



# 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](http://www.mishawaka.in.gov)

November 2017

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



November is a time that I begin to reflect on the past year and like many Americans take time to count my blessings by celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends. With the Christmas season fast approaching I begin to remember how blessed I am to live in America and especially to live in the best hometown in America -- Mishawaka. In this Communicator issue, I am taking time to share what Mishawakans can be thankful for this holiday season.

The Mishawaka Sewer Department has televised resident's sewer laterals regularly to determine if there is a problem in the lines. Many times, they find defects that need to be repaired. Our preventative maintenance program cleans a third of the city's sewer lines each year to prevent blockages which may cause sewer back-ups. This year, we looked at nearly half! They also check and clear sewer grate inlets to maximize the flow of storm water into our storm drains which prevents standing water on the roadways which can cause driving hazards. There is also a sewer insurance program offered to residents who live in single family dwellings that could potentially save residents thousands of dollars on costly sewer repairs...for this we can be thankful.

The Mishawaka Water Department is here to supply Mishawaka citizens with clean, tested potable drinking water on demand 365 days a year. Rest assured we are in the process of designing a new two-million-gallon reservoir, and a new treatment facility capable of producing 12 million gallons of water each day. These new facilities will help ensure Mishawaka's water supply is strong for years to come...for this we can be thankful.

The Mishawaka Engineering Department works tirelessly to plan Mishawaka's future needs of infrastructure while also working closely with all city departments for planning, designing, bidding, funding and managing of all public works, private development and utility company projects. They are the Department who works diligently to ensure that ALL components are in place to help Mishawaka maintain our Railroad Quiet Zone...for this we can be thankful.

*(continued on next page)*

## Why Get Vaccinated Against the Flu?

*Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System*

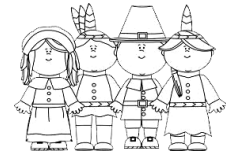
Influenza ("flu") is a contagious disease that spreads around the U.S. every year, usually between October and May. Flu often strikes suddenly and can last several days.

Because anyone can get flu, a dose of flu vaccine is recommended every flu season. Generally only one dose each flu season although children 6 months through 8 years of age may need two during the same flu season. Since there is no live flu virus in the vaccine, getting a flu shot cannot cause the flu.

The flu vaccine can keep you from getting the flu, and can also make flu less severe if you do get it. It can also keep you from spreading flu to your family and other people.

There are many flu viruses, and they are always changing. Each year a new flu vaccine is made to protect against three or four viruses that are likely to cause disease in the upcoming flu season. Even when the vaccine doesn't exactly match these viruses, it may still provide some protection.

Getting the vaccine is especially important for those people for whom the flu is more dangerous. Infants and young children, people 65 years of age and older, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions (such as heart or lung disease, or a



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Nov 10 Dinner and a Movie  
"Mr. Holland's Opus"  
(Battell Center)
- Nov 25 Tree Lighting & Santa's Arrival  
(Downtown Mishawaka)
- Nov 29 Brunch/Classic Movie  
"Bedknobs and Broomsticks"  
(Battell Center)
- Dec 8 Holiday Movie Night  
"The Polar Express"  
(Battell Center)
- Dec 9 Winterfest  
(Merrifield Park & Ice Rink)
- Dec 27 Brunch/Classic Movie  
"West Side Story"  
(Battell Center)

## WINTER FUN!

- Dec 10 Merrifield Ice Rink opens
  - Nov - Mar Tubing at Wilson Hill  
(weather permitting)
- Contact Mishawaka Parks Dept.  
at (574) 258-1664 for details!

## CITY OFFICES CLOSED

- Nov 10 Veterans Day
- Nov 23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 25-26 Christmas Holiday

## ONLINE ACCESS

- <http://mishawaka.in.gov>
- <http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka>
- <http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator>
- <http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation>
- <https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor>
- <https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/>

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

Since 1990, the City has reduced annual volume of combined sewer overflow discharge into the St. Joseph River by 98.6% from 350 million gallons to just over 4 million. Each day the Wastewater Division treats an average of 12 million gallons of wastewater from 21,000 households. When water is flushed down the drain, our customers can be confident that it will be reliably and safely transported to the treatment plant, cleaned, and discharged into the river. The river is cleaner today than at any time since the mid-1800's. As the river becomes a focal point for the downtown, we can all be proud of the vast improvement in water quality in our St. Joseph River...for this we can be thankful.

