

Tuesday is Election Day!

Local elections are more important than many voters recognize. Historically, turnout is much lower for city elections than for national elections. This should change. After all, no government affects day-to-day life more than local. It is city government that fights fires, responds to accidents, picks up leaves and brush, plows snow, cares for parks and neighborhoods—and works to attract jobs and provide safe streets.

Whether you feel Goshen is headed in the right or wrong direction, whether you favor the Democrats or Republicans, we hope you exercise your Constitutional privilege to vote.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, November 8. To verify if you are registered to vote—or where to vote—call the Elkhart County Voter Registration Office at 535.6770, or check online at www.indianavoters.in.gov.

For a ride to the polls, please call Republican headquarters at 533.1555 or Democratic headquarters at 534.6817.



(574) 534.8621

www.goshenindiana.org



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A GUIDE
TO GOSHEN
HAPPENINGS

MapleCityNow



Vol. 13

No. 4

AUTUMN/
WINTER

2011–
2012

Trash-pickup schedule adjustment at Thanksgiving

Allied Waste, Goshen's contracted trash removal service, will be closed on Thursday, November 24 to give its employees a well-deserved Thanksgiving holiday. Therefore, Thursday and Friday routes that week will run a day later. In other words, the normal Thursday route will be collected on Friday, and the normal Friday route will be collected on Saturday. Regular schedules will resume on Monday, November 28.

There will be *no change* in the trash-collection schedule for the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, both of which fall on Sunday this year. For more information, call Allied Waste at 522.1331.

Reprinted and updated from the October 2010 edition of the City newsletter.

Mayor's Message:

2012 budget approved; 'Goshen is in good financial shape'

Periodically I'm asked about the most important thing I have to consider when doing my job as mayor. There are many areas of focus. They can change from year to year, and certainly not everyone in Goshen agrees which is most important. For some it's attracting jobs. For others, it's neighborhood improvement. For yet others, it's parks and recreation. They are all critical to a healthy community.

But first and foremost, I believe, is a strong financial foundation. It supports everything, both basic and desired services. Honestly balancing our budgets for at least the past 10 years—no gimmicks, no delayed payments, no smoke and mirrors—has built this foundation.

'Goshen's cash reserves have never been better than they are today.'

Faced with decreased property taxes, lower income taxes and lower excise taxes from the state, we likely have some very challenging years ahead. Anticipating tough times, we've been preparing

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE, continued on page 2)

Driving the golden bicycle spoke linking Goshen and Elkhart

Similar to the driving of the two golden railroad spikes in Promontory Summit, Utah, on May 10, 1869, representatives of the cities of Goshen and Elkhart celebrated the connection of their non-motorized trail systems by driving a golden bicycle *spoke* at Ox Bow County Park on October 20. The joining of the newest section of the Maple City Greenway connects the MapleHeart Trail to the nearly completed Pumpkinvine Trail, allowing bicyclists to ride from Elkhart, through Goshen and Middlebury, all the way to Shipshewana in LaGrange County, a distance of 27 miles, all but two miles of which are now finished.

As the driving of the golden spikes was symbolic of one of the 19th century's most important accomplishments—the joining of the east and west in the United States by the completion of the transcontinental railroad—the golden spoke commemorates the long-anticipated connection of the bike and pedestrian trail systems of Goshen and Elkhart.



Goshen City Engineer Mary Cripe finishes driving in the golden spoke on October 20.

Free discount drug card

The City of Goshen will soon be offering free Indiana Drug Cards to the public. The program qualifies cardholders for significant discounts at some local pharmacies, along with most national chains. It's a great benefit for people who don't otherwise have access to discounts through employers, veteran services, Medicare or Medicaid.

Even those who have other prescription discounts can get a card and compare which program nets better prices on prescriptions. The prescription program is possible through the City's membership in the Indiana Association of Cities & Towns.

Watch for an announcement on Facebook, at www.goshenindiana.org, in newspapers or in an upcoming edition of *MapleCityNow*.

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE, continued from page 1)

by making adjustments each year so that cuts won't need to be made all at once.

Cash balances in our operating accounts have grown from \$4 million to \$8 million since 2006. The Electric Utility Sale Fund stands at \$2.5 million, including a \$500,000 revolving loan for neighborhood improvements. The Rainy Day Fund has grown from zero in 2004 to \$3.5 million today. I believe it's safe to say that Goshen's cash reserves have never been better than they are today. Department heads and other City employees are to be commended for their financial stewardship.

