



THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE

Talk of the Town

SPRING 2017

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE

2017 SPRING CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

Pick Up Week of: April 3rd All Merrillville residents who live north 73rd Avenue
April 10th All Merrillville residents who live south of 73rd Avenue

The Merrillville Street Department will start its Spring Clean Up Program on Monday, April 3, 2017. Branch and leaf collection will pass through the Town one time this season. Leaf collectors will manage Merrillville's residential yard waste. Because our leaf collectors are vacuum units, only loose leaves will be collected from the curbside or the edge of the street. Be sure to keep leaves and branches in separate piles.

Branch and leaf collection will begin on Monday, April 3, 2017, and run through Saturday, April 15, 2017. There will be one (1) pick up for everyone.

Before your scheduled collection week, place leaves in a narrow pile or row, in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb. If your area is without curbs, place leaves within five (5) feet of the street.

PLEASE DO NOT RAKE LEAVES INTO THE STREET, also, AVOID RAKING LEAVES INTO DITCHES OR DRAINAGE SWALES.

Do not place leaves in cans or in plastic/paper bags. Only loose leaves will be collected. Keep parked vehicles off the street during your collection week. We will not return to the piles that are passed over due to vehicle obstruction.

If your leaves and branches are not collected immediately, please be patient! We will maintain collection order all week, despite inclement weather or unforeseen delays.

Yard waste placed for collection should be free of waste oil, chemical contaminants, tree limbs, cans, rocks, bricks, garbage, or any other foreign objects and substances.

Collection will begin each day at 7:30 a.m. Have your leaves and branches ready on the Monday morning of your collection week.

Dumpsters will be provided for use by Merrillville residents during this period only. The program days and hours for dumping will be Monday through Friday, from 7:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., and Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dumpsters are located at the Street Department facility located at 13 West 73rd Avenue. **All residents must present a driver's license to the Street Department's office before disposing unwanted items.**

If you have any questions, contact the Merrillville Street Department at 769-6784, or visit the Town's website: www.merrillville.in.gov.



RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.™



Merrillville residents, we need your help

You may find a tag on your recycling cart in the coming weeks.



Plastic Bags in your recycling can shut down an entire recycling plant



A red tag means there was garbage in your recycling.
A green tag means you've improved your recycling.

During this education period, we want to help you understand which materials should be recycled. If your recycling cart contains garbage or unacceptable items, we will leave a red tag and collect your cart.

After the education period, contaminated recycling carts will be tagged and not collected. Contaminated recycling carts will be collected on your next regular service day provided they are free from contamination. We ask for your help to keep Merrillville's recycling free of contamination.

Remember when in doubt, leave it out.

For more helpful tips, check out the recycling guidelines included or visit

RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com.

Please call Waste Management Customer Service at (800) 964-8988 if you have any questions.

We need the right things to end up in your recycling bin to make a difference. So the next time you put something in your recycling, follow these three rules:



1 Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard



2 Keep food and liquids out of my recycling.



3 Keep plastic bags out of the recycling bin.
NO BAGGED RECYCLABLES.

Take plastic bags back to your grocer.

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Wetlands and Stormwater Benefits

By: Matt Lake, M.S. CPMSM - Executive Director

Wetlands are dynamic ecosystems that provide multiple benefits including flood control, stormwater filtration and wildlife habitat. They are essential in the proper functioning of the hydrologic cycle. Wetlands are important for stormwater management. Almost any wetland can provide some measure of flood protection by holding the excess runoff after a storm, and then releasing it slowly. This lowers flood peaks by temporarily holding water and slowing the water's velocity. Wetlands can also store stormwater and allow for infiltration that recharges aquifers important for groundwater exchange. Wetlands protect water quality by trapping sediments and retaining excess nutrients and other pollutants such as heavy metals. According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), 25% of Indiana was covered by wetlands in the early 1700s and now cover less than 4%. Today, wetlands are protected by state and federal laws. When a project is planned in Indiana that will impact a wetland, stream, river, lake, or other Water of the U.S., the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) must issue a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (401 WQC). The Town of Merrillville Stormwater Utility works closely with IDEM, IDNR and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) to protect wetlands and ensure proper permitting and planning during new development.

