



# NEWS YOU CAN USE



Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Edited by E. Payne

## Whats Going On

### **RENEW, RECONNECT AND RE-IMAGINE RIDGE ROAD**

The Town of Munster has been working towards improving Ridge Road for more than thirteen years. Town Council members, staff, and residents highlighted opportunities and desires to improve the corridor in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan. In 2019, the South Shore train extension was closer to becoming a reality, and the Town Council decided it was a good time to address what had been talked about for years. The Town hired a consultant to develop a plan to improve stormwater runoff, reduce neighborhood street flooding, improve walking and biking connectivity, and make the corridor more attractive and safer overall. It was a year-long process that included extensive community outreach activity that engaged both staff, businesses along the corridor, school administration, and residents for their input. On the basis of the resulting plan, the town was awarded a \$17 million federal grant to complete the Ridge Road project.

At the August 2023 meeting, the Town Council approved the design engineering work for the project. During this phase, additional feedback will be solicited from Fire and Police departments as well local hospitals and ambulance companies. The design team will analyze current and projected traffic volumes, traffic speed, potential spill over to neighboring streets, business and commercial impacts, emergency vehicle accessibility, and safety improvement strategies. We will also look for solutions for some long-term issues like the double stoplight at Harrison, the volume of curb cuts, and the abundance of unsightly utility poles. As NICTD has reduced lanes on Ridge Road during their construction, one might be tempted to think that this will be what it will be like when the Ridge Road project is complete.

This is not the case. The goal is to produce an outcome that all residents can be proud of and one that will improve the quality of life along the Ridge Road corridor. This may result in sections where Ridge Road has three, four, or even its current alignment of five lanes (especially at the intersections). The entire corridor is being studied and travel will be optimized. This is not the case with the need-based temporary construction closure we have been experiencing with NICTD.

A list of frequently asked questions is available at [munster.org](http://munster.org). If you have any additional questions, please email them to Town Council members or the Town Manager.

*Munster Town Council*



Many people hear the word grant, and they think Woo-hoo, free money! Well, it may seem free but there is a cost in time and often with matching funds.

Grants must be evaluated and matched to the needs and aspirations of our Town. Once the grant opportunity is identified, crafting the grant submission is a talent and requires careful wording as the applications are generally very specific. Once the grant is awarded then it must be implemented and monitored. Depending on the type of grant, funds need to be available to outlay if the grant is reimbursable and be available for any matching funds from the Town. Then there is regular reporting to the grant providers, showcasing milestones achieved, challenges faced, and outcomes attained. Finally, after all the details are worked out and the project is completed, we can sit back and enjoy the outcome.

As a municipality, the Town applies for a wide variety of grants that vary from the very large like the \$ 17 million grant for the Ridge Road project or a \$ 5,000 grant for the public art project on Ridge and State Line. In the last NYCU, the Community Crossing Matching Grant projects were mentioned. Applying for grants is an important financial tool for our Town.

If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me at (219)836-6945 or [wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov). Enjoy September.

*Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster*

# KENMARA PROJECT UPDATE

The proposed Kenmara development in Munster has recently secured two important approvals that will allow the developer to advance its plans for the 150-acre site, which includes approximately 80 acres in Indiana and 70 acres in Illinois.

The project involves the redevelopment of the former Lansing Country Club, which ceased operations in 2020, into a new campus set around the site's large lakes and open space. In addition to its beautiful setting, the site benefits from its location directly adjacent to the new NICTD commuter rail extension, which is expected to start providing service to Chicago's Millennium Station in 2025. The developer, Saxon Partners, is envisioning an attractive master-planned campus that builds on natural site features and incorporates linkages to the area's extensive trail systems including the Penny Greenway and the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

Although discussions with the Village of Lansing on the Illinois portion of the campus are still conceptual, a plan for the Indiana portion of Kenmara has been developed with the Town of Munster over the past few years. That plan depicts approximately 720,000 square feet of new space in Indiana surrounding a central lake and open space.

Recently, the Town of Munster approved the extension of Fisher Street onto the site and the State of Indiana has approved an economic development grant from the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) Program.

With these important approvals in place, the development planning process is being advanced to activate the site and commence marketing to prospective tenants. The initial work to extend access into the site from Indiana is expected to proceed by the end of the year.