Many cities in Indiana and across the country are making significant cuts because they didn't prepare. Some are closing swimming pools, which may seem minor unless you have young children and live without air conditioning. Some are major, laying off police and firefighters. Fortunately, Goshen doesn't face these difficult choices.

The jury is still out on whether or not 2011 will end with income exceeding expenses. When budgeting in mid-2010 for 2011, I was told the loss to property-tax caps would be about \$1.2 million. Just a year later, we were told that this year's reduction will be \$2.1 million. Whether or not income exceeds expense depends on what percentage of our budget can remain unspent and what the property-tax collection rate will be.

While we've been able to say it for at least 10 years, we may not always be able to say our expenses are less than our income. But if the day comes when we do need to dip into our savings to continue services for a few years, it won't be the end of the world. Healthy reserves are there to continue services, both basic and desired. It's no different from what we do in our personal lives or our businesses.

The 2012 budget was approved, as proposed, on October 18 by the City Council. It doesn't have many bells or whistles and is lower than the 2011 budget. Although the effect of property-tax caps grows to \$3 million, the budget is once again balanced, again depending on discipline not to spend and the percentage of property-tax collection.

At the request of City Court Judge Lund, the bailiff position has been eliminated for 2012, with the Police Department absorbing that responsibility. Overtime has been increased a small amount to take this on, but it will save money overall. Ordinance compliance (trash, long grass, front-yard parking, etc.) also will be consolidated into the Police Department, with an addition to wages in its budget. There are a few other adjustments as well, all minor in nature.

The next few years will require continued discipline—and more trimming along the way. Income taxes will rise only as more people are able to go back to work, and this relies on an improving state and national economy. The same is true with property taxes. Home values will increase as people get jobs and the mortgage crisis is resolved.

As the City's financial consultants said to the City Council in October, many Indiana cities, towns and counties are in fiscal crisis. We don't need to panic as we hear their stories because Goshen is in good financial shape.

Always for a better Goshen,



Allan Kauffman



MapleCityNow feedback has been positive

In the most recent edition of the *MapleCityNow*, readers were introduced to the newsletter's new look. Comments and suggestions were welcomed for future improvements. Some of you took the time to do just that—both in writing and orally. And it was overwhelmingly positive!

One encouraging message said, "Thanks for the *MapleCityNow* newsletter in the mail. I read it cover to cover. I appreciated learning about the Mill Street neighborhood park on the way, the US 33 landscaping, the Environmental Center information, broken CFL light bulbs, etc. I had no idea broken CFL bulbs were so toxic, so thanks for the tip. These stories help me to feel like this is my town I can be proud of." These are the kind words of Christine Guth, who lives and works in Goshen.

Quite a few of you were in touch with us about the formatting of the colored text on colored blocks that was difficult to read. We couldn't agree more! And we won't make the same mistake twice. Ditto regarding the photos that were

darker than normal. Both of these details were a result of the final conversion from the color, online version to the black-and-white version that was mailed to homes and businesses.

Matt Pletcher, CPA and president of Insight Accounting Group, wrote to us saying, "I wanted to congratulate you on a well-done newsletter ... This is just one more thing that brings personality to Goshen and makes it a great place to do business."

Thanks to all of you that contacted us. We will strive to continue to deliver interesting and helpful information with every edition. And, of course, your comments are always welcome as we make future improvements for you.

For more information or to offer additional feedback, please contact the Mayor's Office at 533.9322 or mayor@goshencity.com.

Joe Haufaire retiring after 22 years of service to Goshen



beginning with a desk and chair (a card table and folding chair!), move all the files from the county office (where the contracted work was done previously), and hire a part-time assistant. Once there was an actual place to work, and each day since then, this office, in conjunction with other City departments, has worked with business people, home owners, site selectors, developers, contractors, renters, remodelers, and everyone walking through the doors to make living and doing business in Goshen a great experience. Teamwork and reasonableness are ever present as the City's professional staff persons work alongside our customers.

It has been 22 years since I came to Goshen. I arrived before fax machines, office computers, e-mail and cell phones. As I approach retirement at the end of this year, here are a few reflections.