The Mishawaka Street Department/Central Services plows and maintains the streets during the winter, is responsible for the maintenance of nearly 500 miles of public streets in our city, has run a **successful** leaf pick-up program for over 30 years, maintains all green areas of city owned properties, maintains and services over 100,000 square feet of city owned buildings and assists every City of Mishawaka Department in one aspect or another throughout each and every year...for this we can be thankful.

Code Enforcement enforces city ordinances as they pertain to public nuisance issues and substandard structures. They continue to achieve overwhelming success in keeping Mishawaka neighborhoods looking clean and attractive, and the continued implementation of our Top 100 Program is one of the reasons why you won't see many substandard structures in Mishawaka...for this we can be thankful.

The Electric Division of Mishawaka works hard to keep your lights burning bright. They continually work on preventative maintenance by replacing condemned poles, installing 600-amp switches to reduce outage times and perform many inspections throughout each year to keep the "lights on" for our citizens, as well as, grant my never-ending requests to hang more Christmas lights which add to our holiday cheer! They also engineer, construct and maintain the distribution system which consists of nearly 127 miles of overhead, 176 miles of underground and seven miles of transmission lines...for this we can be thankful.

Our Public Safety Departments work hard to keep our city safe and secure. The Mishawaka Fire Department gives fire protection, fire prevention, fire education, swift water and dive rescue and have a Haz-Mat response team ready for deployment at any time. Our EMS service saves lives every day with three full-time, Advanced Life Support ambulances and a 4th part-time. The Mishawaka Police Department provides an overall safe environment in the community including parks, neighborhoods, and shopping areas. They are continually combatting drug sales and use through the Street Crime unit, and are responsible for the safety of school children both through crossing guards and the School Resource Officer unit. The Mishawaka Police Department is one of the few departments in the area that still acknowledge the importance of the D.A.R.E. Program as a tool for teaching younger juveniles to be responsible teen adults...for this we can be thankful.

As for me, I am thankful and blessed to serve the citizens of Mishawaka. I also consider it the honor and privilege of my life to get to work alongside the finest public servants anywhere. I feel that we, as Mishawakans, should be thankful for the things we take for granted each day like being able to turn on our lights, heat or cool our homes, open the faucet and get safe water, live in a safe neighborhood and have access to the many wonderful parks that are in the City of Mishawaka. You don't have to look far to see people who don't have these necessities and bonuses of life. Just look at Flint Michigan, Houston Texas, Florida, Northern California, and Puerto Rico. We as municipal workers and public servants take pride in providing services that are taken for granted until something goes wrong. Be grateful for the simple things in life. Take time to give a helping hand without expecting something in return. Lastly, be grateful for the beautiful city in which we live.



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## Why Get Vaccinated Against The Flu? *(continued)*

*Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System*

weakened immune system) are at greatest risk. Flu can also lead to pneumonia and blood infections, and cause diarrhea and seizures in children. Each year thousands of people in the U.S. die from flu, and many more are hospitalized.

Some people should not get the flu vaccine. Tell the person who is giving you the vaccine if you have any severe, life-threatening allergies; have ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome, or are not feeling well.

If any of the above applies to you, ask your doctor if a flu vaccine is safe for you. If you are allergic to chickens or egg protein, ask your doctor if you can safely receive the recombinant vaccine, which is not made from chicken eggs.

Be sure to ask your doctor for more specific information.

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## **A One-Of-A-Kind Christmas Gift!!**

The City of Mishawaka Historic Preservation Commission is proud to offer keepsake sections of the original gymnasium floor from Main Junior High School for only \$50. Only 20 11"x14" sections remain.



This keepsake is presented in a handsome wooden shadow box frame with a brass name plate prepared by Troop 111 of the LaSalle Council Boy Scouts of America and is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.

Contact the HPC at 258-1625 to purchase.