



# Newsletter

Spring, 2017

The downtown BID Board meets at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of each month at City Hall, 801 Michigan Ave., LaPorte. Visitors are always welcome at the meetings to bring a question or concern, or just to listen in. The meetings also satisfy the requirements for government students at LPHS to attend a type of governmental meeting.

## BID Board:

### President

Thaddeus Cutler  
cutler@lpchamber.com

### Treasurer

John Spiggle  
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### Maintenance

Fran Milo  
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Chris Meadows  
modeuces22@gmail.com

### Snow Removal

Clinton Worthington  
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### Planters & Flowers

Sharon Goodman  
studiophoto@att.net

### Secretary

Drew Gesse

### City Council Liaison

Laura Cutler  
laura@thaddeusc.com

### Additional Board Members

Brad Adamsky  
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Lizz Ward  
lizzward@gmail.com

Robin Clark  
rclark@horizonbank.com

The BID light poles will be wearing some new American flags thanks to a generous donation from **Jim Roy of The Floor Store**. These flags will be similar to the flags in other parts of town, and should look quite smart for the Memorial Day and 4th of July holidays. The City of La Porte Street Department will be helping with the installation of the new hardware and the raising of the flags.



## What is the BID Board?

The BID Board oversees the spending of the tax dollars collected from the TIF assessment on property owners within the BID. Typically the group handles:

- . planters
- . sidewalk snow removal (Policy is for the BID to clear a pedestrian path, not the entire sidewalk.)
- . Christmas decorations
- . ornamental light poles
- . trees and grids
- . benches and trash receptacles
- . planting and care of downtown planters; maintenance of the irrigation system
- . oversee the creation of a BID budget
- . oversee the dollars spent from the BID collected taxes
- . purchase and maintain the ornamental flags that are used on the light posts

**If you have any issues with maintenance in the Downtown BID or need to report a problem, please contact Beth Shrader, City Planner, at 219-362-8260.**

## Position Available

The BID will be seeking to fill a position for a seasonal part-time laborer to help maintain the district this summer. The BID laborer helps keep sidewalks clean, tree grates free of trash and weeds, makes minor repairs to benches, waste receptacles, outlets, and light posts, and completes other duties as necessary. Position runs from approximately May through October. Look for the job posting mid-march at [www.cityoflaporte.com/jobs](http://www.cityoflaporte.com/jobs) or call City of La Porte Human Resources at 324-8975 for more information.

This Newsletter can also be viewed online at: [www.whatsnewlaporte.com](http://www.whatsnewlaporte.com), or [www.cityoflaporte.com](http://www.cityoflaporte.com)

## Snow Removal & Salting: Keeping Your Sidewalks Beautiful



The BID focuses on maintenance and nothing is more important during the winter months than sidewalk snow removal! The policy is for the BID to remove snow from the sidewalks at 2 inches or more. More frequent removal costs more money, so we have to always weigh the cost effectiveness of the expenditures; however, give us your snow removal opinions. Complete sidewalk clearing would be impossible from the BID, so store operators and offices are asked to clear the remaining snow as soon as is practical. Where there are vacant storefronts in the BID, possibly neighbors can help out. The snow must be placed in areas where the Street Department can easily access the snow piles and remove them from the Downtown area.

What about salting? Have you experienced slippery sidewalks? Did you know that the sidewalks, due to the unique bricks, cannot handle regular salt? **Bricks throughout the BID have been damaged in the past by the use of unauthorized ice melting products. If you currently salt, please switch your product to a Calcium Chloride blend.** This product is sold at many local stores and comparatively priced. Sprinkling this as an interim application between plowings or when the snowfall is too light can help keep the sidewalks "slip-free."

## Speaking of sidewalks...

The BID continues to monitor the condition of sidewalks to maintain the safety of our walkways. This project involves identifying problem spots and replacing those bricks that have cracked or sunken. If you notice a new problem area, please feel free to notify Beth Shrader at 219-362-8260. Pedestrian safety is our foremost concern.

# Winter Leaf Pickup



The warmer Fall and milder Winter we have experienced made it difficult to predict how to dress appropriately for the weather each day in La Porte. The trees along the Downtown have been equally as confused by the seasons. Their leaves held on longer than normal, creating a unique need for the BID District: Winter Leaf Removal. Leaf removal from the Downtown is typically done in the fall when the trees lining the BID District prepare for the cold winter months to come. However, this year it was brought to the BID Board's attention in January that there were late falling leaves surrounding businesses that needed to be addressed. Within days, the BID Board coordinated a leaf pickup with Mike Frazee, Street Department Superintendent, and business owners in the BID District. This impromptu leaf pickup made the Downtown more beautiful through the winter months, but also will make it easier for business owners to transition into the Spring months.

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## Map showing the BID District of downtown LaPorte:

