans Day
Friday, November 11th
&
In Observance of
Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 24th
Friday, November 25th



Tuesday, November 1st Munster Parks and Recreation begins taking 2023 rentals. This includes Social center, shelters, and weddings.



Friday, November 4th from 9:00 am –3:00 pm ServSafe Food Manager Course will take place at the Community Park Social Center. This class will be hosted by Sanitized on Safety and will include instruction, book, and exam. Course meets IN/IL Food Manager certification requirements. Fee: \$180/person



Day off School Camp takes place on Tuesday, November 8th from 9:00 am –4:00 pm at the Community Park Social Center. Spend your day making crafts, playing games, watching a movie, and making friends. Lunch is on us! Fee: \$20/camper for ages 5-12



Slither, Ribbit and Learn takes place on Wednesday, November 9th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at the Community Park Social Center. Explore the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians in this one of a kind herpetology program that will educate and entertain. Speaker: Frog Lady Presentations
Fee: \$10/person

Just a reminder...

Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, November 6, 2022
Get ready to "Fall Back"
Set your clocks back
one hour at 2:00 a.m.

Munster History Museum
Free Holiday Event
1910 Kaske House in Heritage Park
Saturday, December 3, 2022
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Hosted by the Munster Historical Society

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 Ave. Heritage Park is just a short walk north on the east side of Columbia Ave. Handicapped drop off on driveway. Parking is strictly prohibited at Heritage Park during event hours.



Welcome and Congratulations to **Officer Kevin Cooley**, a 24 year veteran of the Munster Police Department who has been recently assigned as the first full-time School Resource Officer at Wilbur Wright Middle School.



MUNSTER POLICE SEEKING "COPS & KIDS" PROGRAM DONATIONS

Every December since 2005, Munster Police officers have taken area children in need shopping for toys or clothing with funds that have been donated by local residents, businesses, and community service organizations. They will once again be holding their "Cops & Kids" holiday shopping event this year with your help and support. If you would like to provide a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the Town of Munster (Memo: Cops & Kids) and mail them to the Munster Police Department, c/o Officer James Ghrist, 1001 Ridge Road, Munster, IN 46321. **The deadline for donations is Thursday, November 10th.** Thank you in advance for your support of our program this year!

NARCAN[®] (naloxone HCl)
NASAL SPRAY

The Munster Fire Department will be offering two Narcan Public Awareness Training Classes. The class will teach the signs and symptoms of a possible overdose, what Narcan is and how to administer it properly until EMS arrives. Each participant will receive a FREE Narcan kit. Both classes will be held at Fire Station #2 at 550 Fisher Street. You must be at least 18 years of age to register and there is a maximum of 20 persons per class. There is no charge for class. To register for one of the classes, contact Janice Rebey at (219)836-6960 or via email jrebey@munster.org.

Narcan Public Awareness Training Classes
Wednesday, November 30th
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
or
Saturday, December 3rd
10:00 am - 11:00 am

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 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.	Nov. 7, 2022	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Nov. 10, 2022	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	Nov. 15, 2022	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	Nov. 15, 2022	6:45 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	Nov. 15, 2022	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Meeting	Nov. 17, 2022	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Nov. 21, 2022	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



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. The program runs the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.



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)666-7175
(219)757-1332
(708)606-7223
(219)226-8973
(219)595-5606
(219)836-6945



kschoon@munster.org
lmellon@munster.org
cgardiner@munster.org
tulo@munster.org
drkoul63@gmail.com
wmis@munster.in.gov

