

SEPTEMBER

2026



MISHAWAKA COMMUNICATOR



A LETTER FROM MAYOR DAVE WOOD



Where Do My Tax Dollars Go? The Mishawaka Value

One of the most reasonable questions any taxpayer can ask is pretty simple: **Where does my tax dollars go and what am I getting in return?** It is a question we are always willing to answer.

Over the next several issues of the *Mishawaka Communicator*, I will be taking you behind the numbers and show you how your hard-earned tax dollars are invested in your community and more importantly, the **return on investment those dollars provide to you and your family every day.**

When you think about government and the services that most directly impact your daily life, an overwhelming share happens right here at the local level. Indeed, it's the local level of government that provides critical services that in some cases we can't live without such as clean water or electric power. When you call 911,

local firefighters, paramedics, and police officers answer. When you drive down your street, visit a park, walk the Riverwalk, attend a community event, or rely upon countless other basic services, those investments made right here in Mishawaka and performed by our public servants that are in some cases, of family, friends, and neighbors.

This is what I call the **Mishawaka Value.**

Here is one real-life example. We recently invested approximately **\$15 million in our new Fire Station #2**—a modern 25,000-square-foot public-safety facility with five apparatus bays that replaced a station that had served Mishawaka for more than 60 years that was no longer capable of providing the service we expect. That investment is not simply a new building. It is about strategically positioning firefighters, paramedics, ambulances, and equipment so they can respond when someone's home is on fire, a loved one is having a heart attack, or a family is facing the worst day of their lives.

The return on that investment can literally be property protected and lives saved.

Over the coming months, I'll break the Mishawaka Value down, department by department.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



October 3
Mishawaka Market
Under the Lights
(Ironworks Plaza)



October 8
Howl-O-Ween Party
Rose Park



October 16
Boos & Brews
Ironworks Plaza



October 24
Table-or-Treat
Mishawaka Riverwalk



November 6
Flannel Formal
Ball Band Biergarten



November 14
Holiday Craft Fair
Battell Community Center

A LETTER FROM MAYOR DAVE WOOD (CONT.)

We'll show you what it takes to operate the Mishawaka Fire Department and Police Department and what professional public safety available around the clock means to your family. We'll explore Parks and Recreation, not simply as playgrounds and events, but as investments in quality of life, stronger neighborhoods, economic development and a community where people want to live.

We'll also introduce you to many City employees working behind the scenes every day to maintain streets, improve neighborhoods, plan for our future and deliver the services that make Mishawaka work.

And we'll show you how we work to make your local dollar go farther—leveraging grants, partnerships, and outside funding whenever possible to bring additional investment back home.

This isn't just about budgets. **It's about value;** value that benefits you in your daily life.

You work hard for your money. We have an obligation to invest it wisely, stretch it as far as possible and deliver results you can see, experience and depend upon.

That's your investment. Our responsibility is to invest your funds into services that in some cases that you can completely take for granted. That is the Mishawaka Value.

We set a high standard for service in Mishawaka. We think that shows, not only in your daily lives, but in a clean, safe, stable, and growing community. And we all benefit from that.

Yours in Mishawaka,

– Mayor Dave Wood

MISHAWAKA MARKET UNDER THE LIGHTS

Come see our amazing vendors under the lights on Ironworks Avenue! We will have produce, baked goods, homemade crafts, food trucks, live music and more!

DATES: Saturday, October 3rd

TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

WHERE: Ironworks Plaza

Be sure to follow the market on Facebook and Instagram
[@mishawakamarket](#).