Former Mayor Mike Puro wisely anticipated that Goshen was on the verge of rapid growth, and in 1988 he had the foresight to fund a planning department to begin work in 1989 to better manage the expected growth. Since 1997 Mayor Allan Kauffman has been the driving force behind growth and progressive City administration.

Before *real* planning and zoning could proceed, my task was to set up an office from scratch,

My first task as Goshen's first planning director and zoning administrator was to prepare a new Comprehensive Plan to replace the outdated 1976 version. A Comprehensive Plan is a prerequisite for good land-use decision. It was adopted in 1992, and a second plan followed in 2004, which is still in effect today.

During my first several years, development activity was fast and furious! Many private and public projects were presented and are still being developed in phases. Within the first few months of my arrival I was involved with Waterford Commons, a 400-acre planned development,

(HAUFLAIRE, continued on page 5)

Bicycle Friendly Community—officially!

In September, Goshen became the second community in northern Indiana to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists for its "remarkable commitment" to promoting bicycling. Goshen joins South Bend, Bloomington, Carmel and Indianapolis/Marion County as the only Hoosier communities with the designation. All are recognized at the bronze level, except Bloomington, which is rated at the silver level.

In cooperation with Goshen's Engineering Department, the Bicycle Friendly Community application was prepared by volunteers serving on the Maple City Bicycle Advisory Committee who are committed to providing a safe network of bicycle trails/lanes and to creating a more sustainable community.

In Goshen, we're younger than average

Census data show that Goshen's 2010 residential population has an average age nearly five years younger than the national average of 37.2. The 31,719 Maple City residents have an average age of 32.4. Thirty-one percent of us are under age 20; eleven percent of us are 70 or better. We are, however, a mirror image of the national ratio of males to females: 49% to 51%.

The U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder site, www.factfinder2.census.gov, contains interesting and sometimes fun census data about gender, age and race characteristics, as well as household makeup and housing occupancy. Enjoy exploring this information yourself!

Love autumn's brilliant colors? YES! Love fallen leaves to be raked? NOT SO MUCH ...

Each autumn the Street Department employees take on the herculean task of leaf collection in "The Maple City." Although some of the work is aided by heavy equipment, much of it is a matter of physical labor and superior customer service—in weather ranging from the loveliest of "Indian summers" to freezing rain and snow. In the 2010 leaf season 13,550 cubic yards of leaves were collected, or approximately 850 dump trucks full!

You can help make the process more efficient—and less expensive—by following these basic guidelines:

Leaf piles:

- Rake leaves into long piles on the grass next to the street—or the sidewalk beside the curb.
- If you must pile leaves on the sidewalk, please leave as wide a path as possible for the safety of walkers and bikers.

- Leaves must be kept out of the street.
 - The piles of leaves interfere with the flow of traffic.
 - They wash to catch basins, covering them and causing street flooding.
 - Later in the fall, if it snows, the snow plows will be forced to drive over/through the piles and then throw leaves from the piles far back into the yard.
- Residents and property owners who have storm drains in front of their properties are asked to keep them clear of leaves.
- When you're done raking, spraying the piles down with water will help keep the leaves from blowing away during periods of high wind.
- Bagged leaves will be collected, but it greatly slows the citywide collection. Bag leaves *only as a last resort!*

Parking:

- Never park over a leaf pile. A hot catalytic

converter can easily ignite the dry leaves and, in turn, your vehicle.

- Please do not park cars in front of leaf piles. The crews will not be able to collect the leaves.
- Park cars with at least 15 feet between leaf piles and vehicles.
- Please use off-street parking this fall when ever possible or available.

Finally:

- Don't place leaves in the alley; they will not be removed.
- Don't put sticks, twigs and other trash into the leaf piles. These items can damage the vacuum equipment and force crews to pluck these items from the leaves by hand—another time-consuming task.
- For the safety of children and pets, please keep them away from the vacuum truck and other pickup equipment.

As your trees continue to shed their foliage, keep an eye out for details in local newspapers or at www.goshenindiana.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Leaf burning is **not** permitted within the city limits of Goshen at any time.



Hard-sided trash containers required at multi-family properties

In 1999 the Goshen City Council passed an ordinance requiring the owners of multi-family dwellings (duplexes and greater) to provide tenants with hard-sided trash receptacles. Capacity has to be great enough to contain normal trash generated, with a minimum requirement of 45 gallons for every two people—or 30 gallons for a single person. Failure to comply may result in an ordinance violation being issued.