The Munster Fire Department would like to announce their annual Fire Prevention Week and Open House. **Fire Prevention Week is October 8th through the 14th.** The theme for 2023 is **“Cooking Safety starts with YOU.”** During this week, firefighters visit the local schools to share the prevention week theme and fire safety awareness to the students.

On **Saturday, October 14th** the Fire Department will host their annual Open House. The event runs from **11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** and is held at **Fire Station #2, located at 550 Fisher St.** This is a free event and open to the public. We encourage all residents of Munster and surrounding communities to attend and bring their families & friends. The events of the day will include: a live fire demonstration, rides on an antique fire engine, live extrication demonstrations, fire safety house, informational displays, hands-on training with a fire hose, free literature, door prizes and concessions.

The live house fire demonstration is at 3:00 p.m. An actual 12' X 12' furnished room will be set on fire to show the rapid spread and the devastating effects that fire can have on a structure and its contents. The importance of leaving a building and not returning during a fire as well as getting out as fast and safely as possible will also be some important safety messages stressed during our demonstration.

The Munster Fire Department is currently seeking donations towards this year’s Fire Prevention Week and Open House. This annual event is funded solely through the generosity of local residents and businesses. **If you would like to donate, checks should be made payable to: THE TOWN OF MUNSTER and mailed to 550 Fisher Street Munster, IN 46321 ATTN: Deputy Chief David Strbjak.**

For more information on Open House, please contact the Munster Fire Prevention Division at (219)836-6960 or email [dstrbjak@munster.org](mailto:dstrbjak@munster.org) or [jrebey@munster.org](mailto:jrebey@munster.org).



**Fire Prevention Week was started by the National Fire Protection Association in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871!**



Munster Fire Department has been awarded a \$10,000.00 Newborn Safety Device Grant from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. This grant will be used to install a Safe Haven Baby Box at Station #2 located at 550 Fisher St. Project should be completed by June 30, 2024 or before. **Congratulations!!!**

# COMING SOON

## New Pro Shop and Cart Storage Buildings Coming Soon!



This past summer the Town of Munster Park Board awarded the construction of a new golf Pro Shop and Cart Storage building project to Hasse Construction Co. Inc. The project is scheduled to begin in August 2023 with full completion expected by fall 2024. The 2,280 square foot Pro Shop (building on the left in the rendering) will include a check-in area, retail store, concessions area, office, storage area, and washrooms.

A golf cart storage building (building on the right in the above rendering) will include 4,104 sq ft of storage space for the golf carts, ball picker cart, and beverage cart. That facility will also include a covered range overhang on the south side of the building (rendering below). Also included as a part of this project is an open-air shelter, south of the new pro shop, will provide an area for golfers to meet and outings to congregate. Additional renderings can be found on the Town’s website.



Park Board Meetings are open to the public and occur on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Main Meeting Room.



# September

- 9/1 Blueberry Festival
- 9/4 CIVIC CONCERT featuring Big Dog Mercer
- 9/5 Skateboarding: Leveling Up
- 9/5 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 9/5 Adult Beginner Tennis
- 9/6 Youth Tennis Lessons
- 9/6 Tennis-Adult Drill and Play
- 9/6 Spanish for Youth 5-7
- 9/6 Spanish for Youth 8-1
- 9/6 ZUMBA
- 9/7 Ballet/Tap/Tumble
- 9/7 Tiny Tots
- 9/8 Bitty Hip Hop
- 9/8 Mini Hip Hop
- 9/8 Movie in the Park featuring Super Mario Bros
- 9/9 Birding in Munster
- 9/9 Ceramics for Kids
- 9/9 Cash for Clutter
- 9/10 Monarch Festival w/Munster CIVIC Foundation
- 9/11 Ladies Golf Lessons
- 9/11 Men's Golf Lessons
- 9/11 CIVIC Concert featuring Together Band
- 9/11 Salsation
- 9/12 Drawing Class
- 9/12 Youth Golf Lessons
- 9/13 Four Winds Casino
- 9/13 Tiny Tykes Soccer
- 9/13 Crochet 101
- 9/14 Intro to Basket Weaving
- 9/14 Cardio Drumming
- 9/16 Bark in the Park
- 9/18 Sporties for Shorties
- 9/19 Super Strikers
- 9/25 Intro to Violin w/Heidi
- 9/27 Geneva, IL Shopping
- 9/27 CSRI Open Gym
- 9/27 Print Making 101



**Movie in the Park**  
 Friday, September 8th  
 Centennial Park  
 Begins at Dusk  
 Concessions will be available.



**Cash for Clutter**  
 Saturday, September 9th  
 Community Park - Pool Lot  
 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Stop by to purchase some treasures.  
 You never know what you might find!



