

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT 2024



DAVID A. WOOD
MAYOR

AUGUST 9TH,
2024





PUBLIC SAFETY IS JOB #1.

Over the past 14 years, the City of Mishawaka has remained steadfast in the dedication and commitment to reducing crime and enhancing public safety. However, the work is far from over. The City must remain vigilant in its efforts to address emerging challenges and adapt to evolving security needs.



Offense	2022	2023	Change	Percentage
Homicide	3	0	-3	-100%
Rape	26	24	-2	-7.7%
Robbery	31	28	-3	-9.7%
Assault	694	718	24	3.5%
Burglary	225	216	-9	-4.0%
Larceny-Theft	1265	1046	-219	-17.3%
Auto Theft	182	122	-60	-32.9%
Arson	5	3	-2	-40.0%
Totals	2431	2157	-274	-11.3%
Calls for Service	39,159	41,698	2,239	6.5%



In 2023, the City worked together, including Mayor Wood and his administration, the Council, and FOP, to implement 12-hour shifts, which make Mishawaka's police officers some of the highest paid in the State, with the intent of providing more officers on the street while also staying within City budget.

PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOL CITY MISHAWAKA

- In 2023, partnership was created between the Mishawaka Police Department and the School City of Mishawaka to provide reserve police officers to work as School Resource Officers.
- Because of the costs of hiring current sworn officers, the program is set up to attract newly retired officers to fill these positions.
- School City's goal is to have an officer in each one of the City's public schools by the end of 2025. The retired officers are sworn in as Police Reserve Officers and employed by School City.
- The agreement allows the City to continue with School City share the cost of the three existing school resource officers who are active Mishawaka Police Officers until the end of 2025, when they are able to fill all the vacancies for their positions with reserve officers.



New Fire Station!



Public Safety is the City of Mishawaka's #1 job. In light of that, the Mishawaka Fire Department is proud to announce the progress of their new replacement Fire Station #2, set to open at the end of 2024.

The construction of Fire Station #2 represents one of the most substantial investments in the history of the Mishawaka Fire Department, with a budget of \$15 million allocated for this essential project. The station, spanning an impressive 25,000 square feet, is designed to meet the evolving needs of our growing city and ensure efficient emergency response capabilities.

Fire Station #2 will include five spacious apparatus bays, providing ample room for firefighting vehicles and equipment. In addition to its primary function as a fire station, this new facility will feature a "survive alive" house—a dedicated space for educating elementary school children on fire safety and prevention. Furthermore, Fire Station #2 will include a versatile community room, offering a space for public gatherings, meetings, and educational events. This multipurpose area will serve as a hub for community outreach efforts, fostering stronger connections between our Fire Department and the residents it serves.

Mishawaka: A Destination For Youth Sports New Mishawaka Fieldhouse

The construction of the Mishawaka Fieldhouse represents a significant milestone in the City's development as a regional hub for sports, entertainment, and economic activity. Spearheaded through collaborative efforts with Card and Associates and Visit South Bend Mishawaka, this project has overcome funding challenges and hurdles to become a reality, demonstrating the City's commitment to fostering growth and opportunity.

The Mishawaka Fieldhouse is scheduled for completion during Fall 2024. The Fieldhouse will feature state-of-the-art facilities spanning nearly 220,000 square feet. With ten multipurpose courts, a turf field, pickleball tournament courts, concessions, bleachers, and medical tenant space, the Fieldhouse will cater to a wide range of sporting events and activities, attracting visitors from across the region.





CODE: Looking Good, Mishawaka!

Maintaining neighborhood stability continues to be a top priority for Mishawaka. In 2023, the City took proactive steps to enhance our efforts in this area by adding a dedicated Code Officer to the team. This addition has strengthened enforcement activities and better-addressed code violations throughout the City.

Mishawaka’s Top 100 program is still going strong and remains a cornerstone of neighborhood revitalization efforts. Since its inception in 2011, the program has handled over 1,100 cases, with an impressive 91% successfully closed. In 2023, we intensified our focus on holding hearings, leading to the demolition of 45 properties deemed beyond repair.

To further bolster the City’s code enforcement capabilities, the City is proposing the addition of a Chief Code Inspector position in 2025. This strategic move will enable us to streamline operations, increase efficiency, and ensure thorough oversight of our code enforcement initiatives.

In line with their commitment to enhancing neighborhood stability, the City is also exploring the implementation of a Rental Registration Program. This initiative aims to promote responsible property management practices among landlords and improve the quality of rental housing in the community.

Finally, the City will bid farewell to Joe Van Nevel. He is retiring after dedicating many years to serving the City. His contributions have been invaluable, and the community will extend a heartfelt gratitude for his years of service and commitment to maintaining the integrity of the community’s neighborhoods.

MISHAWAKA: FISCALLY SOUND CIVIL CITY BUDGET

The City simply can’t grow and fund critical services without sound financial leadership. By looking ahead, the City will stay proactive instead of reactive in analyzing how best to keep Mishawaka financially sound for years to come. The strong financial management is in large part due to the ongoing efforts of Mishawaka’s Controller, Rebecca Maguire and her staff. This is another team effort that starts with all of the elected officials and must continue when facing new obstacles every year.



