

Mayor's Office

Lou Ann Hazen, Administrative Assistant

The Mayor's Office represents the entire City; therefore, one of the most important principles in our office is to treat others with respect and courtesy. Transparency and public service are two of the top priorities that govern our office.

In 2015, we continued overseeing and giving support to many City of Mishawaka and community projects: Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Ribbon Cuttings, Proclamations, Employee Luncheons, Relay for Life, Memorial Day Parade, Mishawaka Police Department Neighborhood National Night Out and others.

Many of the things we do in our office are in reaction to what is going on in our City and what is needed from us. We give support to other Departments as needed and provide the world-class service our citizens have come to expect from all City Departments.



Mayor and Mrs. Wood

Due to the Mayor's secretary retiring in 2014, the addition of Debra Gregg as the new secretary has continued to increase our efficiency and productivity. Following are just a few highlights of significant happenings in 2015.



Central Park Ribbon Cutting

Largest Ribbon Cutting in Mishawaka History

On Friday, July 3rd, over a thousand members from the community gathered to take part in the "largest ribbon cutting" in Mishawaka history. Central Park closed in September of 2014 for a \$4.8 million renovation and the citizens of Mishawaka were excited to see what their newly renovated park had to offer.

This was not your typical ribbon cutting event. The ribbon cutting was to take place at 9:15pm. Sunset was chosen as the time to show off some of the new lighting, especially the changing LED lights on the pedestrian bridge by the dam and the new programmable fountain in the park. A 1,000-foot ribbon was stretched around the lawn event area, down the adjoining sidewalks and was cut on the count of three by over one thousand participants.



Central Park

Following is a list of some of the key elements of this newly designed park:

- For older kids, a 28-foot tall rope climbing tower has been installed. This tower is the tallest “play” climber in the United States east of the Mississippi.
- For younger kids, a concrete storm pipe was installed set into a mound to provide a realistic tunnel crawl experience without the dangers associated with actual storm pipes.
- A variety of standard play equipment was installed including swings, slides and climbers that overall can accommodate hundreds of kids at a time.
- A programmable fountain provides relief from the heat in summer.
- Five rentable pavilions that include four smaller shelters that accommodate a typical birthday or family picnic of 24-30 persons. Each of these shelters has been named after a former large Mishawaka manufacturer as homage to the history of the site as a former company ballfield and picnic area. The larger pavilion can accommodate 70 and includes a distinctive masonry fireplace.
- A new restroom building with 5 family-sized restrooms for occupancy by one individual or family at a time. The building is situated between the main play area of the park and the Riverwalk to serve both amenities.
- An open event lawn surrounded by a multipurpose walk has been created on the west end of the park. This replaced the former softball field and will be an ideal place to fly a kite, watch fireworks, or even sled in the winter.
- The existing tennis courts were redone to provide one fenced tennis court and one fenced full court basketball court.

Mayor's Youth Council

The 2015 Mayor's Youth Council began the year by sending applications to over 30 students who were nominated by parents, teachers, counselors and coaches. The applications were reviewed by the Adult Coordinators of the Youth Council and 24 students were chosen to participate in the 2015 Mayor's Youth Council.

Eight students were chosen from Mishawaka High School, five from Penn High School and eleven from Marian High School. The group took their Oath of Office at the September 21st Mishawaka Common Council Meeting, held their first meeting and elected the Officers for the 2015 year. Elected Officers were:

Michael Portolese	President
Grace Gebo	Vice-President
Mallory Spiess	Treasurer
Maria Tordi	Secretary

The largest community service that the Youth Council contributes to the City of Mishawaka is their Thanksgiving Food Drive. This year they wanted to provide 60 traditional Thanksgiving dinners to Mishawaka families and they knew they would need to work extra hard and do some extra fundraising. In September, they were given the opportunity to hold a fundraising breakfast at the IMEA Lineman Rodeo in downtown Mishawaka. They started serving breakfast at 7:00 am for the participants, families and spectators and were able to raise \$377.75. This gave them the extra boost they needed to pay for the portion of the 60 turkeys that were not donated.