**Cardio Drumming**  
 Thursdays  
 September 14th - October 19th  
 Wilbur Wright Middle School  
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
 Open to 8+ thru adult

Cardio Drumming is a high energy, low impact group fitness class that has you knocking out the stress and burning calories.

Fee: \$75/Resident \$85/Non-Resident



**Salsation!**  
 Mondays  
 September 11th - October 23rd  
 Wilbur Wright Middle School  
 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Salsation is a fun and addictive, dance workout that places a special emphasis on musicality, lyrical expression and functional training.

Open to 18+

Fee: \$55/Resident \$65/Non-Resident



**Bark in the Park**  
 Saturday, September 16th  
 Centennial Park  
 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Demonstrations, vendors, contests, animal care tips and various training methods will also be featured. Lure coursing is back for \$10/run.



**Monarch Festival**  
 Sunday, September 10th  
 Heritage Park  
 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

This past January, the Munster Town Council proclaimed that Munster is a Monarch City. Since a gathering of Monarch Butterflies are known as a kaleidoscope, The Munster Civic Foundation is planning a "kaleidoscope" of FREE activities Sunday, Sept. 10th from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm at Heritage Park. This will be a celebration of the migration of Monarch Butterflies that follow Lake Michigan south and travel directly through Munster on their way to their winter home in Mexico. The 2500-mile migration is a historic journey that our community partners are looking forward to sharing with you. Heritage Park is a new "in progress" Monarch Waystation.

Join us for hourly live butterfly releases, that will be tagged for ongoing research as well as music, dancing, plant giveaways, plant sales, sticker giveaways, kids crafts and booths centered on pollinators and plant knowledge, experts on bees and hummingbirds, exhibits, a land acknowledgement and more! Visit Munster Monarch City's Facebook page for more information.


**Munster  
 Parks & Recreation  
 219-836-PARK**



## MUNSTER CRIME WATCH MEETING

The Munster Police Department invites and encourages all residents and business representatives to participate in our next Munster Crime Watch Meeting on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road. This meeting will include recent crime statistics and incidents, a presentation on **ACTIVE SHOOTER AWARENESS & RESPONSE**, crime prevention information, and a **\$30 Target gift card as a door prize**. For more information, please contact Officer James Ghrist at (219)836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org).



Hydrant flushing will begin Monday, August 28 and continue from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm daily through September. Crews will be flushing all hydrants north of Ridge Road and those west of Calumet Avenue between Ridge Road and Fisher Street. During the process, there may be a temporary change in the color of your tap water.



- Household Hazardous Waste Collection**  
**Saturday, September 23, 2023**  
**Hammond Public Works**  
**601 Conkey St**  
**9:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
 (Shredding event will be available at this collection with a limit of 4 paper grocery bags per car).
- Homewood Disposal will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day).**  
**All service will be delayed one day for this week only.**
- 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.

### TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

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. Tune into WJOB 1230 AM Radio and listen to Community Programming Initiative, in which members of the Town Council and guests discuss issues in town. The program runs the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am.

Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	September 7, 2023	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	September 7, 2023	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	September 12, 2023	6:45 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	September 12, 2023	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	September 18, 2023	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	September 19, 2023	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	September 21, 2023	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	September 21, 2023	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



*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](mailto:kschoon@munster.org)

[lmellon@munster.org](mailto:lmellon@munster.org)

[cgardiner@munster.org](mailto:cgardiner@munster.org)

[tulo@munster.org](mailto:tulo@munster.org)

[drkoul63@gmail.com](mailto:drkoul63@gmail.com)

[wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov)

