



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

July 2011

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood

Dear Friends and Neighbors,



I want to take this opportunity to tell you what I believe to be a great story about the current revitalization efforts underway in a south side neighborhood. In telling you this story, I am reminded of the Margaret Mead quote "A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

A few years ago I was contacted by a small group of neighbors who were taking up a collection to construct a pavilion in their neighborhood City park. They wanted the shelter not only for family gatherings but also as a safe place to hold neighborhood watch meetings. The neighbors collected funds and solicited help from the Mishawaka Kiwanis Club and together raised \$5,000 for the effort.

The issue of placing the pavilion in the neighborhood also prompted some concern from other residents because of troubles in the neighborhood that included compatibility issues between single family homes and apartments, juvenile mischief, and some consequential criminal activity. Hillis Hans Park itself had not seen significant improvements in decades.

To discuss and evaluate the issues, the City conducted a neighborhood meeting through the Park Board to obtain input and comments from neighbors. This neighborhood (continued on next page)



When Bugs Bite

Every month, the Communicator will provide a monthly series of articles for our Let's Move Mishawaka Program about healthy eating and lifestyles provided by Saint Joseph Physician Network, courtesy of Dr. Dale Deardorff, Medical Director.

Your family is finally spending more time outside, in the sun, on the beach, in the water, in the woods – and with the bugs.

Normal symptoms of insect stings or spider bites include swelling, pain, redness and itching. Rob Gorman, MD, of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's Community Pediatric Physicians, offers these tips to relieve pain and itching:

- Remove the stinger if necessary
- Apply an ice cube or cold washcloth to ease discomfort
- Keep the area clean to prevent infection and try not to scratch
- Use calamine lotion to relieve itching, or;
- Use an over-the-counter oral short-acting antihistamine (for example, Benadryl®), or a longer-acting oral antihistamine (such as Zyrtec®). Be careful, some antihistamines may cause drowsiness.

Some people, including children, react more severely to bites and stings. Watch for these signs, which indicate a severe allergic reaction

- Hives or reddening of skin
- Wheezing and difficulty breathing
- Lightheadedness or confusion
- Nausea, diarrhea or stomach cramps
- Shock and rapid heartbeat
- Swelling of face, lips or tongue

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Fun Summer Activities

Merrifield Pool hours:
Noon-4pm and 6pm-9pm daily

Splashpad hours:
Noon-8pm daily

Family Movie Night:
July 8th—Toy Story 3
August 5th—TBA
Movie begins at dusk at Beutter Park

Battell Bandshell Concert Series 7pm

July 11	Michiana Concert Band
July 18	Mike Vaszari
July 25	Da Bears
Aug 1	Ron Wiggins Quartet
Aug 8	Michiana Concert Band
Aug 15	Kellirae & Craig
Aug 22	Pat Heiden
Aug 29	Valleyaires

Beutter Park Concert Series 6:30pm

July 7	Everyday People
July 14	VanDyke Review
July 21	Cousin Vinny
July 28	TBA
Aug 4	Last Call
Aug 11	Alligator Blackbird
Aug 18	Ground Control

Eberhart Concert Series 8pm

July 15	Vehikle
July 29	EP Unplugged
Aug 19	Last Call

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

initiative effort fueled the City's motivation to address multiple neighborhood issues, including how to improve Hillis Hans Park. Things snow balled from there...

The City was then contacted by the potential purchaser (Evergreen Real Estate) of the adjacent apartment complex regarding their plans to apply for tax credits to perform significant improvements to the complex. They also indicated that if the City participated by providing improvements to the park, it would assist them in their application to obtain tax credits. In reviewing the neighborhood problems with Evergreen, a neighborhood improvement plan was then developed and a public/private partnership was created between the City's Redevelopment Commission and Evergreen that not only provided for improvements to the park and apartments, but also brought in a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County to construct four single family owner occupied homes where a vacant parking area used to be located off of Dodge Avenue.



Park improvements included a facelift for the entire park: a new pavilion, reconstructed basketball courts, accessible sidewalks, new play equipment, new furnishings, lighting upgrades, and a rehabilitated restroom.

In short, this effort started by a small group of committed neighbors, who were not complaining, but were merely taking action has ultimately led to the City's investment of close to a half million dollars of investment of the City's South Side TIF funds to improve the park and adjacent streets (completed in June 2011). The application for tax credits was approved by the State and over three million dollars of improvements will take place to the Parkview Terrace Apartments (Fall 2011). Habitat for Humanity will build new single family homes that will add four new families and approximately a half million dollars of investment where a vacant parking lot used to be located (2011 and 2012).

Parks and neighborhoods have always been a high priority of mine during my time as a City Councilman and continues to be now as your Mayor. I was very grateful to everyone who worked on this project together and the results are nothing but beautiful for the Hillis Hans neighborhood! This was a perfect partnership of neighbors and a neighborhood association working together with the City. The prioritization of funds was a challenge, but the Hillis Hans Neighborhood is a prime example of how leveraging City funds as part of a larger plan will have a profound neighborhood impact for decades to come. The City is now looking to use this model to apply to other parks in the City. I would encourage you and your neighborhood organizations to do the same. We can accomplish so much more together!



When Bugs Bite (continued)

"If you or someone you are with experiences these symptoms, go to the nearest ER immediately or dial 9-1-1," says Dr. Gorman with Community Pediatric Physicians.

Anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction, to bee or wasp stings can be fatal if a person does not seek immediate medical help. Some other creepy crawlers to give special consideration include:

Brown recluse spider: A small percentage of people can experience skin damage and scarring from a brown recluse bite, which starts with swelling and a blister. See your physician for proper treatment

Black widow spider: The black widow bite contains poison and may cause cramps, achiness, chills, headache or nausea. Seek medical help immediately.

Ticks: While Lyme disease affects a small percentage of people, it's important to remove a tick as soon as you find one. Use tweezers and grab the tick close to its mouth - the part that is stuck to your skin. Do not touch the tick with your bare hands and wash the area with warm water and soap.

More Info

If you or someone in your family has severe allergic reactions to bites or stings, *talk to your physician about what to do in emergency situations and about prescribing an anaphylaxis kit with an epinephrine shot, such as EpiPen® or EpiPen Jr® for children.*

Need a new family physician or pediatrician? Go to www.saintjoedocs.com.



Government in Action

Mishawaka has had a quite our share of rain this spring and early summer and it has been necessary for all of us to mow frequently. The Department of Code Enforcement has handled over 700 tall grass cases so far this season. - A little reminder that a property is in code violation when the grass exceeds 9" in height.

We appreciate those citizens who have helped by emailing us or calling to keep us informed of properties with tall grass. Remember that residents are responsible for cutting tall weeds and grass on their properties including areas between the sidewalk and curb and alleyways.

If you have any questions or would like to contact a Code Officer please either email at: codeenforcement@mishawaka.in.gov or call between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday at 258-1612.