

A message for the new year



Holiday Wishes

FROM THE CITY OF GOSHEN

Illustration by Jasmine Wall, designer and owner of The Imagination Spot.

Dear Goshen,

I look forward to connecting and working with you this coming year. I hope 2023 brings new partnerships and collaborations so we can together build new opportunities for growth and progress.

I am so proud to be part of this amazingly diverse community!

Wishing you all a very happy new year to come,
Mayor Jeremy Stutsman



EN ESPAÑOL
Para recibir este boletín en español,
por favor póngase en contacto con
nuestra oficina al 574.537.3883.

City website: goshenindiana.org

[nextdoor.com-City of Goshen, Indiana](https://www.facebook.com/CityofGoshen)

[/goshen_in](https://www.instagram.com/goshen_in)

[/goshen_city](https://www.tiktok.com/@goshen_city)

[/CityOfGoshen](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi0yGoshen)

LET'S STAY CONNECTED:

City of Goshen
202 S. Fifth St.
Goshen, IN 46528-3714
574.533.8621



MapleCityNow



WINTER 2022-23

Dates to remember

- Christmas Eve
Observed December 23
City offices closed
- Christmas Day
Observed December 26
City offices closed
- New Year's Day
Observed January 2
City offices closed
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 16
City offices closed

To the community

A call to grow, prosper, learn and build together



Thank you to each and every person who lives and works in the community of Goshen. Our city has now grown at a faster rate than the entire state of Indiana (by percentage) for four years in a row. The fact that the latest U.S. Census placed us close to 35,000 residents is in part due to our diverse population, the opportunities offered by our businesses and our ability to work together.

Growth comes with many positives; however, it can also highlight areas we need to continue working on to improve. My administration and I are committed to moving projects forward that improve our community and inspire us to love where we live. We are committed to finding unique and creative ways to tackle issues that arise with expansion. To ensure we continue down the path of smart growth, we have started the process of creating a growth strategy. This will work well with our Comprehensive Plan and help set the stage for coming years. Such planning allows us to better deal with what is currently in front of us, plus it prepares us to think 10 and 20 years ahead.

This past summer, City department heads and I hit the streets to talk to as many people as we could about how you feel about Goshen. We learned about areas that need attention, and we learned that our community members are proud of where they live. Communication is

key to any successful relationship, and we're continuing to improve that connection with our community's residents and neighbors.

When challenges arise, it's easy to forget that we're all in this together. More than ever, it's important to acknowledge that we can agree to disagree. We will never all come to a consensus on everything, but we can listen to each other's opinions and respect each other's differences. We are so much stronger together. Together we will continue to grow; together we will prosper; together we will learn; together we will continue building a great community.

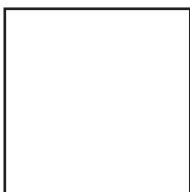
I hope that more and more people in this coming year can choose to be curious about what they don't agree with or understand. I hope we will choose to ask questions rather than pass judgments. Kindness starts with curiosity. Kindness is Goshen.

With deep respect,

Jeremy Stutsman, Mayor of Goshen

Trash pickup schedules will NOT change during the holidays this year.

**Vol. 19
No. 2**



Winter reminders

Warm shelters: The City of Goshen is asking for your help to reach out to those who may need assistance, especially during the approaching winter months. If you or anyone you know are without shelter and food or in need of assistance, we can help any time of the day. Call the Goshen Police Department at 574.533.4151 for assistance with transportation to a warm place of shelter.

If you have elderly neighbors, please check in on them now and then to see if they need help. If you need anything, don't hesitate to call the City of Goshen at 574.533.8621. If you have an emergency, call 911.

Potholes: The season's fluctuations in temperature and precipitation can damage streets and roads and cause potholes. Help us locate and fix them before they become a major concern by calling the Street Department at 574.534.9711 or emailing the department at streets@goshencity.com. Please keep in mind that some roads are under the jurisdiction of the Indiana Department of Transportation or are outside of City limits. A quick call to our Street Department will inform staff members of the issue, and they will either fix it or report it to the correct agency.

