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# NEWS YOU CAN USE

**JUNE 2026**

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## TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

I want to wish all the mothers in our community a happy belated Mother's Day. We appreciate the care, strength, and dedication that mothers bring to our families and community each day.

We are pleased to welcome Ms. Sam Nantz as our new Communications Director. Sam joins our team with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to improving communication between Town Hall and our residents. We are excited for the fresh perspective and energy she brings to this important role.

Another exciting event is coming up quickly for our community, the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bridges Over Ditches Project, scheduled for June 15, 2026 at 1:30 pm. This project represents an important investment in our town's infrastructure, improving accessibility, safety, and connectivity for residents. We invite everyone to join us as we celebrate.

As we head into the busy summer months, I also want to remind everyone that road safety starts with each of us, whether you are behind the wheel or riding an e bike, pedal bike, or scooter. Stay alert, obey posted speed limits, follow the traffic laws, and watch carefully. Safety begins with personal responsibility, patience, and respect for everyone sharing our streets.

Thank you for helping make our town a connected, safe, and welcoming community. I look forward to seeing many of you at the ribbon cutting ceremony as we celebrate another step forward for our town.

All the best

Joseph Hofferth, Town President

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Community Updates

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Save The Date: National Night Out

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Summer Utility Rates

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Water Meter Replacement Update

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Summer Events in Munster

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Public Art!

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**IMPORTANT REMINDER:  
TOWN HALL WILL BE  
CLOSED JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> IN  
OBSERVATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

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## National Night Out Donations Needed

If you would like to provide a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the Town of Munster (memo: NNO) and either mail or drop them off to the

Munster Police Department  
c/o Sergeant James Christ  
1001 Ridge Road  
Munster, IN 46321

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support this year!



## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTY CONTEST!

The Munster Police Department will be holding town-wide block parties on Saturday, August 1, 2026 (rain date the following day).

Neighborhood blocks and subdivisions are encouraged to organize block parties to promote unity amongst their neighbors. Munster Town Council has waived all associated fees for block parties for that day only.

Larger groups of Police Department representatives will visit parties throughout the afternoon and evening by appointment to select the winners of this year's Block Unity Awards. Winning parties will be

recognized at the National Night Out Celebration, where award signs will be presented and later displayed in their neighborhoods.

Parties MUST RSVP BY JULY 1ST by contacting Sergeant James Christ at (219) 836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org) with your contact person, location, contact number/email, requested visit time and time duration of your party. All parties must end by 10:00pm.

Thank you in advance for your participation this year!

## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Before lighting fireworks, remember these safety tips:

- Adults should handle fireworks; children must be supervised at all times.
  - Use fireworks outdoors only, away from buildings, vehicles, and dry grass.
  - Keep water or a fire extinguisher nearby.
  - Light one firework at a time.
  - Never relight a dud; wait, then soak it in water.
  - Never hold fireworks in your hand.
  - Soak used fireworks in water before throwing them away.
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## **From The Clerk-Treasurer**

As summer gets underway, there are a few seasonal reminders and utility updates residents should keep in mind regarding water meters, irrigation systems, and summer utility billing.

### *WATER METERS*

Over the next several months, residents may notice Town staff working throughout neighborhoods to replace aging water meters. The majority of water meters in service were installed approximately 20 years ago and many are now reaching the point where replacement is necessary.

If your meter is not transmitting readings properly, you may receive a pink door tag asking you to contact the Town to schedule a replacement appointment. The appointment is simple, free of charge, and generally takes only 15–20 minutes. Staff will need brief access inside the home, and the water will be shut off for a short period during the installation.

The new meters include newer technology and enhanced features that improve reliability and efficiency. Residents may notice the pink tag references Ordinance 1900 - a courtesy reminder that the Town does have the authority to require meter replacement if necessary. Our preference is always to work cooperatively with residents through voluntary scheduling before any penalties are charged. Please be aware that the Town does have the authority to charge up to twice the estimated water usage when a meter is not accessible or functioning properly, and those charges are non-refundable.

### *SPRINKLER SYSTEMS*

As sprinkler systems begin operating for the season, residents are also reminded that Indiana law requires annual testing of back flow prevention assemblies on irrigation systems. Homeowners with sprinkler systems should have received a notice from BSI, the Town's authorized testing agent. If you use a contractor to open your irrigation system each spring, the required testing is often included as part of that service, but it is always a good idea to confirm.

### *SUMMER RATES*

Residents may notice seasonal adjustments reflected on upcoming utility bills including "HSD Residential Flow" from the Hammond Sanitary District. During the summer months, activities such as lawn watering or filling swimming pools increase water usage. As a result, the sewer flow calculation method shifts to better reflect these changes in consumption. Residents with a dedicated sprinkler meter should note that water usage through that meter is not charged HSD flow fees.

Approximately 1,000 Munster homes have a secondary irrigation meter used primarily for in-ground sprinkler systems or lawn watering. These accounts are subject to a minimum charge during the billing months of July through November, regardless of actual usage. Water usage from the September 15 through October 15 period may be billed through November.

Questions? Contact Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer at (219) 836-6945 or [wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov).

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## Public Art

The next feature in our Munster Public Art series highlights a 2005 sculpture by artist Charlotte Lees. Known for her involvement in public art projects that help define and visually express the goals and identity of a community, Lees created a piece that reflects both family life and the character of our region.

The outdoor sculpture portrays a family floating in a park like setting surrounded by wavy lines representing Lake Michigan. Along the board of the piece are homes, buildings, and a steel mill, symbolizing the important relationship between industry, local neighborhoods, and the businesses that support the community. Together, these elements create a thoughtful representation of life in Northwest Indiana and the connections between people, place, and industry.

Constructed from steel alloy and aluminum, the sculpture combines durability with artistic detail and continues to serve as a meaningful piece of Munster's public art collection.

This location has also been

a strong supporter of public art throughout the years. In 2022, a tulip sculpture titled "Fun" by Jose Armando Arceo was installed at the site. In the fall of 2025, Northwest Indiana artist Casey King, an illustrator, designer, painter, muralist, sign maker, fabricator, and working artist, created a vivid wrap as part of the Beauty and the Box project, helping beautify Munster through colorful graphics on electric utility boxes.



*Residents are invited to see if they can identify where this sculpture is located in town and submit their guess to [ourmunsterart@munster.org](mailto:ourmunsterart@munster.org) for a chance to win.*

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## JUNE EVENTS!

Don't miss a beat with all our Centennial musical performances! The *Hello Summer Kick-Off* event (starting at 5:30PM) will start the summer of fun with a performance from the *Highland Community Band* and have local community groups you can peruse thru for more summer activities. *Mike & Joe* (modern rock cover band) will perform on June 16 and *Marrakesh Express* (Crosby, Stills, Nash + Young Tribute) on June 23. All bands play 6:30-8:30PM at Centennial Park. If you are a resident, make sure that your vehicle is registered online at [centennialparkvehiclereg.com](http://centennialparkvehiclereg.com) prior to enjoying the concerts, otherwise the fee is \$3/hour or \$6/day. Sponsored by: Munster Civic Foundation

*Summer Concert Series* will feature *The Ramos Band*— high energy + classic hits on Sunday, June 7. On June 21, *My 80s Band*— All your favorite 80's hits will be featured. Concerts will take place at Munster Town Hall from

6:30-8PM in special thanks to our sponsor: People's Bank. If inclement weather arises, please call our weather hotline at (219) 836-6927 to see if the concert is moved indoors to Southside Christian Church.

On June 15, Lilo + Stitch will be our featured *Movie in the Park*. Starting at dusk, enjoy your cinematic experience under the open sky w/ your family and friends. Concessions will be available. The movie will take place at Centennial Park at dusk (around 8:30PM).

*Region Eats* will be sure to have you salivating at the mouth. Take your pick of vendors! We're looking forward to the Serbian food, egg rolls, pineapple bowls and pierogies. The event will take place at Centennial Park on June 27 from 5-9PM w/ a beer garden and musical entertainment from TheunProfessionals.

Munster Pool is the place to be this summer! Open

Monday-Saturday from 11AM-6PM and Sundays, 1-6PM, you'll have your option of the zero-depth entry area, slides, kiddie area or diving board. Munster Residents: \$11. If you're looking to host birthday party (during the pool hours) or a private party (after hours), contact the Parks Office for more information, pricing and availability. Does your child need swim lessons? Sessions start June 1, June 6 or June 15 dependent on ability level.

### *Park & Recreation Events*

6/3: Expressive Paper Mache sculpture

6/6: Tricks, Tips + Hacks to Bargain Hunt on ChatGPT

6/18: Travel Show w/ Mayflower Tours + Cruises

6/23: Munster Pool Season Pass Holder Appreciation Party

6/24: Pint-Size Camp Registration deadline

*For more information or a full list of programs please contact Munster Parks & Rec at (219) 836-7275 or visit us online at [www.munster.org](http://www.munster.org).*

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

### Fireworks Regulations

Per Munster Ordinance 1834, consumer fireworks may be discharged within Town limits only on the following dates and times:

June 19: 10AM-12AM

June 29-July 3: 5PM-11PM

July 4: 10AM-12AM

July 5-July 9: 5PM-11PM

### E-Bike Regulations

E-bikes are regulated under Indiana Code 9-21-11-13.1. Operators should follow all traffic laws when riding. Those under 18 are required to wear a helmet at all times. Please ride safely, obey traffic regulations, and always watch for pedestrians.

### Save The Date

National Night Out Against Crime Celebration will be Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at the Munster Community Pool, located at 8837 Calumet Avenue in Munster, Indiana. The purpose of the National Night Out is to promote positive police and community partnerships.

## MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Council & Redevelopment	June 1	6:30PM
Site Plan Review	June 4	1:30PM
Board of Zoning Appeals	June 9	6:00PM
Plan Commission	June 9	7:00PM
Town Council & Redevelopment	June 15	6:30PM
Board of Safety	June 16	7:00AM
Park Board	June 16	5:00PM
Site Plan Review	June 18	1:30PM

*All meetings will take place at Town Hall (1005 Ridge Road) in the Main Meeting Room*



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*Term: 01/01/2024 - 12/31/2027*

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