

The Maple City Rag

Residents' Guide to Goshen City Services

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Goshen, IN 46528



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TWO AWARDS FOR BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN PASSAGE

City Engineer Mary Cripe is pictured with two awards received from two highly regarded organizations for Goshen's Shanklin-Millrace Passage, which was completed in August 2010.

The Indiana Partnership for Transportation Quality Award was presented by the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Indiana Division of the Federal Highway Administration for "exceptional quality achieved on this project."

The Engineering Excellence Merit Award was presented jointly to the City of Goshen and DLZ Indiana, LLC, design engineers for the passage. The merit award is from the American Council of Engineering Companies.

Also see page 5 for "More Improvements Along the Millrace."

Mayor's Message IT'S ABOUT JOBS!

Talk to any economist, and you'll hear that the recent recession has been the deepest and widest since the Great Depression. It has impacted people who have never been without work—and never thought they would be. Many people have been out of work not only for months but years. Never having been unemployed means not knowing how best to navigate a support system. They draw their unemployment until it runs out, but pride keeps many of them from relying on the generosity of our compassionate community. As a result, the financial resources they had at the start of unemployment are more quickly drained. Some despair that they'll ever find work again. For some, it's a matter of age; for others, it's a matter of lacking education or skills. Some have given up hope.



I referred to “recent recession” at the beginning of this message because most of those same economists say the recession has ended, and we’re on an upswing. The problem is, it’s hard for the 12.8% of Goshen residents who are still unemployed, and a number of others who are under-employed, to feel the upswing. The recovery is often referred to as a “jobless” recovery. Many companies that downsized figured out how to stay in business with fewer employees. People refer to a “new normal.” What is that? Goshen is currently about 4% above our state’s unemployment rate, which is about equal to our nation’s unemployment rate of 8.9%. Is the “new normal” going to be 7%? 8%? Whatever it is, for those without work who want work, it won’t be low enough.

That’s why we must continually work to improve our employment base. Of course, we in City government have been working at economic development since before the crisis started. The City of Goshen works in tandem with the Economic Development Corporation of Elkhart County, as well as with the Goshen Chamber of Commerce, helping to fund both organizations for their economic development efforts. We have been granting tax phase-ins to attract industry for a number of years.

There have been some successes. Not big splashes like a large company coming to Goshen. But the RV industry in Goshen is pretty much back to pre-recession employment levels. Deloro Stellite in the Goshen Industrial Park is consolidating some operations and bringing jobs from England. And there are other possible projects under consideration. No matter how good our growth efforts are, we can’t prevent a loss like Medtec Ambulance moving away, enticed by incentives of \$10 million to consolidate with its parent company in Florida.

This recession being different from anything most of us have ever experienced, the City is offering four different types of job-creating incentives. Most of these are not yet available elsewhere. To learn details of these initiatives, see the four-part article on page 8.

These incentives are important, but they aren’t enough. There are obstacles to industrial development in Goshen. We aren’t located adjacent to the Indiana Toll Road. We don’t have as

large a selection of currently vacant properties as some cities. While NIPSCO offers good gas rates for large electric users, higher electric rates than are available from I&M in Elkhart are a deterrent. We can't control these factors. But we can control the quality of the community in order to overcome other shortcomings. So we continue to work on such quality-of-life issues as nice parks, excellent bike and pedestrian connections, a vibrant downtown, improving neighborhoods ...

And we will keep working at industrial and business development. Rest assured, we will not be satisfied until everyone who wants a job has one.

Always for a better Goshen,



DATES TO REMEMBER

“Beautify Goshen” Week: May 7–14

Primary Election Day: Tuesday, May 3 (City offices open)

Memorial Day: Monday, May 30 (City offices closed)

BIKE TO WORK WEEK: MAY 16–20

May 16–20 might just turn out to be the first week of the rest of your life! First, mark it on your calendar now.

The middle weekend of May be sure your tires are inflated and your backpack unearthed from your winter storage closet, then set your alarm a bit early before turning in on the 15th. We think that once you try riding your bike to work you just may become a dedicated pedaler.

Bike to Work Week is part of an international bicycle awareness campaign begun in 1956. In addition to promoting cycling as a practical transportation alternative and a piece of the healthy-lifestyle mosaic, commuting to work by bike gets more people riding and more cars off the road. It's a win-win for reducing our carbon footprint—and for exercise and personal health.



