

## Mayor's Message (continued from page 3)

cleaning up neighborhoods the week of May 1–8. But these groups can't clean up everything. There are too many individual properties, many of which are landlord-owned, that need attention. We need the owners of these properties to carry their fair share of the load.

Landlords own many (but certainly not all) properties where:

- ☒ Snow isn't shoveled in the winter
- ☒ Leaves aren't raked in the fall
- ☒ Grass isn't mowed in the summer
- ☒ Trash is scattered around

Just as **most** property owners are responsible and maintain their properties, so are **most** renters and landlords. But if you happen to be in the minority and own or rent a property where the sidewalks and yard are not cared for, trust me ... your neighbors would like you to clean it up.

Landlords—please, please, please—either hold your tenants accountable to keep your properties clean or clean them up yourself. Properties like the ones described just above are blights on neighborhoods.

There is no better time than the “Beautify Goshen” campaign to rake yards that didn't get adequately raked last fall. The City will be making a last-chance round of leaf and brush pickup (see article on page 3). Or you may haul your own leaves and sticks to the Environmental Center, 100 yards west of North Indiana Avenue, north of Wilden Avenue (just past Creekside Estates mobile home park). Landlords, if your leases hold tenants responsible to rake the yard, please see to it that they do it. If this responsibility is yours, or if you don't hold the tenants accountable, get out there yourself or pay someone. The neighbors will welcome it.

If there's trash strewn around, make sure it's picked up. There's no excuse for scattered trash. If tires are lying around the yard or stacked by the garage, haul them to the Street Department at no cost during Tire Amnesty Week (see article on page 2). Not only do old tires look bad, they hold water and breed mosquitoes.

If there's sand on your sidewalk from the City's efforts to maintain safe streets in the winter, please sweep or hose them off into the yard or street. Our street sweepers will be cleaning sand out of gutters along streets.

To beautify Goshen, much work is needed every year. All of us can do our share. Start by looking at your own property or properties. If you wouldn't like your neighbor's yard to look like yours, imagine what your neighbors are thinking.

To all who care about what their properties look like and who want Goshen to be a clean, livable and inviting city ... thank you!

Always for a better Goshen,

*Allan Kauffman*

# The Maple City Rag

Residents' Guide to Goshen City Services

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Goshen, IN 46528



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### THE CITY IS ON FACEBOOK

If you're on Facebook, please become a “fan” of the City of Goshen. It's a great way to get timely news feeds you may not see in a local newspaper. We had 957 fans as of April 1. After this newsletter is read, we're sure to pass 1,000!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

“Beautify Goshen” Week: May 1–8

Primary Election Day: Tuesday, May 4 (City offices open)

Memorial Day: Monday, May 31 (City offices closed)

### TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT

The week following Memorial Day will have an adjusted trash collection schedule. Each collection route will be delayed one day: For instance, a household regularly collected on Monday will be collected on Tuesday this week. The schedule will continue throughout the week, with the Friday stops being collected on Saturday.

For more information, call Allied Waste at 522.1331.

# 'Beautify Goshen' Week: May 1–8

## DISPOSAL PROGRAM—WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

In conjunction with the Goshen Chamber of Commerce's "Beautify Goshen" Week, the **Goshen Street Department** will be making additional disposal services available to those living within the city limits of the Maple City. This is a free service for May 1–8 only (an eight-day week with two Saturdays).

The collection site will be the Goshen Street Department, **311 W. Madison St.**, just west of the millrace. **Hours** that items, including tires (see below), will be accepted are:  
Saturday, May 1 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Sunday, May 2: CLOSED  
Monday–Friday, May 3–7 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, May 8 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 (see next page for lists of both permitted and non-permitted items).

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

For more information on any of the "Beautify Goshen" services, contact the Street Department at 534.9711 or [streets@goshencity.com](mailto:streets@goshencity.com).

## TIRE AMNESTY

To assist Goshen residents in ridding their yards and garages of old, unused tires—and to eliminate mosquito breeding sites—the City is again conducting a Tire Amnesty Week.

Residents may bring tires that are either on or off their rims; the tires may not exceed 16½-inch rims. Drop off tires at 311 W. Madison St.



## WILL YOU HELP US FIND UNNECESSARY AND MALFUNCTIONING DUSK-TO-DAWN LIGHTS?

Due to declining property and income taxes, the City is looking for locations where dusk-to-dawn lights may not be necessary and can be removed to save electrical costs. NIPSCO (Northern Indiana Public Service Company) street lighting costs the City more than \$300,000 a year. If there's one nearby that you feel is unneeded and you'd like it removed (and your neighbors wouldn't object), please let us know. Before we start eliminating street lights where they're wanted, we'd like to know where they're unnecessary.

Residents' eyes are also needed to help us know when lights aren't working properly. This includes lights that are:

- ☒ Burnt out
- ☒ Flickering
- ☒ On during daylight hours

In many cases, NIPSCO charges the City for each light, whether or not it's working. If we're paying for them anyway, we prefer that they work!