In the same ordinance, the council prohibited use of fully enclosed wooden or wire enclosures for storage of trash or trash containers. For a copy of this ordinance, contact the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at 533.8625 or clerktreasurer@goshencity.com.

Reprinted with modifications from the May 2000 edition of the City newsletter.

Reasons for hope on economic development front

Goshen's long-term economic development strategy is showing results. The Maple City has experienced steady growth, increasing in population by 8% since 2000, unlike the largest city in our county where the population has actually dropped. Household income is up too since 2000. Goshen's real income, adjusted for inflation, increased overall, while the region has declined.

One reason Goshen's economy has grown is our economic base. Elkhart County's base historically has been in manufacturing. In fact, more than 50% of the jobs in Elkhart County are in manufacturing (the highest county percentage in the nation!). The economic base in Goshen, however, is more diversified than the county as a whole, with 27% of our employment in manufacturing. Our balanced employment base, with more jobs in education and healthcare, provides greater stability to Goshen's economy and reduces the impact from the nationwide downturn.

For more information on Goshen's community development efforts, contact us at communitydevelopment@goshencity.com or 537.3824

From 2009 to 2010 the Goshen-Elkhart area was **third in the nation**—a 13% increase!—in GDP (gross domestic product) growth. This info represents the value of goods and services produced, as compiled by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

In the past two years the City Council has approved requests that will generate **more than 400 new jobs** and **\$44.5 million in new capital development** through tax phase-ins and abatements.

(HAUFLAIRE, continued from page 3)

including a school and linear park built around new residential neighborhoods.

Additional residential development followed, including Clover Trails, Spring Brooke, Keystone Pointe, Keystone Square, College Green, North Meadow Estates, Larimer Greens, Colonial Farms, etc. A medical and professional office adjacent to Greencroft also got built.

At that time, commercial development on US 33 was just starting. Within a few years we had a Meijer's store, two Walmart stores, a Sam's Wholesale Club, the abandonment of one Walmart store for a larger one, and all the associated commercial development. Predictably, along with these new developments came challenges.

(To be continued in next edition of *MapleCityNow*)



Dates to remember

General Election Day: Tuesday, November 8 (City offices open for business)

Veterans Day: Friday, November 11 (City offices closed)

Thanksgiving (observed): Thursday and Friday, November 24–25 (City offices closed)

Christmas (observed): Monday, December 26 (City offices closed)

New Year's Day (observed): Monday, January 2 (City offices closed)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, January 16 (City offices closed)

Invitation

Open House

At the new Goshen Street Department
475 Steury Ave.

9–11 a.m.
Saturday, November 19

Join us and tour the new facility!

CORRECTION: Graffiti reporting instructions were incorrect

The Early Autumn edition of *MapleCityNow* gave incorrect instructions for reporting new graffiti damage. The correct and most prompt response to a graffiti report is through the *non-emergency* number of Emergency Communications Center of Elkhart County, also referred to as “dispatch” for all Goshen Police and Fire department services: 533.4151. This will allow officers to be dispatched 24 hours a day for those wishing to file a report.

Once a report is made, the property owner will have a chance to remove the graffiti. If it isn't removed, the Goshen Street Department will remove it. We apologize for any inconvenience this misinformation may have caused.

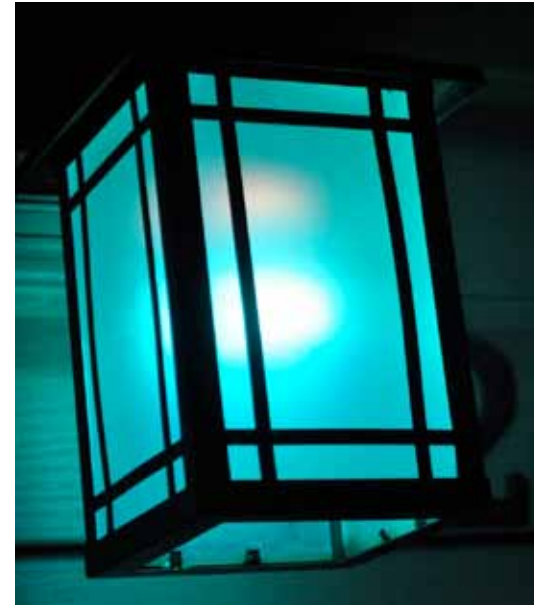
For more information, please contact the Mayor's Office at mayor@goshencity.com or 533.9322.