- Total Budget \$65,247,601 (+9.72%)
- Assessed Value \$1,913,769,261 (+13.9%)
- Circuit Breaker Loss \$8.5 Mil.
- General Fund Balance \$19,695,879

MISHAWAKA
Est. 1933



Utilities Are Always On!

Mishawaka takes immense pride in the reliability and affordability of its utilities services, which are essential components of the community's success and well-being.

The dedicated efforts of Mishawaka Utilities employees ensure that residents can rely on uninterrupted service for their daily needs. There were 13 unplanned circuit outages in 2023, with a cumulative unplanned outage time of 15.3 hours, which was a decrease of 12.5% from the previous year. This reliability is unmatched in the region AND at a price that is about 40% less than surrounding areas.

Mishawaka Utilities strives to maintain affordable rates for its services, recognizing the financial impact on residents, particularly those on fixed incomes. Despite the evolving landscape of power production and delivery, Mishawaka Utilities remain committed to managing costs and minimizing rate increases wherever possible.

No one likes rate increases for any service, but incremental rate increases are necessary for the ongoing sustainability of Mishawaka Electric. Since the rates were last adjusted downward several years ago, the world associated with producing and delivering power has changed dramatically. The goal will be to continue to incrementally adjust rates to reduce the risk of double-digit yearly increases that can have a significant negative impact on those on fixed incomes. Mishawaka Electric has renewed the purchase power agreement with Wolverine Power Cooperative. Mishawaka Electric will stay vigilant and look for all opportunities to control their own destiny.

New Water Treatment Plant!

After 10 years of research, planning, land acquisition, engineering, and a little over two and a half years of construction, the new treatment plant at Juday Creek has just gone online. This \$40 mil, state-of-the-art facility can produce 8.2 million gallons per day and can easily expand that production to 12.5 million gallons per day with the addition of two more deep wells.



Mayor Dave Wood's Youth Advisory Council: Developing Leadership Of The Future.



The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) in Mishawaka serves as a vital platform for engaging and preparing the next generation of leaders and citizens. Since its inception 13 years ago, MYAC has played a crucial role in educating young people about local government and fostering a sense of civic responsibility and pride in their hometown. The MYAC has provided a valuable opportunity for high school students to actively contribute to their community's growth and development. This year's council, comprising 23 dynamic and talented individuals from various local high schools, exemplifies the spirit of youth leadership and civic engagement.

Through MYAC, these young leaders have the opportunity to voice their ideas, concerns, and aspirations for Mishawaka, actively participating in discussions and initiatives that shape the city's future. By involving youth in decision-making processes and encouraging their involvement in community projects, MYAC empowers them to make a positive impact and become effective leaders in their own right.

Affordable Workforce Housing!



The City of Mishawaka wishes to extol the benefits one of its community partners has on the City, Habitat for Humanity of St. Joseph County. Their vision of home ownership and one of the events is the Carter Work build that occurred in 2018 and the creation of the Fields at Highland neighborhood. The Fields at Highland neighborhood is almost built out and so is the opportunity to plan for the next neighborhood subdivision. The potential allocation of two million dollars has the ability to be the foundation of that effort while also helping to redevelop areas that need it.

Quality Of Life Within Mishawaka

Mishawaka provides the community nothing but the best quality of life. Neighborhoods and Parks are fundamental assets in providing the necessary amenities so that neighbors can experience positive quality of life.

Veterans Walkway: The walkway's landscape design features 15 informational glass-etched displays guarded by trees, standing tall and strong like soldiers in a row.

Crawford Park: Crawford Park is inclusive for every child including a playground, splash pad, restroom building, pavilion, and an upgraded parking lot with handicap accessibility.

Rose Park: Rose Park features a playground that includes cubes instead of stairs and a huge slide, walking paths, a splash pad, a pavilion, and a gazebo.

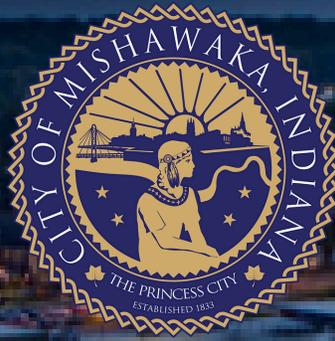
COMING SOON!

The City of Mishawaka's Parks and Recreation Foundation has paired up with The Miracle League to construct a new Miracle Field for individuals with disabilities.

The new Miracle Field will be at Normain Heights Park. The City of Mishawaka strives to be inclusive of every patron, and the new Miracle Field will be a substantial stride toward that goal. Officials have said that a Miracle League Field will be a more condensed, specially designed field allowing individuals of all ages with a physical or cognitive disability to play baseball.



THANK YOU!



WHEN MAYORS AND COUNCILS GET ALONG AND WORK TOGETHER...



1st District: Dale “Woody” Emmons
2nd District: Matt Carroll
3rd District: Lou Ann Hazen
4th District: Kate Voelker
5th District: Anthony “Tony” Violi
6th District: Ron Banicki

At Large: Gregg Hixenbaugh
At Large: Lacy Hahn
At Large: Matt Mammolenti
Mishawaka Mayor: Dave Wood
City Clerk: Deborah S. (Ladyga) Block

THINGS GET DONE!

<https://mishawaka.in.gov/>