To let us know of unneeded lights or to report malfunctioning ones, the exact pole location is needed. If there's a plate with the pole number, this is sufficient to identify location; the closest street address also is useful.

To help with any/all of these matters, contact the Engineering Department at 534.2201 or [engineering@goshencity.com](mailto:engineering@goshencity.com).



## SIDEWALK PROGRAM: THE CITY PAYS HALF!

Sidewalks have many purposes, but the one you may find most noticeable is that they enhance your neighborhood's connectedness, neighborliness and attractiveness. Consistent with public input received during the Master Plan process toward strengthening neighborhoods, the City of Goshen is once again offering a sidewalk and curb reconstruction program—either to install new sidewalks or to remove and replace existing ones.

The program is available to all individuals who own property within Goshen's city limits. The City has contracted with J.L. Denlinger Concrete to perform the work, which includes sidewalks and curbs within the public right of way and parallel to a Goshen street.

Under this program, the City and the property owner enter into a written agreement for payment of the cost of the work based on a written estimate provided by the City's contractor. The resident's 50% share may be paid at the time of agreement signing or he/she may enter into a payment plan with an attractive 3% interest rate. Once the agreement is signed, the City will notify the contractor to schedule the work.

For more information or to participate in the program, contact the Engineering Department at 534.2201 or [engineering@goshencity.com](mailto:engineering@goshencity.com).

Reprinted (with modifications) from the April 2007 edition of *The Maple City Rag*.

## TALL GRASS AND WEEDS: A GROWING PROBLEM

There have always been a few residents or landlords who are uninterested in caring for their yards—and with an unfortunate increase in the number of homes in foreclosure or vacant, the problem has mushroomed in each neighborhood in Goshen.

The City has limited staff available to mow this increasing number of vacant properties, as well as restricted financial resources to contract for this work. It is sometimes a long wait until the City can get a property mowed.

Residents are invited to help keep their

neighborhoods looking neat if some of them work together to keep nearby properties mowed. The property cannot be cited for a high-grass violation until the grass is already 6 inches tall. By the time we mow, the grass is often well over 6 inches tall. Then, after cutting, the yard still looks unkempt and like a fresh-cut hay field.

Alternatively, problem areas where grass and/or weeds are more than 6 inches high may be brought to the Ordinance Administrator's attention at 533.9857 or [ordinanceadministrator@goshencity.com](mailto:ordinanceadministrator@goshencity.com).

## GARAGE AND YARD SALES: UP TO 16 DAYS A YEAR



Most of us occasionally enjoy pulling into a garage or yard sale. The deals are good, and it's so much easier than eBay! However, they can become a nuisance to a neighborhood if a resident decides to make a part-time job of it. Below we list the parameters/guidelines for sales for use by those conducting the sale—and for those who wonder if a neighbor may be abusing the privilege.

Garage and yard sales are permitted up to four times per calendar year by any person or group. These sales may be up to four days long each, after which the premises must be cleaned up and any advertisements or notices removed. There must be at least three days between sales at the same location.

The City Council recently increased the penalty for garage sale violations to up to \$500 per day per violation, plus court costs, plus reimbursement of costs to the City to enforce the ordinance. The person having the sale and the property owner are responsible for the violation.

Care must be taken in posting sale advertisements and notices:

- ≡ Permission must be given by the owner to post in lawns, on walls or on other structures.
- ≡ Any fliers must be placed in a secure manner to prevent them from being scattered or blown about. No fliers are to be placed under car wiper blades.
- ≡ No signs may be attached to any tree that is in the public way (near a street).
- ≡ No signs may be attached to any sign post or utility pole.

For more information or to report a violation, contact the Ordinance Administrator at 533.9857 or [ordinanceadministrator@goshencity.com](mailto:ordinanceadministrator@goshencity.com).

## LARGE-ITEM DISPOSAL—NO LIMIT FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

The Goshen Street Department is coordinating a week-long program to assist city residents in their "Beautify Goshen" tasks. Any quantity of items will be accepted for one week only, May 1–8. 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 following items will **not** be accepted during this large-item disposal:

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

We are grateful to OmniSource Goshen for disposing of the Dumpsters of refuse at no charge to the City of Goshen. OmniSource Goshen's valuable contribution is appreciated!

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 **excludes** any cooling appliances containing Freon.) For details of the year-long, large-item disposal, contact Allied Waste at 522.1331.

## LEAF COLLECTION: ONE LAST OPPORTUNITY THIS SEASON

Many of you will be taking advantage of the extra services available during "Beautify Goshen" Week. In response to that weeklong effort, the Goshen Street Department will offer a final opportunity before late fall to have leaf piles collected.

Leaves must be piled at the front curb by Monday, May 10 at 7 a.m. The crew will proceed through town quickly, going down each street only one time. Piles must be free of sticks, brush and trash.

