



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

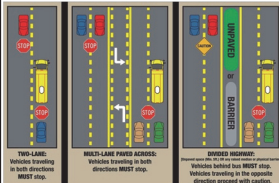
NOVEMBER 2024

Edited by: D.Z.

## *A Message from your Council President.*

### School Bus Safety

Although school has been in session for a few months, there are still people who are unaware of the rules about driving around school buses. Our children travel to school by walking, riding bikes, being driven to school or riding on school buses. As a community, we are responsible for protecting our most precious commodity, children. During 2024, there have been 23 bus driver reports of cars passing around stopped buses with their signals and lights activated. Bus drivers reported these issues but the public can also get involved by calling 911 and reporting this.



**IT IS ILLEGAL** to pass a stopped school bus, whose signals have been activated. The only exception to this is if there is a median barrier between opposing traffic.

Vehicles **MUST** stop when in the presence of a bus that has its red lights, stop signs and arm engaged! This also includes a 4-way intersection even if there are no stop signs. But especially important when the bus is actively loading and unloading children! Drivers who violate the rules can be fined up to \$10,000 and have their license suspended anywhere from 90 to 365 days. If someone is injured, you can be charged with a felony.

All school buses must stop and open their doors at railroad crossings to look and listen for active trains. Even though all of the crossings in Munster are gated, this is a federal law that was enacted in 1938. You may pass the bus at this time since they will only be flashing their yellow lights. School buses are the most regulated vehicles on the road.



Many infractions occur because of distracted drivers. Some of these directions include: using your cell phone, changing the radio station, eating food and carrying unruly passengers. You are operating a multi-ton vehicle and your focus should be on the road and **SCHOOL BUSES**.

**ALWAYS** respect the posted speed limit and be aware of your surroundings and other vehicles, especially when children are present!

*David B. Nellans, Town Council President*

## *From the Clerk-Treasurer, Wendy Mis*

As I began to compose this month's article a common thread shone through, if you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact me at (219) 836 – 6945 or email me at [wmis@munster.in.gov](mailto:wmis@munster.in.gov).

### STREETLIGHTS

As the days get shorter and darkness falls earlier, it becomes easier to notice if a streetlight has burned out. If you spot one that's not working, please report it. If the light is on a metal pole, it likely belongs to NIPSCO, and you can report the outage directly through their website: NIPSCO Street Light Outage. For all other streetlights, please contact Public Works at 219-836-6970; please leave a message if you call after hours.



### BRIGHT LIGHT

Our Town Hall is lit up with activity especially during this season. Early voting is currently underway, and the building is buzzing with activity. In addition to voting, Town Hall hosts Council and Board meetings throughout the month and the meeting schedule is shared on the back page of this newsletter. Various local organizations also use the space for meetings, making it a lively community hub.

In light of the severe storms that impacted the southeast recently, I want to remind you that Munster Town Hall is equipped with a large generator. Purchased several years ago, this generator ensures that our main building can serve as an emergency or crisis center if the need ever arises. Our police, fire, and other essential services must maintain power during emergencies, and as part of our emergency preparedness, other departments also play important roles.

### LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL

It has been a long construction season for many in Munster this year. As I write this, the plan is to have all our road construction projects completed before the end of November or at the beginning of December. We knew we were ambitious with our plans for 2024 and we planned to accomplish some major projects on Fran-Lin, Camilla, White Oak, Chestnut, Azalea, Highland, and Meadow Lane and a couple of design changes, water main sampling, and missing parts among other things held up some of the projects. We are working on completing our 2025 project list and we will share when it is completed.

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



- 11/1 Begin accepting 2025 rentals
- 11/1 Reg. Deadline for Frozen Lunch/Show at Paramount Theatre
- 11/1 Mayflower Tours and Cruises Travel Show
- 11/4 My Lovely Guardian
- 11/5 Drawing Action Figures at South Shore Arts
- 11/5 Reg. Deadline for Great American Dog Show
- 11/6 Rookie Rundown
- 11/7 Tiny Punters
- 11/7 Wado-Ki Karate (Beginners/Advanced)
- 11/8 Reg. Deadline for Keen-Ager Holiday Party
- 11/8 Coffee and Canvas – Painting: Fall Floral
- 11/8 Reg. Deadline for CPR Certification
- 11/11 Park Office CLOSED**
- 11/11 Jumpstart Hoops
- 11/15 Vito’s Vault Lunch/Show
- 11/18 Magic Class w/ The Magic of Keelan Wendorf
- 11/18 CPR Certification
- 11/21 Hardy’s Reindeer Ranch
- 11/22 Friday Movie Moments for Keen-Agers – Planes, Tains and Automobiles
- 11/22 Reg. Deadline for Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
- 11/22 Great American Dog Show
- 11/23 Medication Safety at Home
- 11/26 Koolaid and Kanvas – Painting: Turkey
- 11/27 Reg. Deadline for Chicago Bakery Bus Tour
- 11/28 Parks Office CLOSED**
- 11/29 Parks Office CLOSED**

**Munster Town Hall will be closed for the following holidays:**



- Monday, November 11, 2024 Veteran’s Day
- Thursday, November 28, 2024 Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 29, 2024 Day After Thanksgiving

**Planning an Event?**

On Friday, November 1, we begin **accepting 2025 Social Center, Wedding, and Shelter Rentals** in person at the Parks Office. All payments must be made in full at time of reservation. Should you wish to set up a Social Center tour prior to reserving, please call (219) 836-7275 for availability.



A lot of awesome trips are coming up!

**REGISTER NOW**

Be sure not to miss the **registration deadlines:** Frozen Lunch/Show at Paramount Theatre (11/1), Great American Dog Show (11/5) and Chicago Bakery Bus Tour (11/27).

We are still seeking vendors for the **Holiday Arts/Crafts Fair** at Munster High School on December 7th/8th.

If you handmake your product, you might be the perfect fit, apply to our jury – inquire at [jhiggins@munster.org](mailto:jhiggins@munster.org). Vendors are required to exhibit both Saturday (9AM-4PM) and Sunday (9AM-2PM). Limited spaces remaining.

**Magic Class w/ Keelan Wendorf** will wow your child into the magic world!

Class runs Mondays: 11/18-12/9 from 5-6PM at the Town Hall. Class is open to 7-12 year old's.

The best way to show someone they are appreciated is to bring them to:

**‘My Lovely Guardian’. Class takes place Monday, 11/4 from 5-6:30PM at the Social Center for \$15/person.**

**Medication Safety** at Home, by Pharmacist Sparkle Box, will share common medication errors and ways to avoid and minimum the risks.

Class will take place on Saturday, 11/23 from 12-2PM at the Town Hall.

**Need to Recycle Your Electronics?**

Lake County, IN residents can recycle their electronics for **FREE** at the following locations. These locations listed below are strictly for electronics from a home as these are small centers and are **NOT** open to any business, schools, or organizations.

**Munster Public Works**  
**508 Fisher St.**  
**Munster, IN**  
**219-836-6971**

## 2024 FALL LEAF COLLECTION

### LEAF COLLECTION PICK UP

WILL BE ONCE EVERY 2 WEEKS

The Town of Munster 2024 Fall Leaf Collection has begun and will continue through December, **weather permitting**. Leaves will be picked up between the hours of 7 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday. The Street Department crews will begin each day where they left off the previous day. **PICK UP WILL BE APPROXIMATELY ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS.**



State Law prohibits disposal of leaves into landfills. Therefore, **leaves in bags will not be picked up by the town or Homewood Disposal Service.**

Collection begins each morning promptly at 7 am, please have your leaves ready for collection prior to that time. Due to the large area which must be covered each day, we will not be able to back-track into areas which have already been collected. The Town's leaf pickup route will be traveled approximately once every 2 weeks, **weather permitting**. The following tips will help us continue to provide quality service:

1. Place your leaves in a continuous long pile called a "WIND ROW". We will be using a leaf vacuum to collect your leaves.
2. If your street has curbs, place your leaves right behind the curb on the parkway grass. **Please do not place leaves in the street.** If it rains, these leaves could cover the street drains and cause unnecessary flooding.
3. If your street does not have curbs, place your leaves on the edge of the street pavement.
4. Please refrain from parking on the streets adjacent to piles of leaves between the hours of 7 am to 2:30 pm.
5. Do not place leaves around trees, sign posts, light or telephone poles.
6. Do not place sticks, bricks, stones, grass or other materials in piles of leaves. High velocity equipment is used during our removal efforts and these items can do damage to equipment or more importantly, may injure an employee or bystander.

**IMPORTANT:** Leaves will not be picked up in bags. Please rake leaves to parkway. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the Public Works Department at 836-6970 or 836-6971.

