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Town of Munster, 1005 Ridge Road

FEBRUARY 2025

Edited by: D.Z.

A Message from Your Clerk-Treasurer ~

Celebrating 100 Years of Community Dedication

The year 2025 marks a momentous occasion for the Town of Munster as we celebrate the centennial anniversaries of two pillars of our community: the Munster Fire Department and the Munster Chamber of Commerce.



Munster Fire Department: 100 Years of Heroic Service



Established in 1925, the Munster Fire Department has stood as a beacon of safety and protection for our residents. Over the past century, the department has evolved from a small group of dedicated volunteers to a modern force equipped to handle the complex demands of public safety.

Throughout its history, the department has responded to countless emergencies, safeguarded property, and educated the community on fire prevention. Milestones like the addition of advanced firefighting equipment, training programs, and community outreach initiatives have cemented the Fire Department's role as a trusted protector of Munster.

As we celebrate 100 years of their heroic service, we thank the firefighters, both past and present, who have shown unwavering courage and commitment to keeping our town safe.

Munster Chamber of Commerce: 100 Years of Supporting Local Business

Since its founding in 1925, the Munster Chamber of Commerce has been a cornerstone of economic vitality. For a century, the Chamber has championed local businesses, fostered entrepreneurship, and strengthened connections between organizations and the community. The Chamber is a driving force in making Munster a thriving place to live and work.



This milestone offers us a chance to reflect on how our businesses, both past and present, have shaped the character of Munster. As we honor the Chamber's dedication, let us also support its ongoing mission to ensure our local economy remains robust for generations to come.

Join the Celebration

Throughout 2025, we'll honor these centennial milestones with special events and commemorative activities. Be on the lookout for announcements in future newsletters, the Town's website, and social media and join us in showing our appreciation for the Munster Chamber of Commerce & the Munster Fire Department.



The Munster Chamber of Commerce will be offering celebratory light pole banners. Contact them at (219) 836-5549 for additional information.

As always, contact me if you have questions or concerns at (219) 836-6945 or via email at wmis@munster.in.gov. I enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely, Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer

From The Town Council ~

I want to take this time to thank our residents who serve on the Boards and Commissions. The Town of Munster's Boards and Commissions are a platform for residents to participate in governance and decision-making processes that affect our town. They play a crucial role in developing and recommending policies, regulations, and ordinances that govern various aspects of community life, such as land use, environmental protection, public safety, and more. By engaging residents in civic activities and decision-making, boards and commissions help build a sense of community and promote active citizenship. Overall, these bodies serve to enrich democratic processes at the local level and ensure that the interests and concerns of residents are adequately addressed in municipal affairs. This year, we, as a council, reinstated Michael Hawkins to the Hammond Sanitary District and Dr. Robert Dershewitz to the Board of Safety, while adding two new members: Jose Gutierrez to the Park Board and Stephen Glombicki to the Board of Safety. Any resident interested in applying for the Boards and Commissions can go to the Munster Clerk - Treasurer's Office and ask for an application or visit www.munster.org. Boards and Commissions are voted on at the end of the year, depending on open positions.



I want to end this letter by thanking our Public Works employees for keeping Munster's streets plowed and drivable. They are an important part of our town, so please thank them if you see them working throughout.

Warm regards,

George Shinkan, Town Council President

FEBRUARY

- 2/1 Wintertime Bird Feeding
- 2/4 Exploring Spanish
- 2/7 Family ValenTIMES Bingo - DEADLINE
- 2/8 Home Alone Training
- 2/8 Daddy Daughter Date Night
- 2/11 AARP SCSEP Seminar
- 2/11 Munchkin Masterpieces – Heart Painting
- 2/12 Family ValenTIMES Bingo
- 2/12 Carole King Musical Lunch & Show DEADLINE
- 2/14 Soda Pops and Paint Strokes – Flowers
- 2/17 Tour Thrift DEADLINE
- 2/21 Bookmarks and Book Swaps
- 2/21 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE: Summer Recreation Intern
- 2/25 TechTeamNWI Robotics Discovery DEADLINE
- 2/26 Tour Thrift
- 2/27 Collette Travel Show
- 2/28 CPR Certification DEADLINE
- 2/28 Spring Soccer Early-Bird DEADLINE
- 2/28 SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY DEADLINE: Summer Camp Coordinator or Counselor



Summer Camp information will be available mid-March. For the quickest news – find ‘2025 Munster Parks Summer Camp’ on Facebook. Don’t have social media? Email jhiggins@munster.org to be added to the email list.

Graduation PARTY

Graduation is right around the corner for your student. The **social center** fills quickly with grad parties in June and July. Can’t fit the crowd in your home – allow us to provide the best space for you!



Contact us at (219) 836-7275 for availability. Don’t want an inside facility? Check out one of the park shelters.

Know someone looking for a **Summer Job**? Look no further than the fun department. We’re now accepting applications for everything summer job related. Want more information – check out the Winter/Spring Recreation Guide (page 15)



Spring Soccer Registration



The **Spring Soccer** early-bird deadline is right around the corner. Register now before you forget.

Open to youth ages: 4-13, they will have the opportunity to learn the sport and play 6 weeks of games beginning in April.



Did you just get a new puppy from the holidays? If so, warm weather is right around the corner to get that pooch outside and mingling with some new friends. A **Dog Park Membership** is the perfect

way to do that! All memberships must be accepted in person. Records must include rabies, Bordetella and distemper shots. Membership is valid for one year from date of purchase. Residents: \$45 for 1 dog.