Reporting lights out: You can help our streets stay well-lit during these long winter nights by reporting streetlight outages. Outages of decorative streetlights, like the ones along Main Street, can be reported to the Goshen Engineering Department by calling 574.534.2201. By reporting streetlights out, you're enhancing safety, as well as helping City residents and businesses get what they pay for.

NIPSCO-maintained streetlights can be identified by their attachment to wooden poles and their lights extending off mast arms out over the street.

You can use NIPSCO's website at nipsco.com/outages and click on "Report a Street Light Outage" on the menu on the right side of the page.

You also may call the Goshen Engineering Department at 574.534.2201, even regarding NIPSCO-maintained streetlights; the staff will forward your report to NIPSCO.

Thank you for helping Goshen keep our streets bright and safe this fall and winter season!

Introducing Goshen's Nights of Lights

For the next month, Shanklin Park will be turned into a Winter Wonderland for families to enjoy this holiday season.

The Parks & Recreation Department invites residents to stop by the park, 411 W. Plymouth Ave., and enjoy the new Nights of Lights display along the drive, featuring more than 60 silhouette lights and holiday decorations to brighten the evening.

The light display will be on—beginning Thursday, December 15, through January 15, 2023—every night from dusk through 10 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Kimberlee Stephens, Recreation Supervisor for the Parks & Recreation Department, said the display will have two themes: Toy Land and Candy Land, with silhouettes showcasing candy canes and various traditional toys.

"We started small this year and each year we will be growing it and changing the themes for the community to see different designs," she said.

The best way to enjoy lights is to drive through the park loop, staying to the right, so families can stay warm while enjoying the scenery.

"A lot of families like to drive and look at light displays around town," Stephens said. "There is a house in Goshen that does a big display and people love it; and there are public places in surrounding areas that have displays, but nothing in Goshen.



Several of the silhouette lights on display for the holiday season along the driveway at Shanklin Park, 411 W. Plymouth Ave.

So we thought to bring something similar for families to enjoy without having to leave town."

Mayor Jeremy Stutsman said the light display will offer a new place for families to enjoy the holidays in Goshen.

"We're excited to have a new way for families to enjoy our parks during this cold season." He said. "I hope this helps bring some holiday cheer to the community this season and in years to come."

For more information about this and other Parks & Recreation events, please call staff at 574.534.2901 or check out their website at goshenindiana.org/parks-rec.

Stay warm and safe this winter

With cold weather and holiday gatherings, the need to add sources of heat rises; however, winter fires are a real threat, and they should not be taken lightly.

Cooking and placing a heat source close to combustibles are leading factors in igniting wintertime home fires, according to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The holidays and cold weather, however, bring with them many other items that could accidentally start a fire, such as candles, string lights, fireplaces and heaters.

First, install a working smoke detector on each floor of your home. If you find that your smoke detectors are five to seven years old, you need to replace them.

IF YOU SEE A FIRE: Leave the building immediately, don't try to fight the fire, and call 911.

Next, keep the following in mind:

Cooking: Cooking is the main cause of home fires and fire injuries, and the risk of inadvertent fire increases during the holidays. To avoid them, always keep an eye on what you're cooking. Turn handles toward the back of the stove so no one can bump them or pull them over. In addition, keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby—and use it to cover the pan if it catches fire. This should put out the fire by smothering it.

Heaters: Heating is the second leading cause of home fires (after cooking), according to FEMA. Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year. Here are some tips to help prevent a fire this season:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources, such as fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- Turn space heaters off when leaving a room, leaving the house or going to bed.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

Decorations: Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns, or consider using battery-operated, flameless candles. Before putting up light strands, inspect them and read the manu-

facturer's instructions for the number of strands to connect. Place your natural tree at least 3 feet from heating sources, and keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Fireworks: According to the Goshen City Code, the use of fireworks is prohibited within City limits, except during the days leading up to and after the Fourth of July—and between 10 p.m. on December 31 and 1 a.m. on January 1. If lighting fireworks, please use a clear, open area and make sure any spectators stay at a safe distance.