Project Blue Light: Let your (blue) lights shine for law enforcement during the holidays

Residents of Goshen and the surrounding area are encouraged to participate in a demonstration of heartfelt support for law enforcement by placing one blue light in a window of your home this holiday season. You'll be showing your support for those officers who have made the supreme sacrifice and honoring those men and women of the badge who continue to serve and protect their communities.

The annual Project Blue Light observance began in 1988 when a woman named Dolly Craig wrote to Concerns of Police Survivors, a national organization created to support survivors—families, friends and co-workers—of those killed in the line of duty. She explained that she would be putting a blue candle in her living room window that holiday season for her son-in-law, Daniel Gleason, who had been killed while serving the Philadelphia Police Department. Dolly Craig is now deceased as well, but the idea is her legacy. Project Blue Light now burns brightly in the hearts of the nearly 15,000 surviving families of America's fallen law enforcement officers during the holiday season.



Locally, Patrolman Thomas Goodwin was killed in the line of duty in 1998. He is the only Goshen police officer to die while in uniform. Tommy's Kids Castle at Shanklin Park was built in 2000 and named in his memory. A plaque at the Goshen Police Department, 111 E. Jefferson St., also honors Patrolman Goodwin.

Project Blue Light is a simple gesture; the color blue is symbolic of peace. By displaying your blue light, you will be sending a dual message—that you support our local peacekeepers and that you hope the coming year will be a year of peace for them and everyone.

For more information on Project Blue Light, visit www.nationalcops.org.

All work and no play? No way—for our police officers and firefighters!

What makes a great community volunteer? A love for people and a golden heart of service both on the job and after work hours—some of the same personal traits that make Goshen's firefighters and police officers great!

The Goshen Police and Fire departments, the Goshen Firefighters Local 1443 and the Goshen Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 81 frequently have activities to benefit the community and enhance interaction with residents. Here are some public safety professionals caught in the act of serving—and having lots of fun in the process. The camaraderie and dedication on the job shine through as compassion for the community they serve.



Goshen firefighters are a team—on and off duty.

Winter activities at Abshire Park

Once the snow finally falls (and sticks!), Abshire Park is one of the best places in Goshen for some good, old-fashioned winter fun. With Abshire Park conveniently located in the 1300 block of East Lincoln Avenue, there is no reason for the winter blues (or blahs) in the Maple City! You can hit the slope for sledding and inner-tubing, you can explore the trails by ski, or you can hike back into the winter wonderland of the Abshire marshes.

The sledding hill at Abshire Park is one of the highest land points in Goshen. So it's perfect for sleds of all sorts. The front part of the hill has a very gentle slope—just right for less adventurous folks. The side of the hill is great for thrill-seekers. Just be careful: Watch out for other sledders.

While trails at Abshire are not groomed for skiing, this is a great area to blaze a cross-country route. The existing trails wend their way through the woods and marshland that the park encompasses, stretching all the way south to Monroe Street. Park trails also connect to the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail, another beautiful ski route.

The woods and marshland of Abshire Park are fun to explore on foot. Snow cover can reveal the tracks of a wide variety of wildlife at home in these valuable wetlands. As the snow fills the marsh and clings to trees, this park becomes a winter wonderland for photography.

The cabin at Abshire Park is the right place for a cozy winter gathering. The fireplace and kitchen make it ideal for family, church or workplace get-togethers. Or schedule an afternoon of sledding, with the cabin as a warming house.

Details about these and other winter fun possibilities can be found by reviewing the *2011–2012 Fall & Winter Program Guide* available for pickup at the Goshen Parks & Recreation Department Office, 607 W. Plymouth Ave.; by contacting GPRD at 534.2901; or by visiting www.goshenindiana.org.



The entry to Abshire Park is marked with a sturdy sign held by the columns from Goshen's old City Hall, which was located on West Lincoln Avenue where the 1st Source Bank drive-in unit is now located.



Goshen police narrowly won a flag-football game recently against high school and middle school members of the Goshen Boys & Girls Club. A rematch, this time in basketball, was discussed—perhaps after the officers recover from their game-sore muscles.



Fire Sgt. Jeff Frank recruits a future firefighter after fitting her child safety seat in her mom's car.