Change your clock,



CHANGE your batteries

**\*\*Daylight Savings Time Ends\*\***

**Sunday, November 3, 2024**

**Don't forget to Fall Back one hour!**

\*\*\*

## HOLIDAY SEASON SAFETY TIPS FROM THE MUNSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Munster Police Department encourages residents to follow these important safety tips throughout this holiday season:



- Shop with a friend and look out for each other while doing so.
- Keep purses slung in front of you and zipped up while shopping. Never place them in a cart. Men should keep their wallets in their front pockets to prevent pickpocket thefts.
- Don't carry unnecessary credit cards or cash.
- Keep purchased items in your trunk and out of plain view if you are going to multiple stores.
- If you don't feel comfortable walking out to your car, call dispatch at 911 and request an officer to stand by. You can also ask someone from the business to call for you. Officers will stand by in the parking lot if one is available to do so.
- Beware of donation scams. Never provide personal or bank information over the phone to people you don't know. Only donate to charities directly that you know and trust.
- Do not allow unknown individuals to shovel snow. Only hire trusted individuals who are licensed to do work through the town. Scammers will often target senior citizens by quoting a low price and then demanding much more money when they are finished working, if they finish job at all. It also allows them a chance to push their way into your home.
- That being said, keep screen doors closed and locked, and never allow unknown individuals into your home who say that they are utility workers as this is a common type of scam. Call 911 to report any suspicious activity.
- Keep your home well-lit at all times with dusk to dawn, motion-detecting, and timed lighting and notify the police department and trusted neighbors if you are leaving town.

## 2024 Snow Removal

### PLOWING:

The Town Public Works Department starts plowing when there is an inch of snow on the road, beginning with Main Streets, Hospital Areas, School Areas, Secondary Streets and Hilly streets. These high priority areas get plowed first (ahead of Residential streets, cul-de-sacs and alleys) and are salted down to bare pavement until the snow has stopped. Alleys are plowed last and only after a minimum 4" snowfall.



### MAILBOXES:

Residents are reminded to kindly inspect their mailbox prior to the winter to insure that it is in sound structural shape. Rarely does a snowplow hit a mailbox, but often snow thrown from a plow truck hits mailboxes, which can sometimes cause damage to a mailbox especially if it is loose or has a rotted post. It has been our practice to replace damaged mailboxes if caused by a Town snow plow but only if the mailbox was in prior good condition. It is the resident's responsibility to insure that their mailbox is solid enough to withstand being hit by the often wet heavy snow thrown from a plow truck. If a damaged mailbox is determined to be from a weakened or deteriorated condition, the Town is relieved of any responsibility to repair it if snow operations cause further damage.





**LIGHT THE NIGHT**

**Thursday, December 5, 2024**

**From: 5-7pm at Munster Town Hall**

Looking ahead to December, the Munster Civic Foundation, Munster Chamber of Commerce, and Parks and Recreation will be hosting our Fourth Annual Light the Night celebration. Join us for an evening filled with lights, caroling, fun activities, and of course, Santa himself! Santa will be flipping the switch at 5 PM to light up Town Hall and officially kick off the holiday season. Be sure to visit the vendor booths, food trucks, and explore the attractions. This event brings our community together, and we hope you can join in the festivities. If you can't make it on December 5th, take some time during the holiday season to drive by Town Hall and enjoy the holiday lights, courtesy of the Munster Civic Foundation.



**HOMEWOOD DISPOSAL GARBAGE COLLECTION**

**We're open on the these 2024 holidays**

- ◆ **November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day**  
We are open. Service will be on schedule this week

**We're closed on the these 2024 holidays**

- ◆ **Thanksgiving Day – November 28, 2024**  
We will be closed Thursday, November 28, 2024. Monday-Wednesday service will be on schedule. Thursday and Friday residential service will be delayed one day for this week only.
- ◆ **Christmas Day – December 25, 2024**  
We will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, 2024. Monday and Tuesday service will be on schedule. Wednesday – Friday residential service will be delayed one day for this week.



**TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS NOVEMBER 2024**

Notes: The schedule below is subject to change. Please contact Munster Town Hall (MTH) 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 Munster 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 and Redevelopment Commission Meeting Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5078755757?pwd=dTZKK3FGeHB0U0oxYzJjSTh1WkdpUT09&omn=89734726133>

**Meeting ID: 507 875 5757**

**Passcode: 126807**

Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Nov. 7, 2024	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Nov. 7, 2024	1:30pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	Nov. 12, 2024	6:45 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	Nov. 12, 2024	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Nov. 18, 2024	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	Nov. 19, 2024	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Nov. 21, 2024	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



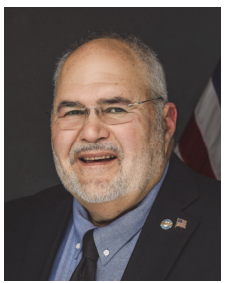
George Shinkan



Joseph Hofferth



Chuck Gardiner



David Nellans



Jonathan Petersen



Wendy Mis

Ward #1

(219)718-4481

gshinkan@munster.org

Ward #2

(219)689-2225

jhofferth@munster.org

Ward #3

(708)606-7223

cgardiner@munster.org

Ward #4

(219)680-6364

dnellans@munster.org

Ward #5

(219)803-4550

jpetersen@munster.org

Clerk-Treasurer

(219)836-6945

wmis@munster.in.gov