

## ***Revitalizing Rushville: Trash/Recycling Collection Program*** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is automated trash collection?**

Automated trash collection is a common system used by many municipalities today. Residents will be supplied with one 96 gallon black-lid household trash tote, which the resident wheels to the curb or alley on their specific collection day. In line with the delivery of these new totes, Rushville's trash trucks will be retrofitted with hydraulic tippers for more controlled lift. Operated by members of the Street Department, the tippers lift the tote into the back of the trash truck where the tote lid drops open and the trash is emptied.

### **Why are we utilizing automated trash collection?**

To improve the effectiveness of the trash collection service, reduce injuries and free up personnel to handle other priorities within the Street Department and ultimately reduce/control costs.

### **Why was this automated system chosen now with economic shortfalls?**

Rushville's trash trucks are 10+ years old with high mileage and service issues so retrofitting them with the hydraulic tippers extends their use. Freeing up personnel to handle other priorities within the Department is an effective use of resources. The collection process is quicker with the automated system and the risk of injuries is greatly reduced.

### **What are additional benefits?**

"Stay-on" lids attached to the new totes reduce windblown litter and also help prevent stray and wild animals from breaking into trash bags, thereby improving the appearance of our neighborhoods and the City as a whole.

### **How many totes can I have at my property?**

Each household receives one tote that stays with the residence if the homeowner or renter moves. Numbers are identified on the front of the tote and posted in the utility billing system to your address. Additional totes can be rented from the City of Rushville.

### **What was the City of Rushville's cost to purchase totes?**

The City of Rushville was able to purchase the totes through a Quantity Purchase Agreement (QPA) that was established by the Indiana Department of Administration. This agreement ensures cities and towns throughout the State of Indiana can purchase Tote brand trash totes at the lowest possible price, which is similar to a bulk purchasing agreement. City officials paid approximately \$75 for each 96-gallon tote and \$70 for each 64-gallon tote.

### **How much does it cost for me to purchase an additional tote?**

Additional trash totes can be rented for household trash for \$60 per year.

### **How can I get my damaged tote repaired? Will I be charged to repair it?**

Complete the online form on the Street Department page of the City Web site to report a damaged or lost tote. We will repair your tote at your residence if possible. Totes are under warranty for ten years and may have to be exchanged if they cannot be fixed or repaired free of charge.

### **What if my trash tote is stolen?**

Each household receives one trash tote. If stolen, resident must file a report with the Rushville Police Department. Upon verification from RPD, the City will replace the container free of charge.

### **What should I do with my extra bagged trash that doesn't fit in my tote?**

All bagged trash must be in a tote. If you have excess trash, you can rent an additional tote, hold the excess trash until the next scheduled pickup, or take it yourself to a dumpster site or the transfer station.

If you are experiencing an overflow of trash, you are encouraged to start recycling. You can request a recycling tote by calling the Street Department at 932-2575. Fridays are community-wide recycling collection days where your recyclables are collected curbside.

**Where do I place my trash tote and recycle tote on collection day?**

Trash totes should be placed within 5 feet of alley if you have one. If you do not have an alley, place tote accessible location by curb.

Your recycling tote will be picked up on Fridays and should be placed curbside in an accessible location.

**What if there are cars parked on my street?**

In general, streets in residential neighborhoods have the most parked cars on them from approximately 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Accordingly, areas of town where cars typically park on the streets will have their trash picked up after 8:00 a.m.

**What should I do with large items or appliances that can't fit in my Tote?**

Heavy trash item collection happens in the spring and fall. Check the City's Web site: [www.cityofrushville.in.gov](http://www.cityofrushville.in.gov) for dates.

**Where should I store my tote?**

Totes must be removed from the street after pickup. They can be stored at the side or in the back of the house, in the alley, garage, or other location but not on the street where they are picked up.

**What do we do with trash on a scheduled holiday and how do we know what days those are?**

Check the City's Web site: [www.cityofrushville.in.gov](http://www.cityofrushville.in.gov) for a list of observed holidays and the altered collection schedule dates or call the Street Department at: 932-2575.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**How do I get my limbs picked up?**

The Street Department provides a chipper service as an extra service provided as time permits. Street Department crews do not accept anything that was done for hire or entire trees that have been taken down unless they came down as a result of a storm. As a guideline, anything estimated to take longer than 15 minutes to chip is too large. All limbs to be chipped should be placed as close to the alley or street as possible and be easily accessible. At no time should limbs be placed in the street or alley. Limbs also should be clear of any trash or other debris that may cause damage to the chipper.