



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.

Mishawaka, Indiana

Jeff Rea, Mayor

June 2010

A Letter from Mayor Jeff Rea

In The Beginning

Almost sixty years ago Mishawaka took its first major steps towards improving water quality in the Saint Joseph River since the existence of our city. In 1952, the wastewater treatment plant came online. Prior to this, all sewers dumped directly into the river. Although this seems unthinkable today, it was very common for cities to directly discharge their home and industrial waste into the nearest waterway during this time. Unfortunately, some artifacts of this era still remain, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO).



When the wastewater from the sewers that were directly discharging to the river were brought to the new wastewater plant, they were sized for “dry weather flow”. This meant that when stormwa

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Central Park Control Structure

By now most Mishawaka residents have noticed the extensive excavation and construction underway at the entrance to Central Park along Mishawaka Avenue, east of Main Street. HRP Construction Inc. from South Bend, Indiana has been constructing a control structure over an existing river crossing and a proposed river crossing. This structure is now completed and is completely below ground with the exception of the concrete top. This control structure will provide the ability to direct flows within existing trunk sewers to this existing river crossing or the new river crossing currently under construction at Sarah Street.

By adding this control structure to the existing Christyann Street Project construction, the major portion of the work was completed during the winter and has had minimal impact on the summer park schedule Central Park. HRP was able to utilize locations within the park to stockpile topsoil and backfill material, the backfill will be stored in the ball diamond parking lot and the topsoil will be kept on the volleyball court.

With the construction and earthwork being completed the parking lot has been repaved and striped, the asphalt volleyball court has been removed and replaced with a new sand volleyball court. Restoration also included the installation of a new handicapped access walk connecting the parking lot to the ball diamond and installation of a new drinking fountain. The existing wooden pole retaining wall along the north side of the ball diamond has been removed and reconstructed with concrete modular wall blocks. This will provide additional clear area between the ball field backstop and the new retaining wall. In addition all of the sod in the ball field has been replaced and new outfield and new foul line fencing has been installed. This restoration work is nearing completion with a reopening to the public for use by Memorial Day.

Buetter Park Family Movie Nights

Show times are from 9:15—11:45PM

June 11—Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs
 Rated PG; 90 minutes; 2009

July 9—Imagine That!
 Rated PG; 107 minutes; 2009

August 6—Chicken Run
 Rated G; 84 minutes; 2000

Summer Concert Series 2010

Buetter Park

Performance times are from 6:30-8:30PM

June 3rd—Driving Reign

June 10—Top Secret

June 17—Vehikle

July 1—Rick Clifford Band

July 8—Everyday People

July 15—The VanDyke Revue

July 22—Jason Sapen Band

July 29—Cousin Vinny

August 5—Last Call

August 19—Two Times Tragic

A Letter From Mayor Jeff Rea (continued)

ter was transported from streets and parking lots into the same sewer, it could not handle all the flow. Excess flow is diverted into the river through the CSO. Of the 103 CSO communities in Indiana, Mishawaka along with Elkhart and South Bend are unique. The three communities are unique because they all discharge into a short stretch of the Saint Joseph River and each can affect the river in another downstream community. Also, discharges from the three communities can affect water quality in the State of Michigan as the river turns north after South Bend. It is because of this that the EPA has targeted the three communities for priority action.

Moving Forward

Mishawaka recognized early on that reducing and eliminating CSO was important. Projects have been ongoing for over 40 years to reduce and eliminate the impact of CSOs. These projects have included upgrades at the wastewater plant, separation of sewers and strategic urban planning. However, in 2004 the United States Environmental Protection Agency began an initiative to put all CSO communities into enforceable plans and timetables for the reductions of CSOs. These plans are called Long Term Control Plans.

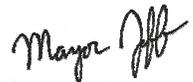
Long Term Plans

Over the last 5 years, the City continued its negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Justice regarding the CSO long term control plan. These negotiations revolved around developing specific plans and language that would be placed into an enforceable agreement with all parties called the Consent Decree. The City's goal in the negotiations is to arrive at an approved Long Term Control Plan that minimizes CSO's in a cost effective and affordable way. Because of the high cost of CSO reductions, it is expected that the implementation of the LTCP will extend fifteen to twenty years into the future. The LTCP implementation schedule will be dictated by our ability to pay for the needed improvements without causing hardship to the ratepayers. The ultimate cost for meeting future CSO reduction requirements could exceed \$150 million. Negotiating an acceptable schedule is vitally important.

The LTCP has been submitted to the EPA for approval. The plan is aggressive and will result in the elimination of overflows during typical storms that occur in Mishawaka. This level of control is almost unheard of in a city the size of Mishawaka; however, the proactive efforts up until this point have left us with the ability to achieve this goal. A timeline with specific long term projects will be attached to the consent decree. The consent decree becomes a binding agreement that Mishawaka will implement these projects in this time frame. Failure to do so results in significant fines and penalties.

The details of the projects have been available for comment at several public meetings over the last few years, however in general they include public works projects in all areas of the City. The five main project areas include, separation of sewers in the Southwest area of City, rerouting of flows from the East, a deep tunnel in the central area, a sub terrain storage basin and miscellaneous sewer improvements.

If all goes well, the City should be able to enter into the consent decree this summer and officially begin the long road toward improving the infrastructure of our great City.



Summer Concert Series 2010 Battell Bandshell

Performance times are from 7:00-8:00PM

June 7—Mike Smith Trio
June 14—Michiana Concert Band
June 21—Gene & Vince
June 28—Billy Nicks Trio
July 5—EP Unplugged
July 12—Michiana Concert Band
July 19—Mike Vaszari
July 26—Da Bears
August 2—Ron Wiggins Quartet
August 9—Michiana Concert Band
August 16—Kellirae & Craig
August 23—Steve Foresman
August 30—Pat Heiden

Summer Concert Series 2010 Eberhart Deck

Performance times are from 8:00-9:30PM

June 4—Billy Nicks Trio
June 18—Dave Thomas
July 16—Top Secret
July 30—EP Unplugged
August 20—Last Call



Visit our new web site at www.Mishawaka.IN.Gov

Send your questions, comments, or concerns to communicator_feedback@mishawaka.in.gov