BIKE REGISTRATION: FREE AT FIRST FRIDAYS ON MAY 6

Goshen has its fair share of bicycle thefts. The best deterrent to being a victim of bike theft is to lock your bike, even if you're away from it for only a few minutes! If, by some unfortunate chance, your bike *is* stolen, the chances for recovery are greatly enhanced by having it registered.

Free bicycle registration will be offered in the 100 block of East Washington Street at the May 6 First Fridays celebration! The rest of the year you may get it registered at any of the following three sites:

- Police Department, 111 E. Jefferson St.
- Central Fire Station, 209 N. Third St.
- Parks & Recreation Department Office, 607 W. Plymouth Ave.

Goshen residents' cost is \$5 for five years, and non-residents' cost is \$10 (not a bad investment).

For more information on bike registration, contact the Police Department at police@goshencity.com or 533.8661.

DIAL-A-TRUCKS AND TRAILERS AVAILABLE STARTING APRIL 29



Residents of the Maple City may schedule a dump truck or trailer to dispose of unwanted household items. Such vehicles will be left for use for one evening or over the weekend.

Residents may choose a single-axle truck or heavy-duty trailer. Both hold 6 cubic yards or 3 standard pickup truck beds; the trailers have lower tailgates, are longer, and are easier to fill.

All discarded items are subject to Elkhart County Landfill restrictions. A \$70 deposit is required prior to the reservation and delivery of the truck. A \$35 fee* will be deducted from the deposit, as well as the landfill charges. Residents will be billed for any landfill charges that exceed the deposit amount or receive a refund for the unused portion of the deposit.

Reservations will be accepted beginning April 11 by contacting the Street Department at 534.9711 or streets@goshencity.com.

* This service is **free of charge** for Goshen residents using it for brush or landscaping projects when the load is taken to the Goshen Environmental Center, 20100 C.R. 19, rather than the county landfill.

BRUSH COLLECTION: LAST FULL WEEK OF THE MONTH

The brush collection schedule for 2011 will be the **last full week** (Monday to Friday) **of the month** from April through September—specifically the weeks of:

April 18
May 23
June 20
July 25
August 22
September 26



Again this year the Goshen Street Department will be doing brush collection on a specific week of the month (two weeks, in April only). Having a collection schedule will help keep the Maple City tidy and prevent the constant presence of brush piles—sometimes appearing immediately after crews have gone through a neighborhood.

Piles of brush are to be at the curb by 7 a.m. the Monday of brush collection weeks. Brush should not be put out for collection until the Saturday or Sunday just prior to the start of the scheduled collection week.

(BRUSH continued on page 7)

NEWSLETTER TO RECEIVE MAKEOVER

This newsletter will be receiving a makeover. A new name is being considered, along with an updated appearance. The present name, *Maple City Rag*, was selected from suggestions received from residents when the circular was initiated in 1996.

Some suggestions for a new name have already been received:

Maple City News & Notes
Goshen View
Maple City Laser
Info: Goshen
Maple City Pulse
Goshen Focus
Maple City Now
Info on the Go!
Life & News
Maple City: Up to Date

What do you think? Do you like any of these? Or do you have other suggestions? Please give us your input by May 1 at 533.8621 or switchboard@goshencity.com.

‘AT YOUR SERVICE’: MAY 2–6 MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WEEK

Mayor Kauffman has proclaimed May 2–6 to be Municipal Government Week. The City of Goshen will join city and town leaders statewide in an effort to increase public awareness about municipal government.

“At Your Service, Ask Me” is the 2011 slogan.

During the May 2–6 week, City and Utility employees will highlight what they do as a part of their daily work:

- Parks & Recreation Department staff coordinating youth dance programs, nature hikes and bird watching
- Wastewater operators keeping toxic pollutants out of the Elkhart River
- Water operators providing clean, safe drinking water
- Police officers serving as neighborhood liaisons
- Firefighters instructing elementary students in fire safety

Ask us how we can be of service to you! Contact Human Resources at human-resources@goshencity.com or 534.8475 for a tour—or additional information regarding the week’s activities.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE MILLRACE

Many bikers and walkers are enjoying the convenience and safety of the new “Shanklin-Millrace Passage” under Plymouth Avenue/S.R. 19. They’re also appreciating the new parking area with pervious pavers at the head gates. More improvements along the path are in progress.

The Murray Street bridge across the millrace, south of Plymouth Avenue, has been repaired and fortified. A new wooden plank deck has replaced old and crumbling concrete and asphalt. This historical pony truss bridge was relocated to the millrace between 1925 and 1929 from where it once spanned the east fork of the Little Elkhart River on U.S. 20 (S.R. 25 at the time) at the east edge of Elkhart County. It will be repainted next spring.

