NEWS YOU CAN USE

NOVEMBER 2026

TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Residents,

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reminded of how proud I am to call Munster home and honored to serve this community. Our people, shared values, and commitment to working together are what make Munster such a special place.

On October 14, I had the privilege of representing Munster in the American Discovery Trail's America 250 Relay. Accepting the baton alongside my fellow Councilors and State Representative Andrade was a historic moment celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary. I was proud to see our community come together to honor our country's history.

Here at home, the Town Council and Board of Safety are working together to select Munster's next Police Chief as Chief Steven Scheckel prepares to retire in January 2027. We are grateful for Chief Scheckel's service and are committed to a thoughtful hiring process that identifies a leader who will continue to support our officers and strengthen public safety.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am thankful for our Town employees, first responders, educators, volunteers, and residents who make Munster a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. Our community is strongest when we work together, and I look forward to what we will accomplish in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and community pride. I wish you and your loved ones a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,
Joseph Hofferth
Town Council President

In this newsletter you can expect:

- Letter from Council President
- Storm Recovery Update
- Police Chief Hiring Process
- November Events

Town Hall Holiday Closures

Veteran's Day (11/11)
Thanksgiving (11/26-27)
Christmas Eve (12/24)
Christmas Day (12/25)
New Year's Eve (12/31)
New Years Day (1/1)

Want More Updates on Town Business? Sign up for our weekly emails!

Save The Date Light The Night

With a generous grant from the Munster Civic Foundation, Munster's Choice Community Council invites and encourages all Munster residents to this year's LIGHT THE NIGHT EVENT on Saturday, November 21st from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Munster Town Hall, located at 1005 Ridge Road. The event is being held on this date to kick-off the holiday season.

This year's event will begin with the arrival of Santa on a fire truck with a police escort and the activation of the lights. Santa will then be inside of the Town Hall for photos (please bring your own camera). In addition, there will be holiday music, our tree walk contest to vote on, booth participants with giveaways, games/ activities for kids, face painting, a photo booth, hot chocolate, and more.

There is a limited number of free booth spaces that are open ONLY to Munster-based businesses, civic organizations, faith-based groups, or school groups (no selling of items is permitted, only giveaways or playing games).

To reserve your space, please contact Sergeant James Ghrist at jghrist@munster.org by November 5th or until they are filled.
Please mark your calendars and make plans to participate in our Light the Night this year!

For more information, please call 219-836-6639.

Town Moves Forward with Police Chief Hiring Process

On October 19th, the Munster Town Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2173, setting the qualifications for the Chief of Police. The Board of Safety previously established qualifications through Resolution 2026-01, approved at its October 13, 2026 meeting.

This is a joint hiring effort between the Town Council and the Board of Safety, and both bodies will work together through each stage of the process.

Anticipated Timeline

- October 20, 2026: Internal job posting opens, inviting qualified candidates to apply.
- November 5, 2026: Joint Executive Sessions of the Board of Safety and Town Council to conduct interviews and discuss the preferred candidate.
- November 17, 2026: Regular Meeting of the Board of Safety, including appointment of the next Police Chief.
- December 7, 2026: Regular Meeting of the Town Council, including approval of the appointment.

Munster Police Chief Steven Scheckel will retire in January 2027, and the Town is now searching for the next leader of the Munster Police Department. We are grateful for Chief Scheckel’s service to our community and are committed to a thoughtful, transparent hiring process.

Residents can review both resolutions or watch the meeting at www.munster.org and viewing the Town Council meeting agenda packets.

From The Clerk-Treasurer

Thankful for Our Munster Community

As we enter November and the season of Thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on the many things I am grateful for. This year, that gratitude is connected to our experience during the August 11 storm.

The storm was unlike anything many of us had experienced. We lost power for days, trees were down throughout our neighborhoods, and like so many others, my family was trying to navigate life without electricity and with water coming into our basement.

What I will remember most is not the inconvenience of the storm, but the kindness of our neighbors, friends, and community.

