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Merrillville, IN 46410

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Ward 2 Councilman

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Ward 3 Councilman

Margaret Uzelac
Ward 4 Councilwoman

Rick Bella
Ward 5 Councilman
Town Council President

Shawn Pettit
Ward 6 Councilman

Leonard White
Ward 7 Councilman

Kelly White Gibson
Clerk-Treasurer

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From the Desk of the Clerk-Treasurer

Greetings from the Clerk -Treasurer and staff! We look forward to continuing to serve you and address your needs. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the last payment accepted at 3 p.m. Passport applications are completed daily between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Please call (219) 769-3501 for scheduling. Appointments are preferred, but walk-in requests can be completed based on agent availability. For those unable to visit the office during regular business hours, the Clerk- Treasurer's Office will be open on select Saturdays. You can visit the office from 9 to 11 a.m. October 7th, October 14th, November 4th, November 18th, December 2nd, and December 16th to process passport applications, dog licenses, business, hazmat, and alarm license applications/payments.

Remember to use the Town's website — http://merrillville.in.gov/government/clerk-treasurer/online_payments.php — to renew your business, hazmat, and alarm license prior to December 31st to avoid late fees. There is a small service fee for this convenience. We are happy to be able to provide a more convenient way to make these payments. All services provided by this office will soon be available for payment online. Please do not forget to visit our office to register your pets. The information needed for pet registration can be found on our Town website.

Meet our Staff: Joi Whiteside, Office Manager

Oralia Santos, Bookkeeper

Britni Reillo, Business License Administrator

Angela Lewis, Accounts Payable

Robyn L. Johnson, Payroll Administrator

Jacqueline Perkins, Accounts Payable

Jewel Williams, Accounts Payable

Lastly, for your convenience there is a locked drop box in the Town Hall lobby for payments to be made when we are closed.

In your service, Kelly White Gibson, Esq.



STAY INFORMED ON WHAT'S TAKING PLACE IN MERRILLVILLE!
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE ALERTS AND
NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE.
YOU CAN RECEIVE THE ALERTS VIA TEXT MESSAGE AND EMAIL.



THE TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE

Talk of the Town

FALL 2023

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE 2023 FALL LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Merrillville Street Department's fall leaf collection goes into full swing on Monday, October 16th, 2023. The Town of Merrillville has been divided into ten areas for collection purposes. Please check the list of areas to determine which one you live in, so you can prepare for your scheduled weeks of collection. Leaf collection will pass through the town three times this season.

Because our leaf collectors are vacuum units, only loose leaves will be collected from the curbside or the edge of the street. It's each homeowner's responsibility to rake their leaves to the collection site in long, narrow piles.

2023 FALL COLLECTION PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- ✓ Leaf collection will begin on Monday, October 16th, and run through Friday, November 24th. There will be 3 pick up weeks for all residents.
- ✓ Before your scheduled collection week, place leaves in a narrow pile or row down by the street.
- ✓ Do not place leaves in cans or in plastic or 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 are not collected during your scheduled week, please be patient. We will maintain collection order all week, despite inclement weather or unforeseen delays.
- ✓ Leaves placed for collection should be free of waste oil, chemical contaminants, tree limbs, cans, rocks, bricks, garbage, or any other foreign objects and substances.
- ✓ The Merrillville Street Department concludes its branch pickup program on Friday, September 29, 2023, so no branches will be collected with leaves. Please do not place branches on top of or under your piles of leaves as those piles will not be picked up. If you will have branches to dispose of after September 29, you will need to take them to 13 W 73rd Avenue. Hours are 7:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Leaf collection will begin each day at 7:30 a.m. Have your leaves raked and ready by the Monday morning of your collection week.

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

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE 2023 FALL LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE PICK UP WEEKS

October 16th, October 30th & November 13th for Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5

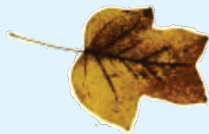
October 23rd, November 6th & November 20th for Areas 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10A, 10B, 10C

ATTENTION: Have your leaves out by 7 a.m. on the Monday at the start your pickup schedule.
Leaves will be picked up during the weeks listed above, not just on the Monday of that week.