Lithium-ion batteries: The popularity of electric bikes and scooters has taken off over the past few years. Lithium-ion batteries are usually the source of power for both, and if not used correctly or if damaged, these batteries can catch fire or explode. Additionally, battery fires give off toxic gases, and they burn extremely hot. Prevent such a fire by doing the following:

- Purchase and use only devices, batteries and charging equipment that are listed by a nationally recognized testing lab and labeled accordingly.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Charge only one device or device battery at a time to prevent overloading the circuit.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible, and do not store them in direct sunlight or inside hot vehicles. Keep them away from children and liquids.
- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is the best option. The Elkhart County Landfill sponsors Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days once a month. For more information about this resource, contact the landfill at 574.522.2481.
- Stop using your device if you notice any of the following problems with the battery: unusual odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, smoking or not keeping a charge.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact the Goshen Fire Department at 574.533.7878 or fire@goshencity.com. If you have an emergency, dial 911.

Christmas tree collection and disposal

The Goshen Street Department will start its annual Christmas tree collection on January 3, 2023. The program will run through February 3.

Please have your bare trees—free of lights, decorations and stands—by the curb, and Street Department crews will make rounds throughout the City to collect them. Do not place artificial trees or other decorations at the curb. The trees will be chipped for composting at the Goshen Environmental Center.

The program will be weather-dependent, since the crews picking up the trees will be the same ones who are plowing the streets.

For more information, contact the Goshen Street Department at 574.534.9711 or streets@goshencity.com.



Trees piled up, awaiting collection and disposal. | Photo supplied

Snow removal, 2022–23



A Goshen Street Department truck lays down salt during an icy day.

The primary responsibility for cleared streets within Goshen's City limits falls on the Street Department. During and after a snowfall, the crews will be out on Goshen thoroughfares removing snow.

To ensure safe traffic flow after a particularly heavy snowfall, Mayor Jeremy Stutsman may declare a Snow Emergency. During such emergencies, special parking restrictions and trash-collection provisions may be enacted. Driving restrictions also may be announced if the weather causes very bad or dangerous driving conditions.

Snow emergencies and any special instructions will be announced through local television, radio, and/or news services during and after the snowfall. In times of emergency, it's important to pay attention to local news media. You also can check and sign up

for updates on the City of Goshen website, goshenindiana.org. Notices are posted on the website under the "News and Updates" page and are automatically emailed to residents who have signed up to receive them on the day they're posted.

Residents are reminded not to toss snow shoveled from their sidewalks and driveways out onto the streets. Shoveled snow on City streets and roads will increase the crews' work and slow them down from getting to other surfaces in need of clearing.

SIDEWALKS: While the Goshen Street Department is responsible for the streets and roads, it's up to residents to keep their sidewalks clear of snow. Parks & Recreation and Street Department workers clear all City trails, often moving onto sidewalks to help as well, but City workers can't clear them all. It's important to keep your sidewalks cleaned off to create safe paths, especially for students who walk to school. We can all work together to keep those sidewalks clean and clear!

County roads outside of Goshen's City limits and state roads, including the new U.S. 33 overpass, are the responsibility of the Elkhart County Highway Department and the Indiana Department of Transportation, respectively. To learn more about the snow-removal operations of Elkhart County and the Indiana Department of Transportation, check out their websites, elkcohw.org and in.gov/indot.

When the snow begins to melt, please keep an eye on storm drains. If you see one that's plugged, you're encouraged to remove debris that may be clogging it, or call the Goshen Stormwater Office at 574.537.3832 to report the situation.

If you have any questions or concerns about snow removal or emergencies, you may contact the Goshen Street Department at 574.534.9711 or streets@goshencity.com. For more information about City notices, email us at communications@goshencity.com.

