



# 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)

October 2018

## A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



It is not often that a small Midwestern city gets an opportunity to capture the attention and imagination of the world for an entire week but that's exactly what happened in Mishawaka in late August. That is when President and Mrs. Carter, Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, David Letterman and thousands of volunteers from all over the world descended on the Princess City to help build 23 homes for deserving Mishawaka families as part of the Habitat for Humanity Carter Work Project.

Every year, President and Mrs. Carter pick one place, somewhere in the world, to build a community of affordable homes. This year, they selected Mishawaka for their project. Having participated in many Carter work builds, I have seen firsthand how this project can change a community. I also knew that it would be a big job to plan, coordinate and pull off such a project. If that wasn't enough pressure, we set a goal to host the best, most successful Carter build ever.

It took a year to prepare for build week. A site was selected at the former North Side Little League on Byrkit St. between Jefferson and McKinley, where I played baseball as a youth. Road, sewer, water, electric, curb, sidewalk and alley infrastructure were installed on the undeveloped site. Foundations had to be dug and poured, and the materials and tools to build all homes had to be gathered and organized. A fundraising goal of \$4.7 million was set, but thanks to the generosity of this community, \$6.7 million was raised. The City also had to develop plans to keep the site safe and secure, provide emergency medical services for volunteers and prepare the surrounding site for parking hundreds of vehicles, press areas and bus access. All of this work happened without issue.

When the build week finally arrived, the atmosphere was electric. The week started with opening ceremonies at Notre Dame to set the inspirational tone for the week. On site Monday morning, volunteers getting off buses were greeted by dozens of Habitat homeowners who lined the entrance to cheer and welcome volunteer homebuilders. Each day began with an inspirational message and devotional under the biggest tent I have ever seen. Following breakfast at dawn, it was off to each homesite. It is hard to describe the sound of hundreds of hammers building scores of homes at once or the sight of a roof being built on the ground then hoisted by a crane, seemingly flying through the air before landing and fitting precisely on the framed walls of a house, but it is something that I will never forget.

While we had a great time building, we never lost sight of the fact that the Partner Families are the reason we build. The 23 families that we worked with have purchased, helped build, and will own

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## Keep Your Feet Healthy!

*Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System*

According to the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society, the average person takes 10,000 steps a day, which adds up to more than three million steps per year.

People with diabetes should be especially concerned with the health of their feet. An estimated 29.1 million people (9.3 percent of the population) have diabetes, and nearly 28 percent are undiagnosed. Diabetes can affect the nerves, which can cause nerve damage for some people. When this happens, the nerves no longer perceive pain due to numbness and therefore do not alert a person to potential injury.

"For people living with diabetes, a poor defense against infection and damage to blood circulation can complicate problems with the feet, causing them to become more vulnerable to injury," said Dr. Craig Miller, Medical Director, Saint Joseph Wound Healing Center.

Practice proper foot care if you're living with diabetes:

- Check your feet for sores or other injuries every day. You may have an injury, but cannot feel the pain.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |             |                                                                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 20      | Fall HarvestFest<br><i>(Battell Center)</i>                                            |
| Oct 24      | Brunch and a Classic Movie - "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" <i>(Battell Center)</i> |
| Oct 31      | City-wide Trick or Treat (5-7pm)                                                       |
| Nov 2       | Flannel Formal (21+) <i>(Central Park)</i>                                             |
| Nov 12      | Veterans Day<br>City Offices Closed                                                    |
| Nov 17      | Holiday Craft Fair<br><i>(Battell Center)</i>                                          |
| Nov 22 - 23 | Thanksgiving<br>City Offices Closed                                                    |
| Nov 24      | Santa's Arrival<br><i>(Downtown)</i>                                                   |
| Nov 28      | Brunch and a Classic Movie - "Meet Me in St. Louis" <i>(Battell Center)</i>            |

## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Join Mishawaka Parks for a ghoulishly good time!!

- |           |                                                 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 19    | Trunk or Treat 5p-7p<br><i>(Battell Center)</i> |
| Oct 19-21 | Haunted House 7p-9p<br><i>(Battell Center)</i>  |

- No cost for "Trunk or Treat"
- Haunted House is \$2 or a non-perishable food item.