Thrift Shop



Are you looking for a fun shopping outing without breaking the bank?

Join us for our **Tour Thrift trip**! You will visit 4 thrift shops downtown and then can pick your location for lunch. The trip departs Wednesday, 2/26 at 10:15am. The deadline to register is 2/17.

Call for Vendors! We are now accepting **vendor applications** for 2025 upcoming special events.

Are you a business or an arts & crafts vendor looking for more exposure? We’d be happy to help! Contact jhiggins@munster.org for a vendor application.

See full page of 2025 Summer Job Opportunities available with Munster Parks and Recreation in the Winter Spring Guide



Know a business that would be interested to participate in our upcoming **Home Improvement Fair** on Saturday, March 8?

This event takes place at Wilbur Wright Middle School from 10AM-3PM. Some vendors are already secured, but specifically seeking: pool, sun rooms, appliance repair, garage doors, plumbing, landscaping, fencing, etc. For more information or to receive an application, contact Mara at mdicarlo@munster.org.





The Munster Fire Department turned 100 years old this year!

To commemorate the occasion, we have custom travel mugs available with the department anniversary dates for sale.

The travel mugs are \$25.00 and available in red or black.

All the profits from the sale will go toward the restoration of our 1948 Mack.



Come and stop in to grab your anniversary tumbler today.

The tumblers are available to purchase at Station 2 on Fisher Street.



ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

Homewood Disposal Service does not pick-up electronics or televisions.

Electronics such as personal computers, laptops, printers, cell phones, DVD players and televisions can be brought to the electronic recycling shed located at 508 Fisher Street.



The recycling shed is located inside the gates at the Public Works facility. Your electronic items can be dropped off at any time Monday—Friday 7am to 3pm.



Electronic Recycling is available for Lake County residents **only** and **not** for non-profits, businesses or schools use.

Any questions, contact Public Works directly at 219-836-6970



SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCES

Please read and remember the Town of Munster’s ordinances for snow removal.

Ordinance:

It is hereby declared and proclaimed that it is necessary to the public health and safety that the streets of the town be cleared of snow, and if the clearing of snow is impeded and delayed by vehicles parked on the streets, such impediment and delay is detrimental to the public health and safety.



Whenever there has been snow of two inches or more, in order not to delay the clearing of such streets, all vehicles parked on all streets of the town, except streets in the area bounded by, but not including, Manor, Hohman, Ridge Road, and the northern town limits, shall be removed by the owner. These are the one-way streets between Manor and Ridge Road in the northwest section of town.

If such vehicles are not removed from the streets after two inches of snowfall occurs, and after ticketing, it shall be the duty of the police department of the town to forthwith employ some reputable person to remove such vehicles from the streets.

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.



If you believe that a residence or business is not following this ordinance, please contact either the Munster Police Department by calling 911 or you can report the matter to Code Enforcement Kim Nordhoff or Holly Chalos at 219-836-6659 for follow-up. If the situation is an extreme safety concern, don’t hesitate, always call 911.

Utility Rate Increase Reminder

Residents are reminded that utility rates for the Town of Munster will increase on the utility bill due March 20, 2025. These changes are necessary to ensure the continuation of essential services and support critical infrastructure improvements. Below is a summary of the upcoming changes:

Trash Fee:

The trash fee will increase to \$31.71 per Ordinance 1971. This fee covers the cost of weekly garbage and recycling collection, branch and leaf collection, and the ongoing maintenance of the closed municipal landfill.



Water Rate:

As per Ordinance 1857, passed by the Munster Town Council on April 4, 2022, the annual water rate will increase. Your water rate is based on consumption and water meter size, and there is a minimum usage charge to help cover the costs of providing water service.



Sewer Maintenance Rate:

Ordinance 1970, passed on December 2, 2024, includes a slight increase in sewer rates.

These adjustments were determined on the advice of our financial advisors, including Baker Tilly, with increases spread out over several years to minimize the financial impact on residents.

Additional details, including a brief explanation of fees, can be found on the back of your utility bill. For further information, copies of the Ordinances or questions, please contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at (219) 836-6948 or visit www.munster.org.



February Utility Bill Reminder:



REMINDER: Monday, February 17th is NOT a Town recognized holiday. Munster Public Works and Town Hall offices will be open and garbage pick-up will be as usual.

Thank you.

Wendy Mis, Clerk-Treasurer ~ Town of Munster

TOWN COUNCIL, BOARD, AND COMMISSION REGULAR MEETINGS JANUARY 2025

PLEASE NOTE THE MEETING TIME CHANGE FOR TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

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/Redevelopment Mtg.	February 3, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	February 6, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Zoning Appeals Mtg.	February 11, 2025	6:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Plan Commission Mtg.	February 11, 2025	7:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Town Council/Redevelopment Mtg.	February 17, 2025	6:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Board of Safety Mtg.	February 18, 2025	7:00 am	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Park Board Mtg.	February 18, 2025	5:00 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)
Site Plan Review Mtg.	February 20, 2025	1:30 pm	Main Meeting Room (MTH)



George Shinkan



Joseph Hofferth



Chuck Gardiner



David Nellans



Jonathan Petersen



Wendy Mis

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Ward #2

Ward #3

Ward #4

Ward #5

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