Letter from Goshen's CRC Director



AJ Delgadillo
Community Relations Director

The City of Goshen is close to wrapping up its first year of having a full-time Community Relations director—and I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve my neighbors in this way. As venues began reopening and COVID-19 restrictions ended, the Community Relations Commission (CRC) was excited to roll out a new calendar of events: new director, new event roster and a renewed energy for public events. We had a great 2022!

Our community is better off with strong leaders, but leadership doesn't just pop into existence. It needs to be invited, challenged and refined. That's why this past spring the CRC challenged Goshen Jr. and Sr. High School students to an essay competition. Students considered the CRC principles and thought through how applying them in our community could change and improve Goshen. The principles they considered were:

- Honor the dignity of each person and each person's rights
- Listen to the diverse voices of the community
- Cultivate constructive communication and engagement
- Value honesty, truthfulness and integrity
- Promote a community that is safe for all
- Acknowledge and accept the challenge of change—that it may have both positive and negative consequences
- Promote the acceptance of differences
- Promote equality and freedom from discrimination

In response to this challenge, we got to see our future leaders begin to explore and hone their leadership imagination. Essays can be read at goshenindiana.org/crcsays.

Over the summer I was so glad to commemorate Juneteenth in Shanklin Park. Our neighbors who are artists, food vendors, and performing artists showed off their skills and contributions to our community. We had beautiful weather in one of our beautiful parks, and the day was filled with art and music and joy. Juneteenth is a celebration that marks the end of slavery in the U.S. It's a day to honor the past. It's a day to honor how far we've come. It's a day to honor our historically excluded neighbors and their contributions—in and to our community.

This fall we celebrated Indigenous Peoples Day at the Goshen Theater. As folks gave feedback, a pattern emerged, and it seems appropriate to call the event a gift. A gift to our senses: portraits, handicrafts, music and dance. A gift to our curiosity: informational tables and speakers, the opportunity to learn about the history that shapes the place we call home. A gift to our shared humanity: a chance to show up and connect.

The mid-October event also was a chance to expand our thinking—that our home doesn't just belong to us, but we belong to our home. We were given new ways to think about home and place, and with those we have more ideas of how to be neighbors.

The CRC is charged with making Goshen free of discrimination of any kind. That's a distant destination. The journey to this goal is long. But the work of the CRC is to pave that path. The journey is easier when we show up and connect with one another. We go farther when we listen and learn together. We eliminate the space for discrimination when we commit, to all of our neighbors, that we will raise each other up to success.

Getting there will be a long journey. Making that journey easier is a valiant mission—and not one that can be done by accident. We, together, pave the way by being honest about our past, discerning about our present and excited for our future. But most importantly, by being diligent to build a future worthy of our potential.

With enthusiasm,

AJ Delgadillo, Community Relations Director

Invoice Cloud: A new utility billing service

The City of Goshen is pleased to announce the launch of its new electronic billing and payment service through Invoice Cloud, offering customers greater flexibility to view and pay their utility bills.

The new service also enables customers to make a payment by phone 24/7 through an automated payment line—or to take advantage of the pay-by-text option to receive text-message notifications and conveniently pay with a text message using a default payment method that customers can set up on their account.

The easy-to-use payment portal provides customers with quick access to their account to view bills, check their balance, and make payments with credit/debit card or electronic check.

Features include an "at a glance" dashboard, scheduling one-time or automatic payments, securely storing payment information, and receiving email and text (optional) reminders. Paperless billing also will be available. Creating an account is recommended to access all the features, but it's not required to view and pay bills online.

Customers can make payments online or enroll in Pay by Text by going to the City of Goshen website, goshenindiana.org/utilitiesbilling.com. Customers also can make payments by calling 888-458-8868.



The front of the Goshen Utilities Business Offices building at 203 S. Fifth St.

Where do we grow from here?



Crystal Welsh (right), with Abonmarche, talks with residents during First Fridays.

The City of Goshen has been working over the last six months to create a growth strategy—a document that will guide City staff, local officials, residents, and developers in how to continue to build the city in a manner that is consistent with community goals and values.

The City hired a local consulting firm, Abonmarche, to compile data about Goshen's topography, such as its utilities, zoned properties and flooding areas. The City also hired Ball State University's Center for Business and Economic Research to collect residents' views on the City's development.