Due to the generous donations from City of Mishawaka employees, John White from the Meijer Store on Grape Road, and the hard work from our Youth Council members, the Mayor's Youth Council was able to collect enough food to pack 60 boxes and reach their goal of 60 dinners. They not only collected and packed the boxes; they met on a cold November evening along with parent chaperones and delivered 35 of the boxes to Mishawaka families. The additional 25 boxes were taken to HealthLinc of Mishawaka where members of the Youth Council met with the Mishawaka families who were to be the recipients of these Thanksgiving dinners. The students felt proud to be able to provide a service to Mishawaka families who were truly in need.



Youth Council Thanksgiving Food Drive

This group of students continued to be involved in their community, extra-curricular school activities and family. They were given tours of different City of Mishawaka businesses and facilities and were given presentations by City of Mishawaka Department Managers. Andrew Berlin, owner of the South Bend Cubs, was gracious enough to come to City Hall and talk to the students about his business and life experiences. As Mr. Berlin is such a dynamic speaker, past

Youth Council Members were invited and encouraged to attend. He gave some great advice on jobs, college and life.



Mayor's Youth Council 2015

One of their favorite tours this year was a field trip to the Mishawaka Police Department. Lt. Tim Williams invited the students to get up close with PFC Anthony Stachowiak and his K-9, Max. St. Joseph County Corporal Jozaties and his K-9, Vito, also came to show the group just how effective these K-9 dogs really are. They went through some attack drills and the students got to see the dogs' skills and value. They thought that was going to be the highlight of the evening until Lt. Williams introduce his Taser gun and its capabilities. Under Lt. Williams' guidance, Youth Council Member, Anna Rohrer, was allowed to shoot the Taser gun at a target which enabled them to see how Tasers are deployed.



Youth Council with South Bend Cubs owner, Andrew Berlin

The final group event of the year was a Mock Council Meeting. Law students from the University of Notre Dame visited with the Youth Council and gave advice on how to support or

oppose the variance that was going to come before the Mock Council Meeting. All students were assigned roles in this Mock Council Meeting and had to learn what their specific role would be during a Council Meeting. They met with the Mayor, Council Members and the Law students and on June 22, 2015 the Mock Council Meeting was held in the Council Chambers. The students did a tremendous job of understanding what was allowable by law in voting on this variance. It was a difficult task but they made the best decision possible and actually tabled the vote for the next Council Meeting. The decision was right in line with what our Mishawaka Common Council would have done!

Martin Luther King Drum Major Award for Community Service

The Drum Major for Community Service awards are presented during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Recognition Breakfast. These awards are presented to individuals who unselfishly give their time and resources to help improve St. Joseph County. The award's title represents a famous sermon Dr. King preached on February 4, 1968 about the importance of community service and love for all humanity. Mayor Dave Wood presented awards to following City of Mishawaka recipients:

Gary O'Dell: Mr. Gary O'Dell has been married to his wife Sheila for 47 years. He moved into his Mishawaka home on the corner of Lincolnway and Gernhart in 1988 and opened his barber shop at this location in May of 1989. He has two grown children, Amy and Aaron who both graduated from Mishawaka High School. Gary has provided community service for many years in many different ways providing not only haircuts but also "counseling" for his clients over the years. He has been an active volunteer in St. Bavo's Church, is a member of the Indiana State Barber Board (which is basically a volunteer job), and has been a volunteer at the Albright Church Food Pantry for over 18 years.

Gary has served on the Mishawaka Redevelopment Commission for eleven years, and has been a member of the Mishawaka Optimists Club since 1989, serving twice as their President. Gary takes a lead role in the Optimist's annual Thanksgiving dinner served to the Boys & Girls Club members and their families at Battell School. Optimists provide service in their communities while living by the tenets of the Optimist Creed. Gary O'Dell is a true "Optimist" who lives by this creed each and every day.