**Contact Mishawaka Parks at (574) 258-1664 for details!**

## ONLINE ACCESS

- |  |                                                                                                     |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <a href="http://mishawaka.in.gov">http://mishawaka.in.gov</a>                                       |
|  | <a href="http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka">http://facebook.com/cityofmishawaka</a>               |
|  | <a href="http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator">http://mishawaka.in.gov/communicator</a>             |
|  | <a href="http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation">http://mishawaka.in.gov/parksandrecreation</a> |
|  | <a href="https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor">https://twitter.com/MishawakaMayor</a>                 |
|  | <a href="https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/">https://instagram.com/MishawakaMayor/</a>           |

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

their homes when completed. Indeed, over 40 children will live in stability in this safe neighborhood for in some cases, the first time ever. They will attend Mishawaka schools and participate in our community as good citizens. Having a simple, decent, affordable home can make a huge difference in the lives of a family. I have seen it in my own family and we have seen miracles happen in Habitat homes time and time again.

The City of Mishawaka sponsored two homes. We had 125 Mishawaka public servants, who took their own time (vacation days), and came together to build a home for a Mishawaka City employee and her two children. We also built another home for a State of Indiana public servant and her two children. Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood were part of our crew. We found them to be just regular people who joked around with our crew, were generous with their time and never said "no" to any of the hundreds of requests for autographs or pictures. Plus, they knew how to swing a hammer and could outwork most of us! President and Mrs. Carter were also an inspiration on site. Despite being in their mid-nineties, they worked the entire week in the hot weather building hand crafted porch railing for the house that they were working on.

The week seemed to fly by. When it was time to put down the tools on Friday afternoon, we had accomplished a lot. The site was transformed in one week from a construction site to a neighborhood where none stood before. Not that there was a competition between homes but I'm happy to report that your Mishawaka sponsored homes were further along than any other home on site! While exhausted and sore, it was one of the best times of my life. We were there to build houses, but it was the memories and friendships built that week that will stand out the most. Indeed, we got to meet people from all over the world; some came to Mishawaka from as far away as Australia! Perhaps Assistant Chief of the Mishawaka Fire Department, Dave Ray summed it up best when he said "the nicest people in the world all showed up in Mishawaka for a week." I think many caught the good infection that we call "Habititis" that week.

When Mishawaka stepped up to compete to host this build, there was never a doubt in my mind that we would be able to pull it off. I knew Mishawaka would rise to the challenge but that is only because I have such great faith in my coworkers, your public servants, who are so capable. I also knew that our community would embrace this project and make it a huge success. In fact, President and Mrs. Carter both commented that this was the best, most organized build that they have experienced in their 35 years of volunteering for Habitat. I am immensely proud of this community and especially our citizens for welcoming the world to Mishawaka and demonstrating that can-do spirit that I have seen over and over again. There are many projects that I am proud of that we have completed in Mishawaka over the years, but I will never be more proud of any project than I am of this one. Mishawaka was at its best that week.

During build week, it was announced by Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County that they had purchased the remaining property adjacent to the Carter build site with the intent to expand the neighborhood to include about 80 homes. Many of the homes will be built by HFH for affordable housing, some will be sold to private contractors for market rate housing and some lots will be made available for the high school building trades classes. The new neighborhood, called The Fields at Highland, is modeled after a traditional Mishawaka neighborhood with one- and two-story homes built close together with alleys in the back and garages off the alley. Construction activity will continue there for years to come. Who knows, maybe we can attract Garth and Trisha back to help us finish out the neighborhood.

I would like to thank Habitat for Humanity, all the project sponsors, volunteers, and everyone involved in making the project a success. Most of all, I'd like to thank them for what they made possible and left behind, a neighborhood that will change the fabric of Mishawaka for generations to come. God's work was done that week! While the Carter build week has come and gone, I find myself missing it and still wanting to volunteer. There are still plenty of volunteer opportunities onsite. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County, (574) 288-6967.

Yours in Mishawaka,



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## Keep Your Feet Healthy! *(cont.)*

*Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System*

- Wash your feet every day and dry them with care, especially between the toes.
- Trim your toenails as needed after you've washed and dried your feet.
- Wear properly fitting shoes that do not rub or pinch your feet.
- Always wear socks or stockings with your shoes, and never walk barefoot or while wearing just socks.
- Physical activity can help increase circulation in your feet. Consult your healthcare team to see which physical activity is right for you.

For more information about proper foot care or diabetic foot ulcers, talk to your primary care provider

### **FAIR HOUSING TRAINING**

"Fair Housing Disability"

Learn how fair housing laws impact lending transactions.

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

1:00pm - 3:00pm

City Hall - Council Chambers  
600 E. Third St.  
Mishawaka, IN 46544

#### **FREE EVENT**

Register online at  
[www.fhcci.org/events](http://www.fhcci.org/events)

#### **Information / Questions?**

City of Mishawaka  
Redevelopment Department  
(574) 258-1609

*Conducted by the  
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana*