



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

DECEMBER 2024

Edited by: D.Z.

From the Clerk-Treasurer: December

As we enter the final month of the year, the Town of Munster is abuzz with holiday cheer and a host of activities designed to engage residents of all ages. December is a time for celebration, reflection, and connection, and we are delighted to share key updates, events, and seasonal reminders to help you make the most of this special time.

1. Holiday Events and Festivities Join us in celebrating the holiday season with a series of exciting events:

- **Light the Night:** Kick off the holiday season with Munster's Town Hall tree light lighting, set to take place on December 5th at 5:00 p.m. Join Santa, special characters, local vendors, and even a live reindeer for an event for the whole family will enjoy!



Holiday Craft Fair: Looking for unique gifts? Don't miss the Munster Parks craft fair on December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and December 8th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Munster High School. Support local artisans and find handmade treasures for your loved ones.

2. Seasonal Safety Tips Winter brings its share of challenges, so here are a few reminders to stay safe and comfortable:

- **Snow Removal Ordinance:** Please remember that sidewalks must be cleared within 24 hours after a snowfall to ensure safe passage for pedestrians. The town will monitor compliance.
- **Home Heating Precautions:** Ensure your furnace is in good working order and avoid using space heaters unsupervised. Proper ventilation is crucial for safety.



Holiday Lighting Safety: Double-check that outdoor lights are labeled for exterior use and avoid overloading circuits. Turn off holiday lights before bed or when leaving the house.

3. Important Announcements

- **Holiday Office Hours:** Town Hall and other municipal buildings will be closed on December 24th and December 25th for Christmas and December 31st and January 1st for New Year's. Regular hours resume the following weekdays.



Winter Waste Collection Schedule: Due to the holidays, garbage collection will be delayed by one day, the weeks of December 25th and January 1st.

4. Looking Ahead As we bid farewell to 2024, we want to remind residents that January marks the start of a new year for Munster.

Community participation is encouraged, so keep an eye on the town's website for the meeting schedule and agenda. Your input is appreciated, and you may reach out to the Town Council or myself at (219) 836-6945 or wmis@munster.in.gov.



From all of us here in the Town of Munster, we wish you a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and peace. Thank you for being a part of what makes our community thrive, and we look forward to ringing in the new year together!

Wendy Mis, Clerk Treasurer, Town of Munster

2024 in Review

The year end is fast approaching, and it was a very busy year for the council. This council started in January with a long list of action items that needed our attention.



One of the first items we addressed was why we were not able to attract and hire experienced police officers. After some research, we decided to adjust the hourly rate and allow for the officers to have take home vehicles. We found that we were one of three police departments in our area that didn't do this. Currently, seven out of nine police departments arrange for take home vehicles which allows for faster response time. These officers train for different activities such as; active shooters in our community, shoplifting and dealing with traffic stops.



The council has also worked with the citizens to control speeders, especially on the side streets. We have added extra police patrols, speed bumps and raised crosswalks. This was mostly done to protect walkers and bicycle riders.



The Town Council and the Park Board have worked closely together and have come to the conclusion that Centennial Park Clubhouse needs to be torn down. The council took an in depth look at the building and came to the decision that the building is not safe to occupy. In its place, there will be an activity pad and possibly a shelter.

The council has been working hard to move the Ridge Road beautification design project ahead. A new traffic study was done for traffic control and traffic use, which showed the number of vehicles is higher on both Calumet and Ridge. We will continue to use these numbers as we improve traffic flow and the safety of our citizens.



The Town Council would like to wish all our residents the happiest of holidays & look forward to serving you in 2025.

David B. Nellans, Town Council President

December

- 12/4 Frozen Lunch/Show at Paramount Theatre
- 12/5 Exfoliating Scrubs – Crafting your own Skincare Essentials Workshop
- 12/5 Light the Night
- 12/6 Hedda Hopper Lunch/Show
- 12/7 Babysitting Lessons and Safety Training
- 12/7 Medication Safety for Parents and Child Caregivers
- 12/7 Holiday Arts/Crafts Fair
- 12/8 Holiday Arts/Crafts Fair
- 12/11 Keen-Ager Holiday Party (**Parks Office will be closed 11AM-2PM**)
- 12/13 Coffee and Canvas – Painting: Christmas Tree
- 12/13 Chicago Bakery Bus Tour
- 12/16 Munster Parks Toy Factory
- 12/17 Koolaid and Kanvas – Painting: Snowman
- 12/19 Home for the Holidays BINGO for Keen-Agers
- 12/20 Friday Movie Moments for Keen-Agers – Miracle on 34th Street
- 12/23 Winter/Spring Recreation Guide to hit mailboxes this week
- 12/24 **Parks Office CLOSED**
- 12/25 **Parks Office CLOSED**
- 12/31 **Parks Office CLOSED**

Keen-Ager 2025 Memberships

We will begin accepting 2025 on December 2. Can't make it into the office?

We'll also be collecting at the Holiday Party and daily activities.



Looking to purchase the ultimate gift this holiday season? What's better than a **gift certificate** from us – can be used for programming or Munster Pool season passes.

Holiday Arts/Crafts Fair December 7/8 at Munster High School.