Janet Whitfield-Hyduk: Janet Whitfield-Hyduk recently served the community as Penn Township Trustee. She has worked diligently as a Trustee to help update the office and procedures so that it is more efficient and cost effective.

She graduated from Mishawaka High School and received a B.A. from Indiana University South Bend in Political Science with a minor in Business Administration. Much of Janet's career has been centered around work on the Governor's Commission for a Drug Free Indiana. This focus is also reflected in her community involvement, particularly her participation on relevant boards, committees and taskforces.

She has also volunteered raising funds and awareness for the Mishawaka Food Pantry. Her involvement with the DeAmici's Auxiliary is extensive, coordinating fundraising to adopt families during the holidays and providing them with meals as well as gifts. All of this has

prepared her for walking the extra mile in her role as Penn Township Trustee to help families in need.

Virginia Chism: Virginia Chism was born and raised in South Bend, Indiana. Most of her adult life she has worked with Human Resources in the healthcare field. Virginia recently retired as Director of Human Resources for Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka. Prior to this, she held many prestigious positions within her field in Springfield, Massachusetts; Costa Mesa, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Detroit, Michigan and at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

Throughout her career she worked with people on the job, but she still found time to reach out to her community as a member of a number of national, regional, state and local boards. Virginia has held many leadership roles within The Links, Incorporated, a large volunteer service organization serving people in our community. Close to her heart is her volunteer work within her church.

Visitors from Santa Rita, Honduras

In October of 2014, our office was contacted by Mr. Garry Beckett, Co-Founder/President of Hope For One Child, Inc. Through this organization, Mr. Beckett had been working with Santa Rita Mayor Mario Caballero and his Assistant, Daniel Ochoa. They were looking to visit the City of Mishawaka to learn more about the governing/management principles of our City, the City services we provide, an overview of City Departments and the infrastructure of the City. The City of Santa Rita is located along a river much like the St. Joseph River and Mayor Caballero wanted to learn about water issues. Clean water is a commodity that is very lacking in their community and they wanted to learn more from our City Managers.



Governor Pence, Mayor Caballero, Mayor Wood

Mayor Mario Caballero and Daniel Ochoa arrived promptly at 10:00am on Tuesday, January 27th and attended the Board of Public Works & Safety Meeting. After this meeting, they attended a meeting with all Department Managers to learn what each department's responsibility is in our City. Mayor Caballero was very limited in his English but showed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting his City and communicated through Daniel and Mr. Beckett learning more about the City of Mishawaka. He was extremely interested in our wastewater, water and sewer departments and spent many hours talking with these Department Managers trying to see if any of our services could be duplicated in his country. They spent a total of two days in our City and were very fortunate to attend an event at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center where they were given a tour by President, Al Gutierrez and actually were able to meet Indiana Governor Mike Pence.

The Water Division of Mishawaka Utilities Manager, Dave Majewski, was especially helpful with the visitors. His division is involved with the international non-profit Water for People, a

group working across nine countries to bring safe water and sanitation to 4 million people. Water for People is currently involved in Honduras and hopefully this meeting will help Mayor Caballero fulfill his dream of bringing clean water and sanitary sewer improvements to his city.

Christmas 2015

The annual tradition of the arrival of Santa in downtown Mishawaka along with the lighting of the Mishawaka Christmas Tree was held on Friday, December 4th, on the northwest lawn of the Mishawaka Police Station.

Santa and the Mayor arrived on a decorated fire truck along with VIP guest, Zion Ward, the winner of the 2015 Summerfest Talent Show Contest and representatives from the Marian High School Boys Soccer State Championship Team, Coach Ben Householter, and Captains Augie Hartnagel and Richie Ontiveros. Karen Baldini of Mishawaka led Christmas carols while the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council served hot chocolate and cookies donated by Martin’s Supermarkets. Donations of hats, scarves and mittens were collected for the local HealthLinc of Mishawaka and the Mishawaka Food Pantry. This year’s tree was graciously donated from Precision Door of Mishawaka and Zion, Augie, Richie and Coach Householter were given the honor to “flip the switch” for the lighting of the tree.

