

Talk of the Town Newsletter

Spring 2024



The Heart of the Region



Town Officials

Rick Bella, Ward 5
Council President

Rhonda Neal, Ward 1
Council Vice President

Shauna Haynes-Edwards
Ward 2 Councilor

Leona Chandler-Felton
Ward 3 Councilor

Margaret A. Uzelac
Ward 4 Councilor

Shawn Michael Pettit
Ward 6 Councilor

Keesha M. Hardaway
Ward 7 Councilor

Town Council Meetings
are held each 2nd & 4th
Tuesday of the month.
6:30 pm at Town Hall -
7820 Broadway

Eric O. January
Clerk-Treasurer
219-769-3501

Eugene Velazco
Town Judge
219-756-6185

Town Departments

Interim Town Manager
Michael Griffin
219-769-5711 x302

Chief of Police
Konstantinos Nuses
219-660-0000
For Emergencies: 9-1-1

Fire Chief
Ed Yerga
219-769-8739
Report a Fire: 9-1-1

Street Department
Steve King
219-769-6784

Planning & Building
Sheila Shine
219-769-3631

Human Resources
Kathy Pettit
219-769-5711 x326

Economic Development
Angie Chilcott
219-769-5711 x334

Parks & Recreation
219-980-5911

2024 Spring Clean-Up Program

It's time for the annual Merrillville Spring Clean-Up program. From April 15th to April 26th, the Street Department will be hitting the streets with vacuum units ready to collect leaves from your yards. We're doing it in one pass, so make sure you're ready by the Monday of your collection week!

Residents living north of 73rd Avenue, get your piles prepped for collection from April 15 - 19

Residents living south of 73rd Avenue will have their leaves collected from April 22 - 26

Please be patient if your leaves aren't picked up right away. We'll be making the rounds all week long, rain or shine. But if you're feeling extra eager, swing by the North Barn at 5750 Tyler Place during the week to drop off your leaves.

**Large household item disposal:
WM.com to learn more.**

Dumpster Available

Disposal of other waste items may be brought to the Street Department between April 15 through April 27 at 13 West 73rd Avenue. A valid drivers license or state ID, and license plate is required to prove Merrillville residency. **Let's all do our part to keep Merrillville clean and looking great!**

Branch Pick Up Program 2024

The Street Department will continue the Branch Pick Up program beginning April 29th. Crews will begin by picking up branches from the north end of town, moving to the south, and repeating until September 30.

If we miss your house, don't worry. We'll swing back next time. Just make sure your branches are out at the end of your property by 7 a.m. on Monday, April 29th. Stack branches neatly with cut ends together. Don't put branches in the street as that is a code violation.

This free service is for homeowners to dispose of trimmed tree branches or those knocked down by storms. We cannot handle full tree removals or branches over 6 inches in diameter. If a company cuts down your tree, they are responsible for full tree branch and tree trunk removals.

Branch Drop Off Program 2024

Residents may dispose of larger branches at the North Barn, 5750 Tyler Place between 7:15 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. A valid ID is required. The drop off program is available to residents from April 1st through September 30th.

Did You Know... The Plan Commission meets each 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The BZA meets the 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. all at Town Hall.

Find out more about Merrillville on the web: www.merrillville.in.gov

SOUND THE ALARM - SAVE A LIFE

Smoke detectors play a crucial role in protecting lives and property by providing early warnings of fires. That's why the Merrillville Fire Department has teamed up with the American Red Cross to provide and install free smoke alarms to our residents.

These small devices are often overlooked but are essential components in any home. Their importance cannot be overstated, as they serve as the first line of defense against the devastating effects of fires.

One of the primary benefits of smoke detectors is their ability to detect smoke before a fire can fully develop.

Visit rdcrss.org/3wHIKZr or call 219-472-6866 to schedule an appointment for a free smoke alarm and installation. In addition to receiving this life-saving device, you will receive a free fire safety education session.



 **American Red Cross**  **SOUND THE ALARM**
save a Life

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Working smoke alarms can cut the risk of death from home fires in half.

That's why we're rallying volunteers, fire departments and partners to *Sound the Alarm*.

Together, we're installing **FREE** smoke alarms in your community. Request a smoke alarm installation today!

Sign up for a FREE installation from the American Red Cross

To request an installation, call (888) 684-1441



Scan to learn more

[Learn more at soundthealarm.org](http://soundthealarm.org)

 

WETLAND PROTECTION AREAS

Wetlands are important areas that help control floods, clean stormwater, and provide homes for wildlife. They're like natural sponges, soaking up extra water after storms and slowly letting it go. This helps prevent big floods and keeps our water clean by trapping dirt and pollutants.

Unfortunately, Indiana's wetlands have shrunk a lot over the years, from covering 25% of the land in the 1700s to less than 4% now. But we're working hard to protect the ones we have left. If a project is going to affect a wetland or water body, it needs special approval from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

The Merrillville Stormwater Utility teams up with other agencies to make sure wetlands are safeguarded during development. If you see anything harming wetlands, let us know at (219) 472-8668.