- AREA 1** Northern Town limits south to Grand Trunk and Western Railroad and Mississippi Street west to Broadway; Includes Georgia Heights and Meadowland Manor Subdivisions.
- AREA 2** Northern Town limits south to Grand Trunk and Western Railroad and Broadway west to Harrison Street; Includes Meadowland Subdivision.
- AREA 3** Northern Town limits to Grand Trunk and Western Railroad and Harrison Street west to Taft Street; Includes Meadowdale, Country Club Heights, Barclay Village and Englehart Subdivisions.
- AREA 4** Northern town limits south to Grand Trunk and Western Railroad and Taft Street to western Town limits; Includes Wright Manor, Bon Aire and Lakewood Estates Subdivisions.
- AREA 5** Grand Trunk and Western Railroad south to 73rd Avenue and Taft Street west to Town limits; Includes Bel Oaks, Innsbrook, Brookwood and Prairie Creek Subdivisions.
- AREA 6** Grand Trunk Railroad south to 73rd Avenue and Madison Street west to Taft Street; Includes Turkey Creek north and south, and Devonshire Subdivisions.
- AREA 7** Grand Trunk Railroad and Western Railroad south to 73rd Avenue and Mississippi Street west to Madison Street; High School area.
- AREA 8** 73rd Avenue south to U.S. 30 and Mississippi Street west to Taft Street; Includes Chapel Manor, Forest Hills, Savannah Ridge, Southmoor Park and Madison Meadows Subdivisions.
- AREA 9** 73rd Avenue south to U.S. 30 and Taft Street west to Town limits; Includes Independence Hill, Young America, Southbrook, Lincoln Gardens, Crescent Lake and Creekwood Crossing Subdivisions.
- AREA 10A** U.S. 30 south to 93rd Avenue and western Town limits east to Broadway; Includes Teal Crossing, Bridgewood, Marion Woods, Chapel Hill Farms, Sedona, Mesa Ridge, Sunset Cove and Westwood Estates Subdivisions.
- AREA 10B** Broadway east to Mississippi Street and U.S. 30 south to 101st Avenue; Includes Broadfield and The Preserves Subdivisions.
- AREA 10C** Mississippi Street east to County Line Road and northern town limits south to 101st Avenue; Ross Meadows, Grassfield, Sandpiper, Auburn Hills, Butterfield Subdivisions and the Ainsworth/Deep River area.



By: Matthew Lake, M.S. CMS4S - Executive Director



As we enter into the fall season, there are stormwater issues unique to autumn. Most of this entails leaf litter and yard waste. Proper disposal is important to keep debris out of the storm drains and waterways. Yard waste will not only block the flow of water, but will also cause harmful nutrient accumulation in receiving waters.

Those wanting to drain swimming pools are required to reduce chlorine in the pool water to undetectable levels (less than 0.1 mg/L) before draining it into any storm drainage system. Simply stop adding chlorine to your uncovered pool and the sunlight will help naturally dissipate the chlorine within 10 days. During that time, use a swimming pool test kit to measure chlorine.

Here are a few things you can do to prepare for winter:

- Remove leaves from gutters and downspouts.
- Winterize rain barrels.
- De-chlorinate swimming pools prior to draining.
- Prepare rain gardens by trimming native plants.
- Ensure sump pump outlets are not blocked.
- Pick up any debris in your front and back yard areas near drains.
- Do not block grassed swales in your backyard with fill, landscaping, sheds, fencing etc...



We have great news! Merrillville's participation in the FEMA CRS Program automatically lowers all flood insurance premiums 15% since we ranked the best in the State of Indiana.

Visit us at our webpage at: http://merrillville.in.gov/departments/stormwater_management/index.php



FloodSmart.gov

The official site of the NFIP



FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR HOME DURING THE FALL SEASON

The leaves are turning from green to orange, the weather cooling, and you've start preparing for the cold season ahead. You're excited for Halloween and can't wait to start decorating your home, but have you thought about the fire safety risks that arise during the fall?

Here are a few important fire safety tips to keep in mind:

- **Change smoke/carbon detector batteries and test the alarms.** When Daylight Savings Time begins and ends, it's a good idea to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This ensures the alarms do not fail when you turn the heat on in your home. Don't forget to also [test the smoke alarms](#) after changing the batteries. Check that all [fire extinguishers](#) are in working order when you adjust the clocks each season.
- **Fully check and service your heating devices before cranking up the heat:**
 - Have your HVAC system inspected, cleaned, and serviced by a certified HVAC contractor. Check and replace furnace filters with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters.
 - If you use space heaters, ensure that there is at least three feet of space around them. Plug them directly into the wall outlet, and never use an extension cord. Always make sure it is on a level, hard, nonflammable surface and do not leave it running unattended.
 - If you have a fireplace, hire a professional chimney sweep to inspect and clean your chimney annually. Keep flammable objects at least three feet away from the fireplace and install a mesh metal screen around it.
- **Halloween safety** – Can't wait to decorate your home and mastermind scary costumes for Halloween? Remember that [Halloween safety](#) comes first. Keep decorations away from open flames and other heat sources. Use battery-operated lights when decorating your home and battery-operated candles in your jack-o-lanterns. Only buy costumes labeled "flame-retardant" and if making your own costume, use nylon or polyester materials.
- **Outdoor fire risks** – As leaves and other flammable debris build up around your home, make it a habit to remove them periodically. Prune trees and rake up leaves and twigs. Don't store fuel in your home or [garage](#). Keep your roof, gutters, and downspouts clear of debris and remove fuel from lawn mowers before storing them for winter. As a reminder, leaves and lawn debris are not to be burned. They are to be collected and disposed of properly.
- **Create a fire escape plan and practice it regularly.** If a fire breaks out at 2 a.m. and your smoke alarms wake you and your family – what do you do? This is when the [fire escape plan](#) comes into play. Designate an escape route for each area of your home and establish a meeting place outside. Practice escaping your home while staying low to avoid breathing in smoke. Also, practice escaping through windows using [emergency ladders](#).



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 in plastic and break down large items when possible.
- Additional items can be picked up for a fee of \$35.00 (min) for the first 2 yards and \$15.00 for any additional yard 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 4ft in length and no wider than 2ft in diameter; and weigh no more than 50 pounds each. 5 rolls of carpet will be taken as a bulk item.

Unacceptable:

No Hazardous Waste or Medical Waste

Not collected as part of weekly service:

Items from flood, fire or eviction. Items too large for one person to manage

Automotive Parts

Large automotive parts will not be collected as household trash. Call your local scrap yard for possible disposal options.

Concrete, Gravel, Dirt, etc.

Concrete, gravel, dirt, manure and other similar items are also unacceptable. These items can be referred to Customer Service for a roll off.

Toxic Products

Toxic products such as automotive batteries, paint products, insecticides, oil, and antifreeze. Customer can contact Lake County Solid Waste at 219-853-2420.

CFC/White Goods Pickup Available:

Serviced with 24 hour advanced notice;
collected on regular service day

Chargeable:

Items containing Freon or has ever contained Freon: \$20.00 each.
Items without Freon-will be a bulk item collected at no charge.

Upcoming Events

At the Dean and Barbara White Community Center - 6600 Broadway

- The Town of Merrillville will host a Trunk or Treat from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 26. Children can safely walk around the Community Center parking lot to collect candy and other goodies from Town officials and local organizations. A variety of other activities are planned, and children can check out vehicles used by Merrillville's first responders and Street Department.
- The Town of Merrillville's tree lighting celebration runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Community Center. It kicks off with an outdoor tree lighting. Festivities will continue inside the Community Center as families can visit with Santa while enjoying hot chocolate and other activities.

HALLOWEEN

Trick-or-treating in Merrillville is allowed from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on October 31. Have a safe and fun Halloween!



Did You Know?

Residents have another opportunity to have their voices heard as work continues for the Merrillville Momentum Comprehensive Plan. An open house is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Dean and Barbara White Community Center, 6600 Broadway. Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about the concepts developed during the summer visioning workshops and to share your thoughts about those ideas. The concepts include a community promenade, street & trail connections, future land use, and redevelopment opportunities. Plan on attending this important event to help use shape Merrillville's future.

Visit <https://rdgusa.mysocialpinpoint.com/merrillvillecomprehensiveplan> for more information about the Merrillville Momentum Comprehensive Plan.



The Town of Merrillville is updating the community's gateway signage, and we're looking for help from our residents to choose the next slogan that will be featured on the signs.

This is an important project because these signs are the first items people see when they enter our Town, so we want the signs to deliver a welcoming and positive message.

Visit the Town's website at merrillville.in.gov to participate in choosing our next slogan!

Ward 1

Hello, my name is Rhonda Neal. I am the newly elected Councilwoman for Ward 1, due to the untimely passing of former Councilman Donald Spann. I am married to Michael Neal (37 years). We have 5 children and 10 grandchildren. I have resided in Merrillville since 1999, and I am proud to be a resident of such a great town.



I earned my bachelor's degree from Calumet College and my MBA from the University of Phoenix. I have over 17 years of experience in higher education and collegiate programs. My motto that I live by is "Life is not full of obstacles but just another opportunity to try again."

I am passionate about continuing the great works of the councilmen before me.