A steering committee was put in place to help guide the development of the growth strategy, and staff worked to create several community-engagement opportunities for those who live and work in Goshen, including a survey and listening sessions.

Following these public engagements, information from 936 completed surveys was summarized and published at goshenindiana.org/growthstrategy. Abonmarche is

now working on a draft of the growth strategy, and the public will have a chance to see it and offer feedback in late January. The City will have an open house Tuesday, January 24, from 3 to 7 p.m. at the Goshen Public Library, and the draft will be posted on the City website.

Please check the City site at goshenindiana.org/growthstrategy for updated information about the open house and the growth-strategy draft. If you have questions and/or input about this project, contact the Community Development Department at 574.537.3824.

Goshen City Council and districts



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juliaking@goshencity.com
312 River Vista Drive



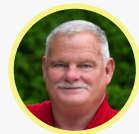
AT-LARGE: BRETT WEDDELL
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916 Larimer Drive



YOUTH ADVISER: KAREN VELAZQUEZ VALDES
Karen was elected by her peers at Goshen High School. She is a non-voting member.



DISTRICT 1: DON RIEGSECKER
574.202.3000
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714 Reliance Road



DISTRICT 2: DOUG NISLEY
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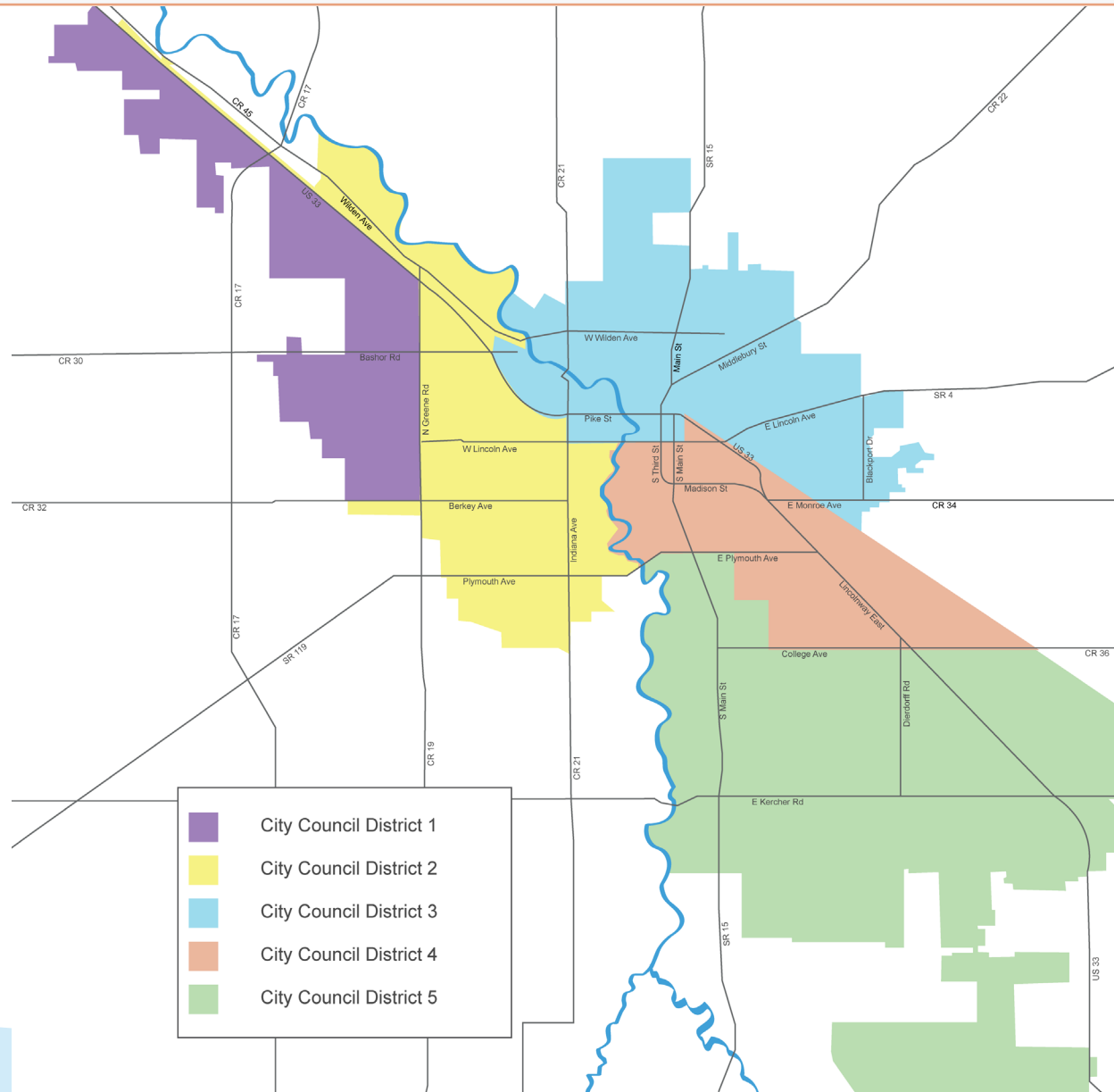
DISTRICT 3: MATT SCHROCK
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114 1/2 S. Sixth St.