For more details and helpful links, visit our website: http://merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater_management/



WETLAND PROTECTION AREA

CAUTION!

THIS AREA IS PART OF A WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECT TO ESTABLISH NATIVE WETLAND PLANT AND ANIMAL HABITAT. PLEASE HELP US PROTECT THIS NATURAL RESOURCE.

Do Not Mow or Disturb

- Improves water quality with native plants.
- Provides wildlife habitat and food.
- Absorbs stormwater, reducing runoff.



Did you know? Merrillville has over 36,000 residents making us the 3rd largest town in Lake County. Only Hammond & Gary are larger.

UPCOMING 2024 TOWN EVENTS

The town is planning the following events and all Merrillville residents and visitors are welcome to attend. Free to the Public.

Juneteenth Celebrations

June 15th - We are planning a variety of events including a movie night, concessions, etc. Details to come.

Independence Day FIREWORKS

July 3rd - 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Viewing available at Merrillville High School or from the Community Center.

Independence Day PARADE

July 4th - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Viewing available along Broadway, judges stand at Town Hall.

Annual JOB FAIR - Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

July 24 - 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center - 6600 Broadway

National Night Out

August 6th - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center - 6600 Broadway

Did you know? Speed humps will be reinstalled next month and the town will be adding additional locations to help with speeding.

Sign up for Town Updates

Don't miss out on important updates and events in "The Heart of the Region." Signing up for notifications from the Town of Merrillville website is quick and easy.

Simply scan the QR code to register to receive email or text updates. You can select from a variety of topics such as Town news, community alerts, meeting agendas, and public notices. Keep yourself informed and engaged with what's happening in Merrillville by visiting our website and opting in for notifications.



POLICE & CODE ENFORCEMENT

It's evident that the Merrillville Police Department and Code Enforcement are adapting well to the challenges posed by the town's growth. Implementing online reporting and collaborating with nearby agencies are excellent strategies to maximize resources and address common issues efficiently. By keeping operations fluid and continuously evolving, we're demonstrating a proactive approach to maintaining public safety and preserving the quality of life in Merrillville. As the community continues to grow, it's crucial to remain adaptable and responsive to emerging obstacles. We will be ramping up town codes to incorporate modern issues facing our town regarding code enforcement. Please take advantage of our Spring Cleanup program to ready your property for summer. You just may avoid a visit from our Code Officers.

Merrillville MOMENTUM Plan

Merrillville Momentum is the new comprehensive plan for the next twenty years of our Town's future. The plan addresses such important areas of interest as land use, special development areas, transportation, parks, housing, neighborhoods, infrastructure, and public facilities. Town government, community committees, and people who have participated in open houses and workshops have been at work since last March, and the plan is nearing completion. Our consultants, RDG Planning & Design, will discuss its major recommendation at a final open house to take place on Monday, April 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center. This is your chance to review many exciting ideas and to contribute your comments and thoughts before we finalize the plan. We hope to see you there!

More Information Available

You may visit the Town of Merrillville website at:
www.merrillville.in.gov

for details about all of the topics featured here as well as an expanded online newsletter with articles about the Merrillville Momentum Comprehensive Plan, creating apple orchards on Town owned properties, and employee profiles.



7820 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410

Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Flanagin's
Bulk Mail Service

ECRWSEDDM

LOCAL
Residential Customer

www.merrillville.in.gov

Reminders from Waste Management

Please have all materials at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your collection day and make sure the carts are 3' apart and accessible. All items placed at the curb for collection must be normal residential refuse and packaged properly. Please make sure you are bagging all items to prevent from blowing.

Manage your account, set up automatic billing and receive service updates by visiting www.wm.com

Bulk Item Pickup (Acceptable)

- **Large items, Furniture and Appliances shall be limited to one item per week.**
- Large regular household items such as a bicycle, table, chair, mattress, or box spring, etc. will be collected on the normal trash day FREE OF CHARGE. Please wrap mattresses.
- Additional items can be picked up for a fee by calling Customer Service at (800) 964-8988



Carpeting

Carpeting must be rolled, taped or tied. The carpet, after being rolled and tied or taped should be no longer than 4 ft in length and no wider than 2 ft in diameter; and weigh no more than 50 lbs. each. 5 rolls of carpet are allowed.

Unacceptable

The following materials are excluded from pickup: electronics, hazardous waste (paints, oils, and solvents), tires, construction and demolition materials, concrete, rock, dirt, engines or large automotive parts, and any oversized items that cannot be placed in a compactor type truck.

The Town and Waste Management would also like to remind residents that tree branch pick up is handled by the Town, not Waste Management. Waste Management will service grass clippings properly packaged in kraft yard waste bags, or a Waste Management yard waste cart. Please note: mulch, sod, stumps, dirt, stones, and landscape brick/pavers are not accepted. Thank you for working together for a better community. The Town's branch pick schedules are on the front page of this newsletter as well as other Spring cleanup news.