### Mayor's Message

#### Calling all residents—especially landlords—we need your help!

Soon the annual "Beautify Goshen" campaign will be starting. I'm grateful to the Goshen Chamber of Commerce for spearheading this yearly effort. The Chamber does more than assist member businesses; it cares about overall quality of life in Goshen. Efforts like the "Beautify Goshen" campaign demonstrate the Chamber's care.

Community volunteers and various neighborhood associations will be out in force

*(continued on page 8)*

# TORNADOES: IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW



Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," 1939

Unlike the tornado that caused "The Wizard of Oz" fantasy in the 1939 classic film, there is nothing entertaining or lighthearted about tornadoes. They are violent rotating cylinders of air that can reach speeds in excess of 300 miles per hour, be more than a mile wide, and cover 50 miles or more during their path of destruction. Tornadoes can cause millions of dollars worth of damage and rip buildings off their foundations, leaving only debris in their wake. Especially in the spring and summer months, they can appear suddenly and with little or no warning.

**Tornado Watch:** Conditions are right to have a tornado. Watch the sky for changes and stay tuned to local weather stations.

**Tornado Warning:** This means that an actual tornado has been spotted in the area, or radar indicates one could develop within a few minutes. Seek shelter quickly.

### During a Tornado:

- ≡ Basements, inner rooms of a house and storm cellars provide the best protection.
- ≡ Stay away from exterior walls, windows and doors. Stay in the center of the room.
- ≡ If you are in your car, do **NOT** try to "outrun" the tornado because it can switch direction and cover lots of ground quickly.
- ≡ Get out of the vehicle and go into a sturdy building if possible. If not, lie flat in a ditch or low area and cover your head.
- ≡ Do **NOT** go under overpasses; wind speeds actually increase under them and can suck you out!
- ≡ If you live in a mobile home, get out **IMMEDIATELY**. Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation or a ditch if that is all you can find.
- ≡ Listen to the radio or watch TV so you can be alerted about conditions near you.

### After a Tornado:

- ≡ Stay out of damaged buildings.
- ≡ Help others who might be trapped or injured.
- ≡ Listen to the radio or TV to find out emergency information and instructions for your area.
- ≡ Stay away from downed power lines.
- ≡ Avoid possible water, gas or oil leaks.

For more tornado emergency information, contact the Fire Department at 533.7878 or [fireambulance@goshencity.com](mailto:fireambulance@goshencity.com).



Toto

# WHAT DOES A BLARING TORNADO SIREN MEAN?

Why do the tornado sirens occasionally go off when the weather doesn't look threatening? It means that we are in the path of a confirmed tornado sighting. (Although testing of the notification system is done regularly, it will never be done when there is possible tornadic activity in the larger region. See article below for more on testing procedures.)

Weather observers must project a tornado's track in order to provide for the safety of our residents. Tornadoes don't always follow a straight path and often bounce instead of staying grounded, as happened in the Nappanee tornado of 2007. Also, the prevailing track for our area is usually from the southwest or west. Using the Nappanee tornado as an example, its projected track would be aimed directly at Goshen. Sounding the alarm before the tornado is on top of us allows us to take cover and implement prescribed precautions.

The sirens are activated only by authorized agencies—the National Weather Service, emergency management, police or fire.

# NEW TORNADO WARNING SYSTEM IS PLANNED

Our current tornado warning siren system was installed in 1994, and the equipment is at the end of its life span. The City is currently in the process of finalizing specifications for replacement of our current siren system, with a goal of completing the project this autumn.

In the meantime, weekly tests are conducted to monitor for system reliability. These are referred to as "growl" tests as they are activated at a much lower volume than an actual tornado notification, and they may not be noticed by residents. When the warning system is triggered, get to a safe place *immediately*; once safely sheltered, turning to an area media outlet to learn weather details is always a good idea.



# 2010 CENSUS: PLEASE COOPERATE WITH THE CENSUS TAKER

**QUESTIONNAIRE:** This decennial census is short. Ten questions, 10 minutes. It takes just a few minutes to complete your census questionnaire. Benefits to the community are long-lasting and measurable.

**CONFIDENTIAL:** The U.S. Census Bureau does not share information with any other governmental agency. Census workers take an oath of confidentiality for life. Be confident that information you share is safe.

**MANDATORY:** Once every 10 years the U.S. Constitution requires a national census. Participation is mandatory for **all** residents. And you must complete a questionnaire. If you fail to return your census questionnaire, a census taker will visit you at your home to complete the census form. Please cooperate with the census taker.

**BENEFITS:** Completing and returning your form will assure that our community receives the federal funds we are eligible to receive. Federal grants and loans for schools, public roads, parks and hospitals are distributed to local communities from census data.

For more information, contact the Goshen Planning & Zoning Department at 534.3600 or [planning@goshencity.com](mailto:planning@goshencity.com). For general census questions, go to [www.2010.census.gov](http://www.2010.census.gov).