Wetlands are identified in the field by three main factors:

- Soils: area must contain hydric (wetland) soil types
- Hydrology: area must have presence of water or saturation at certain times of the year
- Vegetation: area must predominantly have wetland vegetation

Here are links to state and federal regulatory agencies:

- IDEM Wetlands Regulations: <http://www.in.gov/idem/wetlands/index.htm>
- U.S. Army Corp of Engineers: <http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/>
- IDNR Division of Water: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/water/2455.htm>

Visit us at our webpage at: http://merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater_management/
If you witness or suspect disturbance to wetlands, please call us at (219) 472-8668



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.



Merrillville Residents - let's recycle often and always recycle the right materials!



**RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.™**



Always recycle:



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Food & Beverage Cans



Paper



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cartons



Glass Bottles & Containers

Do NOT include in your mixed recycling cart:



NO Food Waste
(Compost instead!)



NO Plastic Bags & Film
(Find a recycling site at plasticfilmrecycling.org)



NO Foam Cups & Containers
(Check Earth911.org for options.)



NO Needles
(Keep medical waste out of recycling. Place in safe disposal containers like Waste Management's MedWaste Tracker® box.)

**To Learn More Visit:
RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com**

#RORR

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MESSAGE FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

With spring just around the corner, the Town of Merrillville will be taking a tougher stance on code violations this year. To assist residents and property owners throughout the town we have provided to you:

THE TOP TEN REASONS TO AVOID A VISIT FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

1. Mow your grass! Grass or weeds must be kept to a length of less than eight (8) inches. This also includes landscaped areas
2. Call the Public Works Department before you put branches out by the street. They will be able to supply with you information on how to dispose of them. Their office phone number is 769-6784.
3. Keep your vehicles out of yours or neighboring yards and on a designated driveway. To be considered a driveway, it must be built out of concrete, asphalt, or in rare cases stone. Dirt doesn't count!
4. Keep your inside furniture inside and only use outside furniture outside.
5. Mow your grass again!
6. Do not allow debris to accumulate outside your home. Examples of debris are yard waste, appliances, furniture, and car parts. Putting a tarp over them doesn't make them invisible.
7. All vehicles at your home are currently plated and are operational. That includes the vehicles parked in the street. Again, putting a tarp over vehicles that aren't doesn't make them invisible. Tarping of a compliant vehicle is allowed.
8. Put away your trash and recycling cans on your pickup day. Do not put out televisions, computers, and other electronics for trash pickup. They will have to be disposed of at one of two Lake County Solid Waste disposal sites. One location is at the Crown Point Public Works, 662-6121 and the second is at the Hobart Public Works, 942-6121.
9. Damaged pools and fences have been either properly repaired or removed. Broken items such as windows, gutters, and soffits have been properly repaired.
10. Continue to mow your grass. THANK YOU!

Contact Merrillville Code Enforcement at vbunnell@merrillville.in.gov or 769-3699



7820 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410



Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
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Bulk Mail Service

Donald Spann
Ward 1 Councilman

Richard Hardaway
Ward 2 Councilman
Town Council President

Jeffrey Minchuk
Ward 3 Councilman

Margaret Uzelac
Ward 4 Councilwoman

Chrissy Barron
Ward 5 Councilwoman

Shawn Pettit
Ward 6 Councilman

Roxanne LaMarca
Ward 7 Councilwoman

Eugene Guernsey
Clerk-Treasurer

*****ECRWSS

LOCAL
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



**The Merrillville Clerk-Treasurer's Office
is now a Regional Passport Agency!!**

**7820 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410**

**Full range of passport services including taking your
Passport Picture (Pictures FREE to Merrillville Residents)**

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

For more information, call (219) 769-3501 or visit www.travel.state.gov

MERRILLVILLE PARK DEPARTMENT SUMMER EVENTS



INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

Tuesday, July 4, 2017 at 12PM

Parade will begin at 80th & Broadway and travel North to 67th.

Summer Concerts and Movies In The Park

Thursday, July 13

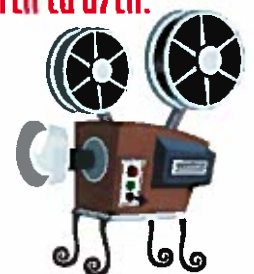
Movie in the Park - "Secret Life of Pets"

Friday, July 21

Old School Concert - Details to come

Thursday, August 10

Movie in the Park - "Jungle Book"



Merrillville Park Dept. Spring/Summer brochure will be available in May. We are offering summer programs for youth, adults and Seniors. Stop by to pick yours up at the Pruzin Center, 5750 Tyler Street.