



MISHAWAKA COMMUNICATOR



A LETTER FROM MAYOR DAVE WOOD

Let's Talk Trash



As the holiday season approaches, I find it a magical time of year—a time for reflection, gratitude, and celebration of family, friends, traditions, and our Mishawaka community. I've written before about my fondness for this season and our special family traditions. Speaking of traditions, I hope to see you at our hometown Christmas celebration, Mishawaka Winterfest (my favorite event of the year). This year, our lighted Christmas parade is bigger than ever, and I'll be welcoming Santa to town to light the City Christmas tree. Plus, we'll debut our first-ever lighted drone show over downtown—a must-see!

While the holiday spirit is building in the Princess City, I must shift gears and talk a little trash—literally!

Trash collection is one of the most vital services a city provides. It keeps neighborhoods clean, protects public health, and safeguards the environment. Starting January 1, 2025, the City of Mishawaka will have a new solid waste and recycling contractor: Waste Management (WM). This change follows the Mishawaka Common Council's approval of a new contract designed to provide reliable, sustainable, and efficient service to our community.

The previous contractor, Republic Services, has held the contract since 2008. With the contract ending this year, the Council and my administration decided to seek competitive bids to ensure the best value and service for our residents. After a rigorous, state-mandated process spanning nearly 10 months, WM emerged as the lowest, most responsive bidder and was awarded a 5½-year contract. Beginning December 2, WM will distribute new 96-gallon trash and recycling bins, which should arrive by December 20.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



December 24-25
Christmas Holiday
(City Offices Closed)



January 1
New Year's Day
(City Offices Closed)



January 4
Barbie Ice Skating
Ironworks Ice Rink



January 18
Carnival On Ice
Ironworks Ice Rink



February 21
Daddy/Daughter Dance
Battell Center



February 22
Mother/Son Dance
Battell Center

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

After Republic’s final pickup of the year, simply leave your bins at the curb for collection. If you prefer smaller, 64-gallon bins or need additional ones, you can contact WM to arrange an exchange.

This partnership with WM brings new features, including an improved customer service call center and website. While trash service remains mandatory to ensure clean, healthy neighborhoods, this new contract also aligns with our environmental commitment, offering expanded recycling capabilities.

I ask for your patience during the transition. WM is working diligently to ensure a seamless process and great service.

While I’d rather talk more about the holidays, duty calls, and I felt it important to talk trash! Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor. I wish you and your family the happiest of holidays, and I hope to see you around the Mish!

Yours in Mishawaka,
Mayor Dave Wood



IRONWORKS SKATING RINK

Pre-register here: <https://checkout.roller.app/ironworksplaza/products/booknow#/sessions>

Admission: Adult \$11, Youth \$8

Hours:

Monday/Wednesday 5:00pm-6:30pm and 7:15pm-8:45pm
 Tuesday/Thursday 5:30pm-7:00pm and 7:45pm-9:15pm
 Friday 4:00pm-5:30pm, 6:15pm-7:45pm, 8:30pm-10:00pm
 Saturday/Sunday and Winter Break (Dec. 23rd-Jan5th) 11:30am-1:00pm, 1:45pm-3:15pm, 4:00pm-5:30pm, 6:15pm-7:45pm, 8:30pm-10:00pm



CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDER

Winter is now upon us and snow accumulation on sidewalks is a specific hazard to children and the elderly. Sidewalks are considered a public right of way and there are many people who utilize city sidewalks every day.

According to City Ordinance, snow on sidewalks must be shoveled within 24-hours after each snowfall. This ordinance is enforced by the Code Enforcement Department of the City of Mishawaka.



TUBING AVAILABLE

George Wilson

December - February

Weather dependent



City of Mishawaka: Snow Removal

Each year, questions arise as to the snow removal procedures used by the City and how the City determines where snow plow trucks will concentrate their efforts.

The City of Mishawaka is divided into 9 snow removal areas and operates 3 shifts during the winter months, normally January thru March. Each area is assigned a driver to begin the snow removal process. Drivers have priority roads in each area based on the volume of traffic.