Friends and neighbors helped us get our generator started, brought meals to our door, and generously shared power from a whole-house generator through an extension cord, helping reduce the impact of water in our basement. Friends even brought a chainsaw to help clear our backyard. These may seem like small things, but in the middle of a difficult situation, they mean so much.

And our experience was repeated throughout Munster. Neighbors checked on neighbors, shared supplies, helped clear debris, and made sure those who were alone or needed extra assistance were not forgotten.

That same spirit of stepping up carried into the Town's operations. Even as employees dealt with the storm's impact in their own lives, Town departments continued working together to serve residents and keep essential operations moving. In the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, we worked with our financial advisors to prepare our funded 2027 budget and continued processing payments to employees and vendors. Across the Town, our police, fire, public works, parks, utility and other staff worked alongside contractors and community partners to support residents and begin the recovery process.

Thank you to everyone who helped a neighbor, shared a meal, checked on a friend, offered a generator or extension cord, cleared a tree, volunteered, or simply asked how someone was doing. Those acts of kindness are what make a community strong and are one of the reasons we love living and working in Munster.

While recovery will take time, the generosity and teamwork we have seen since August 11 remind us of the strength of our community.

From our family to yours, thank you, Munster, for reminding us that we are better when we take care of one another. Wishing everyone a safe, happy and thankful Thanksgiving!

Wendy Mis
Clerk-Treasurer
wmis@munster.in.gov

Notice: Water bill late fees resume in November. For questions about your water bill please call the office of the Clerk-Treasurer at 219-836-6940.

Storm Recovery

In the weeks since the August storm, crews across Munster have worked to clear, assess, and restore the community, and much of the heavy lifting is now behind us. Thank you to every resident who stayed patient and helped along the way.

Bieker Woods took some of the hardest hits. After consulting with multiple arborists, the Town decided to remove damaged and fallen trees throughout the area, and the damage proved significant. The woods will remain closed for the rest of 2026, with a planned reopening in 2027. Once the removal work is complete, we expect to see substantial natural regrowth over the next two years. When Bieker Woods welcomes visitors again, trails will be clearly marked, and we ask everyone to stay on designated paths to protect new growth and keep the trails visible as the area recovers. Thank you for helping us protect Bieker Woods as it begins to heal.

Elsewhere in Town, the Munster Fire Department, Looks Great, and Munster Public Works teamed up to assess every street and sidewalk. Areas needing repair due to storm damage were marked, and we ask residents to leave those markings in place. Details on repairs will follow as that work moves ahead.

Crews have also begun removing stumps from Town-owned property, including many parkways. There is no need to report a stump or add your address to a list, since the Fire Department is working closely with our tree removal teams to identify every stump. Because stump removal requires separate crews and reporting from tree removal, we are unable to offer a schedule or estimated completion time. We appreciate your continued patience.

The final cleanup sweep began on October 4th, with crews moving street by street through Town. Each street was cleared and then marked by Munster Fire Department.

Our public parks are also moving forward. Stewart Park has been cleared, and crews are now clearing Beech Park. The Town will repair and restore our public parks, including the soccer fields.

We are also seeking long-term tree care and services, which will include stump removal. Any debris that remains in the parks should be treated as regular lawn debris or garbage.

If you would like to report damage caused by the storm, please email fire@munster.org with photos and the address or location of the damage. For questions about regular tree maintenance or the leaf vac, please call Munster Public Works.

Looking ahead, restoration of public spaces and parkways, including tree replacement planning, will be addressed in 2027, and the Town will repair all Town-owned property to standard. Please note that the Town will not reimburse property owners for landscaping or restoration work they complete on their own.

Munster's recovery is a community effort, and we are grateful for the care you have shown your neighbors and your town. For recovery resources visit www.munster.org and click on Storm Recovery.

NOVEMBER EVENTS!

