



MISHAWAKA COMMUNICATOR



A LETTER FROM MAYOR DAVE WOOD



Service, Resilience, and The Mishawaka Way

As we approach the end of another year in Mishawaka, I'm reminded of what makes our city truly exceptional — our people.

The strength of Mishawaka doesn't come from buildings or budgets; it comes from those who live, work, and serve here every day. Our employees, business owners, teachers, first responders, and neighbors make this community strong.

Each year brings its share of challenges. Whether it's economic pressures, new legislation downstate, new regulations out of Washington, DC, or the unexpected, Mishawaka meets those moments the same way we always have — with hard work, determination, and teamwork. That spirit defines The Mishawaka Way.

Few people represent that spirit better than **Lieutenant Bruce Faltynski**, this year's *Mishawaka Police Department Officer of the Year*.

(Continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 7
Flannel Formal
Ball Band Biergarten



November 11
City Hall Closed
Veteran's Day



November 15
Holiday Craft Fair
Battell Center



November 27-28
City Offices Closed
Thanksgiving Holiday



December 6
Winterfest
Ironworks Plaza



December 7
Ice Rink Opens
Ironworks Plaza

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood (continued)

Lt. Faltynski leads our Community Relations Unit — and for many, he is the unit. He coordinates Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, school crossing guards, and numerous public outreach programs. Whether he's educating children as "Safety Pup" or organizing prescription take-back events, Bruce is connecting people and building trust between officers and the community they serve.

What makes Lt. Faltynski stand out is how he leads. With humility, consistency, and compassion. He leads by example, showing that leadership is about service — not authority. His work reminds us that public safety isn't just about response; it's about relationships and prevention.

That same spirit of service runs through every department — from utility crews restoring power in a storm, to parks staff improving public spaces, to City of Mishawaka and Mishawaka Utilities teams working behind the scenes to keep government efficient and responsive.

While we face continued challenges — managing growth, protecting local control, and ensuring financial responsibility — Mishawaka is strong, stable, and well-positioned for the future. We've reduced crime in 12 of the last 14 years, invested in infrastructure, and maintained excellent services at some of the most competitive rates in the region.

That's no accident. It's the result of planning, accountability, and a community that refuses to stand still.

As we look ahead, let's continue to lead the way — by serving well, working together, and building on the trust that makes this city one of Indiana's best places to live, work, and raise a family.

That's *The Mishawaka Way*:
practical, resilient, and focused on results.

Your Mayor,
David A. Wood



Mishawaka Organic Center Closing for the Season

The Organic Resource and Household Hazardous Waste Center on 5th Street in Mishawaka will close for the season after end of business on Saturday, December 6, 2025.