1. Snow Routes
2. Main Streets
3. Primary Streets
4. Residential Streets
5. Dead Ends and Cul-de-Sacs

Once a driver starts their route in the assigned area, they will follow a pattern to accomplish as much snow removal and salting as possible in a shift. Each shift will then pick up where the previous shift's driver left off. The weather conditions dictate how long the removal process takes and depending on the rate of snowfall, drivers may be directed to go back and start the process all over.

As the snow removal process is being conducted, all streets are plowed from the center of the road to the curb line. This is a time-proven and effective method used by municipalities throughout the snow belt. The purpose is to open as much roadway as possible and make room for future snow. The unfortunate side effect is that snow will likely be pushed into your driveway.

Once the snowfall has ceased, the goal is to have the snow removal process completed in 24 to 36 hrs.

Residents are asked to assist with the removal process in the following ways:

- **Remove vehicles** from streets when possible.
- **Do not pass snow plows.** Visibility for plow drivers can be reduced due to weather conditions.
- **Maintain a safe distance** behind snow plows. Salt is spread from the rear of the vehicle and will bounce when striking the road. Use the 100 ft rule.
- **Do not throw snow in the streets.** This causes the drivers to come back, slowing down the overall removal process.

Big Changes Ahead for Mishawaka Solid Waste Customers!

Mishawaka Utilities is excited to announce an important update regarding your trash and recycling services. Starting January 1, 2025, Waste Management (WM) will officially take over as the City of Mishawaka's new solid waste and recycling provider, replacing Republic Services. This transition is part of our ongoing effort to improve the quality and sustainability of waste management services for our community.

What's Changing?

- **New Trash and Recycling Bins:** Beginning December 2, 2024, Waste Management will start delivering brand-new trash and recycling bins to all customers. This process will continue through December 20, 2024.
- **Republic Bin Collection:** Your current Republic Services bins should be picked up by Republic by December 31, 2024. Until then, continue using the Republic bins for your regular trash and recycling needs.
- **New Bins, New Year:** Please do not use the new WM bins until January 1, 2025, when Waste Management (WM) officially begins service.

Why the Change?

As a result of the City of Mishawaka putting the solid waste contract out to bid, WM was the lowest and most responsive bidder. We do believe; however, that partnering with Waste Management (WM) brings several exciting benefits:

- **Improved Reliability:** WM has a strong reputation for dependable weekly service, ensuring your waste is collected on time and efficiently.

- **Enhanced Sustainability:** WM offers innovative recycling programs to help reduce waste, increase recycling rates, and contribute to a cleaner environment.
- **User-Friendly Technology:** WM provides tools like their online resources and call center to make managing your trash and recycling services simple and convenient.

What Do You Need to Do?

1. **Watch for Your New Bins:** WM will deliver your bins between December 2 and December 20. Once delivered, set them aside until January 1, 2025.
2. **Continue Using Republic Bins:** Keep using your current Republic Services bins until the end of the year.
3. **Leave Republic Bins for Collection:** Make sure your Republic bins are accessible for pickup before December 31, 2024.

Stay Informed!

We'll continue to share reminders and updates on the City of Mishawaka's website and social media channels. If you have any questions about this transition, don't hesitate to reach out to Mishawaka Utilities Customer Service at (574) 258-1630.

We appreciate your cooperation as we are moving through this exciting transition. Together with Waste Management, we're committed to providing you with top-notch service and doing our part to make Mishawaka a cleaner, greener, and even better place to call home.

Thank you for being part of our thriving community!

12 Days of Progress

As the holiday season approaches, it's a time for reflection, gratitude, and progress. Mishawaka has a long tradition of embracing innovation and improvements that enhance the quality of life for our residents. This year, the City of Mishawaka has been on a journey of progress, marked by meaningful milestones that reflect our values and our vision for the future. In many ways, our new solid waste program fits perfectly into the spirit of the "12 Days of Progress" we've experienced in 2024.

To continue reading visit: <https://mishawaka.in.gov/news/the-city-of-mishawakas-12-days-of-progress/>