Are you already thinking ahead to 2027 because you have a grad party, birthday party, bridal shower or family reunion to plan? We begin accepting Lion's Club Social Center and park shelter rentals on Monday, November 2 at 8:30AM at the Park Office. Please note: some dates are already blocked out for Park programs and events. 2026 rates remain in tact! Questions about pricing – contact the Park office at (219) 836-7275. Interested to set up a Social Center facility tour to view before reserving, email jhiggins@munster.org.

Mother/Son Dance is back and will be a glowing one! Share neon night w/ your favorite guy with music, dancing, food, photos, games and a raffle. The event will take place Saturday, November 21 from 6-9PM at Wilbur Wright Middle School. Registration Deadline: 11/4 so don't delay! Residents: $28/person, Non-Residents: $33/person. Questions about the event? Contact Mara at mdicarlo@munster.org.

When planning your Black Friday shopping list, don't count out the Holiday Arts + Crafts fair (the following weekend) for those special, personalized items or maybe just something for yourself! This event will take place at Munster High School on Saturday, December 5 from 9AM-4PM and Sunday, December 6 from 9AM-2PM. Shoppers can use entrances A, J, K or Q. At this time, the event is full w/ vendors, but if you wish to be placed on a waitlist or the 2027 email list, share your information with jhiggins@munster.org.

Interested in a new career path? We offer online medical classes, such as: Phlebotomy Tech, Medical Biling and Coding, EKG Tech, Clinical Medical Assistant and more. Students have 6 months from date of registration to complete the program and payment plans are available. For more information: www.healthedtoday.com/munster or jhiggins@munster.org.

Additional Programs
11/2 - ACCEPTING 2027 RENTALS
11/2 - Sprinkle the Season – Cupcakes
11/2 - 14 AI Tools for the Small Business Owner – ZOOM class
11/2 - Jumpstart Hoops
11/2 - Children's Book Publishing – ZOOM class
11/4 - Annie at Drury Lane
11/4 - Rookie Rundown
11/4 - Mother/Son Dance Registration DEADLINE
11/4 - Babysitting Class DEADLINE
11/5 - A Christmas Carol at Paramount Theatre Registration DEADLINE
11/5 - Keen-Ager Holiday Party Registration DEADLINE
11/7 - Emotional Intelligence for Small Business Owners – ZOOM class
11/9 - CPR Certification
11/10 - How to use ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence
11/12 - The Collective Canvas – A warm cup of coffee w/ good friends
11/13 - Nellie Bly Lunch + Show
11/14 - Babysitting Lessons + Safety Training
11/15 - Author Retreat – ZOOM class
11/21 - Mother/Son Dance

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.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Northwest Munster Sidewalk Improvement Project

The Town is making sidewalk improvements in the northwest section of Munster to help keep sidewalks safe, accessible and in good condition for residents. This work is part of the Town's ongoing efforts to maintain pedestrian infrastructure and improve walkability throughout the community. Residents in the area may experience temporary construction activity as work progresses. Visit munster.org for project updates and additional information.

OPEN HOUSE
Munster Town Hall
November 19th
5-7PM

Let's collaborate on a new neighborhood playground for Community Estates Subdivision! Meet our playground representatives and review potential playground options and share ideas!

MEETING SCHEDULE

Town Council & Redevelopment	Nov. 2	6:30PM
Site Plan Review	Nov. 5	1:30PM
Board of Zoning Appeals	Nov. 10	6:00PM
Plan Commission	Nov. 10	7:00PM
Town Council & Redevelopment	Nov. 16	6:30PM
Park Board	Nov. 17	5:00PM
Board of Safety	Nov. 17	7:00AM
Site Plan Review	Nov. 19	1:30PM

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

George Shinkan	Ward #1	(219) 718-4481	gshinkan@munster.org
Joseph Hofferth	Ward #2	(219) 689-2225	jhofferth@munster.org
Vacant	Ward #3		
David Nellans	Ward #4	(219) 680-6364	dnellans@munster.org
Jonathan Petersen	Ward #5	(219) 803-4550	jpetersen@munster.org
Wendy Mis	Clerk-Treasurer	(219) 836-6945	wmis@munster.in.gov

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