



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

April 2017

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



Like most years, there is a lot to report in this year's State of the City address. That is what is great about serving in Mishawaka government. Nothing ever stays the same, we are always moving forward.

As Mayor, I get to share with you the best of Mishawaka, what is working well and what we need to work on. I continue to believe that we are at a great moment in the history of Mishawaka. We have challenges to be sure, but we will meet those challenges head on, we will conquer them and we will continue to thrive as a city.

So, what is the state of our City: Mishawaka continues to be strong, growing (although more rapidly lately), financially stable and safe. We strive to be the most livable, competitive city in Northern Indiana. We are laser focused on growing Mishawaka in an orderly fashion and having each and every resident, every neighborhood prospering in our growth. I am pleased to report that for another year Mishawaka continues to build a community that our future generations can be proud of; one that is not only an attractive place in which to live, work, raise a family and retire but also to visit, shop, seek healthcare and relocate to.

The theme I have chosen for this year's State of the City is "Standing Up for Mishawaka". It seems as though some of Mishawaka's biggest challenges in recent years have come from beyond its borders such as Federally mandated sewer projects, the increasing cost of electric power from our provider, State laws that negatively impact our budgets and regional calls for consolidating governmental services such as police, fire, streets just to list few. We will continue to stand up for Mishawaka but I make this promise to our friends and neighbors; Mishawaka will be a reliable and willing partner in any joint effort that makes sense for the citizens of Mishawaka, protects and

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Grab a Workout Buddy to Get Better Results

Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System

Keeping your body healthy includes training your muscles. But it's not always easy to start exercising or keep going. By getting a workout partner, you're more likely to stick with a workout routine and your goals. Besides, it's just fun to work out with someone!

Finding the right workout partner, someone you care about and get along with, dramatically increases your chances of success. This can be a friend or colleague, but could also be a spouse or romantic partner or even a small group whose membership varies but that works out at a pre-determined time and place. As with most activities, you're likely to enjoy physical activity more when you're with your friends. By exercising with a buddy, you will:

- Be more motivated. When you don't feel up to going to the gym or want to quit, a buddy can encourage you to keep going.
- Push yourself harder. Studies show that working out with a partner makes people push harder than when exercising alone.
- Break out of your rut. When you work out alone, you can get stuck in the same routine.
- Learn new techniques. Friends can teach you new exercises and identify things you that could lead to injury.
- Benefit from teamwork. Split the cost of a personal trainer. Working out with a friend also means you have a built-in spotter.

Don't forget, your buddy will benefit in all the same ways so both of you can make strides on training your muscles and living healthier lives. Before you start any exercise program, though, make sure to talk to your primary care provider.

Happy Easter

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Apr 9	Easter Egg Hunt (Kamm Island Park)
Apr 15	Trash Bash (George Wilson Park)
Apr 24	Urban Forestry Seminar (Battell Center)
Apr 26	Brunch/Classic Movie "Parent Trap" (Battell Center)
Apr 28	Parents' Night Out "Spring Fever" (Battell Center)
May 12	Family Move Night "Finding Dory" (Battell Center)
May 19	Community Variety Show (Battell Center)
May 31	Brunch/Classic Movie "Rocky" (Battell Center)

PILL DROP

April 29, 2017 • 8am - 2pm

Mishawaka Fire Dept.
333 E. Douglas Rd

Accepting unused or outdated medications for disposal

EBERHART-PETRO UPDATE

Eberhart-Petro Municipal Golf Course is extremely excited to announce the arrival of **GPS on our golf carts**. Features include HD graphic interactive touch screens, hole yardages from cart position, 3D flyovers, 2-way messaging to the golf shop, digital scoring and a food & beverage ordering system. Come and see for yourself this powerful new upgrade to our course. We know you will be impressed! Hole sponsorships are still available. Contact Drew Roop, Director of Golf, at (574) 255-5508 for details!

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

improves our services, and allows for our orderly growth. Mishawaka wishes to be a regional partner and contribute to the greater good of the region. I believe that the best way we can contribute to the greater Mishawaka region is by being the best Mishawaka that we can be. This includes speaking out when necessary to protect our interests.

