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Munster Leaders and Public Works Department Recognized for August 11 Storm Response

Munster, IN — In recognition of their dedication to serving the community during the August 11, 2026, tornado and severe weather event, three Munster leaders were presented with the Circle of Corydon Award during the Munster Town Council meeting on September 21, 2026. Munster Police Chief Stephen Scheckel, Munster Fire Chief Mark Hajduk, and Munster Deputy Fire Chief David Strbjak received the award for their service and contributions to the safety and recovery of Munster residents and businesses.

Munster Public Works was also recognized during the meeting for its efforts following the August 11 storms. State Representative Mike Andrade presented a certificate of recognition to the entire Public Works Department in appreciation of the department's work supporting the community throughout the emergency response and ongoing recovery.

Following the August 11 storms, the Town immediately began emergency disaster response efforts. Police, fire, public works, and Town staff worked to protect residents and businesses from hazardous conditions, clear streets and debris, direct traffic, and coordinate the Town's overall response. Town departments also worked closely together to assess needs, develop response strategies, and keep critical operations moving. The effects of the disaster are still present in Munster, and the Town is currently in the recovery phase.

Chief Scheckel led the Police Department's response, Chief Hajduk oversaw Emergency Operations, and Deputy Chief Strbjak led the Fire Department's efforts. Together, the three leaders helped coordinate a response that continued around the clock for weeks as Munster worked to restore essential services, address hazards, and ensure the community was safe.
The Circle of Corydon Awards were presented by State Representative Mike Andrade during the September 21 Town Council meeting. Seven additional leaders from two other communities also received the Circle of Corydon Award.

“I am honored to present the Circle of Corydon to 11 people in our community who truly went above and beyond,” Andrade said. “Their partnership was absolutely critical to our recovery mission. I appreciate the governor agreeing to honor their efforts.

“To the recipients: You were there day after day as we worked to help our district and our neighbors begin to recover. These acts of kindness are what make a community strong. They remind us that when times are difficult, we don’t have to face things alone. We have neighbors who will show up, roll up their sleeves and stand beside us when we need them most.”

The Circle of Corydon Award is a State of Indiana honor established in 2017 to recognize Hoosiers who have made meaningful contributions to their communities through service, leadership and dedication. It is uniquely issued and signed jointly by Indiana's executive and legislative branches,

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with members of the General Assembly presenting the award on behalf of the Governor. The honor recognizes individuals whose service has helped better Indiana and reflects the qualities of outstanding civic and community leadership.

About the Town of Munster
The Town of Munster is a vibrant Northwest Indiana community of more than 23,000 residents located just 26 miles south of Chicago along the southern shores of Lake Michigan. Known for its top-ranked schools, thriving business community, outstanding healthcare, and extensive parks and recreational amenities, Munster offers the advantages of metropolitan accessibility while maintaining a strong sense of community. Home to attractions including Centennial Park and Center for Visual and Performing Arts, Munster continues to be one of Northwest Indiana's premier places to live, work, and play.

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