The former hydroelectric building at the millrace tailgates (just west of the Farmers’ Market) is being restored with a federal Transportation Enhancement grant, which covers 80% of construction costs. Included in the restoration are a new roof, new windows, brick cleaning, new sheeting along millrace banks, new grates and below-water improvements. The grant even provides funding for a sculpture by nationally recognized Goshen artist John Mishler. His sculptures grace many other cities; having one in a public space in his hometown is long overdue. The sculpture will be the main feature of the new picnic and seating area.

Lucid Energy Technologies, located in Goshen, intends to use the location to test its new in-pipe turbine designs to once again generate electricity at this site, though not on the same scale as energy was produced a half century ago.

For more information, contact the Engineering Department at 534.2201 or engineering@goshencity.com.

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT ... WATERWAY POLLUTION!

You can help prevent unnecessary pollution going directly into our waterways by reporting spills from any source. Examples of spills of concern may be fuel trucks, waste haulers and garbage trucks. Please call 911 immediately.

Inlet markers, like the one below, are being placed at specific storm drain inlets to remind you that anything that goes into that inlet flows directly to our local waterways.

For more information about Goshen’s Watershed Protection Program, contact the Engineering Department at 534.2201 or engineering@goshencity.com.



‘BEAUTIFY GOSHEN’ WEEK: MAY 7–14 DISPOSAL PROGRAM DETAILS

In conjunction with the Goshen Chamber of Commerce’s “Beautify Goshen” Week, the Goshen Street Department will be making additional disposal services available to assist city residents in their “Beautify Goshen” tasks. This is a free service May 7–14 only (an eight-day week with two Saturdays), and there is no limit to the quantity of items that may be disposed of. Residents must make arrangements to transport the items; there will **not** be curbside pickup.



The collection site will be the Goshen Street Department, 311 W. Madison St., just west of the millrace. Hours that items will be accepted are:
Saturday, May 7 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, May 8: CLOSED
Monday–Friday, May 9–13 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 14 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In order to keep disallowed items from entering the waste stream, the Street Department will have a crew member on hand at all times monitoring the items being accepted. Items that **can** be disposed of are:

- Non-hazardous refuse, such as furniture, carpeting, lumber, mattresses, stoves, etc.
- White goods, such as refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, dehumidifiers, etc.; the Freon does not have to be removed
- Tires up to 16½”, either on or off their rims

The following items will **not** be accepted during this large-item disposal:

- Pesticides or herbicides (insect or weed killers)
- Unlabeled drums containing any substance
- Sealed pressurized containers (propane tanks, etc.)
- Paint thinners; latex (water base) paint
- Asbestos insulation
- Electronic waste (see detailed article on page 7)
- Contaminated soil
- Medical waste
- Batteries
- Gasoline/fuel oil tanks
- Used oil/gasoline
- Resins or liquids
- Paints/stains (oil base)

During the other 51 weeks of the year, residents may place one or two large items **per month** with their regular weekly trash for removal. (This does **not** include any cooling appliances containing Freon.) For details of the year-long, large-item disposal, contact Allied Waste at 522.1331.

Because this program is paid for by Goshen residents’ tax dollars, items cannot be accepted from individuals who live outside the Goshen city limits.

We are grateful to OmniSource Goshen for, again this year, disposing of the Dumpsters of refuse at no charge to the City of Goshen. OmniSource Goshen’s valuable contribution is appreciated!

For more information on any of the “Beautify Goshen” services, contact the Street Department at 534.9711 or streets@goshencity.com.



Goshen's City Hall: 202 S. Fifth St.

(BRUSH continued from page 4)

Street Department crews will work uninterrupted to get through Goshen quickly. Brush piles are to be trash-free and away from utility poles, fire hydrants and trees. No brush will be collected from alleys. No collections will be made between the scheduled weeks in order to free up Street Department crews to do other equally important tasks.

City officials are looking forward to continuing to work with residents and the local media to make Goshen's neighborhoods as orderly and uncluttered as possible. Together our community pride will be both evident and contagious!

For those with yard waste between brush collection weeks, the Goshen Environmental Center, located just west of the intersection of Indiana Avenue and County Road 19, is open 52 weeks a year. From April through November the center's hours are Monday through Friday are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon. The center accepts brush and leaves at no charge to Goshen residents.