Following is a brief recap of some notable achievements in the year 2016:

The Controller's Office is the center of finance and budgeting for the City of Mishawaka and Mishawaka Utilities. After three years of a decreasing cash balance in the General Fund, 2016 realized a 64% increase. This increase is due to conservative budgeting and spending. The Controller's Office continues to work responsibly to manage expenses and find other sources of revenue without cutting back on City services to our citizens.

In 2016, Human Resources received 425 applications for employment and hired 21, including seven police officers and five firefighters, bringing the total workforce to 494, down over the past few years. Seasonal employment increased the total by 122 in our Parks and Central Services departments. The workforce was reduced by 28 separations, including 18 retirees (who averaged 27 years of service).

The Information Technology Department's most notable project of 2016 was our new Riverwalk Camera System. This system includes over 80 camera lenses monitoring the Riverwalk between Logan and Cedar streets, and five emergency call stations placed in strategic locations along the Riverwalk.

For the first time, the City of Mishawaka's Central Services Division, sent disaster aid to an Indiana city in need. On August 24, 2016 the City of Kokomo was struck by a devastating tornado, and a call for help was put out by Kokomo. Mishawaka responded to the call, sending a crew of six employees, four dump trucks and a loader with a grapple bucket. During 3-1/2 days of clean-up, our employees removed 83 loads of debris equating to 664 cubic yards and drove a total of 596 miles in the clean-up process.

In 2016, the Engineering Department completed several major projects totaling approximately \$8.8 million. Projects included the Widening of the Gumwood Rd/St. Rd. 23 intersection, sewer work in the Linden St. Area and the relocation of Trinity Parkway in preparation for the construction of the new V.A. Clinic.

The Parks & Recreation Department continues to improve each year and 2016 was full of improvements. The completion of the Battell Community Center renovation, the addition of inclusive playground components at Hillis Hans Park, and the hiring of a new Park Superintendent, Phil Blasko, are only a few improvements to this department.

Community Development continued to help fund public agencies that provide services to Mishawaka residents such as: YWCA Domestic Violence Program, REAL Services Adult Guardianship Program, REAL Services Older Adult Crime Victim Program, Boys and Girls Club and the Mishawaka Food Pantry. We continued to utilize federal HOME funds to partner with Habitat for Humanity and seven new homes were built in Mishawaka neighborhoods in 2016.

Code Enforcement continues to implement the Top 100 Program, now in its 11th year. This is one of the reasons you won't see many substandard structures in Mishawaka. In 2016, Code was able to bring 73 of these structures into compliance and about 1,000 homes have been brought into full compliance since the program began. Code Officers investigated more violations in 2016 than any other year on record.

The Building and Planning Departments are responsible for overseeing all aspects of city planning and private construction within the City of Mishawaka. In 2016, construction activity grew by 15%. A few significant projects have been announced for 2017 including the proposed Flaherty & Collins mixed use project downtown and the Watermark Apartments located off Fir Road. In 2016, there were three voluntary annexations adding 33.69 acres in the City.

Public Safety is the most vital service that local government can provide. 2016 was another record year for the Mishawaka Fire Department as they responded to 7,201 calls for service, with the greatest number of requests being for EMS. The Mishawaka Police Department saw a slight spike in crime mainly due to larceny theft (shoplifting or conversion at retail stores) and auto theft. Like other states throughout the Midwest, Indiana is currently facing an epidemic of heroin and methamphetamine cases. Mishawaka is seeing the effects of this. As we move forward to fight the drug epidemic, I am confident in the abilities of the Mishawaka Police Department.

The Mishawaka Utilities Business Office provides administrative function for our three operating divisions of Mishawaka Utilities: Electric, Water and Wastewater Treatment. These utilities serve a population of more than 48,000 people (27,000 customers). In 2016 the Business Office completed their billing system upgrade which they began in 2013. What was a very outdated system is now one that is up-to-date with a custom software system and hardware technology.

Yearly, I am pleasantly surprised by what our departments are able to accomplish and think you will be as well. This is only a brief summary of the City of Mishawaka in the year 2016. I would encourage all interested to read the full reports provided by each city department for a much more complete perspective. This report can be found on the City's website at www.mishawaka.in.gov.

2017 Summer Concert Series schedule has been released!

<http://mishawaka.in.gov/parks/summer-concert-series>