**Saturday is 9AM-4PM,
Sunday is 9AM-2PM.**



Shoppers can use entrances: **A, J, K or Q.**



Hedda Hopper will be onsite

Friday, 12/6 at 11:30AM.

After a lunch, she will put on a one-woman musical about herself. Storyteller: Jillann Gabriel



Medication Safety for Parents & Child Caregivers:

Saturday, 12/7 from 11AM-12PM at the Town Hall.

Every 8 minutes, a child experiences a home medication error. Let's be

vigilant about keeping the little ones safe!

Be on the lookout for the **2025 Winter/Spring Recreation Guide.** It will be in mailboxes the week of Christmas.



🎄 Get Ready for the Fourth Annual Munster Tree Lighting Ceremony! 🎄

Mark your calendars, Munster team! On Thursday, December 5th, from 5 pm to 7 pm, we're kicking off the holiday season in style with our Town's favorite tradition—the Fourth Annual Munster Tree Lighting Ceremony!

Our own Fire Department will escort Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will do the honors of flipping the switch (designed by Munster's very own Jim Malikowski!) to light up the Town Hall grounds. Huge thanks to our Public Works Department for putting in countless hours to hang festive lights and arrange displays that will dazzle and delight—this is your chance to see their handiwork in all its glory!

But that's not all! Munster Parks and Recreation, known as the “fun” department for a reason, is setting up a Treat Walk, a bouncy inflatable for the kids, and bringing in some favorite food trucks for tasty treats available for purchase.

The Munster Chamber of Commerce is also joining in with vendor tables featuring unique holiday products, perfect for finding those one-of-a-kind gifts. Warm up with hot chocolate provided by the Salvation Army, and meet a live reindeer, some special characters, and the Jingle Tones strolling carolers for that classic small-town holiday vibe. Don't forget to stop by Town Hall for a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

We'd love to see all our Town employees come out with their families to enjoy the festivities. Let's make this an unforgettable night to kick off the holiday season together at Town Hall.



Don't forget to register your pet to receive your 2025 Pet License. For any questions, please contact our Clerk Treasurer's Office at 219-836-6900



2025 PET LICENSE



Please fill in the following form and return it with a **COPY** of your pet's current **CERTIFICATE OF VACCINATION & RABIES TAG NUMBER** and \$10.00 payable to the **Town of Munster**, 1005 Ridge Road. We will return your pet tag and certificate by mail.

Owner Last Name _____ **Owner First Name** _____
Address _____ **Phone** _____
Pet's Name _____ **Age** _____ **Sex: Male** ___ **Female** ___
Neutered/Spayed Yes ___ No ___ **Color** _____ **Dog** ___ **Cat** ___
Breed _____ **Clinic** _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Rabies Tag # & Exp Date: _____

Rabies Certif. Verification _____ Receipt # _____ Town Tag # _____

REMOVING SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS

It is especially important for residents to remember the Town of Munster's ordinance in regard to removing snow and ice from sidewalks. If you leave snow along your sidewalks, it could prevent students and other pedestrians from being able to get through and could lead to them having to walk in the street. For everyone's safety, please follow this ordinance:



The owner and/or occupant of any dwelling, building or subdivided lot or property shall keep the sidewalks in front thereof clean at all times of the year. Within 24 hours after any fall of snow or formation of ice, such snow or ice shall be removed from the sidewalks.



It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, push or deposit in any manner snow, slush or ice onto any street or sidewalk in such a manner as to impede the safe progress and movement of vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

Persons who violate this subsection are responsible for the costs incurred by the town to remove the impediment to safe progress and movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.



Updates from your Munster Public Works

Branch Collection has ended the chipper truck will return in the Spring.



HOLIDAY SCHEDULING FOR TRASH COLLECTION

Homewood Disposal Service has advised because the Christmas and New Year's holiday is on Wednesday, December 25th and Wednesday, January 1st there will be a delay of service. Garbage will be delayed 1 day for both of these weeks.



Christmas trees will be picked up by the Public Works Department starting Thursday, December 26, 2024, and ending Wednesday January 31, 2024, **weather permitting**. Please make sure all decorations are off the tree.

Town Hall will be closed the following dates:

- * Wednesday, December 18th 11:30 am to 1:30 pm (Holiday Employee Luncheon)
- * Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
- * Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day
- * Tuesday, December 31 – New Year's Eve
- * Wednesday, January 1, 2025



The Munster Fire Department is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the "Toys for Tots Program".

The drop box is located at **Station 2, 550 Fisher St.** Items can be dropped off Monday - Friday, 8:00- 4:00. Toys will be collected until December 6th.



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HOLIDAY SCHEDULING INFORMATION

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TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS DECEMBER 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=dTZKK3FGeHB0UUoxYzJjSTh1WkdpUT09&omn=89734726133>

Meeting ID: 507 875 5757

Passcode: 126807

Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Dec. 2, 2024	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	Dec. 3, 2024	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Dec. 5, 2024	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	Dec. 10, 2024	6:45 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	Dec. 10, 2024	7:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	Dec. 16, 2024	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	Dec. 17, 2024	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	Dec. 19, 2024	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



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