Do you have a large yard project looming in your future? Check out the Dial-a-Truck program (see detailed article on page 4). But don't wait until the last minute to schedule the truck. Dial-a-Truck is a popular program; usually it must be scheduled several weeks in advance. And it's free to Goshen residents who are getting rid of yard waste!

For more information, contact the Street Department at streets@goshencity.com or 534.9711.

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TRASH COLLECTION

SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT. The week of Memorial Day, May 30, will have an adjusted trash collection schedule. Each Goshen collection route will be delayed one day. For instance, a household regularly collected on Monday will be collected on Tuesday that week. The adjusted schedule will continue throughout the week, with the Friday stops collected on Saturday.

For more information, call Allied Waste at 522.1331.

E-WASTE BAN FOR WEEKLY COLLECTION. To remain in compliance with recent changes in Indiana law, the following items will no longer be taken in Goshen's standard trash collection: computers, computer monitors, printers and televisions.

The ban was enacted to restrict the disposal of mercury, cadmium, lead and other hazardous materials in landfills and to ensure that hazardous substances from electronic waste (e-waste) are being managed in an appropriate and environmentally responsible manner. Recycling e-waste ensures that valuable materials—such as copper, gold, tin, silicon, steel, glass and plastic—are reclaimed for the manufacture of new products.

It may be helpful to know that Goodwill Industries, in partnership with Dell Computers, will take all these items—working or not—**free of charge** at any donation drive-thru or drop box (items must fit in the drop box, not be left outside). Or you may call the Goodwill South Bend administrative office at 574.472.7320 and schedule a pick-up. More program details can be found by visiting www.goodwill-ni.org and clicking the Computer Recycling icon at the top of the page.



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

Four Plans to Help Create Jobs

This article is a continuation of the theme of jobs and is an accompaniment to the Mayor's Message that begins on page 2.

Vacant Building Tax Abatements. This is a relatively new tool created by the Indiana Legislature a couple of years ago. If there are job-growth opportunities that will use a building, vacant for at least a year, the City can abate taxes for two years—100% the first year and 50% the second year. Traditional tax abatements are only for new buildings or equipment, not for re-using an existing building. Local commercial brokers have said this incentive is turning some industrial development attention toward Goshen. According to the Goshen Community Development Department, this tool has helped fill approximately 50% of the space that was vacant a year ago.

Training Grants. Another recent possibility is allowing a city to use up to 15% of its Tax Increment Financing revenues for training grants. We are creating a program whereby employers can receive reimbursement for training costs if they hire an unemployed Goshen resident. To qualify, a person must have lived in Goshen and been unemployed for at least the immediate past 12 months. Long-term unemployed people are often in that situation because their current skills don't meet requirements. Some human resource professionals have said training grants would be incentive for them to give greater consideration to people in these difficult circumstances. We believe we are the first city to offer this incentive. As of the writing of this article, the program hasn't been finalized for roll-out. But details should be publicly announced soon (if they haven't already been when you're reading this).

Enhancing "Shovel Ready" Industrial Areas. The City has introduced and set in motion a project that allows Goshen to engineer and plan *now* for water and sewer service to industrial-zoned land on Goshen's

north side. While we don't know how soon the economy will turn enough for developers to be able to put up buildings, we don't want the City's lack of engineered plans to be a reason for delaying or losing a prospective deal. Engineering and plan development could take up to 10 months. Industrial development opportunities often can't wait this extra amount of time and will locate elsewhere. The closer a site is to "shovel ready," the greater the chance of attracting the jobs.

There is some available land on Goshen's south side, but it isn't yet zoned. And land on the north side has better access to the U.S.

20, C.R. 17 and the Indi-

ana Toll Road. Besides the fact that many industries look for good transportation access, developing on the north side would reduce the need for truck traffic to drive through Goshen.

Fiber-Optic Loop. While not a brand-new option in Goshen, it is one that needs more visibility and publicity. In partnership with Goshen Community Schools and New Paris Telephone, the City of Goshen has joined in creating a fiber-optic loop throughout the city, connecting schools and public buildings. The loop is owned by New Paris Telephone and marketed to customers as Goshen Fiber Network. Along with high-speed Internet access available from MapleNet Wireless, industries locating in Goshen have more broadband options than do many communities.

For more information on any or all of these four initiatives, contact Mayor Kauffman at mayor@goshencity.com or 533.9322.

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will not be satisfied
until everyone who
wants a job has one.*