The Mishawaka Business Association sponsored the Christmas Coloring Contest for all kindergarten through sixth-graders in Mishawaka Schools. The winner in each grade received a \$50.00 gift certificate to Build-A-Bear, located in University Park Mall. This year’s winners were:

Kindergarten	Jersee Ruiz-Milby	Emmons School
1st Grade	Emily Botham	Liberty School
2nd Grade	Aris Koehler	Beiger School
3rd Grade	Olivia Orians	Mishawaka Catholic
4th Grade	Natalia McCool	Mishawaka Catholic
5th Grade	Ava Raker	Hums School
6th Grade	Katie Hartley	Twin Branch School

Mishawaka Business Association Annual Meeting & Dinner

The Mishawaka Business Association is a non-profit corporation which was formed in 1961 and revitalized in 2006. They believe that a vibrant business community is healthy for the community at large. They are committed to enhancing and developing the commercial environment in Mishawaka. The Central Business District remains their primary focus, but they are committed to assisting the business community in the entire City.

At the Mishawaka Business Association annual meeting and dinner, Gary Sieber of WNDU acted as emcee, and Andrew Berlin, owner of the South Bend Cubs and Chairman and CEO of Berlin Packaging was the keynote speaker for the sold-out event. Volunteers from the Mayor’s Youth Council were in attendance to help with guest check-in and silent auction. This was a great opportunity for them to meet and network with area businessmen and women.

This year's Business Person of the Year award was given to Bill Pemberton. Bill was a four-term City councilman and is a successful businessman. He has always been focused on the work that needs to be done, whether as a member of the City of Mishawaka Park Board or as president of his company, Direct Line Communications, Inc. A certified public accountant, Bill is also the director of Pemberton-Davis Electric, Inc., a Mishawaka-based electrical contracting company. Bill has a BBA from Western Michigan University and a MSBA and MBA from Indiana University, South Bend. Bill and his wife Laura, have two children, both of whom attended Mishawaka Schools. He is a member of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, a member of the MBA and the SJC Chamber and is also a member of the National Eagle Scout Association. Bill is a well-deserving recipient of the MBA Person of the Year award.

This year's Business of the Year, Gurley Leep, was honored for commitment to the community. Gurley Leep strives to give back to the community and serve those in need through The Driven to Give campaign. Gurley Leep Automotive is well-known in the Mishawaka community as one of the top dealers in the area, building a reputation on trust, quality and value. Chairman Mike Leep Sr. and President Mike Leep Jr. lead a team of dedicated employees who reward customer loyalty with respect and quality service. With more than 40 years in the automotive industry and more than 1,200 employees, Gurley Leep Automotive is proud to be a leader in the community.

The MBA added a new award this year, The Community Recognition Award. This award was given to two outstanding members of the community:

Anna Rohrer: At the time of this award, Anna Rohrer was a 17-year-old senior at Mishawaka High School. She has been an outstanding representative of the City of Mishawaka. Anna is an inspiration to everyone and proves that hard work carries you far in life. She is not only an elite athlete but is also an outstanding student. She was in the National Honor Society with a GPA of 4.43, earning her the title of salutatorian, was a member of the Mishawaka marching band, pep band and concert/symphonic band. She was the Editor-In-Chief of the Alltold high school newspaper. Anna's many athletic awards are too numerous to list and she also has an impressive list of extra-curricular activities. Here is a short list of Anna's accomplishments:

- 4-year Varsity letter in Cross Country and Track
- Team USA Cross Country representative
- Two-time winner of the National Foot Locker Cross Country Championships
- 2014 Flotrack.com and Milesplit.com #1 ranked female cross country runner in the United States
- 2014 Gatorade Indiana Cross Country Female Runner of the Year
- 2014-2015 Gatorade National Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year
- Instrumentalist in her church choir—St. Monica Catholic Church, Mishawaka
- D.A.R.E. Student Ambassador
- 2012-13 South Bend Youth Leadership Council
- 2013-2015 Mishawaka Mayor's Youth Advisory Council

Lt. Tim Williams: Officer, husband and father of three. Lt. Williams is a 26-year veteran of the Mishawaka Police Department, and a life-long resident of Mishawaka attending LaSalle Elementary, Emmons Junior High, Mishawaka High School and Bethel College. After graduating from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in 1988, Tim was assigned to the Uniform division. In 1996, he was reassigned to the Neighborhood Enforcement Team. He

attending the Illinois State Police D.A.R.E. Academy in 2002 and filled a vacant position in the Police Department's D.A.R.E. unit which he still is in command of today. In 2002, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute chose Williams as lead coordinator for the DUI Taskforce. He was also chosen to be a scene technician diagrammer for the St. Joseph County Fatal Alcohol Crash Team. In 2012, Lt. Williams was selected to serve as the Police Department's lead Public Information Officer. His numerous awards include Office of the Year 2002, Child Safety Award, D.A.R.E. Keenum Award and many Traffic Safety awards from 1998 to the present. Lt. Williams is a recognized leader in the Mishawaka community.

Local Students Honored by Optimists Club

On April 29, 2015, the Mishawaka Optimist Club honored two students from each of the Mishawaka High Schools with the Youth Appreciation Award. Mayor Wood attended the breakfast and had the honor of presenting Youth Appreciation Awards to the following students:

Marian High School	Emily Cseh and Jackson Powell
Mishawaka High School	Cheyenne DeLeon and Andrew Collins
Penn High School	Austin Leazenby and Shannon Marie Antio

2015 Mayoral Proclamations

Many times when people retire from the City of Mishawaka, they have made working for the City a career. Most people retire with 20 or more years of service which shows the quality of people we hire and the dedication these employees have to their job, the City, and the citizens of Mishawaka. This is why we are able to provide world-class service to our citizens; we have world-class employees. Many times the Mayor's Office is called upon to provide a Proclamation for noteworthy events, dedications, citizens and retirements. Following is a list of Mayoral Proclamations in 2015:

Retirements:

- Marge Pieters, City of Mishawaka Wastewater, 23 years – 1/28/2015
- Tim Erickson, City of Mishawaka Electric , 37 years – 1/30/15
- Pam Shafer, Mishawaka Utilities Business Office, 32 years – 2/12/2015
- Jody Chidister, Executive Asst. Mishawaka Fire Dept., 38 years – 6/30/2015
- Jeffery Dome, Mishawaka Fire Department, 35 years – 8/13/2015

Other Notable Mayoral Proclamations:

- City of Mishawaka Debt-Free Day – 1/9/2015
- Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Day – 3/11/2015
- Penn Kingsmen Wrestling State Champions Day – 3/18/2015
- Parkinson's Awareness Month – 4/1/2015
- Worker's Memorial Day – 4/28/2015
- National Day of Prayer – 5/7/2015
- Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Month – 5/9/2015
- Relay for Life Cancer Survivor Joshua Comeau Day – 5/16/2015

- Walt Disney Principal Randy Williams Day – 5/28/2015
- Magrane Pet Medical Center Day – 5/30/2015
- Princess City Parkway Day – 6/24/2015
- Pasquale & Mary Lou Rulli Day – 7/30/2015
- Duane E. Cable Day “100th Birthday” – 8/1/2015
- St. Monica Catholic Church Day “100th Anniversary” – 8/30/2015
- Marian Knights Boys Soccer State Champions Day – 11/9/2015
- Penn High School Spell Bowl Team State Champions Day – 12/2/20