DISTRICT 5: GILBERTO PÉREZ JR.
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Recycling: A reminder

The City of Goshen entered into a new trash service contract with Borden Waste-Away in August this year. And, for the first time ever, recycling has been added to the mix. This means recycling is now included in Borden's curbside pickup service. It also means some changes have been made to the trash services offered.

Here is a primer (or refresher) on what is offered, including what is new:

- Trash pickup continues to be once a week, but there is a limit to how much trash can be placed at the curb. Borden Waste-Away has provided a 96-gallon trash cart, and all trash must go in there. Please do not overload the cart. Trash left in bags outside the Borden cart or in a cart not provided by Borden will not get picked up. If you have an amount of trash that exceeds the 96-gallon cart capacity, you have two options:
 - ◊ Purchase bag tags and place them on each trash bag you leave outside your cart. The bag tags cost \$2 a piece and can be purchased at a Martin's Super Market outlet.
 - ◊ If your household consistently has more than one 96-gallon cart's worth of trash, you may choose to rent an additional cart from Borden for \$8 a month.
- Borden Waste-Away will pick up two large items per household per month, but Borden must be notified at least 24 hours in advance. Please call Borden at 574.293.5001 to provide advance notice.
- There is no need to separate the items in your recycling! Single-stream recycling is a modern recycling service that eliminates the need to sort your recycling.
- Curbside recycling is serviced biweekly (A Week or B Week). Households that received their trash and recycling carts should have also received a letter explaining whether they are A Week or B Week in the recycling schedule. If you don't know what week your household is in, call Borden at 574.293.5001.

The City of Goshen negotiates the contract for trash and recycling collection, but as the service provider Borden will likely be able to provide help if contacted directly. If you have further questions or are having issues with your trash service even after contacting Borden, please call the City at 574.533.8621 or the Goshen Department of Environmental Resilience at 574.534.0076.

HELPFUL HINTS TO AVOID IMPROPER RECYCLING

NEVER BAG YOUR RECYCLABLES.

Recyclables should be placed in your cart **LOOSE, DRY** and relatively **CLEAN**.

WISHCYCLING IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

Tossing items into the recycling without checking whether they are recyclable causes significant issues at our plant. In many cases, these unacceptable items will be hauled to the landfill regardless.
WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

RECYCLING ARROWS DO NOT ALWAYS MEAN RECYCLABLE.

Recycling arrows refer to the type of plastic an item is made from, not whether or not it is recyclable at our plant.
HINT: Typically only #1, #2 and #5 plastics are recycled.

THE MATERIALS THAT WE ALWAYS ACCEPT

ALWAYS



THE MATERIALS THAT WE NEVER ACCEPT

NEVER

